



January 7, 2022

Honorable Mayor Haila and City Council Members,

The Ames History Museum (AHM) Board of Directors requests that \$150,000 be included in the City of Ames' budget for the Museum's expansion project. These dollars would leverage funds from various public grant programs, corporate grants/donations, and individual donors. As an example, State of Iowa Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) dollars require a contribution from the city where a project is located.

The Museum project consists of three components: rehabilitation and restoration of the recently purchased historic Pantorium Building at 410 Douglas, construction of new gallery space on the east side of the current museum, and remodeling of the existing museum building 416 Douglas. This project will provide five times the current exhibit space and include a new community gathering space. Cost of the project is estimated to be \$4,250,000. A fundraising campaign by AHM began in November of 2021.

The Museum project will contribute to the enhancement of the downtown area as a vibrant destination bringing additional visitors to downtown and the greater Ames community. AHM is excited to contribute to the redevelopment occurring along the 5th Street corridor. Cultural attractions are increasingly recognized as building blocks to expanding and retaining a stable workforce in addition to attracting out-of-town visitors.

If Council is interested, a contribution of this size opens the door for the City of Ames to be a named donor while supporting the overall project. A good fit for naming may be the component of the planned permanent exhibit featuring "People of Ames." This exhibit feature will celebrate people from all backgrounds who have shaped Ames.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for consideration of this request and for the many, many things you do to serve the citizens of Ames.

AHM Capital Campaign Co-chairs,

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