

Executive Summary

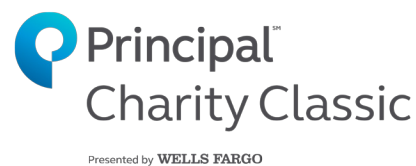
2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR



Program Impact

- **37,784** K-5th grade students Dallas, Polk and Warren Counties participated in the program.
- Students participated in **59,000** field and in-class experiences.
- **37** schools and school districts received Connecting Kids and Culture funding.
- Connecting Kids and Culture funds account for **84 percent** of the total amount spent on field experiences for participating schools.
- Connecting Kids and Culture provided **\$3.50 per student** to provide for arts, culture or heritage experiences.

WITH THANKS TO:



PROGRAM

Overview

Courtesy of funding provided by the Principal Charity Classic®, Bravo Greater Des Moines and the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines jointly administer Connecting Kids and Culture. The program provides financial support for K-5th grade students to participate in arts, culture and heritage field and in-class experiences in Dallas, Polk and Warren Counties.

Since 2007, nearly 350,000 students in Central Iowa have engaged in arts and cultural learning experiences because of the Connecting Kids and Culture Program, which has granted more than \$1,452,000 to the region's elementary schools.

PROGRAM

Need

In the mid-2000s, school budgets and curriculum requirements meant fewer students were participating in field experiences and in-class presentations. Arts and culture organizations, too, noticed the decline of school trips to their events and facilities. As research shows, early exposure to the arts enhances student learning, develops critical thinking skills and prepares students for advanced learning and the future job market.

Seeing the overwhelming need by schools and the declines in student attendance at central Iowa arts and cultural organizations, Bravo Greater Des Moines and the Community of Foundation of Greater Des Moines partnered to create Connecting Kids and Culture. Granting funds directly to schools allowed administrators and teachers the ability to select the arts and cultural experiences that enhanced in-classroom learning. Arts and culture organizations also benefitted from the increased number of students able to attend their programs and facilities.



“We were traveling to Living History Farms. On the morning of the field trip, one of our 5th grade students came dressed in a suit, accompanied by his extended family (including grandparents). He also came with a suitcase. The family had never been to the west side of Des Moines and thought Living History Farms was in another state, even though they had lived on the east side of Des Moines their entire life. This experience taught me that our students may never have these experiences unless we provide them.”

PHYLLIS KONCHAR, ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY

PARTICIPATING ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

Ankeny Historical Society
 Ballet Des Moines
 Blank Park Zoo
 Civic Music Association
 Clive Historical Society
 CultureALL
 Des Moines Art Center
 Des Moines Botanical Garden
 Des Moines Community Playhouse

Des Moines Metro Opera
 Des Moines Performing Arts
 Des Moines Symphony & Academy
 Hoyt Sherman Place
 Iowa Dance Theatre
 Iowa Gold Star Museum
 Iowa Hall of Pride
 Iowa State Capitol
 Living History Farms

Metro Art Alliance
 Pappajohn Sculpture Park
 Polk County Heritage Gallery
 Salisbury House & Gardens
 Science Center of Iowa
 State Historical Museum
 Urbandale Historical Society
 West Des Moines Historical Society
 World Food Prize Hall of Laureates



A COLLABORATION OF BRAVO GREATER DES MOINES AND THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER DES MOINES