

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL

IOWA DEPARTMENT *of* CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL INVESTS CREATIVELY

By Devin van Holsteijn

Last June, Orchestra Iowa staff members got the chance to attend the Iowa Arts Council's Arts Summit. If you had attended, you would have gotten to experience live performances by artists from across the state, including two performances by our partners at Ballet Quad Cities. You also would have heard proud arts leaders give short presentations about successful programs like challenging plays supported by spare change from audience members, film festivals that crowd-source new soundtracks to silent films from local high school students and an orchestra that has grown and thrived through expanding its business model (hint, you might hear them soon). A number of grants that directly support Iowa artists were also awarded, allowing one artist to both finish an album as well as plan a tour to Italy.

There are many other ways the impact of the Iowa Arts Council goes well beyond one day each summer. Many of the arts opportunities we get to experience locally are supported by the Arts Council through funding that goes to organizations who demonstrate an "exemplary record of programming, managerial excellence and community service on a year-round basis to the citizens of Iowa". If you think that sounds like some of your favorite places here in the Corridor, you'd be right. Orchestra Iowa is a Cultural Leadership Partner, along with Brucemore, the Englert Theatre, the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, TCR, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and Legion Arts. In addition to supporting such organizations, the Arts Council has also cultivated successes like Legion Arts' Landfall Festival and the International Annual Russian Guitar Seminar and Festival through project grants.

While the Creative Corridor can be very proud of our representation in the Cultural Leadership Partners program, that is by no means the only way you can be involved with your Arts Council. Follow them on Twitter and find them on Facebook to keep track of and advocate for your favorite projects and organizations. Share the cultural resources we have here in the Corridor and the Arts Council will Retweet you! Make sure to also check out



Local Cultural Leadership Partners

their grant opportunities and tell your artist friends. If you are interested in improving your artistic skills, take a look at their professional development opportunities and get to work. After all, we do create here.

While you probably won't meet their staff anytime soon, the work of the Arts Council can be seen and heard throughout Iowa on a regular basis, including tonight. As a state-funded organization, Orchestra Iowa would like to thank you, our tax-paying patrons, for your support of Iowa Arts Council through our state legislature as well as the National Endowment for the Arts. They are investing in you in return, and we feel privileged to bring you performances such as *Sleeping Beauty*, *Russian Masters*, *Fifth Element* and *Water Music* with their support.

We can't do it without you!