

Cultural Trust Grant Deadline Postponed

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) has announced that the Iowa Cultural Trust has postponed the application deadline for its Sustainability Challenge Grant program until fall.

The program is designed to help Iowa nonprofit arts, history, and cultural organizations strengthen their long-term financial sustainability through endowment building. The deadline for this year's applications had been May 20, 2010. A new deadline is expected to be in September or October.

Over the past several weeks, the Cultural Trust has fielded numerous questions about the details of the new Sustainability Challenge Grant program, according to DCA Director Cyndi Pederson. The application deadline has been postponed so the Cultural Trust can make the rules that guide this program more specific, clearly communicate any revisions, and give applicants additional time to submit or resubmit applications as appropriate.

Grant recipients will be selected in the fall and the two-year period for raising the required three-to-one matching funds will begin Jan. 1, 2011. The new deadline will be posted by May 31 at www.culturalaffairs.org. Applicants with questions about the program may contact Iowa Cultural Trust at (515) 281-8749, or the Iowa Arts Council at (515) 281-4641.

The Cultural Trust was established by the Iowa Legislature in 2002 and is funded annually through fiscal year 2015 from the Iowa Values Fund. For the current fiscal year, the trust received \$900,000. Grants are awarded from the interest earned on principal in the Iowa Cultural Trust.