



Iowa Heartland Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 6, 2015

**MEETING SCHEDULED JULY 28
FOR ARTS, CULTURAL & HISTORIC ORGANIZATIONS**

In August 2014, the Iowa Heartland Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc. (IHRC&D) based in Indianola received a USDA Rural Community Development Initiative grant to assist in supporting and sustaining efforts to unite the vast array of arts, cultural and historical assets in Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk (rural) and Warren counties. One of the outcomes of this grant is to establish a Regional Arts Council composed of advocates for the arts, culture and history. To share more information and learn about this exciting development, we are conducting a "Community Conversations" Lunch Meeting on **Tuesday, July 28 at 11:30 am at the Winterset Public Library** located at 123 North Second Street. The lunch is complimentary and parking is easily accessible. **Please RSVP to Nancy at library@winterset.lib.ia.us or by calling 515.462.1731 by Friday, July 24th if you plan to attend.**

Through this initiative, we are partnering with the Iowa League of RC&D, University of Iowa and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to bring support and assistance to arts, cultural and historic organizations within our rural communities.

What we know:

- Current arts, history and cultural organizations in Iowa may benefit from technical assistance, opportunities to network with one another and share projects or goals.
- Many groups doing great things are faced with small, but mighty, Boards and/or volunteers who are aging or stretched to capacity.
- Accessing funds for arts, history and culture is challenging- especially in rural Iowa yet we have outstanding resources and assets worthy of support.
- Investing in arts, history and cultural projects can have a huge economic impact on small communities, as well as entice younger generations to stay or return to a vibrant, small community.
- Arts, history and culture programs in regional school districts are often the first to go when budgets are tight.

At this time, one of our primary goals is to establish a Regional Cultural Council. The purpose of the Council is to preserve, protect, interpret and promote Iowa's art, culture and history. To that end,

- Regional Cultural Councils are being developed to provide local input, guidance and leadership for regional planning and implementation of projects.
- Regional Cultural Councils serve as a catalyst for the creative economy.
- Regional Cultural Councils are empowered to become engines for economic vitality, cultural diversity and historic preservation as well as regional art, history and cultural project planning throughout Iowa.

Because the public's guidance and input is critical to this process, we encourage advocates for the arts, culture and history to attend this meeting. This is a multi-year effort that will rely on the ideas, creativity and energy to achieve successful outcomes.

The IHRC&D is a 501(c)(3) corporation serving Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk and Warren counties for the purpose of improving the quality of life through economic development and resource conservation.

For more information, contact:

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