

# ICA Newsletter



ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2026



Participants attended the Art and Cultural Show organized by ICA on January 24th, 2026. The event was part of ICA's outreach program, inviting both members and non-members in the Ames and Iowa community with free admission. It featured a variety of Indian art forms, including pottery, painting, origami, toy-making, henna art, rangoli, crafts using recycled materials, meditation, and music. The event welcomed people of all ages and offered hands-on activities. Attendees also enjoyed a free Indian lunch.



## Meet the artists from our community



### Arka Ghosh (hosted Pottery Art)

"After taking a few classes from other Creative Artists' Studios of Ames (CASA) members (Greg Lamont, Mary Weisgram) at different times in the last 10 years and practicing at Iowa State Workspace, I joined CASA full time in 2019. I would describe my pottery as whimsical, sometimes functional, and mostly non-repetitive. I like playing with clay and find it cheaper than therapy." - Arka



### Asha Neeraj Singh (hosted the booth for "Waste to Arts")

"I merge physics with art – transforming light, motion, and memory into visual experiments with colors, clothes and canvas." - Asha



### Poonam Dubey (hosted the Meditation booth)

"Adhyātmik at heart, I strive to live Patanjali's Ashtanga Yog in daily life. Rooted in discipline, awareness, and inner growth. I enjoy guiding friends on their journey of Dhyaan (Meditation) and seek guidance from them as well." - Poonam

**Pratik Naikwade** (hosted the Musical booth) is a mechanical engineer who finds balance and inspiration in the beauty and harmony of music.

**Sree Nilakanta** (hosted the Musical booth) is a Carnatic music flutist. He plays for Chai Tunes and for Bharatanatyam Arangetram in Ames.

**Sharvil Banerjee Singh** (hosted the Musical booth) is a 4th grader in Sawyer Elementary under Ames Community School District. He loves playing ukulele and viola. "When I need a break from math, I play music" - Sharvil



From left to right: Sharvil, Pratik and Sree



### Rupali Gandhe (hosted the Rangoli Art)

"Art brings me a sense of peace. It's calming, satisfying and deeply fulfilling." - Rupali



### Simanta Mitra (hosted the Origami booth)

"My wife and I are long term residents of Ames, and we love the University town and it's close-knit, yet welcoming community spirit" - Simanta



### Sandhya Prasad (hosted Henna Art)

Sandhya is from Jharkhand, India, a professional henna artist and doing henna as a hobby for over 15 years. "I love creating Madhubani and Warli traditional art and enjoy making all kinds of handmade crafting." - Sandhya



### Piyush Jaware (hosted the art of Sketching, Painting and Wooden Crafts)

Piyush and his wife Yog are software engineers and have recently started to incorporate art into their lives in various ways- like filling up bare walls in their house with paintings, making papercrafts during festivals and exposing their daughter Yesha to the magic of arts.





**Akshay Sharma** (hosted the booth for Toys and Games) is an architect and a designer who is always exploring new and innovative ways to learn, to teach and to enrich lives.

← In the left Picture, Akshay is in the middle with his wife Manisha to his left.



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Meet the ICA executive committee



“We are committed to ignite the passion of art among the people in our community through our thoughtfully designed cultural events. There is an artist in each of us who often gets lost under the humdrum of daily lives. A little nurture, a little trigger is all what we need to revive that artistic side in us. Finally, when we incorporate art in our everyday life, we understand the art of living better.”

- ICA executive team.

**ICA Executive Committee (2025-2026):** From left to right, Vijay Kalivarapu (President), Soma Banerjee (Secretary), Poonam Dubey (Vice President), Meera Vaswani (Board Member), Santosh Rajput (Board Member), and Sanjay Thangavel (Board Member). Sachin Selvaraj (Treasurer) is missing from the above picture.

**Upcoming ICA Events: ICA Talent Nite (March 7, 2026)**

**We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members, sponsors, and the City of Ames Commission on the Arts for their generous support.**