What is Connecting Kids and Culture?

Connecting Kids and Culture is a program jointly administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines and Bravo Greater Des Moines that provides funding for Central Iowa 1st - 5th grade students to experience culturally enriching educational opportunities. Both organizations are Charity Partners of the Principal Charity Classic®, proceeds from which make Connecting Kids and Culture possible.

The purpose of Connecting Kids and Culture is to see every 1st - 5th grader in Greater Des Moines experience arts and cultural programming at least once per school year.

What does Connecting Kids and Culture fund?

Connecting Kids and Culture funds may be used to cover costs to connect elementary students with approved educational experiences both outside and inside the classroom (admission fees; costs associated with bringing experiences into the classroom like speaker or presenter fees; student transportation expenses, etc.). Connecting Kids and Culture supports arts and cultural programs that align with core curriculum objectives offered by the following organizations:

- Ankeny Art Center
- Ankeny Historical Society
- Ballet Des Moines
- Blank Park Zoo
- Clive Historical Society
- CultureALL
- Des Moines Art Center
- Des Moines Community Playhouse
- Des Moines Metro Opera
- Des Moines Performing Arts
- Des Moines Symphony and Academy
- Gateway Dance Theatre
- Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
- Hoyt Sherman Place
- Iowa Architectural Foundation
- Iowa Dance Theatre (Nutcracker Ballet)
- Iowa Gold Star Military Museum
- Iowa Hall of Pride
- Iowa Jewish Historical Society
- Iowa State Capitol
- Living History Farms
- Polk County Heritage Gallery
- Salisbury House and Gardens
- Science Center of Iowa
- State Historical Museum
- Urbandale Historical Society
- West Des Moines Historical Society (Jordan House)
- World Food Prize Hall of Laureates

Reminder! These field experiences are for students in 1st - 5th grade. Programs being presented by organizations not on this list are not eligible for Connecting Kids and Culture funding use.
For purposes of funding, the definition of an arts and cultural organization and/or program is that its primary purpose is for the education, enlightenment and entertainment of the public through the production, presentation, exhibition, advancement or preservation of art, science, music, theatre, dance, zoology, botany, natural history or cultural history.

Experiences not approved for Connecting Kids and Culture Funding include:

- Professional or college sporting events
- For-profit culture or arts organizations
- For-profit culture or arts shows and contests
- Organizations in communities that do not currently contribute to Bravo Greater Des Moines (e.g. experiences in Ames are not approved as Ames does not contribute to Bravo and is outside of Bravo’s service area)
- Entertainment organizations whose primary purpose is not arts and culture
- Activities outside the regular school day

Can we participate in Connecting Kids and Culture?

School districts and private schools serving 1st – 5th grade students in the community partners investing in Bravo** are eligible for funding from Connecting Kids and Culture. In the 2019-20 school year, eligible schools will receive $3.25 per every enrolled 1st – 5th grade student.

**The 17 community partners investing in arts, culture and heritage nonprofit organizations and programs through Bravo are: Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Carlisle, Clive, Des Moines, Grimes, Indianola, Johnston, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, Polk County, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights.

Where can I get more information about Connecting Kids and Culture?

The Connecting Kids and Culture coordinator, Amy Saylor, may be reached by phone at (515) 243-0388 or at amy@bravogreaterdesmoines.org. You may also visit connectingkidsandculture.org.