

IOWA GREAT PLACES ENDORSED AND/OR FUNDED PROJECTS



Current as of 1/1/2025

Note: The Iowa Great Places program is no longer active or accepting applications for new State designations or infrastructure funding. The Iowa Arts Council is providing this list of projects that remain within their eligible project endorsement period.

The Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board reviewed and endorsed projects taking place as part of an Iowa Great Place community's vision. Endorsed projects may remain eligible to receive scoring increases from other State of Iowa programs.

Interested applicants to other State of Iowa programs should review this list to see if their project qualifies for Iowa Great Places scoring increases.

Eligible Endorsement Period	Designated Great Place	Project Title	City	County	Grant Award	Project Description
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025	Boone Forks (2019)	Interpretive Signage & River's Edge Discovery Center Exhibits	Fort Dodge	Webster	\$300,000	Project funding will be used for interpretive signage highlighting the region's three state designated water trails and links to cultural and recreational assets. Grant funds will also fund the construction of permanent exhibits within the new River's Edge Discovery Center, a 13,000 sq. ft. conservation education center located in the Central River District at the confluence of the Des Moines River and Soldier Creek.
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025	Cedar County (2018)	Hardacre Theater Restoration	Tipton	Cedar	\$348,700	Cedar County received a total award of \$348,700, which includes a construction planning grant and challenge matching grant for the renovations of the Hardacre Theater, a community icon in downtown Tipton that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025	Indianola (2020)	Wonder on Buxton	Indianola	Warren	\$73,300	Project funding will make possible new sculptural installations and improvements along Buxton Street, which

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						connects Simpson College to Indianola's Downtown Square, creating a vibrant area inviting visitors and celebrating Indianola's cultural identity.
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025	Turkey River Recreational Corridor (2022)	Motor Mill Inn Revival: Accommodating Travelers Past & Present	Elkader	Clayton	\$328,000	Project funding will support the renovation and rehabilitation of the Motor Mill Historic Site. The project goals are to protect the Inn from flooding, return the historic structure to its original state, provide meeting rooms and overnight accommodations for travelers, and house a small visitor center for historic and cultural education purposes.
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025	Van Buren County (2018)	Odd Fellows Hall Structural Repairs and Masonry Restoration	Keosauqua	Van Buren	\$0	This project endorsement will focus on structural and masonry repairs to the Odd Fellows Hall within the Bentonsport Historic District. The Odd Fellows Hall is a critical piece of Van Buren County's local character and authentic quality and contributes to their local sense of place.
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025	City of Manning (2019)	Art is Refreshing Murals and Art Themed Events	Manning	Carroll	\$0	This project endorsement will focus on mural components of the Art is Refreshing Project which include public art in key places to enhance the visual identity of the community to visitors and residents, and to encourage more interaction with downtown, parks, and community which include several mural installations and art-themed events.