2018-19 Snapshot

- 1st - 5th grade students in Dallas, Polk and Warren Counties participated in almost 30,000 community-based or in-class arts and cultural experiences with 15 nonprofit organizations.
- 26 schools and school districts received Connecting Kids and Culture funding.
- Connecting Kids and Culture provided $3.25 per student to provide for arts, culture or heritage experiences.

Executive Summary

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

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 1st-5th grade students to attend arts, culture and heritage field and in-class experiences in Dallas, Polk and Warren counties.

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 also 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.

PROGRAM Impact

Seeing the overwhelming need by schools and the declining 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 & Culture. Granting funds directly to schools allows administrators and teachers the ability to select the arts and cultural experiences that will enhance in-classroom learning. Arts and culture organizations also benefit from the increase in students participating in their programs and facilities. Schools and districts report that 2/3 of field experiences would not occur without Connecting Kids & Culture funding.
Participating Schools and Districts
Ankeny School District
Bondurant-Farrar School District
Carlisle School District
Christ the King School
Dallas Center-Grimes School District
Des Moines Christian School
Des Moines Independent School District
Grand View Christian School
Holy Family School
Holy Trinity Catholic School
Indianola School District
Johnston School District
Joshua Christian Academy
North Polk School District
Norwalk School District
Sacred Heart School
Saydel School District
Southeast Polk School District
St. Anthony School
St. Augustin School
St. Francis of Assisi School
St. Joseph’s Catholic School
St. Pius X Catholic School
Urbandale School District
Waukee School District
West Des Moines School District

Participating Arts & Cultural Organizations and Experiences
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 & Academy
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
Hoyt Sherman Place
Iowa Architectural Foundation
Iowa Dance Theatre
Iowa Gold Star Museum
Iowa Hall of Fame
Iowa State Capitol
Living History Farms
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