

Department of Cultural Affairs
Presentation to
Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee
February 13, 2007

Budget Increases Requested

DCA Administration \$20,094

This is part in the Arts Council and part in SHSI all of it to be used to enhance public relations and marketing efforts.

Cultural Grants Program \$80,760

This is for additional funds for the Iowa Community Cultural Grant Program and for the Cultural Enrichment operating support grants. We currently have \$299,240 appropriated to the program and desire an increase to \$380,000. The ICCG grants support hiring workers in cultural organizations. Often these workers are hired to plan or implement local festivals, cultural events, folklife festivals and the like. The end result is programming across Iowa based on arts and culture that attract visitors to communities and result in important economic development impact on those communities. This is an extremely competitive program, with fewer than 25% of applicants generally receiving funding. Actual grants are usually reduced from application amounts; in the past 2 years we have funded approximately 20% of the total amount requested by applicants.

The Cultural Enrichment operating support grants provide operating support to our backbone cultural organizations throughout the state. This program operates in symmetry with the Iowa Arts Council's operating support partners program, using similar timelines, reporting forms, and criteria. However, grant amounts are much smaller in the Cultural Enrichment program.

Historical Society \$346,404

There are two components to this request – support for exhibit development expenses, specifically for expenses related to the development of the Iowa Caucuses exhibit.

The request for the caucus project is for \$200,000 in general fund support. We have developed an exhibit plan for the exhibit with the help of a distinguished panel of supporters. The exhibition is designed to interpret the caucus process to visitors from throughout the world. We know the media coverage of the caucuses will be extensive and we know the economic impact of the caucus process will be tremendous (I believe I heard an estimate of \$70 million of direct economic as a result of the caucuses). We want to be the central point for discussing the history and impact of the caucuses, to provide a forum space for discussion of issues related to the caucuses, to be a media center, to be a highly interactive exhibit that will engage visitors and citizens alike. This exhibit will allow Iowa to define the image of the state during the caucuses and allow us to present a

Association of State Arts Agencies. These data are compiled by taking the total state investment in arts – in Iowa this is through the Iowa Arts Council – and simply dividing that support by the number of citizens in the state. I am confident no one is happy with this ranking. Our neighbor to the south, Missouri, moved from 49th to 33rd in the nation in that same period (FY2006 to FY2007).

The additional support of \$179,000 will improve Iowa's per capita spending to \$0.50 per capita and should raise the state to 40th in the country. This is far from reaching the mid-point in level of state support but it would be a significant improvement – and somewhat appropriate, as FY2008 will be the 40th anniversary year for the Iowa Arts Council.

The dollars proposed here would be used for additional support for such highly popular programs as the Big Yellow School Bus program that enables thousands of Iowa school students to experience arts and cultural programming. A school field trip to an art museum, theatre, or music performance may be the only time a student is exposed to the arts. We need to support the education of our youth through the traditional education venues – Pre-K, K-12 and post secondary education—we also need to support education through the cultural organizations and we need to help get our students to these non-traditional educational venues. You probably receive correspondence from your constituents about these grants, and can attest to their statements that tightening school budgets have had an enormous impact on school field trips due to transportation costs. The Big Yellow School Bus grants address exactly this need.

Other dollars will be allocated to the Arts Council's Major and Mini grant programs, artists in residence programs, and the other programs of the Arts Council.

Iowa Great Places \$194,206

I believe everyone is aware of the value of the Great Places program for local communities. We know the program has created an atmosphere in communities large and small across the state to enhance planning for the future. Local agencies that have not previously been at the same table are now sharing ideas and developing programs to allow communities to reach their potential.

The request for additional administrative funds is in response to the growth of the program and the need to provide support to communities across Iowa – those that have been identified as Iowa Great Places – and those in the process of identifying their local vision for the future. Our Department supports communities by providing training and workshop opportunities for communities in all stages of the program. We conduct grant writing workshops to help communities secure funds for their local initiatives, we prepare and deliver workshops and training on planning, we assist local communities as they move their plans from plans to reality. For those named as Great Places, we assist with oversight of any grant funds allocated to the program, we administer the Great Places agreements developed with those communities with that designation. We review project plans to make wise use of funds provided for infrastructure and capitals projects.

As the program has grown from three places to nine, the demand for oversight and accountability for the program has expanded. We see a need for additional administrative funds to make sure the program is fiscally responsible and the projects and activities at the local level actually move these communities to their full potential.

Gubernatorial Records Project

\$22,652

This project within the State Archives of Iowa is designed to provide dedicated preservation support to the records of Iowa's governors. The State Archives holds records related to all of Iowa's governors from the first territorial governor, Robert Lucas, to Governor Vilsack. As each administration leaves office, records are transferred to the State Archives of Iowa. We then assume the responsibility for preserving those records and making them accessible to the public to the full extent possible under Iowa law. The volume of material is growing rather than decreasing. In addition, the nature of the records is changing. As we become a more electronic world, the State Archives receives material in a variety of formats – correspondence stored on CDs, web pages, video streaming and all forms of databases as well as material that has been converted from paper to electronic form. We are working to review gubernatorial records create guides and indexes to the records using established archival procedures and to provide public access to the material – ideally this will include making records available through the virtual reading room I discussed earlier. At the present time, I have one full-time archivist assigned to the gubernatorial records project. While she is making progress on the review and processing of the records related to Governor Robert Ray, we have a need to expand the project staff by the addition of an archives assistant so we can make even more progress. We have, after all, had two governors since Ray and we need to work on those records as well as the Ray records.

Records Center Rent

\$185,768

In August 2005, the State Records Center was relocated from the Records and Property Building so that building could be renovated for the Department of Public Safety. We were moved to rented facilities at 920 Morgan Street. The lease for the first year (FY 2006) was supported with the original relocation budget in the Department of Administrative Services. The second year lease was to have been appropriated to the Department of Cultural Affairs as a general fund appropriation but, through an oversight, those funds were not included in our general fund appropriation last year. Rather, they were given to the Department of Administrative Services as an infrastructure appropriation with a directive that the funds be transferred to the Department of Cultural Affairs. As we prepared our budget request for FY 2008, we received guidance that our request should be presented as an infrastructure request. When Governor Culver released his budget recommendations, he included the rent as a general fund appropriation. This request should not be seen as an increase in appropriation, rather it should be seen as an acknowledgement that the lease fee should be a general fund expense. In fact, the requested amount does not cover the full amount of the lease as the “associated costs” for utilities, taxes and the like, increased after we presented our budget to the Governor's

Office. The actual expense for FY 2007 is \$ 189,066 and additional increases in these associated expenses are anticipated for FY 2008.

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