

2026 IFEA WEBINAR SERIES



IFEA Webinar on Demand

Playbook for Your Organization's Future: Succession Planning

Stephen King, CFEE

Executive Director

Des Moines Arts Festival

Des Moines, IA

This session shows you how to create a thoughtful and practical transition plan that keeps your organization steady and focused. You'll learn how a strong plan ensures leadership continuity and supports your mission and culture, and serves as a roadmap for the board of directors, internal staff, stakeholders, and the broader community. It's a smart, simple way to prepare for what's ahead.



Stephen King, CFEE has spent his life engaged with the arts. Originally from Houston, Texas, Stephen spent his early professional career acting, directing, and managing live theatre productions in and around Houston. He turned this passion toward non-profit arts administration and the festival and event industry in 1995 and has since produced hundreds of arts and live music events and cultural festivals. Projects throughout his career in festivals and events have garnered more than 375 industry awards from organizations like the International Festivals and Events Association (IFEA), Texas Festivals and Events Association, and the International Downtown Association. Before turning his full attention in July of 2011 to the Des Moines Arts Festival®, Stephen led the Downtown Events Group from 2006-2011, producing the World Food Festival, Holiday Lights Des Moines, Skywalk

Golf, and ImaginEve! Before arriving in Des Moines, King served as president/CEO of Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. in northern Virginia. Prior to that, he was the director of the festivals and events division of Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas, where he produced the MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival. Stephen is an active member of the global festivals and events industry. He is a director of the IFEA World Board, the organization he proudly chaired in 2017. He also serves his local community as a past director of Bravo Greater Des Moines and post-pandemic chaired the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Arts & Culture Reopening Festivals and Live Music Venues Task Force. Stephen is a past director of the National Association of Independent Artists, IFEA Foundation Board of Directors, and is a founding member of ZAPApplication™, the art fair industry's universal online application system. Stephen is a regular speaker and contributor to various festival, marketing and sponsorship conferences and conventions, and a former faculty member of the IFEA/NRPA Event Management School. Stephen holds a BFA in Theatre from Sam Houston State University, an MA in Directing from the University of New Mexico, and is a graduate of the Certified Festival and Event Management program at Purdue University. Stephen is Executive Director of Des Moines Arts Festival and ARTSwork.

Length: 60 Minutes

Webinar on Demand will be sent as an online link along with any supporting document provided.

All IFEA Webinars must be purchased and viewed within the same calendar year.

Questions: Contact Nia Hovde, CFEE, Vice President/Director of Marketing & Communications – Email: nia@ifea.com