

Iowa APA announces recipients of 2007 Iowa Planning Awards

Each year, the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association (Iowa APA) asks its more than 350 members to nominate plans, projects, and individuals deserving recognition by the professional organization. Award nominees can be recognized in as many as fifteen categories ranging from planning excellence to distinguished leadership. Based on an independent review by a jury of professional planners from the Minnesota Chapter of the APA, four nominees have been selected to receive Iowa APA Awards in 2007.



Karin Franklin, AICP – Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner

Franklin has worked in the City of Iowa City Planning Department since 1980. While in Iowa City, she has served as an Associate Planner, Senior Planner, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, and most recently, Director of Planning. Franklin has been instrumental in developing the city's Office of Neighborhood Services, Iowa City Public Art

Program, and in reorienting downtown Iowa City as a residential, entertainment, and fine arts center. Iowa City Mayor Pro-Tem, Regina Bailey said, "Karin has left her mark on our community in a way that has added to its vibrancy, its sense of place, and its beauty." Franklin has both Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Iowa.

For more information, contact Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development, City of Iowa City, 319-356-5232, or email at jeff-davidson@iowa-city.org.



City of Dubuque Planning Services – Planning Excellence Award for Implementation

The City of Dubuque Planning Services Department is being honored for successful implementation of their Port of Dubuque Master Plan. Prior to adoption of the plan, Dubuque's riverfront was an area plagued by environmental issues and undervalued properties. The City of Dubuque adopted the master plan in March 2002 focusing on five

primary objectives to a successful redevelopment of the Mississippi riverfront. Today, the city has made significant progress on their objectives. The new riverfront is home to increased tourism opportunities and high-quality jobs that helped Dubuque be selected as an All-America City by the National Civic League.

For more information, contact David Johnston, Assistant Planner, Planning Services Department, City of Dubuque, 563-589-4210, or email at djohnson@cityofdubuque.org.



LADCO Development, Inc. – Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice

LADCO Development is being honored for their work on the Village of Ponderosa in West Des Moines. The Village of Ponderosa is a carefully planned neo-traditional village district containing mixed-use buildings for retail, office, and residential spaces. LADCO utilized extensive stakeholder participation through the planning process seeking input from West Des Moines city planners, area homeowners, and design charettes. The plan is built around forty acres of open space, a 2.25 acre lake, and pedestrian pathways to help replace vehicle-oriented suburban living with proximity and convenience. West Des Moines Mayor, Steven Gaer said, “LADCO Development has worked very closely with city planning, business leaders, and the public community to gain input and work cooperatively in shaping the overall design and plan of the village.”

For more information, contact Tamera Hanson, Marketing Communications Director, LADCO Development, Inc., 515-278-8505, or email at thanson@ladcodevelopment.com.



RDG Planning and Design and the City of Marshalltown – Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice

RDG Planning and Design and the City of Marshalltown are being honored for their work on the Marshalltown City Center Plan. With plans to replace the historical Carnegie library and significant investment occurring west of the Marshall County Courthouse, community members worried about the fate of the eastern portion of downtown. Especially unique to this project was its strategy to maintain viable surrounding areas to an already vibrant downtown. By involving nearly 100 stakeholder groups in the planning discussion through public design studios and open houses, RDG and the steering committee were able to produce community ownership of the final plan. Marshalltown Housing and Community Development Director, Michelle Spohnheimer said, “We continue to utilize the City Center Plan as a tool encouraging new development, reuse of existing structures, business improvement, transportation enhancements, and overall community betterment. We look forward to the future of Marshalltown and the great things that will be developing.”

For more information, contact Gary Lozano, AICP, Partner, RDG Planning and Design, 515-288-3141, or email at glozano@rdgusa.com