

Engagement at Iowa Updates



Engagement Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic

As the weather warms and signs of hope begin to emerge with the pandemic, we all are anxious to "return to normal." In the community engagement world we look forward to students, faculty and community partners gathering together in meeting rooms and coffee shops once again, and to seeing engagement activities return to the streets and neighborhoods in which we all live.

While we look with anticipation to the future, I also encourage us to consider lessons we are learning from the pandemic. Despite Zoom fatigue, we've harnessed technology to increase communication with community partners near and far. More voices have been brought into digital rooms that would be possible with in-person meetings. The pandemic has also illuminated issues of equity in engagement that have long been present, but have been exacerbated by the events of this year. I encourage you to read Professor Carolyn Colvin's new piece in our Voices of Engagement series on the importance of the community engagement *process*, and consider how we can build more just and equitable community engagement practices moving forward.

Nick Benson
Executive Director



Give to Engagement today for #1DayForIowa

Don't forget, today is One Day for Iowa, the University of Iowa's 24-hour online giving day!

By supporting the Office of Community Engagement, you are helping us share our resources with Iowa communities and giving UI students the opportunity to have real world experiences. Our office facilitates on-campus engagement workshops, fosters community partnerships, and strengthens the arts on and off campus through Arts Share and the Grant Wood Art Colony (GWAC.)

Check our Facebook for [updates on how to give!](#)

Office of Community Engagement

Arts Share

Grant Wood Art Colony

GIVE NOW

GIVE NOW

GIVE NOW

Voices of Engagement

Equity and the Community Engagement Process

Carolyn Colvin, Associate Professor, College of Education

Our Voices of Engagement series this spring features Carolyn Colvin, Associate Professor in the College of Education. Colvin writes about how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated long-existing inequities in classrooms, communities, prisons, and churches. Colvin reflects on the importance of equity in the engagement process and the power of self-determination.



Read Equity and the Community Engagement Process

Upcoming Workshops and Activities

Open to all UI faculty, staff and students. Learn how to teach community engaged courses, build community partnerships and conduct community engaged research.

Looking In, Zooming Out: Community-Engaged Learning in the Big Picture

Tuesday, April 6th, 2021

2:30 - 4:00p, virtual event via Zoom

In partnership with Iowa Campus Compact

Join us for an interactive workshop for anyone teaching a community-engaged course who is curious about how to introduce interdisciplinarity, systems-level thinking, and/or local-global connections into their course design, assignments, and activities. Participants will try on and explore a range of ideas and strategies:

- how thinking about how toast is made can be a useful introduction to design-thinking practices and social innovation
- how to strategically use the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals to scaffold and contextualize conversations about local community partnerships and the purpose community-engaged learning more broadly
- how their own disciplinary orientation and approach might inform their understanding of local and global "wicked problems"

Register for workshop

Grant Wood Art Colony Upcoming Events:

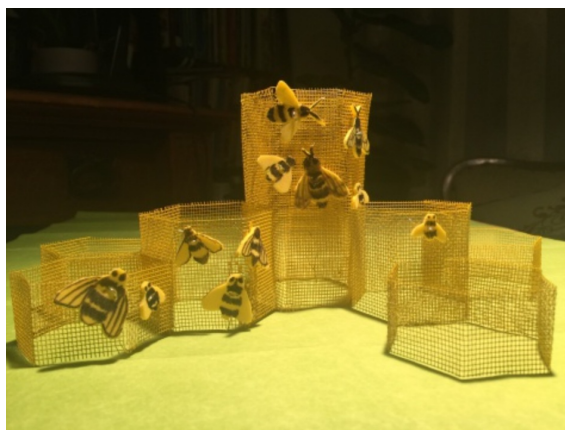
[Stanley Museum Artist Talk: Elena Smyrniotis](#) March 29, 7:30 p.m.

[The Bee Project, a community-sourced public art project by Elena Smyrniotis](#), April 14-May 30

[While I Breathe, You Live, directed by Margarita Blush](#), April 22- 30

[Stanley Museum Artist Talk: Johnathan Payne](#) April 26, 7:30 p.m.

Arts and Engagement



Honeycomb mock-up by Elena Smyrniotis for her Bee Project.

Grant Wood Art Colony

On March 7, the Grant Wood Art Colony awarded the Grant Wood Legacy Prize to three outstanding high-school visual artists: Yuer Zhu (Ames High School), Phaedra Isbell (Prairie High School, Cedar Rapids), and Wyatt Bailey (Central High School, DeWitt). Grant Wood Fellows selected these works from over 40 submissions from across the state. More information can be found on the Grant Wood Art Colony [website](#).



The UI Dance Company,
photo by Alex Bush

The annual Highschool Theatre Workshop & Performance Day will be virtual this year. Students from Marengo, Madrid, Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City will be viewing UI's production of [The People Before the Park by Keith Josef Adkins](#) and will have the option to participate in a Talk Back and theatre workshops.

Arts Share has hosted two online readings by graduate students from the Writers' Workshop and Nonfiction Writing Program and will be hosting a third event in April. The interactive series, called *Writers Unmuffled*, has been popular on campus and with surrounding communities.

We are looking forward to upcoming tours by UI Dance Company and the Iowa Percussion Ensemble, which will both feature outdoor performances.

To learn more about how Arts Share is working with faculty, students and community partners across Iowa, contact Leslie Finer, Director of Arts Share, at leslie-finer@uiowa.edu.



Iowa Percussion Ensemble

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES & DEADLINES

[Engagement Scholarship Consortium Annual Meeting Call for Proposals](#) submission deadline, March 26th.

Looking In, Zooming Out: Community-Engaged Learning in the Big Picture, April 6th, 2:30 - 4 pm, [register](#) for Zoom link.

Iowa Campus Compact [Webinar: Critical Consciousness for Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning](#), April 22nd, 2 - 3 pm, virtual Zoom event.

Save the Date: [Campus Compact Midwest Region Conference](#) (Virtual), May 25th.

Office of Community Engagement | [Website](#) | [Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

