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Des Moines Arts Festival® Announces Kick-Off Concert with William Elliott Whitmore *New event to help celebrate the 25th Anniversary Festival*

(Des Moines, IA) – In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, the Des Moines Arts Festival presented by [Nationwide](#) is hosting a kick-off concert on Thursday, June 23 featuring roots-folk favorite musician William Elliot Whitmore. The free concert will take place at the Roots Stage at 7:30 p.m. The Festival will be June 24 – 26 in Western Gateway Park in downtown Des Moines.

Hailing from Lee County, Iowa, Whitmore has repeatedly carved his own path, honoring the longstanding tradition of folk music throughout his nearly 20-year career, while always allowing his blues, soul and punk rock influences to shine through. He has toured across the United States and has performed on some of the biggest stages around the world such as Stagecoach Fest, Byron Bluesfest (Australia) and End of the Road Fest (UK).

Only the Roots Stage and an adjoining beverage station will be open for the Kick-Off Concert. Guests are encouraged to enjoy a Downtown restaurant before the show.

The Kick-Off Concert is made possible thanks to [Meet in Iowa](#), a meeting and event incentive reimbursement program by the [Iowa Economic Development Authority](#) and [Iowa Tourism Office](#), administered by the [Iowa Restaurant Association](#) and [Iowa Hotel & Lodging Association](#).

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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.

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