



entirelyunexpected

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Barbara Briggie-Smith

Tel: 515.271.0343

E-mail: [bbsmith@desmoinesartcenter.org](mailto:bbsmith@desmoinesartcenter.org)

## **Des Moines Art Center announces grant award from Variety - the Children's Charity**

**DES MOINES, IOWA (October 2016)** – The Des Moines Art Center is pleased to announce it has received a grant award of \$2,500 from Variety - the Children's Charity for art education for at-risk youth. Variety's award will help sustain this program as it continues to respond to the growing need for impactful arts education for underserved youth in our community. The goal of the Art Center's community outreach program is to use art education to inspire at-risk youth to acknowledge their unique identities and use artistic expression to overcome adversity and establish a sense of worth. Each year the Art Center serves more than 20 organizations through this important program.

Variety is also dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged, at-risk, and special needs children. Funding is provided to programs and initiatives that directly impact the well-being of children throughout Iowa. For more information on how to become a part of Variety's work, visit [varietyiowa.com](http://varietyiowa.com).

### 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 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 Velásquez'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.

In September 2009, the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park opened in Des Moines' Western Gateway Park. Philanthropists John and Mary Pappajohn have provided funding for and donated 28 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, Willem de Kooning, Olafur Eliasson, Keith Haring, Ellsworth Kelly, Jaume Plensa, Richard Serra, Joel Shapiro, and Mark di Suvero, is the most significant donation of artwork to the Art Center in a single gift in the museum's history. The Pappajohn Sculpture Park was created in collaboration with the Pappajohns, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private donors.