



**Iowa Alliance for Arts Education**  
Annual Report 2023-2024





## IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*A message from our Executive Director  
Leon Kuehner*

The Iowa Alliance for Arts Education has had a busy and eventful year and the 2023-2024 annual report of IAAE will give you more insight into our work in the areas of advocacy, professional development, and mentorship. Highlights of the year include a very successful virtual and in-person Arts Education Advocacy Day, the Fine Arts Educator Leadership Institute for “up and coming” teacher-leaders in our member organizations, and another record-breaking year for the IAAE ‘Model of Excellence’ mentoring program.

These achievements would not be possible without the dedicated financial support of our member organizations and individual donors. These financial contributions, in tandem with the hundreds of hours spent by members of the IAAE Executive & Advisory Boards, the IAAE Mentor Committee members, and arts education advocates, have had a profound impact on arts education in our state. IAAE is striving to better serve the needs of all our members and member organizations.

It is my pleasure to serve as Executive Director of IAAE and look forward to working with all our stakeholders in advancing quality arts education for all Iowans in the coming year.

A handwritten signature of Leon Kuehner in black ink, written in a cursive style.

**Leon Kuehner**  
Executive Director  
Iowa Alliance for Arts Education

The mission of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education is to increase awareness, recognition, and support of policies, practices and partnerships that ensure and advance quality arts education for all Iowans.



# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*A message from our Board Chair  
Jayson Gerth*

As the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education ends yet another busy year working on behalf of Iowa's fine arts teachers and students, I am filled with gratitude and optimism.

The IAAE will never take for granted the hard work, passion, or dedication of the groups and individuals that make our Alliance special. We appreciate the dedication of those who have reached out to their state legislators via email or phone calls, participated in Fine Arts Advocacy Day at the Iowa Capitol, or championed the significance of fine arts education in school board meetings, letters to the editor, or casual conversations with friends and neighbors. Their advocacy for the fine arts in Iowa schools is indispensable in ensuring that our message continues to resonate and make a lasting impact.

We are grateful to our member organizations that support Iowa's fine arts teachers by providing professional development, community, and support for all their members. Their dedication ensures access to the latest teaching strategies, resources, and collaboration, creating an environment that allows both teachers and students an opportunity to thrive.

We are grateful to our members and donors whose financial generosity allows us to operate effectively and to the Iowa Legislature, whose annual appropriations fund one of the cornerstones of our mission: the Model of Excellence Mentorship Program.

And finally, we are grateful to you. If you are reading this annual report, you have an interest in the Alliance, its activities, its reach, its importance. Thank you for taking the time to thumb through these pages. What you see here is just a small peek behind the curtain, a glimpse of the impact the IAAE has on fine arts education in Iowa.

The depth of the Alliance's roots reaches into the art rooms, dance floors, theater stages, band rooms, choir rooms, and general music classrooms in every corner of Iowa. Over 500 times last year, experienced mentor teachers worked with young first and second-year teachers to help them become more effective. This work keeps young teachers in education, and keeps Iowa's school children dancing, singing, painting, acting, and playing.

As we look to the year ahead, despite continually shifting landscapes in education, we are filled with optimism. The work of the Alliance is good work. While there will always be hurdles to jump and hills to climb, every conversation with a state decision-maker, every mentor visit with a young teacher, and every minute of professional development the Alliance provides matters. Because at the other end of our efforts are Iowa's school children, all of whom deserve a complete education which includes a strong fine arts education.

With Gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayson Gerth".

**Jayson Gerth**  
Chair  
Iowa Alliance for Arts Education





# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Fine Arts Education Organizations that are represented by the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education



***The primary MISSION of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education is to increase awareness, recognition, and support of policies, practices and partnerships that ensure and advance quality arts education for all Iowans.***

Fine arts teachers who are involved care passionately about arts instruction in Iowa schools. Our members include a wide variety of other fine arts advocates.



IAAE Executive and Advisory Board Members, June 2024





# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

## Meet Our Board Members

### IAAE Executive Board Officers

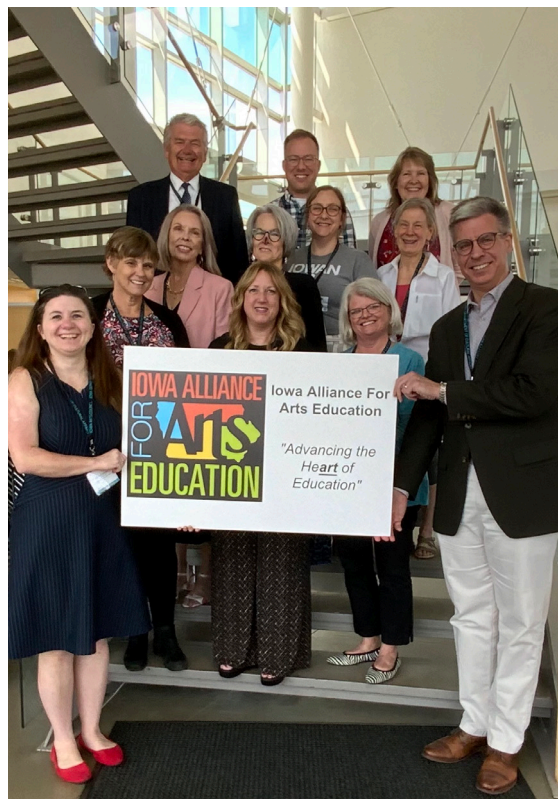
Jayson Gerth, Chair (Ankeny)  
Dan Black, Chair Elect (Council Bluffs)  
Sarah Schaefer, Past Chair (Waukee)  
Shanise Brockshus, Secretary (Des Moines)  
Jennifer Gaesser, Treasurer (Creston)  
Leon Kuehner, Executive Director (Hampton)

### At-Large Board Members

Helen Duranleau-Brennan (Davenport)  
Adam Orban (Algona)  
Kathleen Sweet (Decorah)  
Jackie Burk (Goodell)

### IAAE Advisory Board Members

Thad Driskell, Iowa High School Music Association  
Liz Hansen, Iowa Thespians  
Stacy Hansen, Iowa High School Speech Association  
Cindy Herndon, Iowa Dance  
Zach Howell, Iowa Music Educators Association  
Suzanne Jones, Iowa Communications Association  
Dave Krogan, Iowa Association of School Music Dealers  
Maddison Maddock, Art Educators of Iowa  
Nick Oswald, Iowa Choral Directors Association  
Jean Schilling, Iowa Association of School Boards  
Kathryn Swinbank, Iowa String Teachers Association  
Byron Tinder, Iowa Bandmasters Association  
Kris Ver Steegt, Fine Arts Consultant, Iowa Department of Education



Combined IAAE Executive and Advisory Board Strategic Planning Session, June 2023



# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

## *Our Members*

**Members are the backbone of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education.** We would like to thank the following members for their financial support:

John Aboud	Jayson Gerth	Brad Lampe	Richard Scheffel
David Adams	Andrew Geysens	Braden Wipperman	Jeffrey Schmitt
Gail Allison	Kirsten Reineke	James Wright	Julie Schnieders
Kathleen Almelen	Josette Robertson	Lynn Lange	Gabriel Schott
Dan Anderson	Dennis Rodenberg	David Law	Kurt Schwark
David Anderson	David Rutt	Mark Lehmann	Rodney Shedenhelm
Donna Angell	Ted Schacherer	Jean Loger	Teresa Slade
Kay Augustine	Sarah Schaefer	Roger Lueders	Teresa Smith
Samantha Beeman	James Gosnell	Gayle Lundak	Tom Smull
Janiece Bergland	Brenda Hagedon	Rosanne Malek	Nathan Stark
Elizabeth Bloomberg	Brian Haymond	Ted Mallory	Christine Stortenbecker
Stephen Brackett	Roger Henderson	Steve McCombs	Mitchell Stover
Larry Brandstetter	Cynthia Herndon	Andrew McDonald	Scott Stroud
Paul Brizzi	Jo Howell	Mike McEniry	Judith Svengalis
Jackie Burk	Bob Hoyt	Jennifer McKenna	Michelle Swanson
Barbara Cady	Jenny Humphreys	Ryan McNulty	David Swaroff
Sandra Carroll	Dawn Hutchison	Myron McReynolds	Kathleen Sweet
Steve Citta	Jody Ingwersen	Kevin Meier	Laurie Thome
Ashley Clasby	Duane Ites	Jacqueline Meunier	Jacqueline Thompson
Tyler Coleman	Kelly Jacobsma	Larry Michehl	Connor Tipping
Anne Cowley	Peter Jacobus	Mary Nederhoff	Pat Toben
Mary Crandell	Lynn Jensen	Steph Nefzger	Abigail Toussaint
Pamela Crawford	Bradley Jensen	Sally Nellis	Jane Triplet
Linda Cutshall	Roger Jensen	Lavila Nelson	Patricia Trump
Susan Davis	Jerrold Jimmerson	Patricia Newman	Linda Vanderpool
Anna Davis	Carl Johnson	Rich Nicklay	Kris VerSteegt
Betty Debban	Jane Johnson	Christine Noel	Donica Vonderohe
Thad Driskell	Suzanne Jones	Tim Noring	Brandon Waring
Cassie Dunlavey	Jay Kahn	Dan Norman	David Wendt
Helen Duranleau-Brennan	Paula Keeler	Jane Olson	Ryan West
Christopher Ellerston	Kenneth Kirby	Nick Oswald	Steve West
Chris & LuAnn Ewan	Jeffrey Kirkpatrick	Laura Paarmann	Robert Williams
Elaine Fargo	Jennifer Knoebel	Jenifer Phelan	Jennifer Williams
Anne Franta	Russ Kramer	Michael Prichard	Sandra Willman
James Fritz	Martha Kroese	Holly Prier Lloyd	Jill Wilson
Liz Fritz	Josie Krook-Brunette	Jason Rausch	Randall Winkey
Jennifer Gaesser	Leon Kuehner	Dick Redman	



## IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

### *Membership Benefits*

As a member of the IAAE, you directly benefit from the work you are making possible, including the following:

Advocacy, lobbying for policy change, and new opportunities that support fine arts education at the local, state and national level.

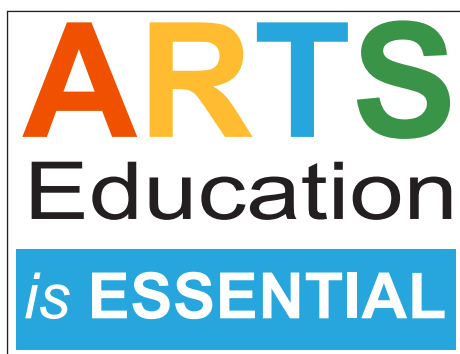
Representation at meetings with public officials, philanthropic organizations and other key decision-makers.

An annual Fine Arts Education Advocacy Day at the Iowa State Capitol.

Iowa's statewide 'Model of Excellence' Mentor Program for beginning fine arts educators.

Bi-annual sponsorship of the Arts Educators Leadership Institute and the Fine Arts Education Summit.

Professional development, resource sharing, and networking with fine arts educators across the state.







# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

## *Our Three Primary Initiatives*

### MENTOR PROGRAM

IAAE has advocated for and received an annual appropriation from the Iowa Legislature for the past eight legislative sessions to fund the **Iowa Model of Excellence Mentoring Program** for beginning fine arts teachers. IAAE has also successfully raised the required matching funds.

In 2023, IAAE was able to increase the amount of the state funding appropriation from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and matching funds can include in-kind contributions in addition to cash contributions.

### ADVOCACY

Since 2014, IAAE has sponsored an annual **Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol** where all 150 Iowa legislators are informed about the impact that arts education has on Iowa students. Advocates have the opportunity to participate either in-person or virtually. Plans are underway for our **next Arts Advocacy Day in January of 2025**.

IAAE collaborates with Americans for the Arts (AFTA) to communicate with the Iowa congressional delegation in Washington D.C. to advocate for increased funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and federal government programs that benefit art education.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

IAAE was a driving force in the adoption of Fine Arts Standards for the state of Iowa. To highlight the importance of the standards in improving student achievement, promoting social & emotional learning, and advancing equity and inclusion, IAAE partnered with the Iowa Arts Council to sponsor an **Arts Education Summit in June of 2023**. The next summit is planned for **June of 2025**.

\*IAAE provided additional professional development for teachers by sponsoring the **Arts Educators Leadership Institute** in June of 2024. The purpose of this event is to train “up and coming” fine arts teachers to be leaders in their schools, communities, and state-wide organizations. The next leadership institute is planned for **June of 2026**.



## IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*'Model of Excellence' Mentor Program*

**531** Mentor Visits  
COMPLETED

**126** Total Schools  
VISITED

**80%** Schools Visited are  
RURAL SCHOOLS

### We worked in **54** Iowa Counties

Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Cedar, Clay, Clayton, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Green, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Ida, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Kossuth, Linn, Louisa, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Muscatine, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Shelby, Shenandoah, Story, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Winnebago, Woodbury

The purpose of this program is to improve the quality of arts education in Iowa through mentoring assistance of beginning fine arts teachers.

**This program has been in operation since 2006 and is made possible by an appropriation from the Iowa legislature and matching funds from the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education.**

IAAE functions as administrator of the program under contract with the Iowa Department of Education. The Iowa Model of Excellence Mentor Program is **discipline-specific** and is designed to **enhance**, not supplant, the **current district mentoring programs**.

The IAAE mentoring program provides the following services to all first and second year teachers at **NO-COST** to the local school district.

- **Unlimited full-day on-site mentor visits by assigned mentors of all arts disciplines.**
  - **Unlimited "virtual mentor visits" (Zoom, Go To Meeting, Google Meet, etc.).**
  - **Scholarships to attend professional conferences and pay professional dues.**
  - **"Fall Symposium for Beginning Arts Educators" was held on October 28, 2023.**
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## IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

### *'Model of Excellence' Mentor Program*

The Iowa Alliance for Arts Education acknowledges the following contributors for their financial support of the Model of Excellence Mentor Program.

Contributions given by these donors were used to match the state appropriation by the Iowa Legislature through the Iowa Department of Education.

#### **Individual Contributions**

Shanise Brockshus  
Kevin Droe  
Christopher Ellerston  
Elaine Imlau  
Scott Keese  
Lisa Lang  
Jacqueline Meunier  
Jenifer Rieck  
Rodney Shedenhelm  
David Swaroff

#### **Business & Organization Contributions**

Hancock County Little Theater  
Iowa Bandmasters Association  
Iowa Choral Directors Association  
Krause Gentle Foundation  
Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Association  
Prudential - American Online Giving Foundation  
South Central Iowa Bandmaster Association



## Prudential

## Hancock County Little Theater Logo?



## IOWA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.







# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*IAAE's Benefit Concert for the 'Model of Excellence' Mentor Program with John Lloyd Young October 2022*

The Iowa Alliance for Arts Education hosted **John Lloyd Young, the original "Frankie Valli" in Broadway's Tony Award-winning Best Musical, Jersey Boys**, at Noce Jazz Club in Des Moines, Iowa for a benefit concert for the IAAE's Model of Excellence Mentor Program on Monday, May 6, 2024. Mr. Young was joined by students from the North Polk High School Jazz choir for the concert finale.

All funds raised during this event went to support the statewide IAAE Model of Excellence Mentor Program. Mr. Young donated his time and talents to help raise awareness for the importance of fine arts education in Iowa.

John Lloyd Young is an ardent supporter of the arts and fine arts education. He was appointed to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities by Barack Obama, Young was sworn in at the Supreme Court of the United States by Justice Elena Kagan. As a member of the Committee, Young represented the United States on the first U.S. Cultural Mission to the Republic of Cuba, along with fellow Committee members Kal Penn and Alfre Woodard, guest artists Usher, Smokey Robinson, Dave Matthews, violinist Joshua Bell, playwright John Guare, U.S. arts officials, including the Chairs of the NEA and the Smithsonian Institution and members of Congress.







# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*Fall Symposium  
October 2023*

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, the **Fall Symposium for Beginning Arts Educators** was held on the campus of Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge. The Symposium is one of the professional development components of the “**Iowa Model of Excellence**” **Mentoring Program** of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education. This event was coordinated by the IAAE mentor committee and mentor Co-Administrators Cassidy Noring and Leon Kuehner.

Beginning fine arts teachers from all subject areas gathered together for a day of sharing and learning skills to assist them during the beginning years of their teaching career. In addition to the plenary sessions of “How I Survived & Thrived During My First Year of Teaching” and “Creating the Mentor-Mentee Relationship”, discipline-specific sessions were held by the mentor chairs of the Art Educators of Iowa, Iowa Bandmasters Association, Iowa Choral Directors Association, Iowa Music Educators Association, and Iowa String Teachers Association.



Fall Symposium Participants, October 2023



## IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

### *Fine Arts Education Advocacy Day 2024*

The IAAE's Arts Education Advocacy Day took place on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. We advocated and lobbied for policy change and new opportunities that support fine arts education in Iowa.

We had 134 virtual advocates this year covering 52 of Iowa's 99 counties.

We had 42 registered in-person advocates who were assigned to meet with the newly elected legislators since the 2022 legislative session. We also had a chance to have scheduled meetings with these legislative leaders - **Senator Amy Sinclair, Senator Ken Rozenboom, Senator Jeff Taylor, and Senator Pam Jochum.**

Detailed information was sent to all registered virtual advocates along with a video created by IAAE leadership informing our legislators of the importance of fine arts education in our rural and urban communities.

**As a result of our advocacy work, IAAE was able to increase the amount of the state appropriation to \$50,000 and that matching funds can include in-kind contributions in addition to cash contributions up to \$50,000 a year.**



Fine Arts Education Advocacy Day 2024







# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*Professional Development - Leadership Institute  
June 2024*

The Iowa Alliance for Arts Education Leadership Institute was held at the Gateway Hotel & Conference Center in Ames on June 13-14, 2024.

The purpose of this event is to train “up-and-coming” arts educators in our state to become leaders in their schools, communities and state and national organizations. In addition to leadership training, the event will provide networking opportunities with other fine arts teachers and the current arts education leaders in our state.

The participants of the Leadership Institute were nominated by the leadership of the following IAAE member organizations: Art Educators of Iowa, Iowa Bandmasters Association, Iowa Choral Directors Association, Iowa Music Educators Association, Iowa String Teachers Association and Iowa Thespians.

**All expenses were covered by the IAAE and a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.**

**IAAE Leadership Institute participants included the following:**

Samantha Beeman	<i>West Des Moines</i>	Sydnee McMains	<i>Southeast Polk</i>
Mike Bistline	<i>Union, La Porte City</i>	Guillermo Najarro	<i>Muscatine</i>
Shantel Garland	<i>Dike-New Hartford</i>	Stephanie Nefzger	<i>New Sharon</i>
Emma Gostonczik	<i>Solon</i>	Heather Noethe	<i>Dubuque</i>
Jed Hammen	<i>Boone</i>	Brooke Steele	<i>Iowa City</i>
Jack Jorgensen	<i>Linn-Mar</i>	Mitchell Stover	<i>Hudson</i>
Josie Krook-Burnette	<i>Le Mars</i>	Josh Waymire	<i>West Des Moines</i>
Dan Mangold	<i>MOCFV</i>	Taylor Wood	<i>Council Bluffs</i>



Support is provided by the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the  
Iowa Economic Development Authority

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# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*Professional Development - Leadership Institute  
June 2024*



Support is provided by the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the Iowa Economic Development Authority



IAAE Leadership Institute Participants, June 2024



# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*2023-2024 Financial Review*

## Balance Sheet June 30, 2024

### ASSETS

CASH \$111,900.7

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**TOTAL ASSETS \$111,900.7**

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### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### LIABILITIES

Deferred Revenues \$55,291.33

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**TOTAL LIABILITIES \$55,291.33**

#### EQUITY

Opening Balance \$43,409.44

Unrestricted Net Assets \$21,809.57

Net Income -\$8,609.58

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**TOTAL EQUITY \$56,609.43**

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**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$111,900.7**

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## Profit & Loss Statement June 30, 2024

### REVENUES

Memberships \$10,646.00

Individual Contributions \$1,700.00

State Grants \$55,000.00

Professional Organizations \$15,810.00

Matching Contributions \$26,529.31

Special Events \$5,877.89

Interest \$115.85

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**TOTAL REVENUES \$115,679.05**

### EXPENSES

Mentor Program \$76,529.31

Advocacy Day \$1,872.89

Leadership Institute 8169.88

Administration \$37,716.55

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**TOTAL EXPENSES \$124,288.63**

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**NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) -\$8,609.58**

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Iowa Alliance for Arts Education  
[www.iowaalliance4artsed.org](http://www.iowaalliance4artsed.org)

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