

Community Design Program Team Travels to the “North Star” of Iowa

Estherville, Iowa, also known as the “North Star of Iowa,” conducted a *Community Design Program* workshop on May 6 – 8, 2004. The community hosted a team, comprised of ten design professionals from across Iowa, for an extended weekend charette geared at open and public decision-making to bring about community improvements.

The team worked with community officials, residents, and business owners to examine points of community pride, possible downtown business façade improvements, and how the community sees itself in the future. “The weekend workshop was energizing. It gave business owners and residents an opportunity to express their ideas on enhancing the central business district,” said Lyle Hevern, Estherville mayor, of the weekend’s success. The team came up with attainable solutions for the community for the long and short-term. Some of those goals include establishing a sign ordinance, working with the Iowa Department of Transportation on the Highway 9 re-pavement project in 2005, and dressing up vacant downtown business windows.

City officials are currently working to establish committees to accomplish the set goals. The *Community Design Program* will follow-up on Estherville’s progress in six months and a year later. Estherville was selected in February, 2004, to participate in the program because of its design and redevelopment potential, architectural heritage, and community involvement.

For more information on upcoming weekend charettes contact the Iowa Architectural Foundation at 515-244-1888 or iaf@aiaiowa.org.



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