Art of Water 2016: Using the arts to tell Iowa’s water story
Doors open at 6 p.m., featured performance begins at 7 p.m.
FREE and open to the public – Funded in part by the Iowa Water Center and Leopold Center for Sustainable

Pre-Performance Gallery Exhibit: Ames High School Bluestem Institute Project Localize Posters

The Bluestem Institute is a service-learning cohort of seniors at Ames High School enrolled in the Integrated Capstone Seminar. Bluestem students earn credits in English, Environmental Science, Government, and Sociology through a combination of hands-on, project-based learning experiences and formal classroom studies. Their capstone project for 2015-2016 is focused on water quality.

In collaboration with the Lexicon of Sustainability’s education initiative Project Localize, students developed informational artworks to define water quality terms from a technical, cultural, and social perspective. Words and phrases like “nutrient reduction wetland,” “Agriculture Conservation Planning Framework,” and “nitrate removal facility” are featured both photographically and through the words of those working closely with the water and the land. Students will be present to describe their posters, the process, and lessons learned.

Featured Performance: Body of Water, a multimedia production presented by students of Luther College
Run time: Approx. one hour; the audience is invited to stay for a facilitated dialogue following the performance.

An original production conceptualized by Luther College biology professor Jodi Enos-Berlage and Luther dance professor Jane Hawley, Body of Water uses dance, video, and music to tell the intimate story of water usage and quality within our watersheds and communities.

This story focuses on one watershed in Northeast Iowa, but the ideas conveyed are applicable to all. Body of Water was first presented in the spring of 2015 in Decorah to multiple sold out audiences and was a feature story in the Des Moines Register. The production was subsequently invited to and warmly received at the 2015 Grinnell Summer Arts Festival. The production has attracted a very broad audience, including scientists, artists, educators, and community members and leaders from both the agriculture and urban domains. Body of Water has been described by audience members as “informational,” “emotional,” and “spiritual,” as well as “a wonderful example of the power of liberal arts.”

Luther faculty, staff and students have contributed significant in-kind support to make the adaptation of this performance possible.