



# City of Muscatine

ITEM NUMBER 2023-0582

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

DATE: 12/7/2023

### STAFF

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April Limburg, City Planner

### SUBJECT

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Request for Authorization to Submit a Certified Local Government Grant Application on Behalf of the Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission for funding to Conduct an Intensive Underground Railroad Survey and Host the 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Historic Preservation Commission would like to apply for a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for an intensive survey of known resources and identification of new resources in the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County with connection to the Underground Railroad/Freedom Trail along with hosting of the 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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Staff recommends authorization to apply for the CLG grant.

### BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

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The City of Muscatine has been a Certified Local Government (CLG) with an appointed Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for many years. The HPC helps safeguard the city's history, aesthetic and cultural heritage by working to preserve sites and districts of significance. Much of this work is accomplished through the establishment of historic districts, which also allows property owners, including the City, to secure historic preservation resources for rehabilitation activities such as the Japanese Garden project and Paul Bruhn Grant for the rehabilitation of downtown properties.

The Underground Railroad, sometimes referred to as the Freedom Trail, passed through the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County. Six properties in the City of Muscatine and two properties in Muscatine County were listed as having significant contributions to the Underground Railroad, which enabled individuals seeking self-emancipation to achieve their goal. Through the CLG grant, a qualified historical consultant will be contracted to help scope, organize and execute the survey. The consultant would lead at least two public meetings, one at the beginning of the project explaining the scope and goals of the project, the National Register, and levels and criteria of significance, and an additional meeting at the end of the

project, presenting the findings. Other public meetings may be held in Muscatine, West Liberty, and Atalissa, where the known stops were, to gather public input about known properties and other potential Underground Railroad sites and train volunteers in property research, field survey, and Iowa Site Inventory form preparation.

Under the direction of the consultant, volunteer teams from the Historic Preservation Commission will research previous documentation of known resources and published works, primary sources in historical collections of libraries and/or museums, online newspaper archives, and any sources identified through public input meetings related to the Underground Railroad in the city and county. Volunteers will also interview older residents and descendants who have a recollection of Underground Railroad activities. Meetings will be arranged in towns throughout the County to further inform the public and to solicit stories, photos, newspaper clippings and other information related to the project. Collected information from the various sources will be compiled into a comprehensive report by the consultant.

The 2023 Underground Railroad Project: Inventory of Places provides an overview of the various Underground Railroad historical resources available in the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County. This Inventory of Places provides a high level listing of places of significance, but does not go into detail the impact of each resource on the Underground Railroad. This proposed intensive survey has the objective of performing research to deeply capture and document this historical information before it is totally lost, as well as uncovering any unidentified resources of significance to the Underground Railroad in Muscatine County. Future researchers will be able to rely on the results of this survey for continued study and understanding of this important part of Muscatine's history, and the findings of this survey could further be developed into public education resources.

The City of Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission (City HPC) offers to host the Preserve Iowa Summit in June 2025 in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Substantial support for this event will be provided by the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (County HPC). Assistance will be provided to SHPO in planning meetings, securing local venues and associated presentation facilities/equipment, securing local sponsors and volunteers, and in promotion of the event.

### **CITY FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact on the City by authorizing the submission of the CLG grant. The Friends of Muscaine Historic Preservation has agreed to cover the required cash match as well as provide and track the volunteer hours to be used as in-kind match.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. HPC CLG GRANT (1)
2. Letter of Authorization

2023 Certified Local Government Grant Application

Muscatine Historical Preservation Commission

Forms

CLG Applicant Information

**1. Name of Project**

**City of Muscatine and Muscatine County Underground Railroad Intensive Survey and Preserve Iowa Summit 2025**

**2. Applicant Name**

City of Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission

**3. Applicant Type**

City Government

**4. Is your CLG in Good Standing?**

E.g., is your CLG current with required annual reports and has last year's report been approved by the State Historic Preservation Office? Only CLG's in good standing are eligible for this grant program. If you have questions about your CLG's status, please contact [historic.preservation@iowa.gov](mailto:historic.preservation@iowa.gov).

Yes

**5. Federal Employer ID# 42-6005008**

**6. DUNS Number – 080292048 (UEI is R3J6GP2HDMG4)**

**7. Application Address**

If your commission is a city CLG, this is the mailing address of your City Hall.

215 Sycamore St., Muscatine IA 52761

**8. Applicant City**

If your commission is a City Commission, this is the town where your City

Hall is located. If your commission is a County Commission, this is the town where your County Courthouse is located.

Muscatine

**9. Applicant County**

Muscatine County

**10. Applicant State**

Iowa

**11. Applicant Zip Code**

52761

**12. First name of the person who prepared the Grant Application**

April

**13. Last name of the person who prepared the Grant Application**

Limburg

**14. Preparer's e-mail**

alimburg@muscatineiowa.gov

**15. Preparer's Phone Number**

563-262-4141

**16. Title of your Chief Elected Official**

If your Historic Preservation Commission is a City CLG, enter Mayor.

Mayor

**17. First Name of your Chief Elected Official**

If your Historic Preservation Commission is a City CLG, this is your Mayor's name.

Brad

**18. Last Name of your Chief Elected Official**

Bark

**19. Chief Elected Official's e-mail**

bbark@muscatineiowa.gov

**20. Chief Elected Official's Phone Number**

563-264-1550

**21. First Name of the CLG Staff Person**

If your Historic Preservation Commission is a CLG, this is the City staff person for the Commission (typically the City Administrator or Clerk). If your Historic Preservation Commission is a County CLG, this is the County staff person for the Commission (typically the County Auditor).

April

**22. Last Name of the CLG Staff Person**

If your Historic Preservation Commission is a City CLG, this is the City Staff Person for the Commission. If your Historic Preservation Commission is a County CLG this is the County Staff Person for the Commission.

Limburg

**23. CLG Staff Person's E-mail**

alimburg@muscatineiowa.gov

**24. CLG Staff Person's Phone Number**

563-262-4141

**25. First Name of Local Project Manager**

This is the local person who will manage your Project if it is funded.

Fredrick

**26. Last Name of Local Project Manager**

This is the local person who will manage your Project if it is funded.

Galoso

**27. Local Project Manager's E-mail Address**

fredrickgaloso@gmail.com

**28. Local Project Manager's daytime phone number**

563-607-3777

**29. Iowa Congressional District**

Select the numeric Iowa Congressional District of the applicant. To find the Iowa Congressional District, visit the [United States House of Representatives](#). Use the Find Your Representative form on the right side of the page to input your zip code information for an exact match.

### **30. Iowa Senate District**

Select the numeric Iowa Senate District of the applicant. To find the Iowa Senate District, visit [Find Your Legislator](#). Use the full address form on the right side of the page to input your address information for an exact match.

46

### **31. Iowa House District**

Select the numeric Iowa House District of the applicant. To find the Iowa House District, visit [Find Your Legislator](#). Use the full address form on the right side of the page to input your address information for an exact match.

91

## **CLG Project Information and Scope of Work**

### **Brief Description of Project**

Please provide a brief description of your project. This will be used for press releases and for reporting to the National Park Service.

An intensive survey of known resources and identification of new resources in the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County with connection to the Underground Railroad/Freedom Trail.

Hosting of 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit in Muscatine, Iowa.

### **Type of Project**

Intensive Survey and Evaluation and Public Education

### **Scope of Work**

Describe your project in detail:

- a. specifically identify the historical resource and state its significance
- b. provide an overview of the activities you will complete
- c. explain how the proposed actions will assist the historical resource(s)
- d. describe how the project will have an impact on the local community (neighborhood, town, region) or however you define “community”.

## **City of Muscatine and Muscatine County Underground Railroad Intensive Survey**

### **HISTORIC RESOURCE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE**

From the 17th century through the middle of the 19th century, enslaved African Americans sought to escape their bondage and gain freedom. Those who worked to gain this freedom, along with the individuals that assisted them, did so through a network across the country that became known as the Underground Railroad.

This network passed through the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County. Beginning in 2002 and updated in 2017 and 2023, the Iowa Freedom Trail project created an Inventory of Places of significance to the Underground Railroad in Iowa. Six properties and two cities (Atalissa and West Liberty) in the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County were identified as having significant contributions to the Underground Railroad, enabling people seeking self-emancipation to achieve it.

### **OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

Proposed activities will include an intensive survey of known resources and identification of new resources in the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County with connection to the Underground Railroad and Iowa Freedom Trail project. A qualified historic consultant will be contracted to help scope, organize, and execute the survey.

The consultant will lead at least two public meetings, one at the beginning of the project explaining the goals of the project, including intensive-level survey process, historic building research, primary and secondary resources, local and state Underground Railroad historic contexts, the National Register, and levels and criteria of significance, and one at the end of the project, presenting the findings of the project. Other public meetings in Muscatine, West Liberty, and Atalissa would gather public input about known properties and other potential Underground Railroad sites and train volunteers in property research, field survey, and Iowa Site Inventory form preparation.



Under the direction of the consultant, volunteer teams from the Historic Preservation Commission will research previous documentation of known resources and published works, primary sources in historical collections of libraries and museums, online newspaper archives, and any sources identified through public input meetings related to the Iowa Freedom Trail in the city and county.

Volunteers will also interview older residents and descendants who have a recollection of Underground Railroad activities. Town hall meetings will be arranged in various county towns to further inform the public and gather stories, photos, newspaper clippings and other information related to the project. Collected information from the various sources will be compiled by the consultant and presented in draft and final reports.

### **PROPOSED SURVEY WILL ASSIST HISTORIC RESOURCES**

The 2023 Iowa Freedom Trail Project: Inventory of Places provides an overview of the various Underground Railroad historic resources available in Muscatine city and county. The Inventory of Places provides a high level listing of places of significance, but does not go into detail about the impact of each resource on the Underground Railroad.

This intensive survey has the objective of performing the research to deeply capture and document this historic information before it is completely lost, as well as uncovering any previously unidentified resources of significance to the Underground Railroad in Muscatine County. The survey will detail how the resources contributed to the Underground Railroad, but also the people associated with these resources. Little is currently known about the property owners and how they came to be involved with the Underground Railroad. There are also individuals not previously accounted for in historic resources that this intensive survey will uncover.

### **IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITY**

The general public has some awareness and interest about Muscatine's involvement in the Underground Railroad. However, a comprehensive study has never been performed on all of the resources within the city and county. Future researchers will be able to rely on the results of this survey for continued study and understanding of this important part of Muscatine's history. The findings of this intensive survey could be further developed into public educational resources.

## **Preserve Iowa Summit 2025**

### **SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT**

The City of Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission (City HPC) offers to host the Preserve Iowa Summit in June 2025 in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Substantial support for this event will be provided by the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (County HPC). Assistance will be provided to SHPO in planning meetings, securing local venues and associated presentation facilities/equipment, securing local sponsorships and volunteers, and promoting the Summit.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

Muscatine City and County offer an attractive venue for hosting the Preserve Iowa Summit. There are a variety of hotel/motel options to meet the housing needs of attendees from across the state of Iowa and beyond. Conference center and meeting room options are available from Muscatine's primary hotel, adjacent historic hotel, museum, historic churches, and commercial buildings, all located within a three-block section of downtown Muscatine.

### **LOCAL HISTORIC RESOURCES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE**

Muscatine County, located in eastern Iowa along the Mississippi River, has an abundance of local history, being one of the first ports of entry for settlers moving west into the Iowa Territory in the 1830s. Several historic entities in both the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County have been successfully nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Historic neighborhoods have been identified and listed as NRHP Districts. Several homes in these neighborhoods have been historically restored. Historic Tax Credits have been utilized to help fund restoration efforts for many of Muscatine's homes and commercial buildings. The downtown 1908 County Courthouse is a great example of a public building restored to period architecture.

Timber and its associated processing facilities were among the first industries in Muscatine County. Some remnants of the timber industry remain in the form of wood processing and finishing industries.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the pearl button industry started to develop in Muscatine. More than fifty button factories and related businesses sprang up to process mussels from the Mississippi River into pearl buttons of all sizes and styles. The original McKee Button Factory has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Fairport Fish Hatchery (formerly the Fairport Biologic Station, which propagated mussels) has been listed as an NRHP District. The Bush Lofts (formerly the Hershey Office Building) was recently restored for adaptive reuse using historic tax credits. These venues will be available to host historic tours during the Summit.

The fruit and vegetable industry in Muscatine County dates back to the 1850s, with the first commercial plantings in the area. The county's rich alluvial soil and warm summers allowed for the production of exceptional melons and several types of vegetables, which soon gained popularity beyond local markets. Plans are underway to document facilities, specialized equipment, and the labor force associated with the historic fruit and vegetable industry with emphasis on the Muscatine Island locale, primarily in Fruitland Township, Muscatine County. A

reconnaissance survey of the history and remnants of the fruit and vegetable industry has been proposed for a County HPC 2024 CLG grant.

Several historic homes and businesses in Muscatine date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and many have been restored. NRHP districts have been established for the West Hill and Fair Oaks neighborhoods, as well as the downtown business district. Documentaries have been professionally prepared for several representative homes and churches within Muscatine. Two county-owned facilities, the 1857 Historic Jail and the 1926 County Home Dairy Barn, are on the NRHP and available for scheduled touring.

A county-wide survey has been recently completed to document all 140 Muscatine County country schools and churches, some with the opportunity of restoration and/or listing on the NRHP. This project culminated in publishing a Country Schools and Churches document preserving details of each historic facility. Additionally, signage with QR codes was prepared and installed at each historic location. A similar county-wide survey of historic transportation development including steamboats, stagecoaches, railroads, ferry crossings, highways and bridges, and air travel is in progress and will be completed prior to the 2025 Summit.

### **Coordination**

Describe the division of labor, project responsibilities of consultant, local project director, staff, and volunteers.

### **City of Muscatine and Muscatine County Underground Railroad Intensive Survey**

This will be undertaken under the direction of the Consultant and the City Historic Preservation Commission. Parties instrumental to the project include:

- \* Financial Manager: Chris Hetzler, Friends of Muscatine Historic Preservation Treasurer
- \* Local Project Director: Jim Hetzler, Commissioner of the City Historic Preservation Commission
- \* City Staff: April Limburg, City Planner
- \* Volunteers from the Muscatine County and Muscatine City Historic Preservation Commissions, Friends of Muscatine Historic Preservation, and the community.

### **2025 Preserve Iowa Summit in Muscatine, Iowa**

The City of Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission, with support from the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission, offers our services to sponsor the 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit.

- \* Financial Manager: Chris Hetzler, Friends of Muscatine Historic Preservation Treasurer
- \* Local Project Director: Fredrick Galoso, Commissioner of the City Historic Preservation Commission
- \* City Staff: April Limburg, City Planner
- \* Volunteers from the Muscatine County and Muscatine City Historic Preservation Commissions, Friends

of Muscatine Historic Preservation, and the community.

### **Work Products**

List the tangible products required for your type of project. Identify additional intangible products or benefits.

### **City of Muscatine and Muscatine County Underground Railroad Intensive Survey**

#### **Tangible Products:**

Research Design Document

Press Release describing the project

Initial PowerPoint Presentation of project objectives

Notes from Town Hall Meetings held in West Liberty, Atalissa, and Muscatine

Listing of all identified historic Underground Railroad sites that were/are a part of Muscatine City and County's development

Street and Digital Maps marked with Underground Railroad site locations

Updates to I-Sites Online GIS and Database for Iowa Archaeology

Field Work Sheets with accompanying photographs

Updates to Muscatine County "MAGIC" GIS database to provide a complete list of historic Underground Railroad sites on the MCHPC Historic Page

Input to Iowa Culture App and other historic-place oriented open source websites, to include listing of Underground Railroad site locations and routes and brief history of each

Final PowerPoint Presentation containing project findings

Notes from Final Public Meeting

Draft Survey Report tentatively titled "Intensive Survey of the Underground Railroad in the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County, Iowa"

Final Survey Report provided in print form and on CDs. A minimum of 6 print copies and 4 CDs will be provided.

#### **Intangible Products:**

Community interest developed through press releases, town hall meetings and public meetings.

Potential listing of new historic Underground Railroad properties on the National Register of Historic Places in the future.

Future signage marking the locations of historic Underground Railroad sites.

Future media and/or documentary about historic Underground Railroad sites.

### **2025 Preserve Iowa Summit in Muscatine, Iowa**

#### **Intangible Products:**

Participate in regular planning meetings.

Assist with securing local venues.

Assist with securing local A/V equipment or suppliers as needed.

Assist with session topic selections, the keynote speaker, and suggestion for theme.

Assist with exhibit hall, if applicable.

Identify local speakers and success stories for breakout sessions.

Identify, develop and lead local mobile workshops.

Promoting the Preserve Iowa Summit within the local community.

Secure local sponsorships/donations; to pay for food/beverage, mobile tour transportation, etc.

Provide volunteers to moderate sessions, staff registration desk, be human arrows, etc.

Collect timesheets for volunteers and staff to contribute to the in-kind matching share of the CLG grant award.

Provide staff and volunteers for set up, assistance during the event, and tear down.

## **Schedule**

List proposed deadlines for completing different parts of the project, such as in meetings, research design (if required), preparing materials, submitting draft and final products.

### **City of Muscatine and Muscatine County Underground Railroad Intensive Survey**

February 2024 -- CLG grant contract executed with State

February 2024 -- Draft RFP and subcontract submitted for State review

March 2024 -- Send RFP's to a minimum of three consultants

April 2024 -- Select Consultant

May 2024 -- Consultant submits project research design and schedule. Kick-off meeting scheduled with Consultant and State

June 2024 -- Initial public meeting to discuss project

June-September 2024 -- Intensive survey work by HPC and volunteers; start research of historic context; compilation of table of sites identified in intensive survey phase

October 2024 -- Project meeting, selection of 8 sites for intensive survey

October-December 2024 -- Research on selected sites, photographs, research on historic context

January-February 2025 -- Development of draft survey report and site inventory forms for 8 sites with evaluations of eligibility by Consultant

March 2025 -- Review of draft survey report by SHPO and HPC

April-May 2025 -- Consultant revises survey report

June 2025 -- Submit final products including report, inventory forms, and CDs to the State

June 2025 -- HPC submits Request for Reimbursement with documentation to the State. Project is closed out.

June 2025 – Present findings of intensive survey at Preserve Iowa 2025.

### **2025 Preserve Iowa Summit in Muscatine, Iowa**

February 2024 -- CLG grant contract executed with State

February 2024 through May 2025 – Planning and coordination with Iowa SHPO to develop a quality Summit that will be attractive to and productive for Iowa CLG's and other historic enthusiasts throughout the state and possibly adjoining states.

June 2025 – Conduct the Summit in conjunction with Iowa SHPO.

### **Coordination with Local and State Preservation Plans**

*Explain how the proposed project will help fulfill the goals and objectives of your local preservation plan and the State Preservation Plan, Broadening Preservation's Reach. If this is part of a multi-phase project, describe the completed project segments and/or future ones that are linked to this project application. Each year's project must be able to stand alone. Funding of one year does not guarantee funding of future phases.*

Documentation and preservation of resources significant to the Underground Railroad in Muscatine and Muscatine County fits well within the mission statements of the City HPC: "This Commission safeguards the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage by preserving sites and districts of historic and cultural significance," and, "It is the mission of the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission to safeguard the County's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage by preserving sites of historic and cultural significance, which will stabilize and improve property values. It will also foster pride in the legacy of beauty and achievements of the past."

The proposed project is also complimentary to our Strategic Goals:

1. To promote educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through recognition, enhancement and perpetuation of sites of historical and cultural significance.
2. To develop and implement a system to coordinate evaluation and develop historic contexts and/or themes for preservation and promotional purposes.

3. To develop and implement an on-going public relations program to gain the attention, interest and cooperation of county residents in identifying and preserving historic sites and artifacts.

4. To maintain Certified Local Government (CLG) Standards.

Many of the properties in the Iowa Freedom Trail Inventory of Places already contribute to historic districts previously nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and Muscatine City/County Planning for Preservation plans, but do not have details of their impact on the Underground Railroad. Details about their specific role in the Underground Railroad, in addition to the architectural information we already have, will only add to our rich history and the public's understanding of these resources. This project will ensure that the societal and cultural impact of these resources is not lost.

The intensive survey of the Underground Railroad in Muscatine will specifically address one of the key objectives of the upcoming Iowa State Historic Preservation Plan (2023 - 2032) which is to address "minority/cultural stories that have been underrepresented." This survey will directly "amplify under-represented histories to tell the whole story of Iowa's past."

Finally, hosting the 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit will showcase the plentiful work that has been done by both city and county CLGs in the time since Muscatine last hosted the state's premier historical conference in 2011.

### **CLG Budget**

*CLG grants require at least that the applicant match equal a minimum of 40% of total project costs.*

*In the Budget Form below, please provide sufficient detail to demonstrate that your project can be completed for the amount requested. Be sure to provide estimate number of hours and unit costs where appropriate.*

*More information can be found in the Grant Guidelines.*

**1. Grant Request**

Enter total numeric dollar amount. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, commas or decimals.

20000

**2. Total Cash Match**

Enter total numeric dollar amount. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, commas or decimals.

3812

**3. Total In-Kind Match**

Enter total numeric dollar amount. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, commas or decimals.

12705

**4. Total Project Budget**

Enter total numeric dollar amount. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, commas or decimals.

36517

**5. Budget Form**

Detail the grant request, cash and in-kind match expenses by eligible category, including a brief description and the numeric dollar amount associated with each expense in the budget form below. Please refer to the CLG Grant Guidelines for allowable amounts for hourly rates, mileage, hotel, per diem, etc.

Expense Detail	Grant Request (\$)	Cash Match (\$)	In-Kind Match (\$)	Total (\$)
Consultant hours	20000	0	0	20000
Consultant mileage	0	312	0	312
Consultant per diem	0	0	0	0
Consultants copies, etc	0	500	0	500
Volunteers hours	0	0	11980	11980
Secretary	0	0	120	120
Administrator	0	0	360	360



Volunteer Travel	0	0	200	195
Volunteer printing	0	0	50	50
Materials and supplies (Preserve Iowa Summit Food & Beverage)	0	3000	0	3000

**CLG Past Grant Contract Performance**

*This section gives the applicant an opportunity to dispel any concerns on the part of the review panel that past problems will hinder this new effort.*

**1. GRANT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE JAPANESE GARDEN. GRANT #202207-10926**

- A. Successful implementation of the Grant of the Historic Preservation Plan for the Japanese Garden development in September 2020. The Historic Landscape Preservation Plan addresses the needs of the garden as a public space while also preserving its historic character through repair and replacement of missing, lost or damaged features.

The overall goal of the Historic Preservation Plan is to bolster the garden’s integrity by mitigating change while retaining its characteristic slopes, rockwork, circulation, water features, and other features, all of which provide the basis for its historic and Japanese character and feel. The process also involved the development of interpretive materials to educate the local community and visitors about the history of the garden and its importance as one of only a handful of remaining Japanese-style gardens in the Midwest that date to the pre-World War II era. The staff will hold community engagement sessions, presenting the history as well as the plans for the garden.

A consultant was hired to ensure that the landscape design firm follows the Department of the Interior’s Standards for historic properties. In addition, the project will involve excavation to look for lava rock, original to the garden, believed to be below the soil surface. Because of the extensive nature of the work, a professional archeologist will be involved.

This project is a rare undertaking in the field of historic landscape preservation in the

State of Iowa. It has been suggested that this project would be appropriate to present at a conference such as the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation or the Iowa Museum Association.

- B. Work was executed and completed within the guidelines submitted for the Grant and was done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Treatment of Cultural Landscapes and relevant Preservation Briefs. The Garden project was executed to tie in directly with the Muscatine Art Center's preservation and educational mission. The Muscatine Art Center facility is composed of the historic Laura Musser McColm house, a 1970s three-story building with two floors of exhibition space and a studio, a connecting building with displays as well as office space, and a historic carriage house where collections are housed. In 2016, the property was added to the National Historic Register of Historic Places with the Japanese Garden as a contributing component. The organization's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret and exhibit objects of historical and aesthetic importance including those associated with the historic property. While this mission to date has been mostly associated with objects inside the buildings, this Grant has been executed to ensure the protection of the aesthetic and historic objects that exist outdoors.

Since the Japanese garden was created in 1929, the larger property has seen many changes - the addition of two buildings and a new use as a museum. Gardens are also living entities that grow, mature, and decline and must be periodically renewed.

Updates and reports were submitted in a timely manner and the project manager met regularly with consultants to discuss the project milestones, and then more frequently as the project moved into a highly active phase.

The City of Muscatine Historic Preservation has also successfully used grants to plan, survey, research, nominate, and get the following historic districts successfully listed to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 2002 - 2003, Planning for Preservation Plan
- 2004 - 2005, Historic Downtown Survey (CLG Grant #04-05)
- 2006, Downtown Commercial District
- 2008, West Hill Historic District (CLG Grant #05-05)
- 2020, Fair Oaks Historic District

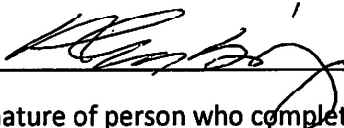
The most recent of these districts, the Fair Oaks Historic District, received a \$17,245 Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant from the State of Iowa in 2018 that the commission successfully executed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2020.

In 2005, the commission received a \$13,941 grant from the National Park Service that was awarded to the City of Muscatine by the State Historical Society of Iowa.


Letter of Authorization

November 29, 2023

Name of Certified Local Government: City of Muscatine

 11/29/2023  
Signature of person who completed this grant application Date

I hereby authorize the City of Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission to apply for a Certified Local Government Grant to do an intensive survey of the underground railroad in the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County as well as submit a request to host the Preserve Iowa Summit in 2025.

  
Bradley Bark (Dec 15, 2023 12:28 CST)  
Signature of Mayor Date

Brad Bark  
Printed Name of Elected Official

Signature: Cinda Hilger  
Cinda Hilger (Dec 12, 2023 16:16 CST)  
Email: [chilger@muscatineiowa.gov](mailto:chilger@muscatineiowa.gov)

Signature:  
Email: [chilger@muscatineiowa.gov](mailto:chilger@muscatineiowa.gov)