

Mission

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) has primary responsibility for development of the state's interesting the areas of the arts, history and other cultural matters through the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa, the State Office of Media Production; and the State Historical Society of Iowa.

State Historical Building: Master Planning Process Overview

The State Historical Building (SHB) in Des Moines, Iowa, houses the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and serves as the official historical repository for the State of Iowa with the State Historical Museum and the State Historical Library & Archives. Situated in the larger State of Iowa Capitol Complex, it is an important structure with multiple uses and changing needs that have occurred over the 25 years since its opening. The addition of a parking garage to the north of the building, physical damage and water infiltration, and proposed space changes including the addition of a visitor center, have and will continue to change the physical dynamics of how people interact with the building.

In 2012, the Department of Cultural Affairs began to look critically at its building and evaluate its long-term facility and space needs. The DCA initiated planning and research, and, working with DAS, began working with expert museum planners Lord Cultural Resources. Lord Cultural Resources compiled a Building Needs Assessment Study & Facility Strategy. The resulting analysis concluded that:

- There is lack of alignment between the DCA's mandate, staffing, budget and facilities. As a result, the building is oversized and overwhelming given the current DCA staff and budget.
- The building and its exhibitions are dated, no longer providing a relevant experience for cultural audiences.
- Cultural institutions have evolved since the 1980's, and as a result the SHB is no longer in line with sector best practice.
- Deferred maintenance and in some cases flaws in initial design and construction are deeply impacting building's ability to function as a cultural facility.

The Facility Strategy provided recommendations and cost estimations (prepared by the combined team of Lord Cultural Resources, DCA, DAS and Ryan Construction) for three options for the State Historical Building: first, to only complete the deferred maintenance, second, to undergo a partial renovation, and third, to demolish and rebuild on the same site. After DCA presented the options to the Governor and the Legislature, the partial renovation of the existing building was determined to be the best option: The team was asked to move ahead by more fully developing a high level project timeline and cash flow for the partial renovation option.

Now, the DCA has the opportunity to meaningfully consider its future—think about how it can best serve Iowans through its buildings and programs. The DCA will continue to work with expert museum planners Lord Cultural Resources and other industry professionals to develop a master plan to move the DCA from caretaker to catalyst. Over the next ten months, the DCA is engaging an interdisciplinary group of experts in museums, exhibits, collections, capital projects, audience development, and the visitor experience, to assist it in developing the plans for its future. The key conclusion of this planning is a vision for the DCA's future that is rooted in constituent service and creating a visible impact in Iowa; and a capital renovation project for the SHB that is fully feasible meaning that programmatic aspirations and building square feet are firmly rooted in and aligned to the funding realities.

This Master Planning process will be comprehensive and start with a research process aimed at understanding:

- Current and potential audiences for the DCA, the SHB and other DCA programs
- How other states manage cultural affairs—history, libraries, archives, film, cultural tourism
- Other state museums who provide strong visitor experiences with interactive learning and discovery while also attracting large resident and tourist audiences.

Early in the process the DCA will also be engaging and listening to Iowans to understand their interests in history, arts, and culture and understand how DCA can best serve their needs and interests. This will include:

- One-on-one interviews with key stakeholders
- Workshops aimed at specialty constituencies
- Large public meetings designed to understand the needs of the general public

Based upon the findings from the community discussions and the research, the DCA will then work to develop a strategy for its future and the SHB, its flagship building in Des Moines. This will include planning for a renovation to the 66-year-old building; development of a new visitor experience that includes fresh exhibits that encourage learning and participation; planning for current and new DCA programs to enhance service and impact to Iowa; and optimizing agency operations, structure, and financial model for the future.

A detailed collections analysis and digitization plan will be identified as compared to best practices. The studies will identify a plan to inventory, manage, store, care and feature the collections which include objects and artifacts, archival documents and library collections, manuscripts, newspapers and photographs. Through this process, the visitor experience will be developed and conceptual plans will identify potential scenarios for storage and display.

The planning effort will culminate with the presentation of a multi-year plan to move the DCA forward in renovating its building and realizing its broader vision. This plan will include capital costs for renovations and physical improvements, capital costs for new exhibits, and operational and project costs required to implement the plan. It will be presented to Governor Branstad, the Iowa Legislature, and the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations subcommittee.

The Iowa Legislature has been responsive to the need for improvements and appropriated funds for the purpose of State Historical Building exterior repairs and improvements, and for planning, design, construction and renovation. Meaningful capital and infrastructure improvements have had immediate impacts, and the DCA will continue to address building issues. The 2014 RIF Report lists the DCA appropriations and updates on expenditures for the FY12 \$1.2 Million, FY13 \$1.45 Million and FY14 \$1 Million RIF Appropriations.

Recognizing that the State Historical Building requires significant reinvestment and reinvention, the Iowa Legislature appropriated \$3.8 million in FY2014-2015 for *planning, design, renovation, and construction of the State Historical Building* in HF638. The key condition of this funding is that by October 15, 2014, DCA is required a report to the general assembly on *the results of the planning and study of the building including the use of and anticipated cash flow needs for the final building design*. The Master Planning will inform the architectural program plan, engineering and design which will begin in FY2015.

Master Planning Overview: Timeline

Start-Up & Pre-Planning	December-January
Research & Community Engagement	January-June
Start-Up Visit	Late January/Early February
Key Trends in Museums	Late January/Early February
Tours of Relevant Institutions (x5)	April, May, June
Community Engagement	
Community Leader Interviews (x40)	February-April
Focused Stakeholder Conversations (x20)	February-April
Town Hall Forums (x10)	February-April
Digital Media	February-April
Web-based Survey	April
Market & Contextual Analysis	February-March
Best Practices & Case Studies	February-April
Collection Analysis & Digitization Planning	February-June
Deliverables: Research Report & Needs Identification	April
<i>Collection Analysis, Care, & Access Strategy</i>	June
Strategy & Concept	June-August
Strategy Setting	June/July
Foundation Statements	July
Governance & Organizational Model	July
Public Program Strategy	July-August
Visitor Experience & Exhibition Strategy	June-August
Deliverables: DCA & SHB Concept Reports	August
Institutional Planning	August-October
Experience, Program, & Operations Planning	August
Attendance, Revenue, and Expense Projections	September
Implementation Plan	October
Deliverables: Institutional Plan	October
Architectural & Capital Planning	May-October
Design Team Selection	May-July
Architectural Design: Concept(s)	July-September
Space & Facility Program Refinement	August
Cost Estimation	September-October
Deliverables: SHB Facility Strategy	August
<i>Architectural Concepts</i>	September
<i>Capital Cost Estimates</i>	October
Fundraising	
Fundraising Consultant Selected	April
Fundraising Feasibility Study	May-August
Capital Campaign Planning	September-October
Campaign Kick-off Gala	December
Deliverables: Fundraising Feasibility Study	September
<i>Capital Campaign Case Statement, Research & Collateral</i>	November
External Communications & Presentations	
Press Release re:Planning & Engagement	February
Community Engagement Results Preview	June
Update to Governor and Legislature	October
Press Release re:Next Steps	October-November

RIIF Funding Updates - January 15, 2014

FY 2011-2013

\$1.2 Million appropriated to DAS (agency 335) for the purpose of State Historical Building Exterior Repairs & Improvements

Update: The initial planning by DAS and Keffer Overton for exterior repairs & improvements included estimates for repairing the granite at the perimeter of the building's base where panels were detaching or have loosened due to weather, normal wear and tear or have been damaged by force (car running into building). DAS and Keffer Overton developed three options to repair and reinforce the granite at the base of the building. The plan is to complete the first level of repair covering the most severely damaged granite and concrete, and areas that presented a public safety concern. DAS and Ryan Companies oversaw the exterior work, of which the majority was completed in 2013 and the remaining amounts will be completed in spring of 2014. The exterior work is expected to cost just over \$900,000.

In addition, the DCA initiated Program & Planning, and working with DAS, DCA contracted with museum expert planners Lord Cultural Resources. Lord Cultural Resources compiled a Building Needs Assessment Study & Facility Strategy which provided recommendations and cost estimations (prepared by the combined team of Lord Cultural Resources, DCA, DAS and Ryan Construction) for three options for the State Historical Building: first, to only complete the deferred maintenance, second, to undergo a partial renovation, and third, to demolish and rebuild on the same site. After DCA presented the options to the Governor and the Legislature, the partial renovation of the existing building was determined to be the best option. The team was asked to move ahead by more fully developing a high level project timeline and cash flow for the partial renovation option.

Balance: To date of the \$1.2 Million for FY12, \$1,195,520 has been expended and encumbered; \$4,480 remains.

FY2012-2013

\$1.45 Million appropriated to DCA (agency 259) for planning, design, construction and renovation of the State Historical Building.

Update: DAS and DCA worked in partnership with Ryan Companies to contract with Slingshot Architecture to develop plans for minor improvements to the State Historical Building Atrium space. The Museum Atrium space had significant water damage from leaking skylights and outdated drainage systems, and as a result, damaged exhibits, floors and infrastructure. Long overdue improvements were made to a portion of the damaged floor, some lighting and electrical wiring was updated, some exhibits were removed, and walls were repaired and painted to improve the aesthetic of the space while making it more welcoming to the public. The DCA made additional improvements to the auditorium, enhanced the exhibit entrances to better introduce Museum visitors to the exhibition galleries, improved navigational signage and created a destination for customer service with a new visitor desk.

The team will continue to make improvements that will create easy-to-navigate spaces, identify efficiencies to better serve the public, solve collections management (climate and storage) issues, positively impact the visitor experience for the next 3-5 years, and support the overall renovation plans.

With coordination by DAS, DCA can maximize the expertise of Lord Cultural Resources by continuing on into comprehensive Master Planning. Master Planning will be completed in phases in 2014 that include Research & Community Engagement, Visitor Experience & Exhibition Strategy, Institutional & Business Planning, Architectural & Capital Planning, Fundraising and External Community Engagement.

Balance: Of the \$1.45M appropriated to DCA for planning, design, construction and renovation of the State Historical Building in FY13, \$1,289,008 has been expended and encumbered; \$160,992 remains.

FY 2013-2014

\$1 Million appropriated to DCA (agency 259) for planning, design, construction and renovation of the State Historical Building.

Balance: Of the \$1 Million appropriated to DCA for planning, design, construction and renovation of the State Historical Building for FY14, \$177,440 has been expended and encumbered for master planning; \$822,560 remains.

FY 2014-2015

\$3.8 Million appropriated to DCA (agency 259) for planning, design, construction and renovation of the State Historical Building. By October 15, 2014, the department will submit a report DCA is required to submit a report to the general assembly on the results of the planning and study of the building including the use of and anticipated cash flow needs for the final building design. The Master Planning will inform the architectural program plan, engineering and design.