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A Seat at the Table features Latino Heritage

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

(Des Moines, IA) – The Des Moines Arts Festival will feature Latino Heritage and its influence on American art and culture in this year's second edition of the A Seat at the Table program. The conversation, to be held on Tuesday, May 3, will explore how naming and identity impact art and culture in preparation for the Cinco de Mayo holiday. Panelists include multi-disciplinary artist Seso Marentes and musician Michael Nunez. 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 excited to feature the Latino community in an A Seat the Table conversation," said Stephen King, Executive Director of the Des Moines Arts Festival. "As the Latino community continues to grow in Iowa, the arts and culture will evolve to reflect that growth and that heritage."

Latino Heritage and the Influence on American Art and Culture will be on Tuesday, May 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. Registration information for this program and future editions is outlined below.

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.

[REGISTER AND ADD TO MY CALENDAR.](#)

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. Featured speaker is Wendy Jason from the Justice Arts Coalition.

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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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