

# ART IN STATE BUILDINGS

A Public Legacy for Iowans



IOWA **ARTS** COUNCIL  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

# THE ART IN STATE BUILDINGS PROGRAM

## Building a Legacy

Iowa was among the first states in the nation to adopt a percent for art law. In 1974, after persuading their colleagues of the importance of the fine arts to Iowa, Republican Senator John Murray of Ames and Republican Representative Philip Hill of Des Moines amended bills for two new state office buildings to include the purchase of art. Five years later, in 1979, the Iowa Legislature enacted and Governor Robert D. Ray signed into law the Art in State Buildings program, ensuring that fine art would be integrated into all future state building projects. Today, 25 states and the District of Columbia have a similar law, and more than 300 public art programs exist at the local level across the U.S.

- Funding for Art in State Buildings is generated from ½ of 1% (0.5%) of the state's portion of total construction costs for new and renovated state buildings, an efficient and cost-effective method of enhancing our built environment.
- The program provides artists, students, educators and the citizens of Iowa with opportunities to participate in and experience public art by serving on selection committees.



Hand and Land: Fingerprint by Iowa artist David Dahlquist, 2005. Iowa Department of Public Safety. Iowa Art in State Buildings program.

## Art in Public Places

Numerous artworks may be found in state office buildings surrounding the State Capitol as well as in transportation, recreational, and research facilities across Iowa that serve the public.



## Art of Healing

Public art promotes an environment of healing and comfort for patients, visitors and staff at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) and Iowa Veterans Home (IVH) in Marshalltown.

At UIHC, works of art purchased with a combination of private and public funds are placed throughout public corridors, reception areas and family lounges. Approximately 70% of artworks in the UIHC collection are by Iowa artists. At IVH, staff and residents collaborated with Iowa artists to create new artworks for the expanded facilities.

**9,000** UIHC Employees & Volunteers  
**1,000,000** UIHC Visitors &  
impacted annually

# EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

**Art in State Buildings is, foremost, an educational asset for Iowans.** The program aids Iowa's public universities in fulfilling their educational mission and service to students, faculty and citizens, as evidenced by:

**1,300** Iowa students are impacted annually through class visits, school tours and art-integrated curriculum

**1,200** University students and faculty have participated in the selection of public art on campus



Students learn about Christian Petersen's 4-H Calf at Iowa State University. University Museums, Iowa State University.



A student assists with installing Iowa artist Isabel Barbuza's work at the University of Iowa's Main Library.

## Art at Iowa's Public Universities

Established nearly a century ago, Iowa State University's Art on Campus collection - the largest program of its kind in the U.S. - has flourished since the adoption of Art in State Buildings. Today the Ames campus features hundreds of highly visible public works of art, inspiring generations of students and visitors to Iowa's largest public university.

At the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, public works of art grace locales throughout campus, including in prominent places such as the Iowa Memorial Union, Carver-Hawkeye Arena, and the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center. The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics also boasts an impressive collection of art in public places.

The University of Northern Iowa, in Cedar Falls, has acquired many compelling public works of art and seeks the active engagement of the campus community in selecting art for display. The college's art department is also home to the Public Art Incubator program.

## Everyday Learning

The Visual Literacy and Learning Program at University Museums, Iowa State University, helps incorporate art into classes across colleges and majors. Through special curated tours and exhibits, faculty use public art to broaden their students' understanding in a particular field of study, from mechanical engineering and agronomy to fashion studies. Annually, between thirty and forty college departments utilize the collection.

A similar trend is reflected at the University of Iowa, where course-based research projects on the campus public art collection have occurred for the past twenty years.

The University of Northern Iowa's Art in Architecture collection includes a broad representation of works by Iowa artists, supported in part by the Art in State Buildings program.

“Eighty percent of what sighted people learn is through visual interpretation.”

— Lynette Pohlman, Director and Chief Curator,  
University Museums, Iowa State University

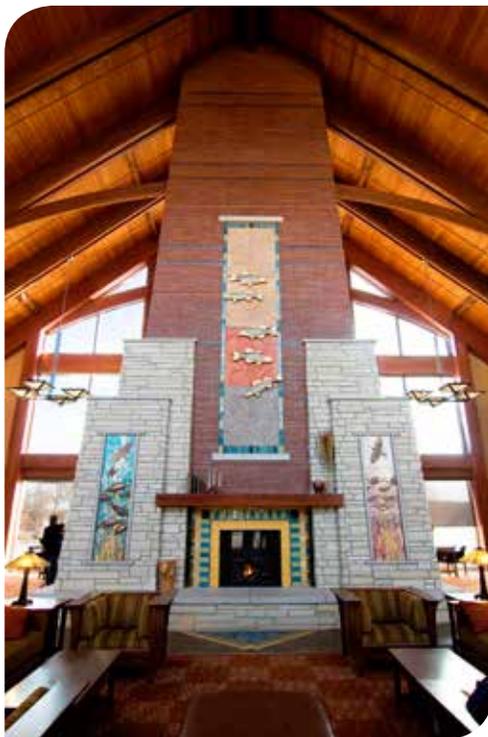
# CULTURAL IMPACT

The cultural impact of Art in State Buildings on Iowa artists, audiences and the quality of art in our state has been profound. Since its inception, the program has supported the acquisition of many significant works of art, highlighting diverse cultural and historical traditions, and included a broad representation of citizens in the selection of art.

Art in State Buildings continues to help advance the careers of Iowa artists, including those emerging and already established in their field.



Maslow's Theory, Jack Wilkes. Human Performance Center. University of Northern Iowa Art in Architecture Collection.



## Celebrating Nature

Artists Brad Kaspari and Carolyn Braaksma were commissioned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, through the Art in State Buildings program, to create a series of public works of art for Honey Creek Resort State Park, Iowa's first public resort. The artists found inspiration in the plant and animal species native to the area and in the lodge's Midwestern "Prairie School" style.

## Iowa Artists

The University of Northern Iowa's Lang Hall includes more than 50 original artworks by Iowa artists. The works belong to the University of Northern Iowa Art in Architecture collection, supported in part by the Iowa Art in State Buildings program.



Jeff Becker, Photographer

## Pride of the Hawkeyes

Rubbing the helmet of this bronze sculpture, depicting Iowa Hawkeye football legend Nile Kinnick, is a game day tradition for good luck for Hawkeye football players and coaches, including Head Coach Kirk Ferentz (pictured).

The late artist Larry Nowlan was commissioned through Art in State Buildings to create this statue, which is now enjoyed by more than 70,000 Hawkeye fans at every home game. Through his other artworks on campus, Nolan has helped immortalize Iowa wrestling legend Dan Gable and the Hawkeyes 1939 football squad, known as the "Ironmen".

# PRIVATE GIVING AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

**Public support of the arts plays an important role in a democratic society and serves as a catalyst for business and private giving.**

Art in State Buildings projects create and sustain jobs for artists and arts workers, supporting vital small businesses and our state's growing creative economy. Public art commissions have an important effect on other industries, as well. Artists hired as contractors, in turn, hire local companies and subcontractors to design, engineer, build and install large works of art, which are then maintained, studied and interpreted by other workers and professionals.

Public funds directed to the purchase of fine art have been greatly enhanced by private gifts, donations and commissions.



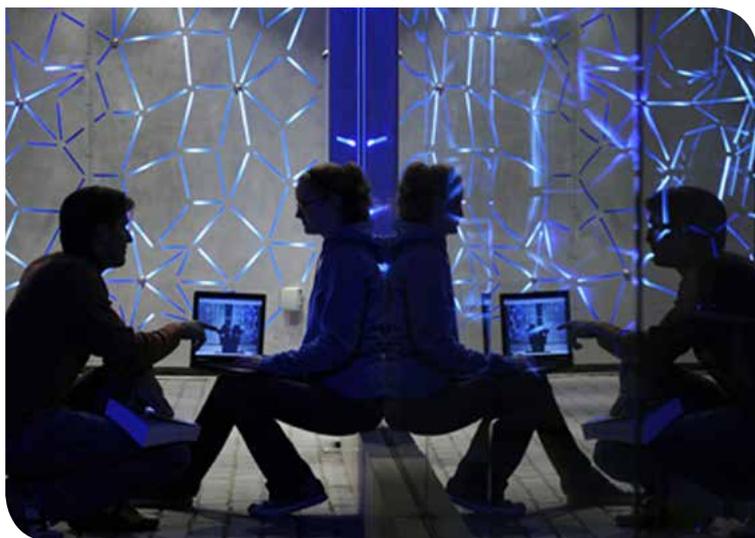
University of Northern Iowa students assisted in fabricating a public artwork which was part of an Art in State Buildings project. UNI Special Collections & University Archives

## Artists as Entrepreneurs: UNI's Public Art Incubator

The University of Northern Iowa's Public Art Incubator is training the next generation of public artists. Through mentorships with faculty and staff and partnerships with professional artists, students gain meaningful experience and learn the artistic and organizational skills necessary to carry out large-scale public art commissions on their own.

## \$1 Million

Iowa's three public universities have raised nearly \$1 million in private gifts to support Art in State Buildings projects.

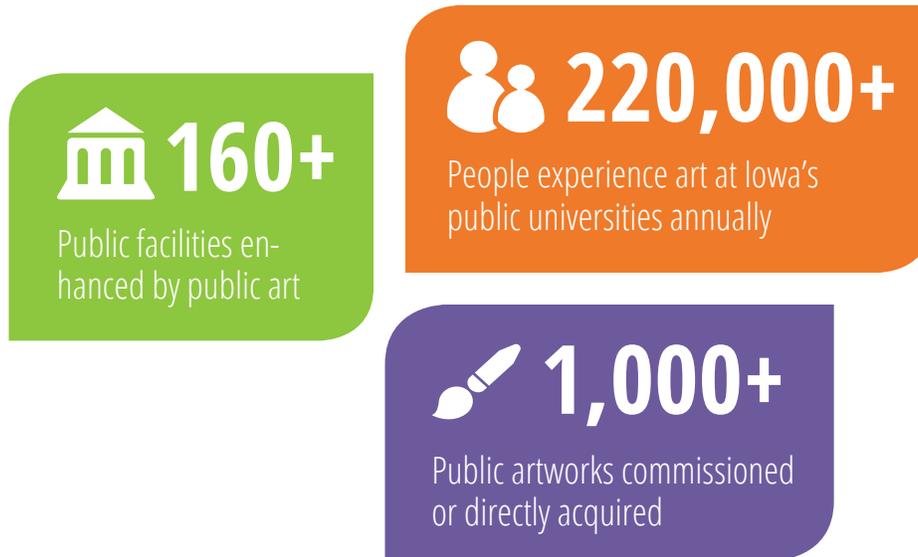


Art on Campus Collection, University Museums, Iowa State University

## Art Meets Science

Chemical elements and molecular models inspired Norie Sato's public art installation made of glass, aluminum and LED lights for the Hach Chemistry Building at Iowa State University. Installed in 2012, *e+l+e+m+e+n+t+a+l*, was supported in part by the Iowa Art in State Buildings program, with major funding provided by Iowa State University alumnus Dr. Richard Forsythe (B.S. Chemistry 1943 and Ph.D. Chemistry 1949).

Iowa's Art in State Buildings program brings art into public places where Iowans learn, work, visit and live.



# IOWA **ARTS** COUNCIL

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## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF **CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

For more information on Art in State Buildings, visit [www.iowaartscouncil.org](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org).  
For more information and learning resources on Art in State Buildings projects, visit [www.publicartarchive.org/iowa](http://www.publicartarchive.org/iowa).

Art in State Buildings is administered by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, in cooperation with the Iowa Board of Regents and the Iowa Department of Administrative Services.

Front: Procession, Michaela Mahady. LeBaron Hall, Iowa State University. Supported by the Iowa Art in State Buildings Program.  
Photo: Jim Heemstra, Iowa State University Alumni Association.