

Iowa Artists - Newspaper

July 2026



President's Note

One of the things I've been reflecting on lately is how much an organization like Iowa Artists is built through small contributions.

Some members volunteer on committees. Others help set up exhibitions, bring food to a potluck, share our events with friends, welcome a new member, or simply show up to support another artist. None of these actions seem particularly large on their own, but together they create the kind of community that makes Iowa Artists special.

As we move through the second half of the year, I encourage you to think about one small way you'd like to contribute. It doesn't have to be a major commitment—sometimes the smallest acts have the greatest impact. Thank you for being part of this community. I'm excited to see what we continue to build together.

Art Retreat Update

We're just a few weeks away from the first Iowa Artists Art Retreat, and the excitement is building!

We currently have 54 artists registered, and it's shaping up to be a fantastic weekend of learning, creativity, and connection. From hands-on workshops and artist talks to open exploration time and plenty of opportunities to meet fellow artists from across the state, we're looking forward to spending the weekend creating together.

To everyone who has registered—thank you! Your enthusiasm has made this inaugural retreat far beyond what we imagined, and we can't wait to welcome you.

As we prepare for this year's retreat, we're also beginning to think ahead to 2027. We'd love to continue growing this event and making it even better each year. If you'd be interested in helping plan next year's retreat, have ideas for workshops or presenters, or know of a great location or facility that could host us in the future, we'd love to hear from you. The best ideas often come from our members, and we'd love your input as we build this event into an annual tradition for Iowa artists.

Here's to an inspiring weekend—and many more to come!

Weekend Schedule

Friday, July 24

10:00 a.m. Check-In & Coffee

11:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Workshop Block A

- Drawing Basics with Kelly Schwartz
- Working with Galleries
- Photographing Your Artwork

1:30 p.m. Potluck Lunch

Iowa Artists will provide the main dishes. If you're able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

2:30–5:30 p.m.

Workshop Block B

- Watercolor Techniques with Tracy Ingham
- Scratchboard with Danna Fruetel

5:30 p.m. Dinner on your own

6:30–8:00 p.m. Artist Trading Card Open Studio

Saturday, July 25

9:00 a.m. Coffee

9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Workshop Block C

- Charcoal with Scott Krohn
- Brushless Acrylics with Tracy Ingham
- Exploration Stations

12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

2:00–5:00 p.m.

Workshop Block D

- Charcoal (continued) with Scott Krohn
- Gouache with Caylin Graham
- Exploration Stations

5:00–6:00 p.m.

Supply Swap & Exploration

6:00 p.m.

Dinner on your own

7:30–8:30 p.m.

Artist Panel Discussion

Sunday, July 26

10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Community-Led Plein Air & Urban Sketching

2:00 p.m. Group Photo & Goodbyes



Tracy Ingham - Watercolor



Danna Fruetel - Scratchboard



Scott Krohn - Charcoal

Grant Opportunity for Artists

Hi friends, artists, and arts orgs!

This is Lydia Diemer, the Artist Resource Director at Public Space One (PS1), a community-driven arts organization in Iowa City. I'm writing today to bring renewed attention to the Big Field Fund, an opportunity for visual artists in eastern Iowa.

Applications are open for the third year of the Big Field Fund (BFF), a Regional Regranting Program supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and administered by PS1. This is essential support for publicly-engaged experimental, collaborative, and connective visual arts projects. Iowa artists (and collectives) residing within the 35 counties proximate to Iowa City can apply.

Big Field Fund 2026 First-Round applications are now open and the deadline is August 1. BFF seeks artist-led projects that manifest new and inventive models, support under-resourced creative communities, engage with vulnerable structures, systems, or ecologies, and/or fall outside the reach of typical funding sources. This year, BFF will offer 4 research/development grants (\$3000) as well as 6 project grants to support the public realization of a visual arts project (\$8000). The second year is currently underway with BFF grantee activities and more information available at <https://www.bigfieldfund.org>.

In the coming weeks, Laura Moser (PS1 Community Stewardship Director) and I are also holding a series of BFF info sessions:

- Thursday, June 18, 5-6:30pm, at ICPL in Iowa City, IA
- Tuesday, July 7, 5:30-7pm, at The Hearst Center for the Arts in Cedar Falls, IA
- Thursday, July 9, 5:30-7pm, at the Art Center of Burlington in Burlington, IA

At these events, we'll review the application process and answer any questions. Following the presentation, we'll host a work session for participants to get started and receive feedback from us or their peers. A video info session will also be available on our website for those who can't attend.

Please help us spread the word! If you know of artists and other interested folks who might want to find out more, please share. You can also sign up for our newsletter, follow us on Instagram (@bigfieldfund), and find up to date information here.

Laura and I are also available to share more about this opportunity and answer questions. Contact us at info@bigfieldfund.org.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this funding opportunity!

All the best,
Lydia Diemer
(on behalf of Team BFF at PS1)

Solo Shows to Check Out

Bob Peterson

Exhibition of six (6) portraits
Groundswell Cafe
201 - 3rd Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids
July 2 through July 31
7:00 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Friday



Danna Fruetel

October 8 - The month of October
will be Danna's final Solo Art Show at
Fort Madison Area Arts Association.
The opening reception will be
October 8 in the early evening.



Gallery Hop Continues Through August

Iowa Artists members are currently featured at two Des Moines locations:

- Des Moines Botanical Garden — A collection celebrating botanical subjects and the beauty of the natural world.
- Des Moines Public Library — An open-themed exhibition showcasing the incredible variety of work created by our members.

Whether you're looking for inspiration, introducing a friend to Iowa Artists, or simply enjoying a summer outing, we hope you'll take time to visit both exhibitions before they close at the end of August. Seeing our members' work displayed throughout the community is one of the best ways to celebrate the talent and creativity that make Iowa Artists such a vibrant organization.

Congratulations to our Iowa Artists! Your beautiful artwork is now on display and being shared with the public. Thank you for contributing your creativity and talent to this exhibition. We hope you take pride in knowing that your work is inspiring and enriching the experience of everyone who visits. Congratulations, and thank you for being a part of this special event!

Des Moines Public Library

Central Art Gallery



Art Gallery

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Art from the Heartland

Show: June 30-August 30

About the show

Showcasing artwork by current Iowa Artists members, this exhibition reflects the richness and diversity of our heartland. Inspired by nature, people, landscapes, and ideas, these artists express the creative spirit found throughout Iowa.

About Iowa Artists

Founded in 1970, Iowa Artists is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting and supporting artists of all levels across the state. Through exhibitions, workshops, and community gatherings, Iowa Artists connects creatives while fostering artistic growth and celebrating the rich creative soil of Iowa's heartland.

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

**WILD & WONDERFUL
MIXED MEDIA ART
THRU AUG 30
BY IOWA
ARTISTS**



Iowa Artists brings together creatives from across the state of Iowa, using diverse mediums to interpret, reimagine, and celebrate nature through individual artistic perspectives.

**CONNECT WITH
IOWA ARTISTS**





General Group Information

Iowa Artists Board Members

President - Stephanie Swilley

Region 7

Vice President - Julie Hughes

Region 7

Treasurer - Diana Turnage

Region 7

Secretary - Megan Wassom

Region 2

Membership Chair - Wendy Ebbers

Region 2

State Show Chair - Kelly Schwartz

Region 6

Newsletter - Danna Fruetel

Region 6

Digital Chair - Linda Andrews

Region 8

Workshop Chair - Open

Members-At-Large

Jon Rudsill

Region 10

Bob Peterson

Region 8

Susan Kuennen

Region 3

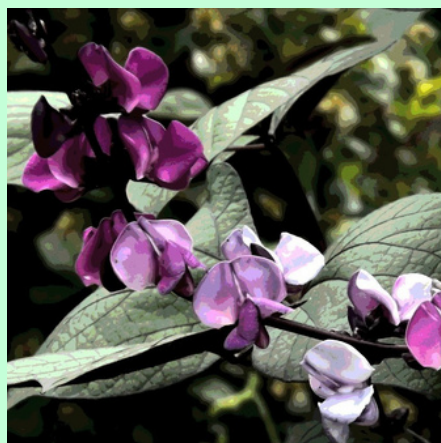
Tracy Ingham

Region 2

Treasurers Report

Net Assets Appox: \$14,670

Retreat weekend expenses have not been allocated yet.



Time to enjoy the summer!!

If you haven't already be sure to register yourself on the Iowa Artist Registry

<https://iowaartistdirectory.org/>

This is not part our our group but a great way for others to find you if they need a certain type of artist.

Board secretary update: The prospectus has been updated so that 2D and 3D pieces will be judged separately, regardless of the number of entries at both the state show and regional show levels. An email was sent out to inform members. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like a copy of the prospectus sent to you.