

MINUTES

Iowa Arts Council

December 2, 2025

10:00 a.m.

1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200 – Helmick Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gerald Brown (virtual)

Jake Brus

Suzanne Conquest (virtual)

Amber Danielson (virtual)

Tim Dickmeyer

Donna Dostal, Chair (virtual)

Lance Ehmcke (virtual)

Bruce Miller (virtual)

Akwi Nji (virtual)

Heather Perry (virtual)

Claudia Rivera (virtual)

Shannon Rodriguez (virtual)

Adam Spiegel (virtual)

Frank Sposeto (virtual)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennie Knoebel

Brooke Rogers

Elizabeth Ferreira

EJ Philby Burton

Jon Berg

Rick Peterson



Debi Durham

Dillon Malone

Staci Hupp Ballard

Chris West (virtual)

Deanna Triplett

Kannan Kapelman

CALL TO ORDER

- Welcome

Iowa Arts Council (IAC) Board Chair Donna Dostal called to order the meeting of the IAC Board at 10:03 a.m.

- Roll Call

A quorum of the IEDA Board was established with the following Board members present Gerald Brown, Jake Brus, Suzanne Conquest, Amber Danielson, Tim Dickmeyer, Donna Dostal, Lance Ehmcke, Bruce Miller, Akwi Nji, Heather Perry, Claudia Rivera, Shannon Rodriguez, Adam Spiegel, and Frank Sposeto.

Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2025 IAC Meeting

MOTION: Donna Dostal moved that the IAC Board approve the minutes of the September 18, 2025 IAC Board meeting, seconded by Bruce Miller, Lance Ehmcke, Frank Sposeto. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Donna Dostal encouraged IAC Board members to review the Consent Agenda items and reach out to Iowa Arts Council staff with questions. Public Comments moved to be at the beginning of the meeting. No comments were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were made.

IEDA Director's Office

Debi Durham presented on aligning the Iowa Arts Council within IEDA's community, people, business framework while highlighting current successes and ongoing projects that meet our workforce attraction goals. Talent initiatives like ThisIsIowa.com, Destination Iowa and Meet Goldie are working to attract visitors to come to Iowa.

Role of the Iowa Arts Council

Dillion Malone presented on the role of the Iowa Arts Council in related to the state statute. The Iowa Arts Council is a 15 member advisory committee appointed by the governor due to their art expertise. Their role is advisory in capacity and should focus on the shaping of the strategic plan. Responsibilities as Council Members include active participation and making recommendations and helping shape the strategic plan.

Staff Report

Jennie Knoebel shared that the team had a busy 2025 calendar year, and would like to continue to see Council members engaging in events and grant panels. Additionally, Knoebel shared that Regional Arts Forums will be moving to a fall cycle and Council members should plan to assist at these outings. Over the coming months the Iowa Arts Council staff will be evaluating programs to consider sunseting or launching. To help the Iowa Arts Council consider the impact of our programs several staff presented on the programs they manage.

Arts Program Evaluation

Jon Berg presented on the successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement related to the Regional Arts Forums and Iowa Arts Council Caucus. Findings include participants appreciated the opportunity to gather and seeking professional development opportunities/

Jennie Knoebel presented successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement related to the Arts Project Grants for Organizations. Findings include increasing access for K-12 students to access the arts and an appreciation of the change to allow matching funds.

Elizabeth Ferriera presented on the successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement related to the Arts Project Grants for Artists. Findings include that the program is flexible and accessible but oversubscribed at times. There are opportunities to deepen funding and expand rural reach.

EJ Philby Burton presented on the successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement related to the Greenlight Grant. Findings include filling industry gaps and exploring reimbursement streamlining.

Strategic Planning Update

Jennie Knoebel presented on the current strategic goals and our program alignment with these goals. 3 goals with several subgoals. Council members are encouraged to review and consider for future meetings.

Other Business (Board Chair)

Upcoming meeting March 31, 2026. Plan for two-hour meetings and can end early if need be. Interest in getting out into the community and experiencing their local art scene. Plan for some of the meetings be at IEDA and some out in the community with the Council.

I. Adjournment (Board Chair)

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as to form:

Elizabeth Ferreira

Donna Dostal

Board Administrator

Chair