

Save Our Square - Press Release



ACCA invited to Submit \$400,000 Grant Application

Appanoose County Coalition for the Arts (ACCA), Main Street Centerville, Chariton Valley Planning & Development Council of Governments, and the City of Centerville are working together to obtain grants to secure the structural integrity of buildings on Centerville's historic square.

After receiving designation as one of Iowa's Great Places, Appanoose County Coalition for the Arts became eligible to apply for a Great Places Grant in 2019. The State of Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has allocated \$1,000,000 for Great Places Grant funds for 2019. The Appanoose County Seat District is one of 17 communities eligible for this grant. Successful grant applicants must demonstrate broad community support in the way of Letters of Support and community support through donations of funds to the project.

Save Our Square Phase I is a next step in multi-year initiatives being made by Appanoose County to strengthen and grow our economic base. We have observed that when a community loses access to goods, services, entertainment recreation and housing, you lose your town. Centerville's Historic Square District is not a "cluster of buildings" it is the heart of the county. It is the community center to access government, shopping, dining, entertainment, festivals, meeting friends, and second story living. More than 90% of community resident survey respondents ranked "restore and preserve Centerville's downtown historic character" as a high priority for community improvement.

Grant money and cash match funds will be used for major renovation and repair of historic commercial buildings in the historic square district. The primary goal of the Save Our Square project is to repair building infrastructure, to seal the foundations, roofs, windows, and walls to secure the building integrity.

The grant application is a two step process. The community must submit a pre-application describing the project, demonstrate a strong plan to complete the proposed project, and show significant community support with Letters of Support and commitments of matching funds. The Great Places pre-application submitted by Appanoose County Coalition of Arts (ACCA) was accepted. ACCA has been invited to submit a full application. ACCA is submitting an application for \$400,000 which requires building owners to commit to funding the 50% cash match. The team is in the process of raising the funds needed to cover the required administrative and contingency expenses.

You can help by demonstrating your support for the Save Our Square project by signing a Letter of Support or donating funds. Letters of Support and donations can be given to Main Street Centerville.



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