



ECIA Spotlight

January 2022

Tipton to get Another Mural

The Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, announced [in November] that Tipton has been awarded a \$2,500 American Rescue Plan Arts Grant for a second mural for the downtown district.

Linda Beck, Tipton’s Development Director, is working with US Bank to mount the mural on the bank’s west wall facing highway 38.

“This is another very exciting project for our community and the mural committee worked hard defining what Tipton means to them,” Beck said. “Those committee members include Christine Boeve, Isabelle Smock, Ann Collins, Caitlyn Oxley and Anistyn Oxley.

Sean Tyler, a University of Iowa student, is the artist. The mural is scheduled to be finished in the spring of 2022.

The first downtown Tipton mural is displayed on the north side of the old Tipton Hotel building at the corner of Cedar and Sixth streets.

Thank You for Your Service, Milt

After almost five decades, the city of Manchester will have a new leader. Mayor Milt Kramer was elected to the Manchester City Council as a Council Member in 1970, before he assumed the duties of Mayor on September 16th, 1974.

In July 2021, after serving 14 consecutive terms since his first election, Mayor Milt Kramer announced his retirement effective December 31, 2021.

“I’m the longest-serving mayor in Iowa — people have checked on me nationwide and I’ve been told and don’t know if there is proof of this or not — some guy in upper New York has me by a couple of months — otherwise, I’m number two in the United States,” he says.



With Mayor Milt Kramer from left to right: ECIA’s Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director; Marla Quinn, Grants and Municipal Coordinator; and Holly McPherson, Director of Human Resources and Program Development

ECIA has a long history with the Mayor. Mayor Kramer served 23 years on the ECIA Council (1998), 27 years with the Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) (1994) and more recently was part of the East Central Development Corporation (ECDC) and Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa (CSEI) Boards.

During his tenure, Mayor Kramer was there supporting ECIA’s major achievements; both ECIA office building moves; the addition of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA); The Jule Transit management of five years; formation of both ECDC (Pocket Neighborhood) and CSEI (Homeless program); administration of the five-year City of Dubuque Bee Branch project; recovery from the flood disasters of 2008 and 2011; Derecho funding; and many other projects, particularly in economic and community development.

ECIA staff wish to send a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Milt Kramer for his many years of support and wish him all the best!

Clinton Lands Only RAISE Grant Funded in Iowa

The City of Clinton has been awarded a \$15 million federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity grant to reconstruct Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Boulevard, a project known as The Drive to Prosperity. Clinton’s \$38.1 million project will reconstruct and improve approximately four miles of roadway, from the intersection with U.S. 30 to Seventh Avenue North.

The project includes reconstructing two bridges, converting the roadway into a three-lane section with added turn lanes all at major intersections, adding a roundabout at South 19th Street, interconnecting traffic signals, separating sewer and sanitary lines, and installing bio-swales to capture rainwater and filter storm water. It will also upgrade traffic signals, install sidewalks and a bicycle route, add transit shelters, and modify intersections.

Overall, nearly \$1 billion will be invested in American infrastructure through the RAISE discretionary grants program. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on Friday released the list of grants earmarked for 90 projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. The city of Clinton is the only RAISE grant recipient in the State of Iowa.

In addition to the RAISE grant of \$15 million, the Clinton project will receive \$6.6 million from the state of Iowa. The city’s local match is \$13.3 million, and Iowa American Water has committed \$3.2 million. The city of Clinton is working with Alliant Energy for upgrades to their utilities along the entire corridor.

Fiscal Year 2021 RAISE Transportation discretionary grants are for planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and were awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. RAISE funding supports roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

IFA Awards \$9 million+ to Advance Housing Priorities

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) announced in December that more than \$9 million in grants will go to 27 Local Housing Trust Funds (HTF) to support local housing initiatives. These grants are expected to assist more than 2,100 families.

“The 2022 Local HTF awards represent the largest amount allocated through the program for local housing initiatives since the program’s inception,” said IFA Executive Director Debi Durham. “The Iowa Legislature recognized the Local HTF program as a highly successful funding mechanism for advancing housing opportunities last session by increasing the amount of eligible funding for the program. This funding increase will make a very real impact on our communities.”

The grant funds will be used for initiatives such as preserving aging housing stock, subsidizing local rental and down payment assistance programs, providing low-interest loans or grants to assist lowans with home rehabilitation, financing construction of new single-family housing for low-income lowans and supporting housing for persons with disabilities and homeless assistance programs.

The State HTF was created by the Iowa Legislature in 2003. These awards will leverage an additional \$2.5 million in other financing or \$.28 for every dollar of Local HTF program funding. Since its inception, the program has provided \$93 million in affordable housing assistance to benefit more than 31,000 Iowa families.

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation (EIRHC) was awarded \$406,865 for their Local HTF program, staffed by ECIA, serving Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque (excluding City of Dubuque), and Jackson Counties. Please contact Carl Reimer at 563-690-5732 for more information.



EIRHC HTF project before and after

\$476,722 CDBG CV Grant for Clinton Non-Profit

In 2012 the Landa-Rodriguez family founded non-profit, Against the Ropes, to fight suicide in the minority low-income community. Against the Ropes, doing business as Gateway Area Community Center (GACC) is one of 15 programs housed in the Center including alternative education programming, boxing, arts and crafts, childcare, food pantry, community dinners, suicide support group, and other social and educational events. In 2019, GACC served 3,770 individuals annually through their food pantry and programming services with 90% meeting the LMI threshold. This number grew to over 9,880 individuals since spring, 2020 when COVID hit with over 91% LMI and over 66% were minority participants, a 260% increase in individuals served. To respond to the growth and the needs of GACC’s facility, the Clinton County Board of Supervisors in partnership with GACC and ECIA, applied for and was awarded a \$476,722 Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) grant for the following: roof replacement; gut and replacement of existing kitchen including new stainless-steel countertops, cabinets, walk-in freezer, lockable serving window and a hood with a fire suppression system, a new floor equipped with matting and drains; new split HVAC units to both replace and subsidize the current boiler system; and permanent storage units. GACC estimates they will serve an additional 5,000 people annually because of the project. Total project cost is \$592,000 with GACC providing \$116,000 in local match. Jorge Landa Rodriguez, GACC Executive Director stated, “The positive changes and improvements directly attributed to this grant award will be life changing for everyone who calls this place home. Every day these families will enjoy a safe place to practice, play, learn and receive services thanks to the ‘It takes a village’ mentality we have adopted to raise our youth to become good citizens of our community. Also we would like to thank everyone involved from the bottom of our hearts. Very excited for the future.”

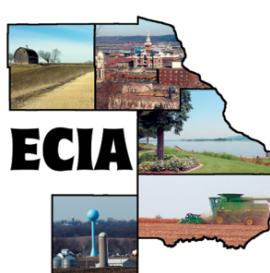


US Treasury Releases Final ARPA Regs

The Iowa League of Cities has added information on their upcoming webinars and the Final Rule to their website, <https://www.iowaleague.org/u-s-treasury-issues-final-rule-on-arpa-funds/>. Please bookmark this page as it is continuously updated as information is received.

NEW Drone Photos and Video of Pocket Neighborhood

Check out the latest photos and video of the Bear River Cottages Pocket Neighborhood development in Maquoketa: <https://bit.ly/3GRDm6d>. ECIA’s drone pilot, Dylan Michels is available to take photos and videos like these for your community! Contact Dylan at (563) 690-5751 or dmichels@ecia.org.



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