

MINUTES  
Iowa Arts Council  
Board Meeting  
April 3, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200 – Helmick Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gerald Brown (virtual)
Jake Brus
Amber Danielson, Chair
Tim Dickmeyer (virtual)
Donna Dostal, Vice Chair
Bruce Miller (virtual)
Akwi Nji
Heather Perry (virtual)
Claudia Rivera (virtual)
Shannon Rodriguez
Adam Spiegel (virtual)
Frank Sposeto (virtual)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Suzanne Conquest
Lance Ehmcke

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Berg	Molly Lopez	Brooke Rogers
Elizabeth Ferreira	Rick Peterson	David Schmitz
Rita Grimm (virtual)	EJ Philby Burton	Chris West

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lindsay Bauer – Fairfield Arts and Convention Center (virtual)	David Janssen - Brucemore (virtual)
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CALL TO ORDER

- Welcome  
Iowa Arts Council (IAC) Board Chair Amber Danielson called to order the meeting of the IAC Board at 10:01 a.m.  
  
Iowa Arts Council Director David Schmitz welcomed the newest member of the IAC team, Arts Program Coordinator Brooke Rogers.
- Roll Call  
A quorum of the IEDA Board was established with the following Board members present: Gerald Brown, Jake Brus, Amber Danielson, Tim Dickmeyer, Donna Dostal, Akwi Nji, Heather Perry, Claudia Rivera, Shannon Rodriguez, Adam Spiegel, and Frank Sposeto.  
Bruce Miller joined the meeting a few minutes later, at 10:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2024 IAC Meeting

**MOTION:** Donna Dostal moved that the IAC Board approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 IAC Board meeting, seconded by Frank Sposeto. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Amber Danielson encouraged IAC Board members to review the Consent Agenda items and reach out to Iowa Arts Council staff with questions.

## **REPORT FROM CHAIR**

Chair Amber Danielson thanked Board members for their recent engagement through Board task forces and the Regional Arts Forums and encouraged attendance at upcoming events, the Iowa Creative Places Exchange, taking place May 9<sup>th</sup> in Burlington and the Iowa Fine Arts Education Summit, taking place June 17<sup>th</sup> in Ankeny.

Danielson and Schmitz shared an update on the Board retreat, which will occur in place of the June Board meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Marshalltown. More details are forthcoming.

## **MISSION MOMENT**

David Janssen, executive director of Brucemore in Cedar Rapids, shared highlights of the new documentary, *From Iowa and Back: The Vietnam Era*, which was created through Brucemore's Artisan Studio program. Brucemore receives support through the Iowa Arts Council's Cultural Leadership Partners program.

Bruce Miller joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

## **ARTS COUNCIL DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

David Schmitz shared recent program highlights, including a recap of this spring's Regional Arts Forums, which are a precursor to the Statewide Arts Caucus that will occur in August. Schmitz also shared a reminder about the spring grants cycle, with application deadlines occurring later this month. Additionally, he reminded board members about upcoming events, including the Creative Places Exchange, taking place May 9<sup>th</sup> in Burlington and the Iowa Fine Arts Education Summit, taking place June 17<sup>th</sup> in Ankeny.

Schmitz also provided high-level updates from regional partner Arts Midwest and national partner the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), including the NEA's Professional Development Institute, occurring later this year in Des Moines.

Last, Schmitz highlighted the upcoming Governor's Arts Awards.

## **ARTS COUNCIL STAFF UPDATES**

Jon Berg provided updates on creative community development programs, including the newly articulated Creative Places Pathway process, designed to help communities identify the right resource at the right time, based on their current stage of development. Berg highlighted several available resources, including the Iowa Creative Places Accelerator program, currently in its pilot year, and the Iowa Creative Places Network webinar series, set to relaunch in the coming months. He also shared more information about the upcoming Iowa Creative Places Exchange, taking place May 9<sup>th</sup> in Burlington, and gave updates on the Iowans Create Mural Contest and a pilot initiative to help communities with crowdfunding.

Board Discussion ensued around best practices for creative placemaking.

EJ Philby Burton provided updates from Produce Iowa, the State Office of Film and Media, including focus areas and core programs. Philby Burton highlighted the new Iowa Certified Film Festivals program, which includes an associated grant funding opportunity, while also emphasizing the collaborative nature of the program.

## **BOARD UPDATES AND DISCUSSION**

Board member Bruce Miller provided an update on the Governor's Arts Awards Task Force and Schmitz shared the list of recently approved award recipients, including IAC Board member Akwi Nji. Schmitz invited the Board to the award presentation and reception taking place April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Office of the Lt. Governor.

Board member Gerald Brown provided an update on the Folk and Traditional Arts Task Force, including the newly relaunched Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program, and a potential statewide gathering to celebrate and promote Iowa's folk and traditional arts community.

Board member Donna Dostal provided an update on the Creative Economy Task Force, which focuses on the shared impacts of the arts and culture and economic development and plans to build upon the recommendations from the Create in Iowa report. Schmitz shared some initial actions the Iowa Arts Council is taking, including the Creative Places Pathway process Jon Berg is leading, and a new arts access initiative that will be talked about more at the Board retreat this June.

Board Discussion took place around the need to educate and inform key stakeholders about the creative economy and how to better connect Iowans working in the creative sector to existing business development and support opportunities. Several suggestions were raised, including the opportunity to share the results of the Create in Iowa Report by presenting to local and regional partners and creating a toolkit for arts leaders to leverage when connecting with other leaders in their local communities. Other ideas included the opportunity for a statewide council of business leaders who are actively supporting the arts and culture, the need for effective key performance indicators to measure the impact of the arts and culture within local communities, and the opportunity to connect with business leaders through existing professional organizations within the state. The need to connect Iowa's creative business owners with existing resources was raised, and the Iowa Arts Council's pilot Career Accelerator program was highlighted.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Lindsay Bauer shared a comment in the chat, "I love this conversation and the energy behind it. Please let me know how Iowa Cultural Coalition can join, support, and amplify all these efforts."

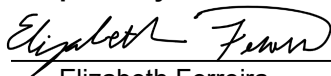
#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next IAC Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025 in Marshalltown. More details are forthcoming.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the IAC, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

#### **Respectfully submitted:**



Elizabeth Ferreira  
Board Administrator

#### **Approved as to form:**

  
Amber Danielson (Jun 23, 2025 14:27 CDT)

Amber Danielson  
Chair