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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Des Moines Art Center to receive grant award from the National Endowment for the Arts**

**DES MOINES, IOWA (June 2020)** – The Des Moines Art Center will receive an Art Works grant award of \$19,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts in support of its exhibition and educational programming for *Justin Favela: Central American*, slated to be on view at the Des Moines Art Center July 16, 2021 – October 17, 2021. This award is part of more than \$84 million the NEA has gifted to 1,144 organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and each of the five U.S. territories.

“These awards demonstrate the continued creativity and excellence of arts projects across America and the nimbleness of our nation’s arts organizations in the face of a national crisis that shuttered their doors for months” said Mary Anne Carter, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “By funding arts projects in every U.S. state, territory, and the District of Columbia, the National Endowment for the Arts again celebrates the opportunity to make the arts available to every corner of the country and to see how the arts can heal and unite us.”

“We are thrilled with this support from the NEA and with the validation that comes with it, said Jeff Fleming, Des Moines Art Center director. “This is yet another example of how the NEA is positively impacting arts and culture throughout the United States.”

### Des Moines Art Center

Recognized by international art critics as a world-class museum in the heart of the Midwest, the Des Moines Art Center, an AAM-accredited institution, has amassed an important collection with a major emphasis on contemporary art. The collection’s overriding principle is a representation of artists from the 19th century to the present, each through a seminal work. This accounts for an impressive collection that ranges from Edward Hopper’s *Automat* to Jasper Johns’ *Tennyson*, Henri Matisse’s *Woman in White*, Georgia O’Keeffe’s *From the Lake No. 1*, Francis Bacon’s *Study after Velázquez’s Portrait of Pope Innocent X*, Bill Viola’s *Ascension*, and Cecily Brown’s *Half-Bind*.

The Art Center’s physical complex marries with the collection for a totally integrated experience. The collection is housed in three major buildings, each designed by a world-renowned architect—Eliel Saarinen, I. M. Pei, and Richard Meier. With the exception of special events, admission to the museum is free.



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In September 2009, the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park opened in Des Moines' Western Gateway Park. Philanthropists John and Mary Pappajohn provided funding for and donated 31 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Ai Weiwei, Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, Willem de Kooning, Mark di Suvero, Olafur Eliasson, Keith Haring, Robert Indiana, Ellsworth Kelly, Yayoi Kusama, Jaume Plensa, and Richard Serra, and Joel Shapiro is the most significant donation of artwork to the Art Center in a single gift in the museum's history. The Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a collaboration of the Pappajohns, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private donors.

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