

**261—304.4(15) Council statement on freedom of expression.** The council adopts the following mission statement regarding freedom of expression:

“The mission of the Iowa arts council is to advance the arts in Iowa for the benefit of all. Support of free speech is the centerpiece of this mission. The council is an advocate for and defender of the right of free speech by all citizens under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

“The council recognizes the need for public support of the arts and understands the responsibilities that accompany the allocation of public funds. The council seeks the advice of qualified Iowans through the use of advisory panels for funding recommendations. The council is committed to uphold and maintain the highest artistic standards and to encourage excellence in the arts.

“The council respects the integrity of an artist’s personal vision and right to freedom of expression. The council rejects all attempts to control or censor the arts. Recognizing the diversity of viewpoints represented by Iowa communities, the council supports freedom of choice and access to the arts by all citizens.”

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