



# Iowa Architectural Foundation 2016 Annual Report

Inspiring an appreciation of architecture and design



## 2016 In Review

2016 was a year of transition and not just a few challenges for IAF, many of which were due to circumstances beyond our control. There was a change in leadership; two of the summer walking tours had to be cancelled; the first ever Eat. Drink. Architecture. fund raiser for Cedar Rapids had to be cancelled due to flooding; one of IAF's CDP's was postponed due to personnel changes within that community. These setbacks affected the bottom line, but fortunately the previous year exceeded expectations, and it balanced out.

Despite these hiccups, momentum won out. The new web site was launched, featuring a new web app, Taste of Iowa Architecture, a customizable, Iowa road map highlighting historic and architecturally significant buildings with some of the finest and most unique dining experiences across the state. IAF moved in the direction of relationship fundraising, holding a number of face-to-face meetings with constituents. AIA Firms rallied and contributed more than ever before. Some excellent new trustees were recruited for 2017. Two successful CDPs were held, in Carlisle and Webster City. The fall motor coach tour and Eat. Drink. Architecture. Des Moines sold out. Architecture Month lectures introduced three noteworthy "Star Architect" buildings to attendees. Collaborating with the Des Moines Art Center, IAF opened and displayed a special exhibit of local artists' interpretations of selected buildings at the Iowa Center for Architecture. As the year came to a close, a comprehensive Annual Plan was developed to ensure success as the organization moves forward in 2017.

## Who We Are

The Iowa Architectural Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1989 to inspire appreciation for architecture and design in everyone. We pursue our mission through youth and adult education, community design charrettes, and public outreach programs. IAF receives financial support from grants, donations, fundraising events and programs. Though its office is donated by AIA Iowa, we are distinct and separate organizations. A volunteer Board of Trustees, composed of architects, allied professionals and business leaders, governs IAF.

## Our Vision

As a volunteer-driven non-profit organization, the IAF brings architects and designers, educators and students, and architecture enthusiasts together to improve the quality of life in the state of Iowa through architecture and design. We believe through engaging communities and citizens with design, we can provoke positive change and inspiring futures for the built environment of our state. Through our outreach programs and youth and adult education, IAF inspires people to become thoughtful and engaged stewards of their communities and to work to improve the places where they live, learn, work and play.



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# Iowa Architectural Foundation

## 2016 Annual Report

A letter from the chairman



IAF Friends and Supporters,

I became a volunteer for the Foundation in 2003 and have enjoyed watching its growth in both the quality and quantity of programs and events. I have been involved with a wide variety of programming for adults and children, including walking tours and classes, and have enjoyed my time on the Board. I share a passion for the Foundation's mission with other dedicated volunteers: to inspire an appreciation of design and architecture in Iowans of all ages.

2016 was a year of transition in leadership for IAF, and through the process we examined our priorities, growing stronger and more focused. With the hire of our new director we look forward to innovations and continuing growth.

Whether you've been involved as a donor or volunteer, we thank you for your continuing generosity and for making a difference in the design literacy of our State. Let's celebrate our success and expand the great work that has been accomplished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Sacco".

Michelle Sacco Cunliffe, AIA, LEED AP, BD + C  
Partner, RDG Planning & Design  
Chair, Board of Trustees 2016



## ARCHITECTURE IN THE COMMUNITY

April has been declared Architecture Month, and the 2016 theme of Big Architects/Medium City was a reminder that for a city of its size, Des Moines has more notable architecture than any comparable US city. Our April events featured three tours and lectures in Des Moines: the Central Library (David Chipperfield), the Catholic Diocese (Mies Van der Rohe) and Des Moines Art Center (Eliel Saarinen, I.M. Pei and Richard Meier).

Eat. Drink. Architecture. was held in Des Moines for the fifth time, and was once again sold out. Thanks to Jeff Bruning and Full Court Press restaurants who fully sponsored the fundraiser, all proceeds went to fund IAF's education and community programs. The Iowa Tap Room, El Bait Shop and Buzzard Billy's were the featured restaurants.

IAF Architecture@Hand tours were challenged by events outside of our control this year, but those that were held were applauded. SVPA and InVision Des Moines sponsored the tours and brought their employees and clients to join the guests. A new addition was a guest social preceding the tours.





Similar to some of the foundation tours that visitors experience in Chicago and other urban centers, IAF's Summer Walking Tours contribute to Des Moines' identity as a city on the move. Participants can choose from four tours going east, west, north and south. They learn about the buildings' architectural detail, style, elements and hear intriguing stories about owners, architects and the historical significance of the buildings that shape the downtown skyline. People appreciate the view from the sidewalk, seeing buildings that they frequently miss when driving the same route day after day.

AIC committee members led other specially organized tours, including some that had been donated to charity auctions, conventions and travel groups. We created a new Western Gateway tour for YPC's Sips, Samples and Sites tour, attended by 60 young professionals. As in previous years, YPC voted this one of this year's favorite activities.

IAF hosted day trip by motor coach to tour Iowa's most significant Prairie School architecture. Fifty tour guests enjoyed a tour and lunch at the Historic Park Inn Hotel, the only remaining hotel designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and tours of the Melson, Blythe and Stockman homes in Rock Crest – Rock Glen Historic District.

IAF collaborated with the Des Moines Art Center on their BUILT gala with an exhibit of selected artists who were given the charge of creating a piece of artwork to express the identity a specific building.

For Blank Children's Hospital's Festival of Trees, volunteers created a splendid Christmas tree featuring selected Iowa historic houses.

Community education classes in conjunction with Des Moines Public Schools included *Tall Buildings* (a course on skyscrapers); *Architectural Styles*; *Des Moines and the City Beautiful Movement*; and *Architectural Photography*.

Thanks to AIC Committee  
volunteers and guides:  
Tina Rhodes, Assoc. AIA, FRK  
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Ed Shannon, AIA, The  
Neighborhood Architect  
Steve Stimmel, AIA, Historic  
Preservation Consultant





## ARCHITECTURE IN THE SCHOOLS

### Statewide Youth Art Contests

More than 350 entries were received from participants from all across Iowa for the 2016 Architecture by Children (ABC) drawing contest for students K-6th grades and Snapshot Iowa photography contest for students 7-12th grades. The contests, generously sponsored by Holmes Murphy in West Des Moines, featured some of Iowa's most interesting buildings.

### Girl Scouts

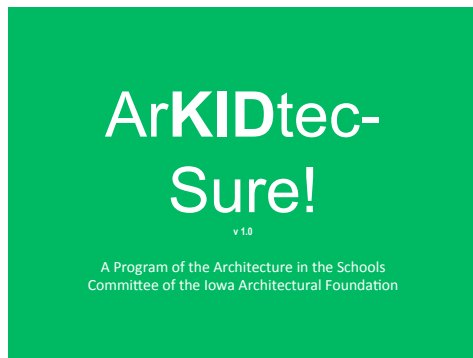
Twenty-four Girl Scouts from Central Iowa spent a spring morning designing and building dream model houses and landscaped yards at a hands-on STEM workshop hosted by IAF at RDG Planning & Design. The dynamic "Dream, Design, Build" curriculum was facilitated by metro area women, design professionals, including architects, landscape architects and engineers who assisted with questions, building techniques, and hot glue. Several parents and Girl Scout volunteers attended, and praised the event as an empowering STEM activity.

### School Tours

Nodaway Valley (Greenfield) and St. Francis of Assissi (West Des Moines) brought groups of elementary students to tour downtown Des Moines. Students enjoyed the tour with the ArkIDtective booklets, where they sought to find architectural elements as part of a game. These popular tours are led by architects who generously donate their time.

## ArKIDtec-SURE!

IAF's ArKIDtec-SURE! was shared with ten outside groups in 2016. It is a power point that can be modified and is offered by teachers or architects. It introduces 2nd – 4th grade students to the concepts of space, light, and color as well as different architectural styles used throughout history. Several versions of this power point have been made available, some focusing on history, others on structure. This program is requested by teachers IAF works with or is sometimes requested through IAF's web site.



Thanks to our AIS Committee:

Michelle Sacco, AIA, RDG

Planning & Design

Alissa Nelson, R&R Realty

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Thanks to these volunteers who  
helped the committee with tours  
and other events:

Bob Bisenius, AIA, Shive Hattery

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IAF Executive Director Claudia Cackler talking to residents in Webster City during the Community Design Program, October 2016

## COMMUNITY DESIGN PROGRAM

The Community Design Program (CDP) has helped 30 Iowa communities with design issues over the past sixteen years. In 2016, efforts were focused on promoting the program to new participants at the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Downtown Conference in Mason City, Preserve Iowa in Davenport, and the USDA's Rural Development Conference in Jefferson.

IAF conducted a CDP for Carlisle in February. Mayor Ruth Randleman said, "Carlisle had a great experience working with the Iowa Architectural Foundation. Their expertise was very valuable to the community in the development of a vision and a plan for our downtown revitalization effort. We're excited with the results and appreciate the professional talent and guidance IAF provided."

In October, IAF conducted a CDP focused on downtown revitalization in Webster City on behalf of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. A team of ten design professionals assisted community members and the City Council in visualizing improvements to their business district, including storefront façades and street-scaping. The resulting recommendations were presented to the City Council.





Webster City citizens participate in SWOC analysis prior to the design charrette for a revitalized downtown.

Thank you to the following volunteers who participated with both the 2016 successful design charrettes, promoted the program and helped the committee in creating a new structure for its work:

Edd Soenke, AIA, Chair, The Design Partnership  
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Hannah Schurrer, AIA, OPN  
Architects

Del Stevens, AIA, Imprint  
Architects  
Milagros Stevens, Assoc. AIA, The  
Vermillion Group

## School Street (Looking East) After



Carlisle Community Design Program  
©2016 Iowa Architectural Foundation



Following their CDP, Mayor Ruth Randleman said, "Carlisle had a great experience working with the Iowa Architectural Foundation.

# Iowa Architectural Foundation 2016 Donors

Inspiring an appreciation of architecture and design.

Every effort has been made to list all of our contributors accurately. We apologize for any omissions or errors. Please contact IAF with corrections.

We are grateful to all who contributed financially or in-kind between January 1 and December 31, 2016.

## **\$2,500 and more**

American Institute of Architects,  
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Jeff Bruning/Full Court Press  
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