



**CONTACT:**  
Megan Starr  
Economic Development Coordinator  
Economic Development Department  
50 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
563-589-4393  
econdev@cityofdubuque.org

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Applications Now Available for City of Dubuque Arts and Cultural Grants for FY 2016**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission are soliciting competitive applications from all interested parties for two distinct arts and culture funding programs for the fiscal year (FY) 2016 grant cycle, which runs July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

Since 2005, the City of Dubuque has awarded over \$2.3 million to area arts and culture organizations and other non-profits for programs that reach thousands of Dubuque adults and children each year. In addition, these funds have leveraged about \$968,000 in other community support for arts and culture events and programs.

Guidelines and applications Forms for both the special projects grants program and operating support grants program are available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/grants](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/grants).

Over the past two years, the arts and cultural affairs advisory commission and City staff worked to better align the special project arts grant program with the City Council's goals and priorities, best practices in community art funding, and the art needs of the Dubuque community. " We have examined how we can use arts and culture to engage all community members, make our residents more participatory, and ensure that arts, culture, preservation and heritage programs and events are welcoming and inclusive to those outside of a traditional audience," said Ellen Henkels, secretary of the arts and cultural affairs advisory commission.

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The City of Dubuque seeks to fund artistic, creative projects that utilize community engagement at their core. Engagement features an active, two-way process in which one party motivates another to get involved or take action—and both parties experience change and growth. It promotes consistent community interaction that is a step beyond the conventional.

Eligibility for the special projects grant includes not only established, 501(C)(3) organizations, but non-profits that operate under an umbrella organization or groups that are acting as a non-profit. “The accessibility of the grants to a wide array of dynamic thinkers and groups in the community was important. We want to fund great art ideas,” said Henkels. “Any non-profit group may apply for an art project through this grant, even if its primary mission is not dedicated to the arts.”

The minimum grant awarded through the program will be \$1,500 and the maximum will be \$8,500. City staff is offering two grant workshops specific to the special project funding on April 14, 2015, at noon or at 5 p.m., in the Lacy Board Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2015.

The operating support fund is designed to assist 501(C) (3) arts and cultural organizations located in the city of Dubuque that primarily serve Dubuque residents with year-round arts and culture events, programs, and services and can demonstrate a record of programmatic and administrative stability. A workshop specific to operating support grants will be held at noon on March 18, 2015, in the Aigler Auditorium, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. . The deadline for applications is April 10, 2015.

All grants are reviewed by the arts and cultural affairs advisory commission and approved by the City Council. Current members of the commission include Sue Riedel (chairperson), Katherine Kluseman, Marina O’Rourke, Ellen Henkels, Gina Siegert, Julie Steffen, and Jessica Teckemeyer.

For additional information, please contact Megan Starr at [econdev@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:econdev@cityofdubuque.org) or 563-589-4393. Complete application materials are posted online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/grants](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/grants).

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