

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life is widely recognized as a critical factor in location decision making for both workers and companies. A region cannot be world class without a comprehensive and consistent commitment to its culturally rich diversity, the arts and recreational amenities, all of which serve as economic drivers in today’s globally minded community development.

Further, creating water trails and greenways while restoring and maintaining clean and safe rivers, lakes and streams will further boast these attractions locally, regionally and nationally. Greater Des Moines and Central Iowa have demonstrated a sustained dedication to building cultural and recreational assets for years, the result being a community with an impressive array of unmatched resources for its size. The Partnership’s goals are to make Central Iowa the “Trails Capital of the World,” to have sustainable waterways and greenways and to offer best-in-class arts and cultural amenities. The Partnership supports federal initiatives that help achieve these objectives.

REGIONAL TRAILS

The Partnership supports funding high-priority trail projects and continued funding for federal trails programs. Numerous studies have shown that trails, parks, recreation and green space help improve communities and grow local economies by increasing physical activity, lowering health care costs, decreasing traffic congestion, attracting businesses, improving property values, increasing tax revenues and creating jobs.

Accordingly, The Partnership supports continuing federal funding for multipurpose trails and other transportation- and recreation-related programs that improve community health and livability. The Partnership also supports continued funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program, which provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects			
Sponsor	Project	Description	Total Cost
City of Ankeny	High Trestle Trail Regional Trail Connection	Extension of the High Trestle Regional Trail within SE Ankeny to connect with the Gay Lea Wilson Trail and Neal Smith Trail System. Includes 10-foot PCC trail and two overpasses.	\$2,400,000
City of West Des Moines	Raccoon River Pedestrian Trail Bridge	Pedestrian bridge across the Raccoon River between Raccoon River Park and Walnut Woods State Park.	\$3,000,000
City of West Des Moines/City of Windsor Heights	73rd St/Buffalo Rd to Center Street Trail Connection and Signage	Trail to connect Windsor Heights and West Des Moines at 73rd St/8th St	\$1,000,000
City of West Des Moines/City of Windsor Heights	73rd St/8th St Trail Connection	Trail to connect Windsor Heights and West Des Moines at 73rd St/8th St.	\$2,500,000
City of Windsor Heights	Walnut Creek Pedestrian Trail Bridge	Pedestrian bridge across the Walnut Creek between Colby Park and Center Street to link to West Des Moines	\$1,500,000

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Arts, culture and heritage are recognized as vital contributors to the region's vibrant quality of life. Arts, culture and heritage attractions and experiences are key drivers of economic activity and help draw regional tourism, increase resident satisfaction, help attract and retain talent and help make Central Iowa a premier place to work, live and play. According to the latest Bravo Greater Des Moines Economic Impact Study, arts and culture events and organizations bring in more than \$120 million to Greater Des Moines, drawing more than 3.7 million people to the region and employing more than 2,000 people.

Public investment in arts, culture and heritage provides tremendous value and has been a catalyst for the creative sector while also generating unparalleled private support. This continued investment and meaningful partnership will further position Iowa as an innovative, progressive state. Therefore, The Partnership supports the following programs and policies:

- Full funding for Iowa's National Endowment for the Arts – State Arts Agency Partnership Grant to invest in people and projects that foster economic growth and enhance the cultural identity of local communities.
- Full funding of the National Park Service – Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) which includes grant-in-aid to Iowa's State Historic Preservation Office for heritage preservation and protection programs that preserve the nation's heritage, create jobs and revitalize communities.
- The proposed Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act which increases the percentage for small projects from 20 percent to 30 percent and allows the Historic Tax Credit in these small transactions to be transferred with lower transaction costs, as a tax certificate, making it easier for small business owners to bring outside investment into smaller transactions.
- The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) provides essential seed money enabling Iowa Public Television (IPTV) to promote education, public safety and community service statewide, reaching rural and underserved Iowa families and communities with quality programs and services. These include Ready to Learn and Ready for School early education services as well as production costs for local programs like Iowa Press and IPTV Kids Clubhouse. Therefore, The Partnership supports continued funding for CPB.

- Full funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), whose agencies' resources and grant programs make these investments possible at the state and local level.

In addition to the support of the above programs, The Partnership supports competitive grants offered to the state and local level through federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Parks Service (NPS) – Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Specific grants include:

- In 2017, \$25,000 from the NEA supporting “Ruptures,” an exhibition at the Des Moines Art Center that will present and explore how nature and humankind are at a sensitive crossroads. The exhibition will be free to the public and include education programs.
- Also for the Des Moines Art Center, in 2018, \$30,000 from the NEA supporting “Sterling Ruby,” the first exhibition to focus on the artist’s ceramic-based work. The exhibition will be free to the public and include a publication and education programs.
- \$20,000 from the NEA in support of the OPERA Iowa Educational Troupe program for the Des Moines Metro Opera 2018 statewide tour to over 70 Iowa communities to reach approximately 26,000 children and adults across every congressional district through classroom workshops and onsite musical performances.
- A request in 2018 from Des Moines Performing Arts for funds to support the 2018 Dance Series, which will include performance and engagement activities with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Momix and Ballet Hispanico.
- \$15,000 to support the Des Moines Symphony's 2018 Youth Concerts where more than 4,000 Central Iowa students in the fourth and fifth grades learn in-depth about orchestral music through an enhanced, multi-media curriculum provided to each school, then see and hear a live Des Moines Symphony performance at its home at the Des Moines Civic Center. These concerts include interactive educational opportunities; performances of contrasting symphonic works; enhanced, media-rich works with visuals displayed on a screen above the Orchestra including the NEA-supported commission "Symphony On A Stick"; and side-by-side performances with the Des Moines Symphony Youth Symphony

featuring the winner of the Des Moines Symphony Academy student concerto competition. Support for Youth Concerts helps accomplish a commitment to offering live performances to an increasing number of youth (under age 18) through discounted and free tickets.

- A Common Heritage Grant from NEH's Division of Presentation and Access, to support a project that will be designed to encourage Iowans to provide documents and objects that help tell the story of the state's shared heritage to be digitized and made available via web exhibits. Applications for this grant opportunity are due June 1, 2017, with a program period of January 2018 through June 30, 2019.
- The Science Center of Iowa (SCI) is a lead applicant in a Museums For America grant request to the Institute of Museums and Library Sciences that seeks support to develop, fabricate, install and evaluate new interactive exhibits and content in its What on Earth (WOE) gallery. The application requests a two-year total of \$179,547. Award announcements for this grant program are scheduled to take place in late September.
- Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has applied for \$626,500 from the National Endowment for the Arts – State Arts Agency Partnership Grant with the Iowa Arts Council in support of statewide grants for arts education and greater access to arts activities in both rural and urban communities. This grant program requires a State of Iowa match.
- State Historical Society of Iowa is requesting \$99,188 from the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources grant program to support the continuation of a new Iowa History Education initiative that will provide K-12 teachers and students with an online, ready-to-use, primary source-based teaching resource that combines local and national history from the collections of both the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Library of Congress. Additionally, \$275,000 has been requested from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the National Digital Newspaper Project (NDNP) program to continue digitization of Iowa's historic newspapers as part of the NEH NDNP 2016-2018 cycle and \$7,207 from the National Archives and Records Administration – National Historical Publications & Records Commission – State Board Programming Grants to support work by the Iowa Historical Records Advisory Board.

- The State Historic Preservation Office has requested \$847,000 from the Department of the Interior – National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund Grant-in-Aid to State Historic Preservation Offices for statewide preservation programs including the National Register of Historic Places and consultation for the Federal Historic Tax Credits.