



building community through grassroots communication

June 2020

Black lives matter!

In mid-June, a member of the KHOI Community Radio team was approached in downtown Ames and questioned in an inappropriate way. The questions appeared to be based in racial prejudice and had a menacing effect. This incident is unprecedented for our team. KHOI wishes to alert our community members and authorities of a possible increase in race-based harassment in Ames, due to rising tensions.

We are asking for extra concern and watchfulness on behalf of our neighbors of color during these tense times. Ames is meant to be a welcoming community that celebrates the diversity of people who live here. KHOI publicly asserts that people of color belong with us as valued and equally-contributing members of our community, sharing all entitlements to a safe, free, respected, and joyful experience.

Sincerely,

The members of the KHOI Board

KHOI Participates in Outrage For Change



If you've driven past the station lately, you may have noticed a change to our window display.

To amplify the voices of the Black community, the Octagon Center for the Arts initiated Outrage to Change, an art show featured in windows across downtown Ames.

"Since May 25, the day that George Floyd was asphyxiated by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I have been struggling," wrote Kristen Greteman, Gallery Director, at the Octagon Center for the Arts." What could I do? What could I say? The Octagon Center for the Arts (is)

using our platform to support and bring attention to the work of Black artists—expressing their hope, pain, frustration, and authentic self. Each window display gives an artist of color the opportunity to share their message, ask questions, be pissed, call out racism, and push us (white people) to see and do things differently. That is what we can offer."

The artist featured in KHOI's window is a part-time artist and track coach, Miradieu Joseph, also known as the Haitian Boatman.

Joseph was born in Haiti. When he was five, he emigrated to Florida to join his parents.

"I got on a plane with a box and a suitcase, lookin' for the American dream," he remembered. "You know, the white house, green grass, picket fence—that better life."

Being an immigrant, he had to adjust to American culture and learn to speak English.

"I stuttered real bad," Joseph said. "Kids aren't very nice. One thing I've learned from life is that when you're bullied, get good at something."

Joseph got good at sports. He played football and ran track in high school and was recruited by Wartburg College in 1997.

"I said yes before I even knew where Iowa was at," Joseph said. "It was one of the greatest decisions I've ever made. It gave me the tools to survive in America. It made me comfortable in my own skin."

He graduated with a degree in social

sciences and didn't do any art training until 2009 when he took an airbrush class at DMACC.

"My professor, Shawn Palek, just let me be me," Joseph said. "I was graded on the work I put in, not what he thought it should look like."

After attending his first art show, Joseph was inspired to jump into the art world.

"I thought, 'I can do that,'" Joseph said. "Since that day, I've been going downhill on skates with no breaks. If I'm not looking

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at art or thinking about art, I'm sleeping. Art is on my brain."

Joseph's art is all about communication.

"My art reminds me of a conversation," said Joseph. "It's always moving. Depending on the angle, it changes. The colors represent the different tones of voice. A lot of times when you have a lot of voices together, it's really beautiful. At a time like this, we need to have conversation. Art and conversation will change the world."

An open exchange of ideas has been an essential part of Joseph's life.

"Every place has tension around skin color," Joseph said. "Conversation changes things. When I first moved here, I met students who'd never seen a black person before in real life. To be able to sit down and have real and meaningful conversa-

tions, you realize you have more in common than you don't have in common."

Before his participation in this show, Joseph has only showcased his art a couple of times. Usually, he creates commissioned pieces. He also "feeds the monster" by selling Contigo mugs, shoes, glasses etc. with his colorful, swirling designs.

"I can paint anything from babies to metal," Joseph observed. "[This show] is kind of surreal. I'm very fortunate that I got hooked up with the Octagon Center for the Arts and KHOI."

Listen to KHOI's Local Talk on July 13 to hear a live interview with Joseph. You can also check out his work on Instagram [@HaitianBoatman](https://www.instagram.com/HaitianBoatman).

The Outrage to Change exhibit is showing throughout the month of July.



above board

It's the season of change for our KHOI Board. We would like to thank **Cornelia Flora** and **Joe Lynch** for their service as they step down, and welcome our newest board member, **Meredith Francom**.



Being on the Board of KHOI was a joy and a challenge. The joy was the amazing programming by local producers that keeps Central Iowa con-

ected and engaged. The challenge was making sure we had the resources necessary to stay on the air. When there is a small group of people who are all creative and leaders, there are the many issues that emerge. With the steady leadership of Ursula and our wonderful engineers and producers, the station has emerged as a key connector in our COVID-19 lockdown. Shifting technology was no small achievement, and the work of Jim Popken and later Mike Murphy made it possible to shift to virtual broadcasting—an amazing, creative process. I do miss the wonderful Pantorium Sessions, when we could gather at the station and meet fantastic local musicians, but the creative ways that local musicians, poets, and writers continue to share on the air is very impressive. I have worked in rural development themes in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, and have had the chance to see the difference community radio can make even in isolated places. KHOI helps fulfill that promise here at home.



As a KHOI volunteer and board member since 2012, I remember the excitement of being a part of a brand-new community project sprouting with

amazing potential for tying people together in fractured times. From building KHOI (the tower link, transmitter, studios, etc.) to the equal hard but rewarding work of show production, station managing and fundraising, I have helped with or watched it all as have many other staff and board members. I encourage all to consider joining the challenge of sustaining KHOI's community building work. Next step in my mind is marketing our potential as a valuable community organization to those in central Iowa who do not know about KHOI.



Meredith is delighted to be a part of KHOI. An avid storyteller and communicator, she looks forward to using her marketing skills to support the mission and

goals of KHOI during her three-year term.

Re-Inventing Radio Technology During COVID-19

Everyone on the KHOI team has learned a lot of lessons during this pandemic disaster! Here is a brief description of the technology and innovations that have made it possible for our show hosts and producers to continue providing programs despite the skeleton crew of five at the station.

- **Home-made shows:** The station has an internal network with its own server. Using a virtual private network (VPN), radio producers and hosts were given access to this server allowing them to load content into the system that automatically puts shows on the air.
- **Drive-in radio:** A newly installed wireless network gives access to KHOI's wifi outside our building. If a radio host doesn't have reliable internet, he or she can drive up next to the station and use "the parking-lot stream."
- **Zoom radio:** KHOI hosts can interview guests in a live virtual studio using Zoom. An engineer in the studio connects the Zoom meeting to the soundboard, and it goes on the air. It's very hand for hosting multiple guests so they can see one another while they talk.
- **Live Home studio:** KHOI has set up an additional internet stream (using Pacifica's service) and informed our hosts about free software (Rocket Broadcasting) to install at home, which enables them to broadcast live and play music from their home. One wrinkle is that Rocket Broadcasting only works with PCs so people using Macs or iPads must use software that has a cost. KHOI is looking into prices for providing some versions of this to producers in the future. This feature would be critical if an infection occurred at KHOI and no one could be at the station.

We program our automation system to schedule live remote broadcasts. Eric, our operations manager, could make that schedule from his home if that becomes necessary. We hope not!

In addition to these technological changes, we have ordered face shields to wear, when reporting on events outside the station.

studio spotlight

This month's studio spotlight volunteer is Anna Banana! Anna has only been working with KHOI a short time, but has already made a big impact!



Anna's heart is filled with love for people and their stories. She has dedicated her life to a number of nonprofit organizations and causes as a volunteer or employee which has led to a myriad of unexpected opportunities and adventures – including stepping into the role of a radio producer and host at KHOI.

Months prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Anna met with the KHOI community radio's station manager requesting a partnership on behalf of the organization she worked for to create a show to present the issues and stories that individuals with disabilities wanted to discuss and share. The conversation led to the radio talk show, I Am Able IOWA, that airs the first and last Saturday of the month.

As our communities and livelihoods were being attacked by the COVID-19 pandemic, Anna identified that while there was a need for a healthy dose of fear and reality related to dealing with the public health crisis – there was also a need for bringing care, comfort, and connection to each other during this time of uncertainty. She wanted to lift up and share what was in the hearts of anyone willing to share a message to be read on-air daily during Local Talk.

Moved by the impact of these Heart2Heart messages, Anna reached out to her network of personal and professional contacts to get their help to compile and publish a book of these messages to spread care and connection to others and to support KHOI's mission to build community through communication.

You can buy Anna's Heart2Heart book on her [website](#). All proceeds will benefit KHOI.

Thank you, Anna, for spreading appreciation, love, and compassion to those who need a boost of inspiration and encouragement!
