

All meeting attendees were invited to briefly introduce themselves.

Donna Dostal joined at 2:06 p.m. and Adam Spiegel joined at 2:09 p.m.

David Schmitz shared a reminder that several board members' terms end this spring. Those seeking to apply for a reappointment should do so soon.

Danielson and Schmitz introduced the idea of a board retreat and potential June 2025 timing was discussed.

Danielson also encouraged IAC Board members to consider opportunities for engagement between scheduled board meetings.

MISSION MOMENT

Todd Behrens of the Sioux City Art Center shared highlights of the recent *Razzle Dazzle* installation, which was supported in part by an Inspire Iowa Cultural Tourism Grant.

ARTS COUNCIL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

David Schmitz provided high level updates on staffing and operations, legislation and regional and national partnerships.

Schmitz recognized EJ Philby Burton and Jennie Knoebel for recent promotions to Produce Iowa Program Manager and Senior Grants and Programs Manager and gave an update on the search for a new Arts Programs Coordinator to fill EJ's former role.

Schmitz shared brief updates on IT initiatives, including the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) agency-wide Enterprise Management Systems (EMS) project and the upcoming migration of the Iowa Arts and Culture micro-site to the main IEDA website.

Schmitz noted the data from the Create in Iowa initiative discussed at September's IAC Board meeting has been used to shape a short internal report of policy recommendations to the Iowa Legislature, and the initiative's take-aways will also be shared in a broader public report scheduled for release in early 2025.

Schmitz provided several updates from regional partner Arts Midwest. He encouraged board members to review the newly released Return on Investment report for the state of Iowa, recognized Iowa artist Billy "B.WELL" Weathers who was awarded the 2024 Peter Capell Award for Midwestern Creativity & Entrepreneurship, and noted two upcoming Arts Midwest grant opportunities, including a new Cultural Sustainability grant and a new Arts and Health track for the Gig Fund.

He also provided a brief update on national partner, the National Endowment for the Arts, noting the Iowa Arts Council team has submitted the application for our annual federal Partnership Agreement award and sharing the potential for shifts in policy priority with the upcoming administration change.

Schmitz shared progress on the Iowa Arts Council's strategic initiatives, including efforts to engage with, invest in, and amplify the arts in Iowa.

Jennie Knoebel provided an overview of the upcoming Regional Arts Forums and Statewide Arts Caucus and encouraged IAC Board members to attend.

Schmitz highlighted the upcoming Governor's Arts Awards and encouraged IAC Board members to help by spreading the word about nominations.

Danielson confirmed the Arts Midwest Return on Investment report is public and asked about the timing of the Iowa Cultural Coalition's Arts Advocacy Day, which is scheduled for March 5th, 2025.

FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS UPDATE

Mel Stockwell provided an update on folk and traditional arts, including an overview of the recently completed Folk and Traditional Arts Survey. She highlighted strengths and challenges of Iowa's folk and traditional arts ecosystem and shared recommendations for the future.

Schmitz shared the Iowa Arts Council's plans based on the survey findings include reintroducing a folk and traditional arts apprenticeship program and continuing to build the network of folk and traditional artists in the state. The other recommendations from the survey will be addressed by integrating folk and traditional artists within existing Arts Council programs.

Board discussion was encouraged. Ehmcke suggested folk artists be invited to the Fine Arts Education Summit, as a good opportunity to network with arts educators. Perry asked about the history of apprenticeship programs in Iowa and model programs in other states, and Schmitz and Knoebel shared their knowledge on the topics. Brus recommended a public-facing event to help raise awareness within the state of Iowa, perhaps asking apprenticeship awardees to host an event or partner with other state events. Perry asked which disciplines are most at risk of being lost, and Stockwell shared that more research is needed to identify those disciplines. Danielson highlighted the opportunity for education about the types of arts classified as folk and traditional arts and the need for more folk and traditional artists to list themselves in the Iowa Artist Directory. Schmitz raised the opportunity to work with other IEDA agencies, such as Empower Rural Iowa, to help build the network of folk and traditional artists. Schmitz also remarked on the wealth of historical folk and traditional arts research included in state archives and libraries, while noting the current focus on leveraging digital tools in alignment with today's more digital culture.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next IAC Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the IAC, the chair adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Elizabeth Ferreira
Board Administrator

Approved as to form:


Amber Danielson (Apr 9, 2025 16:43 CDT)

Amber Danielson
Chair