



**Iowa Valley Cultural Council**

Supported by Iowa Valley RC&D

# Regional Plan

2017 - 2019

# What is the Iowa Valley Cultural Council?

*People who are connected and knowledgeable in their community or county about local art, history, and culture*



The Iowa Valley Cultural Council is a recently formed, volunteer council that meets once annually.

The region for the council is a six-county area which includes Linn, Johnson, Benton, Iowa, Tama and Poweshiek Counties. Council members are available by email or phone throughout the year as a “go-to” for their area. This may mean that they help connect the right people to the right resource or share contact information. They work together to identify priorities and strategies to connect important sites to the resources they need.

In 2017, the council had grant funds from an Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Partnership Grant & a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant to support their goals, which included a regional Rare Book

Showcase event, this regional plan, site assessments and professional photo shoots. Long-term, this council is supported by the Iowa Valley RC&D whose staff continue to seek out grant opportunities and help to coordinate events/projects for the council. The council is open to those who would like to contribute their time and energy towards a regional effort. The individuals currently on the council are people who are connected and knowledgeable in their community, county or area regarding the local art, history, and culture. They are also willing to collaborate, think creatively about promotion and marketing and are eager to build new partnerships both inside and outside the region.

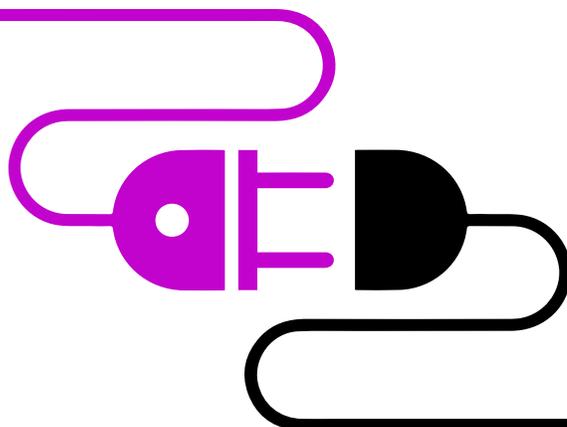
## Iowa Valley Cultural Council Members

JANET BUSCH	TAMA/TOLEDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
JON CHILDERS	AMANA HERITAGE SOCIETY
ALEXANDRA DREHMAN	JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHELIA HLAS	BELLE PLAINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MARILYN RODGERS	IOWA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
KELLY SCHOTT	MESKWAKI NATURAL RESOURCE, SAC & FOX TRIBE
MELISSA SCHWAN	VINTON UNLIMITED
CATHARINE WIECK	TAMA TOURISM & TAMA CO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



*The Iowa Valley Cultural Council is interested in sharing the art, history, and culture of its region in new and engaging ways.*

*COLLABORATIVE AND CREATIVE MARKETING, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING, PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOS, AND NARRATIVES TO TELL THE STORY*



*HIGH QUALITY ART, HISTORY, CULTURAL SITES IN OUR REGION THAT NEED PRESERVATION, RESTORATION, AWARENESS*

## **What are the Council's Goals?**

### **Think Regionally**

The council believes that collaboration and big picture thinking can help set our region apart. The council also realizes that resources to benefit our special places are limited and that it is critical to pursue opportunities that group together similar sites and efforts.

### **Find a Fresh Angle**

Many of our sites have been around for a long time and need to be shared in new and exciting ways. The council believes in creative and modern approaches to telling our region's stories.

### **Implement & Benefit**

The council is a group of leaders that is well-connected to the region and experienced with restoration, local marketing, fundraising, etc. We know that there is no substitute for honest hard work and the investment of time and energy. We like to get things done.



# Looking Ahead

*As funding allows, the council would like to pursue:*

2017

Host the Rare Book Showcase, an engaging and collaborative event that unites the region, and raises the public awareness of at least six libraries/museums/collections. Share the goals for the council with audiences around the region. Identify priority sites, photograph five sites, gather information.  
Develop a logo for the council.

2018

Host a collaborative event.  
Seek funding for marketing and promotion of sites as applicable. Approach metro area media for discussion of ways to feature sites. Seek funding to help priority sites meet their needs, execute critical repairs, and ensure their sustainability.  
Seek funding for assisting sites with photography, narratives, social media.

2019

Host a collaborative event.  
Seek funding for marketing and promotion of sites as applicable. Seek funding to help priority sites meet their needs, execute critical repairs, and ensure their sustainability.  
Seek funding for assisting sites with photography, narratives, social media.

## Council Highlights Ten Priority or Anchor Sites

The council understands that there are hundreds of important art, history and cultural sites in the Iowa Valley region, all of which could benefit from new funding sources, marketing, and people power.

There are ten priority sites identified in this report. Their function, location and specific needs vary, but the Council considers these important anchor sites for the region.

**Ladora Bank Bistro**  
**Homestead Community Church**  
**Amana Communal Kitchen**  
**ZCBJ Dance Hall, Museum & Library**  
**Vining CSA Hall**  
**Strait Cabin**  
**Farmers Mercantile Hall**  
**1876 Coralville Schoolhouse**  
**The Meyer Bachelor's Cabin & Log House**  
**Vinton Train Depot**



# Iowa Valley Cultural Council Priority Sites



# 1

## Ladora Bank Bistro

811 Pacific St, Ladora, Iowa 52251

The Ladora Savings Bank opened in 1920. It's Kittanning brick, Carthage stone, Tennessee marble, oak furniture, and blue velvet drapery had guests declaring it the "finest bank building in Iowa."

The bank closed in 1931, but has been lucky to have its character and exquisite detail preserved. It has been used as an antique shop and drapery shop. It is now a bistro open for Midwest share plates and drinks.

The old carriage steps and sidewalk in front are degraded and in need of repair. The east facing windows are also in need of repair.



# 2

## Homestead Community Church

4210 V Street Homestead, Iowa 52336

The Homestead Church is the only Amana Colonies village church open to the public. Visitors learn about the doctrine of the Community of True Inspiration, a one of a kind Christian faith community. Built in 1865, this structure is a principal site for the interpretation of Amana's 300-year history.

Repairs are needed for windows, foundation, basement stairs.



# Iowa Valley Cultural Council Priority Sites



# 3

## Amana Communal Kitchen

1003 26th Avenue, Middle Amana, Iowa 52307

The only remaining communal kitchen in the Amana Colonies. During the communal era, over 50 communal kitchens served meals to 1,600 local residents, hired workers and travelers. It was closed and used sparingly as a summer kitchen for the residents of the home until the late 1930s. Then in the 1950s, it was opened as a museum stocked with original cookware, pots, pans, utensils, food processing machines.



Upgrades in electricity, plumbing and water would allow for communal dining experiences for the public. The interior walls are all original but mortar issues with the chimney and cracking in many of the corners between walls and ceilings need to be addressed. At this time, the Communal Kitchen is privately owned by the Ruedy family, who operated it during communal times. Ownership for the future is uncertain.



# 4

## ZCJB Dance Hall, Museum & Library

501 Main Street, Clutier, Iowa 52217

The ZCJB Lodge, Cesti Brati No. 104 of Clutier was organized in 1901 and the Lodge Hall was completed 1902. The hall has a large community space, a old painted advertisement stage curtain, a museum, and a Czech library with over 700 books. The Lodge still meets occasionally.



Archival supplies, and interpretation are needed for the museum and new paint for the exterior.





# 5

## Vining CSA Hall

206 Main Street, Vining, IA 52348

Built in 1913, the Karel Jonas 279 Lodge is been the community hub for Vining. It has a large dance hall, kitchen, original stage curtains, and a second story meeting room with memorabilia. Large annual events help finance the building maintenance.

The building does not have air conditioning.



# 6

## Strait Cabin

Wakema Park, Center Point, Iowa 52213

The Strait Cabin is currently located at the west edge of Wakema Park in Center Point, Iowa. It is the only log cabin preserved in Linn County. Built in the early 1850s, the cabin is 16' x 16' and was originally located along the Cedar River then moved in 1977. It will be relocated soon to the Center Point Depot and Historical Museum.



# Iowa Valley Cultural Council Priority Sites



# 7

## Farmers Mercantile Hall

100 W. Main Street, Garrison, Iowa 52229

Built in 1916, this building served the community as a general store for many years. Now it has been repurposed as an event and concert venue.

Repairs are needed to the upstairs windows, cement work out front and next to the building, and tin ceiling above the mezzanine is damaged and needs to be replaced.



PC Andy Abeyta/The Gazette

# 8

## 1876 Coralville Schoolhouse

407 5th Street, Coralville, Iowa 52241

In 1876, the Ezekiel Clark family donated 1/3 of an acre for the school. The brick building boasted native limestone foundations and cast iron star clamps. Originally, classes were held on the first floor, with the second floor being used as the gymnasium and auditorium.

The ceiling on the second story needs to be restored.





# 9

## The Meyer Bachelor's Cabin & Log House

675 E South St, Marengo, IA 52301



Built by German immigrant and Iowa County pioneer Heinrich "Henry" Meyer, these log homes are the last of their kind in Iowa County. Constructed of elm logs with shake-shingled roofs they provide a rare glimpse into life in the late 1800s. It is located at the Iowa County Pioneer Heritage Museum in Marengo.

The Bachelor Cabin will soon need repair to the logs and chinking.



# 10

## Vinton Train Depot

612 Second Avenue, Vinton, Iowa 52349

The depot opened for business March 1901. The depot's exterior has a foundation of dressed limestone quarried near Postville and the upper portion of the walls are pressed brick fired in nearby Shellsburg. The roof, which extends 12 feet toward the track, still retains a portion of the original clay tiles.

The roof on the north side needs to be replaced (south side was replaced 8 years ago). The interior needs to be skim coated and painted.



*A 2017 effort by the Iowa Valley Cultural Council with support from our community partners, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs & Iowa Valley RC&D*

## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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