

IOWA ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2024





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. Although IAF's 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

IAF brings architects, designers, educators, students and architecture enthusiasts together to improve the quality of life in Iowa through architecture and design. IAF programs demonstrate the power of architecture to transform lives and improve the places where we work, live and play.

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director@iowaarchfoundation.org



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends of the Iowa Architectural Foundation,

As we reflect on 2024, it's clear that this has been a remarkable year of growth, momentum, and impact for the Iowa Architectural Foundation. With a strong foundation built over the past 35 years, we celebrated our milestone anniversary not only by looking back—but by stepping boldly into the future.

This year, IAF reached thousands of Iowans through engaging programs that illuminate the power of architecture to shape communities. We kicked off the year by connecting with 375 students at the I'll Make Me a World in Iowa Festival, and followed with a wide range of activities—from downtown Des Moines walking tours and a new University of Iowa bus tour, to summer photo workshops and mid-century modern home tours that drew architecture lovers from across the state.

One of our proudest achievements was the continued success of youth education programs. In 2024, Architecture in the Schools gave elementary students hands-on learning experiences downtown, while our Adventures in Architecture Day Camp at Drake University immersed middle schoolers in an inspiring week of design, discovery, and teamwork. The ABC Art Contest showcased young talent statewide, and our "Build the Future" Des Moines Lego Skyline campaign raised both awareness and funds, thanks in part to volunteer and donor champion Joe Feldmann, AIA.

In May, we celebrated IAF's 35th Anniversary at our Encore Gala—an unforgettable evening that honored our legacy and set the stage for the years to come. We also proudly presented the Community Enhancement Awards to The Stanley Family and Hawkeye Hotels, recognizing their contributions to the built environment.

Behind the scenes, we made important strides in capacity building and financial sustainability. IAF secured over \$20,000 in grant funding for programs and received our first-ever Iowa Arts Council Capacity Building Grant—a \$15,000 investment that will support our efforts over the next three years.

From the sold-out Eat. Drink. Architecture. tours in both downtown Des Moines and the Drake neighborhood, to expanded partnerships with Iowa Mid-Century Modern and Drake University, we continue to grow our reach and deepen our community ties. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers, the generosity of our donors and sponsors, and the steady leadership of our staff.

Thank you for being part of this dynamic and evolving journey. Here's to another year of celebrating architecture, fostering education, and building stronger communities across Iowa.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Ellsworth". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "R" and "E".

Ryan Ellsworth, AIA
2024 Board Chair

ARCHITECTURE IN THE COMMUNITY



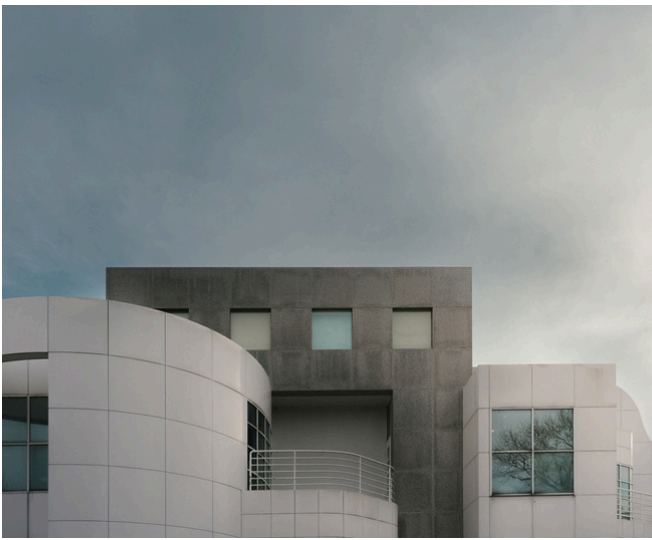
University of Iowa

IAF's first-ever Iowa City tour last fall offered attendees an in-depth look at the University of Iowa's most iconic landmarks. Guided by expert architect Mark Seabold, AIA, following a historical presentation by Steve Stimmel, AIA, participants explored celebrated buildings including Steven Holl's Visual Arts and Art Building West, Frank Gehry's Iowa Advanced Technology Laboratories, and the new Stanley Museum of Art. Thank you to all who joined us!

Downtown Cedar Rapids

Led by esteemed local historian Mark Stoffer Hunter, the July tour of Cedar Rapids drew 50 attendees to explore downtown. Starting near the First Presbyterian Church, the tour highlighted the Cedar Rapids Savings (Guaranty) Bank, Federal Courthouse & Post Office, Veterans Memorial Building, and Linn County Courthouse. The group then circled back up 2nd Ave SE to view the Merchants National Bank, Iowa Theatre Building, and other historic gems, offering a rich glimpse into the city's architectural heritage.





East Village Photo Walk

In June 2024, IAF hosted a special photography class led by professional photographer Chris Boeke. Fourteen participants gathered at the Iowa Center for Architecture before heading out on a guided photo walk through Des Moines' East Village and Capitol grounds. With expert tips and perfect morning light, attendees captured the city's architectural beauty while gaining new skills and perspectives.

Eat | Drink | Architecture

IAF once again presented two editions of Eat|Drink|Architecture in 2024 with events in downtown Des Moines in the spring, and the Drake neighborhood in the fall. Thanks are due to Full Court Press for sponsoring the food and drinks, and well as to xBk Live for opening their space to tour!

Architecture on the Move: Downtown Des Moines



IAF welcomed visitors from across Iowa and several out-of-state tourists at our walking tours of Downtown Des Moines. Tours were offered on the second Friday of months May through October, with a concluding special edition "Piety Hill" route on the lost religious architecture of Des Moines.

Mid-Century Modern Home & Condo Tours

In June, IAF provided volunteer docents for the annual Iowa Mid-Century Modern home tour, showcasing four homes across the Des Moines metro to over 200 attendees.



Scan the QR code to view the entire 2024 home tour playlist on IAF's Youtube Channel, or click [here](#).

Then again August, midmod enthusiasts had a rare chance to view the condos at 3660 Grand in Des Moines. All eight residences featured in the 2024 tours were captured on film and are now available to view on [IAF's Youtube Channel](#).

IAF is immensely grateful to the owners for opening their homes, and to Suzie Fredregill and Meaghan Foshe of [Iowa Mid-Century Modern](#) for their vision, coordination, and generous donation of proceeds to the Foundation.

Celebrating Meredith Hall: A Mies Masterpiece Renewed

On October 12, IAF and the Drake University School of Journalism and Mass Communication co-hosted a special evening celebrating the restoration of Meredith Hall, the 1965 modernist landmark designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Guests enjoyed docent-led exploration of the revitalized space, a curated Knoll furniture display sponsored by Pigott and MillerKnoll, and a digital exhibit featuring original blueprints and archival materials.

The evening also included a Q&A with BNIM Architects about the recent restoration, a special viewing of the nearby Eero Saarinen-designed Scott Chapel, and a screening of The Mies van der Rohes documentary. Proceeds supported the ongoing restoration of Meredith Hall, preserving its architectural legacy for future generations.



ENCORE 35: IAF's 35th ANNIVERSARY GALA

The Iowa Architectural Foundation celebrated its 35th anniversary in grand style with a gala held May 3 at the Des Moines Heritage Center. Guests began the evening with a festive reception in the beautifully restored historic depot, followed by chef-curated food stations in the main hall. The program honored all past recipients of IAF's Community Enhancement Awards and featured remarks by Board Chair Ryan Ellsworth, along with a specially commissioned short film showcasing IAF's mission, programs, and the volunteers who bring them to life.



Volunteers

Without our volunteers, none of our work would be possible!

Scott Allen, AIA
William Anderson, FAIA E
Marcello Arunani, Assoc. AIA
Anna Aversing
Peggy Bang
Justine Bangert
Art Baumgartner, AIA
Anna Bednarko, Assoc. AIA
Jason Bird
Robert Bisenius, AIA
Scott Borcharding
Josh Braby
Ben Brown
Kayla Brown
Tim Bungert, AIA
Gina Burress
Matthew Coen, AIA
Brian Crichton, AIA
Michelle Cunliffe, AIA
Austin Cunliffe
Ric D'Amico
Brad Davison-Ripped, AIA
Joyce Deike
Shelby Doyle, AIA
Ryan Ellsworth, AIA
Scotney Fenton, AIA
Meaghan Foshe
Ray Fredregill
Suzie Fredregill
Nathan Griffith, AIA
Mark Hadaway, Assoc. AIA
Donna Hallstrom
John Hallstrom
Stacey Hanley, AIA, ASLA
Tonia Householder, AIA
Linh Huynh, Assoc. AIA
Jennifer James
Susan Judkins
Karl Kaufman, AIA
Shayama Khan, Assoc. AIA
Matthew Larson
Anna Lukens, Assoc. AIA
Zach Mahoney
Eric Maguire, AIA
Diane McDonald, Assoc. AIA
Kristin McHugh-Johnston
Pat Mescher

Joshua Miltenberger
Sam Moeller
Paula Mohr
Anna Nelson
Suzet Nelson
Kelli Paskert
Laura Pavone
Jimi Peters
Joan Platz
Tim Platz
Diane Rasmussen
Tina Rhodes, Assoc. AIA
Jeff Rhodes
Cristina Rodriguez
M. Jessica Rowe
Kyle Sandage, AIA
Don Scandrett
John Schmacker
Barb Schmidt, Hon. AIA
Mark Schmidt, AIA
Anne Schmit
Gary Schmit
Michael Schreiber
Vinoth Sekar
Jeff Shaffer, AIA
Edward Shannon, AIA
Caitlin Sheeder
Curt Small
Edd Soenke, AIA
Hugh Soward
Anna Squier
Stephen Stimmel, AIA
Lauren Stokes, Assoc. AIA
Nolan Sullivan, Assoc. AIA
Laura Sweet
Mike Sweet
Nick Tarpey
Aranda Thompson
Kylee Trimble
Tim Veatch, AIA
Todd VonStein
Brian Warthen, AIA
Heidi Wessels
Rob Whitehead, FAIA
Tom Wollan, AIA

ARCHITECTURE IN THE SCHOOLS



"Architective" Scavenger Hunt Tours

In May, IAF volunteers led nearly 300 students on tours of downtown Des Moines as part of our Architecture in the Schools program. These interactive tours are a unique educational opportunity for grades 3rd and above, allowing students to not only experience urban architecture up close, but also to recognize different features and acquire new vocabulary for understanding the built environment. Our partner schools this year increased from 2 to 6, and the program launched new scratch-off scavenger hunt cards funded by the Iowa Arts Council.



K-5 School Visits

In November, volunteers from CMBA Architects assisted students at Hillis and Moore elementaries (Des Moines) with creating construction paper houses. Many thanks to Anna Bednarko and Kylee Hulet for spearheading these hands-on lessons in what an architect does and the basics of architectural styles.

I'll Make Me a World in Iowa Education Day

At the 2024 I'll Make Me a World in Iowa Education Day—the state's largest African-American cultural event—IAF hosted an engaging booth for middle and high school students, in partnership with the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. Held on February 9, the STEM-focused room welcomed over 375 student visitors throughout the day, offering hands-on activities and conversations about careers in architecture and design. Special thanks to Tom Goetz, Stacey Hanley, Ryan Ellsworth, Edd Soenke, and Linh Huynh for generously volunteering their time and expertise to inspire the next generation.

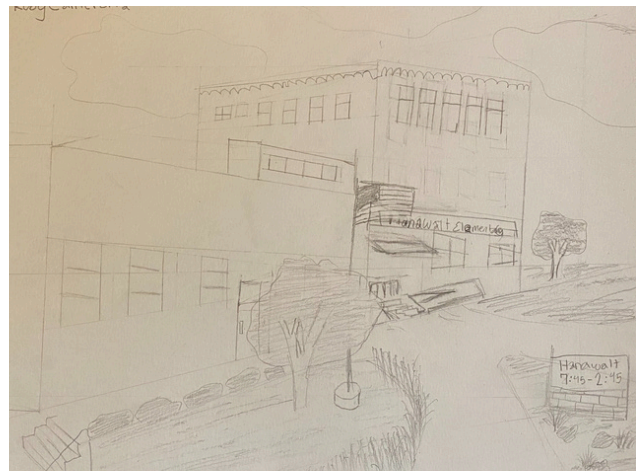


Architecture by Children “A-B-C” Art Contest

IAF's annual ABC (Architecture by Children) Art Contest invited young artists across Iowa to explore architecture through their creativity. Students submitted original artwork in three age divisions, with a \$100 prize awarded to the first-place winner in each. The statewide program continues to inspire youth to see the built environment through an artistic lens.



Gerard Fulton
3rd-5th Division



Ruby Camerona
6th-8th Division

Adventures in Architecture

Summer Day Camp

From June 24-28, twenty-two middle schoolers delved into architecture at IAF's camp, sponsored by the Terracon Foundation and Krause Group. Activities included tours of Drake University, downtown Des Moines, the State Capitol, and OPN Architects' office. Campers also learned about soil testing and participated in a 15-foot egg drop challenge at Terracon Engineering lab. Their hard work on interior design and model building projects culminated in a showcase for parents and volunteers.



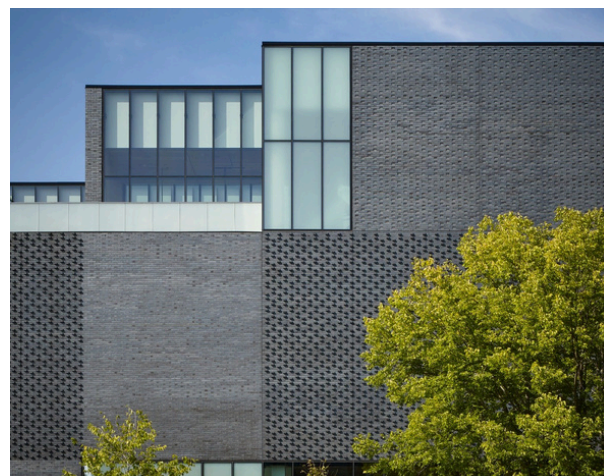
COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT THROUGH ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN AWARDS



2024 Winners: The Stanley Family & Hawkeye Hotels

In 2024, the Iowa Architectural Foundation honored two outstanding recipients with its Community Enhancement Awards, which recognize exceptional contributions to Iowa’s built environment by individuals and organizations outside the architectural profession. The Stanley Family received the “Architecture and Design” award for their decades-long commitment to architecture, design, and cultural stewardship—most notably through projects such as the sustainable Stanley Center for Peace and Security in Muscatine and the Stanley Museum of Art at the University of Iowa. Their legacy reflects a deep investment in both community and global betterment through thoughtful, high-quality architecture.

The “Historic Vitalization” award was presented to Hawkeye Hotels for their transformative renovation of the historic Hotel Fort Des Moines. Their restoration revived the building’s original grandeur, particularly the iconic two-story lobby, and reactivated a vital corner of downtown Des Moines. By balancing preservation with modern functionality, Hawkeye Hotels demonstrated how historic structures can be adapted to serve contemporary needs while celebrating their past.



Stanley Museum of Art



Hotel Fort Des Moines



Hotel Fort Des Moines

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AIA Iowa

IAF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Laura Porter



Every effort has been made to list all of our contributors accurately. We apologize in advance for any omissions and errors. Please contact IAF with corrections. We are grateful to all who made donations, sponsored or made in-kind contributions between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

\$5,000 and above

American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter

BRAVO Greater Des Moines and its Government Partners, including the cities of Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Carlisle, Clive, Des Moines, Grimes, Indianola, Johnston, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights; and Polk County; and Cultural Partners including Capital Crossroads, Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, Greater Des Moines Partnership, Iowa Arts Council, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and The Tomorrow Plan.

Iowa Mid-Century Modern

2,500 - 4,999

CMBA Architects

Kristin McHugh-Johnston

RDG Planning & Design

Shive-Hattery Architecture + Engineering

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Pictured above: Architecture enthusiasts watching the launch of ArchiTreasures at Capital Square

\$1,000 – \$2,499

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 Katherine Schwennsen
 Dane Shelton
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Continued

\$1 – \$99

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IMPACT ENDOWMENT

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Iowa

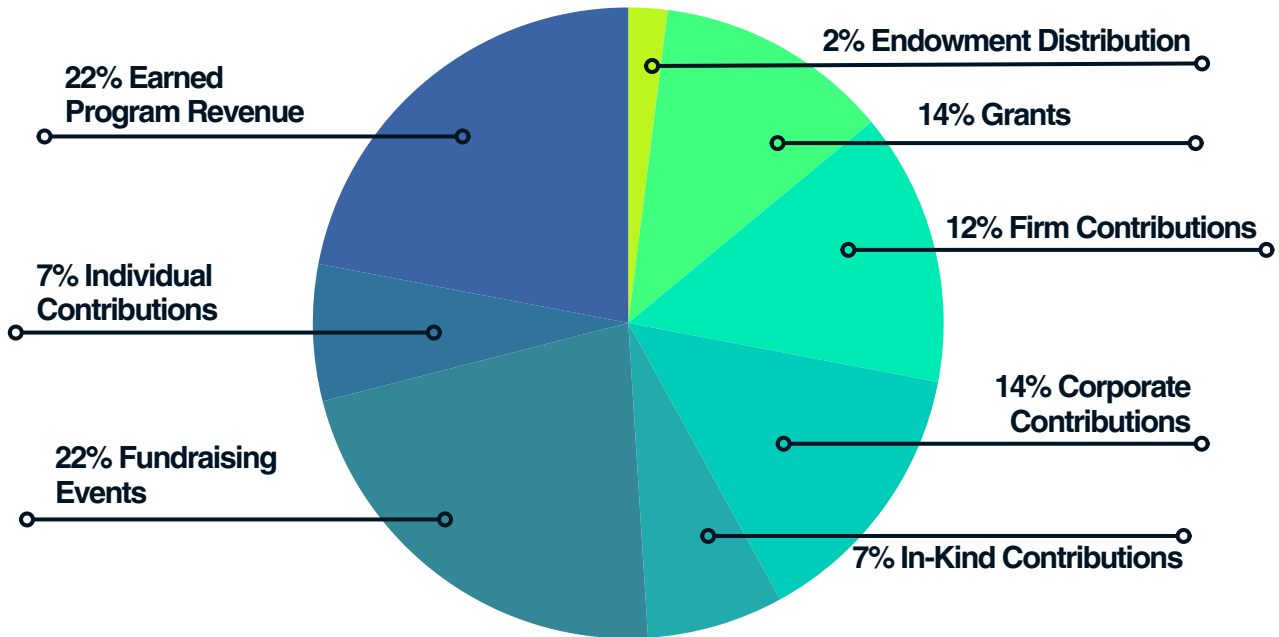
A Chapter of The American
Institute of Architects

The American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa) recently established the Impact Endowment to benefit the Iowa Architectural Foundation (IAF). An initial gift of \$50,000 provides a steady financial resource for the IAF's programs and events that inspire public appreciation for architecture and design. This support furthers AIA Iowa's mission of promoting the value of good design and advocating for the health and safety of the public.

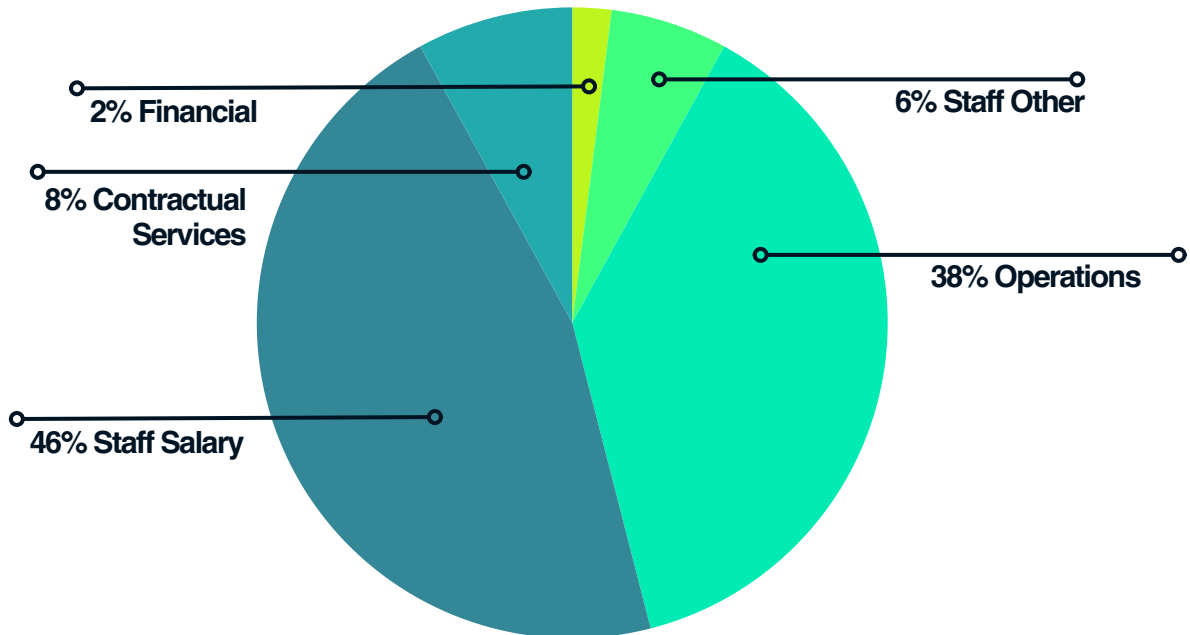
The IMPACT Endowment was made possible by the extraordinary support for AIA Iowa by its members and those allied to the profession of architecture over the past 115 years, as well as a culmination of efforts from volunteers and staff related to the programming and services that the Chapter provides.

As a 501 (c) (3) organization, we hope other donors will contribute to the endowment so IAF may continue to increase public understanding of this most public art. Individuals or businesses interested in making a gift to the endowment should contact the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, which is managing the sustainable endowment. All gifts will be eligible for the Endow Iowa Tax Credit. Annual distributions of 5% of the endowment will be made to IAF and distributed indefinitely.

2024 Revenue



2024 Expenses



2024

Impact by the Numbers

	17 Expertly Curated Tour Routes Shared with the Public
	81 Volunteer-Led Architectural Tours
	820 Volunteer hours
	2,037 Students and Adults Reached In Person
	17,000+ Views Worldwide
	19,000+ Total Individuals Reached!



The 2024 IAF Christmas tree donated to the Blank Children's Hospital Festival of Trees and Lights, sponsored by Kristin McHugh-Johnston.

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