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NEWS RELEASE

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October is National Arts and Humanities Month

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque’s Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission joins thousands of arts organizations and communities from across the nation, the White House and Congress, in celebrating National Arts and Humanities Month throughout October, a designation observed for over two decades.

National Arts and Humanities Month presents the opportunity for everyone to **experience the arts and be inspired** this October, whether it’s attending a concert, taking an art class, reading a book or singing songs with your kids.

Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts and national coordinator of Arts and Humanities month, says, “Everyone recognizes the creative and cultural value of the arts and humanities. National Arts and Humanities Month offers us a chance to celebrate the often overlooked economic, educational, and civic engagement values that the arts impart in our daily lives.”

In celebration of the Month, the Commission has launched several projects. Area artists will be polled about how they were inspired to become involved their specific art. “I can

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still remember the day, January 1, 1969, when my father took me to see Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*," says Paul R. Kohl, Loras College Associate Professor of Communication Arts and vice-chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission. "I was only nine and couldn't understand what it was about, but the look, sound, and overall feel of the film opened me up to a world where movies were more than mere entertainment, but serious art. At that point, I knew I wanted to study about and make films. Though I never made it to Hollywood, I have had the opportunity to study, teach, and write about cinema, and it all started on that New Year's Day."

The Commission will present an Arts and Humanities Month proclamation to the City Council on September 21 and contribute articles to area publications about the value of arts in our community. A series of public service announcements will be produced to air on all local radio stations featuring many of the arts and cultural groups throughout the City.

A special section on the City's website at www.cityofdubuque.org/arts&culture will feature these projects, and include a list of arts and cultural activities occurring in October in Dubuque. "When I look at this list, and it is by no means comprehensive, I am proud of the vibrant arts culture we have in this city," says Geri Shafer, Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission. "One could attend multiple events - some free, some with admission - every single day in October."

National Arts and Humanities Month is coordinated by Americans for the Arts, the national organization working to empower communities with the resources and support necessary to provide access to all of the arts for all of the people. With 49 years of service, Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. More information about National Arts and Humanities Month is available online at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/nahm.

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