As our response to the COVID-19 crisis continues to evolve, our Radical HeARTS initiative has reimagined their programming and public offerings while our community weathers the impact of the corona virus outbreak. Recognizing that moments of crisis demand radical action, The Union for Contemporary Art is fully engaged in responding to this unprecedented time.

The Nebraska Arts Council believes in making arts learning opportunities available for all Nebraskans, despite times that require social distancing. We've asked NAC Roster Artists to create virtual programs that engage viewers in their various art forms. Our artists have responded with video experiences in which viewers can become interactive participants. Programs are suitable for families and people of all ages, with some of them geared toward specific age ranges.

One such program is "Creativity on Camera," which teaches children photography through a series of lessons centered on themes like "Water," "Movement," and "Landscape." The curriculum is designed for children of all ages and is open to Nebraskans in many different settings, from schools to home schools to youth groups. The lessons are led by Atiim Jones, a Minneapolis born street photographer based in Omaha, Nebraska. Jones is known for his documentary photography, including the "Crossroads" project, which chronicled the people in the Old Market District and surrounding area. It has since become one of the largest photography projects in the world.

In addition to "Creativity on Camera," the NEAC is also sponsoring "Crossroads Redux," a virtual exhibition of Jones' photographs, which will open on June 12th at noon. The exhibition will feature works from the "Crossroads" project and related photography, providing new perspectives on the celebration of diversity in Nebraska's Old Market District.

The Union for Contemporary Art and the Nebraska Arts Council are working together to provide community support during this challenging time. The "Radical HeARTS" initiative is just one example of how we are continuing to connect our community and the arts.

These two wings of our efforts represent both direct physical action and virtual support in service of the arts. Together, we are creating a new community initiative in a time of illness.

For more information on the "Radical HeARTS" initiative, visit the Union for Contemporary Art's website or contact them directly.

About the Union for Contemporary Art:
The Union for Contemporary Art is a nonprofit organization that promotes and supports the development of the contemporary visual art community in the central and northern Great Plains.

About the Nebraska Arts Council:
The Nebraska Arts Council is a public arts agency that administers state arts funding and serves as a catalyst for the growth of Nebraska's arts and culture industries. The NEAC is a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Arts, the federal arts agency that supports arts and culture endeavors across the United States.

If you have any questions about the "Radical HeARTS" initiative or the "Crossroads Redux" exhibition, please contact the Union for Contemporary Art at 402-477-3806 or info@theunion.org. For more information on the Nebraska Arts Council, visit their website at nebraskacouncil.org.