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Media Contact:
Colleen Murphy @ cmurphy@desmoinesartsfestival.org
Or (515) 577 - 4199



A Seat at the Table launches featuring Black Lives Matter

Des Moines Arts Festival's Quarterly Conversation About Cultural Equity in the Arts

(Des Moines, IA) – The Des Moines Arts Festival will launch the organizations second season of A Seat at the Table by featuring the Black Lives Matter movement. The conversation, to be held on Thursday, Feb. 3, will explore how visual arts, dance, music and spoken word can serve as tools for expression of remembrance and give way to communication and healing. Panelists include multi-disciplinary artists Cadex Herrera, Emmett Phillips and Jill Wells. Kate Hightshoe facilitates A Seat at the Table.

[A Seat at the Table](#) is an intentional effort to elevate cultural equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Central Iowa arts and culture community. The Des Moines Arts Festival hosts the conversations to enable creatives to find their “seat at the table.” Each gathering includes community partners sharing how they are working towards cultural equity and how we, as a community, can collaborate to elevate the arts.

“The Des Moines Arts Festival is thrilled to continue to host the A Seat the Table conversations in 2022,” said Stephen King, Executive Director of the Des Moines Arts Festival. “The continuation of this series underlines the important work of addressing cultural equity in the arts and provides a voice to creative individuals across our community.”

BLM Today and Tomorrow: Pain and Healing through Art will be on Thurs., Feb. 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Seat at the Table will be held on Zoom and is open to the public. Registration is required. A full outline of the 2022 line-up is available here:

BLM Today and Tomorrow: Pain and Healing through Art

February 3, 2022, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

A look back (and forward) on how the arts give way to communication and healing. The expression of remembrance through visual art, dance, music, and words.

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Latino Heritage and the Influence on American Art and Culture

May 3, 2022, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Prepare for Cinco de Mayo with an exploration of how naming and identity impact art and culture.

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Rehabilitation through Art

August 9, 2022, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Learn how art plays a vital role in rehabilitating incarcerated people and individuals with mental illness.

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How the Arts Communicate the Native American Experience (Part 2)

November 3, 2022, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Creatives will share how music, dance, and regalia play a critical role in telling the Native American Story. To review Part 1, visit our recordings section below.

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About the Des Moines Arts Festival. The [Des Moines Arts Festival®](#) is committed to strengthening a vibrant and creative community. Dedicated to the principles of collaboration and creative expression, Des Moines Arts Festival inspires engagement with the arts, fosters and celebrates inclusion, values professionalism and quality, and champions new and emerging ideas.

The Des Moines Arts Festival produces an annual outdoor festival celebrating arts and culture, provides programming and support to artists and arts organizations, advocates for a “arts first” leadership model, and inspires individuals to find their creative voice.

The mission of the Des Moines Arts Festival is to Impact Lives through the Arts.

About Kate Hightshoe. Kate Hightshoe has a proven track record in implementing cultural change management strategies at all organization levels – organizational compliance and enterprise risk management and mitigation - and community building, development, and engagement. Her areas of expertise include the strategic building of highly functioning teams and partnerships designed to support business objectives and sustainability - convening conversations and opportunities for innovation and creative business - and tying equity, inclusion, diversity and accessibility values and initiatives to corporate strategy that can further assist the organization in achieving key objectives. Kate has her BA in Oboe Performance and minor in Music Composition from the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Interdisciplinary Masters: American Culture, American History, American Music. Kate is the immediate past Chair of the Inclusion Council for the Greater Des Moines Partnership, serves on The Des Moines Symphony EDI Committee, the Board of Directors for the Des Moines Art Center, and the Executive Board of Directors for BRAVO Des Moines.

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