

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT** 



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our mission

To drive economic, workforce and population growth strategies and to help businesses succeed.

## Historic Growth. The Strongest Core Yet.

Membership is at the core of what we do, as the Economic Alliance wouldn't be standing today if it wasn't for our loyal members. While we continuously exceed our new member goal year over year, 2023 is now carved in history as it marks the greatest membership growth in the 13-year histolry of the Economic Alliance.

163 new members proudly added the Economic Alliance to their list of partnerships within their organization. Welcoming so many new members has not only been rewarding, but a reminder of the important work being done within the walls of the Economic Alliance.

In addition to a record setting number of new members, we also continue to see higher than industry average member retention. Nearly 96% of our 1,196 members renewed their membership for 2023 whereas chambers across the country average around 80%. To us, this is much more than just a number, it is a true sign that the business community wants to unify, connect and work together more than ever. We value being that connective piece and pride ourselves on creating relationships between members of all sizes. After all, our purpose is that we are here to grow, here to serve and here to help businesses succeed. So, thank you for believing in us and allowing us to help your business succeed.

163

New Members in 2023

96%

Member Retention

83%

Member Engagement

100%

Member Outreach

The Solid Waste Agency is proud to be a member of the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and appreciates the hard work of its staff and the benefits they provide to their membership.

-Joe Horaney Communications Director, Cedar Rapids / Linn County Solid Waste Agency



## **Our Commitment to Civility**

The Economic Alliance is committed to increasing civility in politics and achieving bipartisan results. We expect our elected officials to argue their perspective passionately, civilly, and of course, respectfully. But when that debate is done, there need to be solutions that address the challenges our communities face. Any long-lasting, high-impact policy comes from having bipartisan support, and that's why we continue to champion a message of civility.

In 2023, we delivered that message and solutions more than five times to state and federal officials. Whether that was delivered in person, in the various forms of media or to remind our members to also echo this message in their meetings with policymakers, the message was reiterated.

We believe the business community holds the answers to the issues that challenge our communities forward. The issues we promote have vast bipartisan support, even as we represent a diverse membership with a variety of political beliefs. In the end, they all agree that focusing on solving our challenges should be our priority. By focusing on being part of the solution, we promote finding common ground on the issues that will grow lowa and help us prepare for a more promising future.

By focusing on our common interests, not political divisions, we can address our current needs and help build a more sustainable, equitable future for our region, lowa and the nation. As every good business leader knows, leadership means coming up with solutions that bring about results. The Economic Alliance remains committed to leading by example.

# The Economic Alliance Takes on Washington, D.C.

2023 brought the return of our regional business community traveling together to Washington, D.C. to speak to elected officials on Capitol Hill, thanks in part to the new American Airlines direct flight from the Eastern Iowa Airport (CID) to Reagan National Airport (DCA). In addition to meetings with our federal delegation, and partnership with the Economic Alliance and Greater Iowa City, Inc., CID hosted a reception on Capitol Hill. Our goal was two-fold. First, we wanted to show appreciation to American Airlines for their investment in CID and the region, and second, spread the word throughout the region and to those living in DC with a connection to Eastern Iowa, that you can now travel to and from DC in just over two hours. Over 75 professionals joined us to celebrate, including alums of the University of Iowa and Coe College, as we advocated for regional priorities with the federal delegation. An important piece of the trip was spent building relationships with colleagues from both ends of the Corridor and in between. By showing our federal delegation, staff and DC-based lowans our region is cohesive and collaborative, we will continue to achieve great things. We're already getting ready for the 2024 trip!

That direct flight we so long advocated for also came in handy when Economic Alliance Executive Director Doug Neumann and Public Policy Strategist, Barbra Solberg joined their colleagues from around the state for the lowa Chamber Alliance (ICA)'s first ever venture to Washington



D.C. to advocate as a group for business-friendly federal policy. The ICA is an advocacy coalition of the largest Chambers and economic development groups in lowa.

During this three-day trip, ICA members went to Capitol Hill to advocate with federal officials on workforce solutions around Visa reform, small business and entrepreneurship support, the need for a Farm Bill and local community infrastructure projects.

The group capped off the days of meetings by hosting a "Taste of Iowa" reception sponsored by the State Society of Iowa and the University of lowa, with over 150 attendees including Members of Congress, Congressional staff, and other lowans now living in the DC area. Each community had a table to highlight gems from their part of the state. Cedar Rapids and Iowa City joined to create one table to showcase why our region is the best in the state! With bourbon and wine from Cedar Ridge, beer from Iowa Brewing and Big Grove, hard cider from Wilson's Orchard and goodies from Almost Famous Popcorn, the Amanas, Frontier Co-op, General Mills, Quaker Oats and Raining Rose, plus University of Iowa give-a-ways, our table proved one of the most popular at the reception. Not one item was left behind!



Back home in lowa, 2023 brought new faces to the lowa legislature after redistricting and elections resulted in one-third of the legislature being new. 39 new Representatives and 14 new Senators, including 8 new from our region alone, made for many hours of getting to know folks. The Economic Alliance spent countless hours in Des Moines and back in the region building new relationships and advocating for policies that are friendly to our businesses. In 2023, we saw success in:





Creating the lowa Office of Apprenticeships and Youth Employment that will expand work-based learning.

lowa's economic growth will result in our corporate tax rate dropping to 7.1% from 8.4% for tax year 2024.

Iowa joined the Inter-state Compact for Mental Health which allows employees more access to mental health services.

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We provided opportunities for our members to get to know new legislators and mingle with returning ones by hosting one of our most popular events in the metro area twice a year – Policy on the Rocks. In Des Moines we held our first "ICR Legislative Night", a twist on our over 20-year tradition of lobbying leaders in Des Moines. At the reception, held near the Capitol, we welcomed legislators from across the state to join us for a night of beverages and food from our region. And yes, we continued the tradition of bringing 200 kolaches to legislators, of course straight from Dostal in the Czech Village! Who says kolaches are just for breakfast? They paired nicely with beer from Big Grove Brewery!





## **Breaking Ground on Economic Impact**

2023 started off with two major expansions with our large employers. Collins Aerospace invested \$22 million in a modernization facility that will develop and manufacture microchips and International Paper announced a major \$103 million energy conversion project. Local smaller companies like Conveyor Engineering and Lil' Drug Store, both announced \$5 million expansion plans and the investment in the community didn't stop there. Other projects that were announced in 2022 and finished in 2023 were Rexco, JRS Pharma, Redstar Yeast, and Divine Engineering to name a few.

While current hometown businesses continue to invest in our community, a new business broke ground mid year. Sub-Zero, a high-end appliance manufacturer from Madison, WI, broke ground on a massive 610,000 square foot building with an investment of over \$140 million. This addition will add over 192 new jobs, with 127 considered high-waged, to our growing community.

#### **Future Horizons**

The pipeline is still hot as companies continue to have their sights set for the Cedar Rapids metro. Manufacturers in the solar panel, electric vehicle battery, and microchip industries continue to gauge interest in our community for our available land, access to a variety of key necessary utilities, and impressive transportation system. The metro is also seeing an increase of interest in bio technology and bio manufacturing companies as Cedar Rapids is a sweet spot due to the abundance of raw material and processing capabilities.

## **Partners Helping Partners**

The economic development team continues to partner with a variety of different stakeholders to help make landing businesses here turn from an idea to a possibility. Having partners such as utility companies, local city governments, and open communication with Greater lowa City, allows the economic development team to find the best solution for interested businesses. Collaboration will be key for 2024 as interest in the Cedar Rapids metro continues to rise.











## **Envisioning a New Era for Downtown Cedar Rapids**

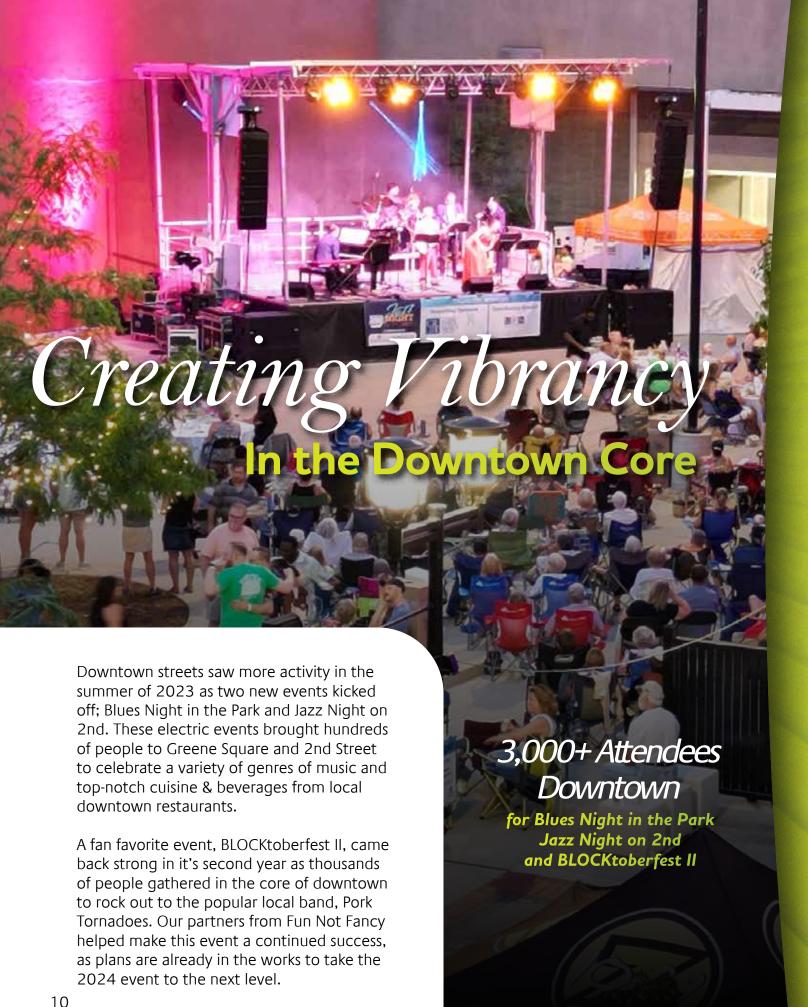


A new Downtown Vision Plan was adopted in late 2023 which provides a series of catalytic projects that will take the downtown core to new levels. The City of Cedar Rapids, Economic Alliance, Downtown District, and 2001 Development Corporation began this project in October 2022 and selected Progressive Urban Management Associates (PUMA), out of Denver, CO, as their consultants to lead them in envisioning what the future of downtown Cedar Rapids could become. Over the course of 14 months, the consultants gathered feedback from nearly 200 stakeholders and 1,400 Cedar Rapids residents through an online survey. Based on the data, the consultants not only provided key projects ideas like turning 2nd Ave bridge and 3rd Street into occasional festival streets, creating regularly programmed community events, building more infrastructure to connect neighboring districts, making downtown a bicycling destination, and many more, but they also included a detailed initiatives plan on who should

lead the specific projects and other entities that could get involved. Bringing the public and private sector together to make this plan come to life is they key it in its success. An implementation committee will be created in early 2024 to ensure progress is being made on this Downtown Vision Plan.

### **Building Upon the Brand**

Downtown Cedar Rapids received a huge online presence as a new website launched in early 2023. DowntownCR.org is the one stop shop for residents and visitors to find trendy places to shop, unique restaurants to dine, thrilling experiences to endure, and top-notch service providers to visit. This user-friendly website will continue to be the home of all the amazing things to do and see while in the core of the Cedar Rapids metro.



## **Building the** Workforce

## **ImpactCR**

Getting young professionals involved in the community is a key retention tool for the Cedar Rapids metro area and important to the growth of our thriving community. ImpactCR, a young professionals networking group, hosted over a dozen events around the Cedar Rapids metro and showed future leaders this is a great place to get involved in their community, build their own network, find volunteer opportunities and experience what makes our community great. In 2023, 318 young professionals engaged in the 9 ImpactCR events held throughout the year.

The highly engaged ImpactCR Board hosted reoccurring networking socials to provide networking opportunities to connect our future leaders with local non-profit organizations, our arts and culture scene, and the ability to create relationships with some of the top executives in our area. It's a great way for younger employees to get engaged with other business professionals outside of their organization as well as make connections and friendships.

## IgniteICR

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, Greater Iowa City, and MEDCO's joint young professionals initiative, Ignite ICR, wrapped its fourth season this past July with an "end of the summer" dinner at local establishments across the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids (ICR) region. More than 365 interns from 45 companies took part in a three-part series that started in 2019 to help hundreds of interns who flock to the region every summer better engage, experience, and indulge in what the area has to offer.

Workforce attraction and retention continue to be a top priority for the Economic Alliance, especially working with the current college student population. Showing a constantly growing, vibrant community with a favorable



cost of living sets the groundwork for these students to picture a life where they can live, work, and play in the ICR region. The enthusiasm of these interns to stay or come back to the region after completing their academic endeavors, are indicative of future growth of the corridor and we appreciate all local businesses and eateries that have played a part in ICR lowa's forward momentum.

## **Building the Workforce (Cont.)**

## **City View**

New occupants filled the Economic Alliance's first floor in 2023 as lowa's first magnet high school, City View, became permanent residents. Adding a school into a professional setting is a unique concept, but integrating the business and education communities is critical to the future workforce. The Economic Alliance is proud to partner with City View and connect its members to the student body.

### Live Here, Work Here

A complete series of "Life is Good Here" videos were released in the summer of 2023 to showcase the countless amenities our community has to offer. From highlighting events, our numerous local restaurants, to the low cost of living, these videos offer a sneak peak on why life is truly better in the Cedar Rapids metro. All the videos were shared in a workforce specific marketing campaign which gained thousands of new viewers to the social media pages and website. These videos, along with a variety of other talent attraction resources, can be found on our website for your recruitment needs.

#### **Collaborative Growth Initiative**

Growing the workforce is a key initiative in most communities, but a handful of Cedar Rapids stakeholders partnered together in early 2023 to turn this dream into reality. The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, City of Cedar Rapids, City of Marion, and City of Hiawatha joined forces to spearhead the "Collaborative Growth Initiative" The goal of this initiative is to create a plan, based around data, to grow the population for the Cedar Rapids metro area. The partnering organizations hired a consultant to conduct the research and create a marketing plan with a goal to begin implementation in mid 2024.

#### **Inclusive ICR**

For the second year in a row, a free DEI index was offered to the business community to help them assist in their DEI goals with over 80% of the assessments from small businesses in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids (ICR) corridor. Upon completion of the index, a unique report was generated along with access to an extensive resource library at no cost to the organization. In order to reach a broader audience, InclusiveICR took part in The Gazette's Iowa Ideas conference held in October 2023. Nearly 600 attendees participated in the DEI sessions and replays of the recorded presentation continued to be played on a weekly basis. The ongoing visibility and sharing of the video recordings are crucial for the continued critical conversations in 2024.





## **Supporting Our Members**

## Getting Down to Business. Every Way.

It is important to the Economic Alliance to offer many opportunities for members to engage, learn and connect with one another. In 2023, Let's Get Down to Business had it's second season of programming and saw great success. The series offers a variety of programming designed to help business professionals and entrepreneurs grow in specified trending areas, and create collaborative atmospheres for people to network from industries of all kinds. This series had eleven sessions, that ranged from learning to adapt to AI to exploring new hiring trends. This year also introduced a new four series segment titled Grow with Google. This series was led and presented by the Economic Alliance staff, offering important information on how businesses can have a recognizable web presence on the powerhouse search engine, Google. Over the course of year, more than 300 professionals from our member businesses attended the 15 total sessions.

## **Creating Connections**

Creating meaningful connections among people within our business community is one of the greatest interactions the Economic Alliance can be a part of. It is important to the Economic Alliance to offer many opportunities for members to engage, learn and connect with one another.

Twelve BizMixes were hosted in 2023, a monthly networking event hosted by a member business, where they're able to showcase their brick-and-mortar location and invite the entire Economic Alliance membership base to attend. This year, 600 members attended the monthly events. On a smaller scale, but no less important, quarterly New Member Mixers are held at local establishments inviting freshly joined Economic Alliance members to network together in a relaxed and comfortable environment. These four mixers were held this year with an average of 45 in attendance, a celebratory number as it was largely attended based off our record breaking membership growth year.

Connections happen when people interact with one another, but that may come in the form of face-to-face or a virtual handshake. The Economic Alliance digital communities continued to grow throughout 2023. Our efforts in keeping a strong digital presence echoed into the second year of the LinkedIn Newsletter titled "The Inside Scoop". This year readership rose to 3,055 subscribers and continue to grow on weekly basis. The Economic Alliance LinkedIn community has grown to 6,000 followers, nearly doubling since 2021. We know where our audience needs us, and we are committed to listening and providing news and information that meets our members where they are.





## 40 Years. A Legendary Milestone for LFS.

Leadership for Five Seasons (LFS) had another monumental year, with a milestone celebration that touched on 40 years since the program was founded. LFS is a premier community leadership program that focuses on developing top talent through a formal leadership curriculum. LFS provides participants with community knowledge, connections and inspiration to make a positive impact in the community. Participants are selected from area businesses, public and private agencies, civic and other organizations.

While LFS has been successful at creating leaders in the community, another purpose for emerging leaders to participate in the sought after program is to give a broader knowledge of the community they live in. Many companies use LFS as a workforce retention tool because it ignites passion in the participants and makes them feel a sense of belonging in the city they live in.

The Adult LFS class graduated its 40th class in 2023. With being a milestone class, the group wanted to do monumental things, including their class project. The Adult class held an 80's themed fundraiser titled Party with a Purpose and raised \$40,000 for Tanager and Foundation 2 Crisis Services, the most money raised by any LFS class to date. In addition to the fundraiser, their service day was spent at

Foundation 2 Crisis Services working together to build an 18-hole mini golf course for Putts for Prevention, and helping move their administrative office.

To celebrate and reflect on the success of four decades of the LFS program, an LFS 40th Anniversary celebration was held on June 1 at the Double Tree by Hilton Cedar Rapids.

210 alumni showed up for the event, and of that group at least one representative from 32 of the 40 classes was present. It was an evening full of reflection, celebration, connection and unity of leaders from the last forty years.

The Youth LFS class graduated 32 students in their 29th class this spring and chose Waypoint to support for their class project, where they did administrative service in addition to deep cleaning a shelter and interacting with the KidsPoint daycare children.

The Executive LFS Class is a unique program that kicked off in August, introducing a select group of seven participants and their partners/spouses to our community's leaders, opportunities, and unique offerings while allowing the executives to build upon their local career network.





## **Local Mindset Connects Community**

The Economic Alliance continues to proudly champion a local-first mindset as a year-round initiative. 2023 rode the momentum of the last several years, making sure that opportunities were continuously created to support local businesses, vendors, entrepreneurs and organizations.

## Cedar Rapids Restaurant Week

The Economic Alliance was proud to support 21 local restaurants and establishments for the 2023 Cedar Rapids Restaurant Week. Back by popular demand to further showcase the versatile local eats, the "week" again extended over two weekends, spanning ten days instead of the traditional seven. Restaurants saw record-breaking days of sales, sold-out specials within hours

and community support that helped them keep their lights on and doors open. The Economic Alliance also engaged foodies community-wide by engaging more than 650 Restaurant Week Insiders in email marketing efforts to highlight the efforts of the highly anticipated local event. Custom Restaurant Week punch cards and long-sleeve branded shirts helped patrons interact with restaurants in a fun way, gave our sponsors extra exposure and made participating in the local food-fest a treat for all.

## Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market & Market After Dark

The Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market was back for its 18th season. The 8-market season kicked off in May and spanned through the seasonal Fall market in September. Attendance numbers returned to pre-pandemic





highs with an average of 13,000 people per market. The community always shows up strong to support all the creative, talented, hard-working 150+ vendors that bring one of the Midwest's largest farmers markets to life. The iconic Market After Dark also returned to the streets of downtown on August 26. The evening was full of energy, hosting a main stage, two sub-stages, and a DJ lot that supported musical talents throughout the night. The night market hosted 100 vendors and more than 45,000 people from the community. Between map foot print, vendor count and community attendance, it marked one of the largest night markets since it's debut in 2015.

## Local - It's a Lifestyle.

This was the year of the 319. Supporting locally owned businesses and helping them succeed is an important piece of the Economic Alliance's mission. On March 19, 2023, the Economic Alliance kicked off the Buy 319 campaign. The goal? To get local businesses to support local businesses. A call for businesses was to take an online pledge committing to changing one of their internal vendors or services to a local option. Our membership directory is home to over 1,100 local member businesses, all located within our 319 region. The hope is to continue to keep dollars circulating right here in our region. The campaign ran for two months, and saw more than 100 businesses pledge. Each month following, a success story was released featuring a pledging business and sharing how they are committed to Buy 319 and the

changes they had made and hope to in the future. It was a powerful call to action - and it's working.

In an effort to further showcase all the local establishments, businesses, entertainment, arts and culture the community has to offer, *Buy 319*, 'tis always the season, was the holiday rendition of supporting local. Nine itineraries were created and shared across Economic Alliance communications in the months of November and December. These itineraries each highlighted a member from the Business Support Innovation Council, as they shared what a full weekend of living local looked like for them from restaurants, to shows, to museums and more.

Above all, sharing stories about our members was a driving force for 2023. Without the support of members, the Economic Alliance simply would not exist. Showcasing the names, faces and stories of those who make up the core of the community was and will continue to be of importance to Economic Alliance efforts. More than 28 member stories were written and shared highlighting the story behind the story of members who overcame challenges, had celebratory growth, championed local and led economic impact. It is the stories behind the businesses, the faces and voices behind the names that create the vibrant and diverse scene of our community, and it's an honor to share their stories.





One of my favorite events is the Farmers Market.
Running into people I know, enjoying the community together and watching it blossom."

-Stephanie Kubik
Owner, Ellabank Blossoms

## Looking Good: Enhanced Communications





LIFE IS BETTER HERE

## Life is Better Here...C Out for Yourself!

Ready for a change of pace? Consider a change in plac own your home (with a yard), forget about that long co winning public schools. Want a better quality of life? W

Need more proof? We got you! Check out why publicat that life IS better here!

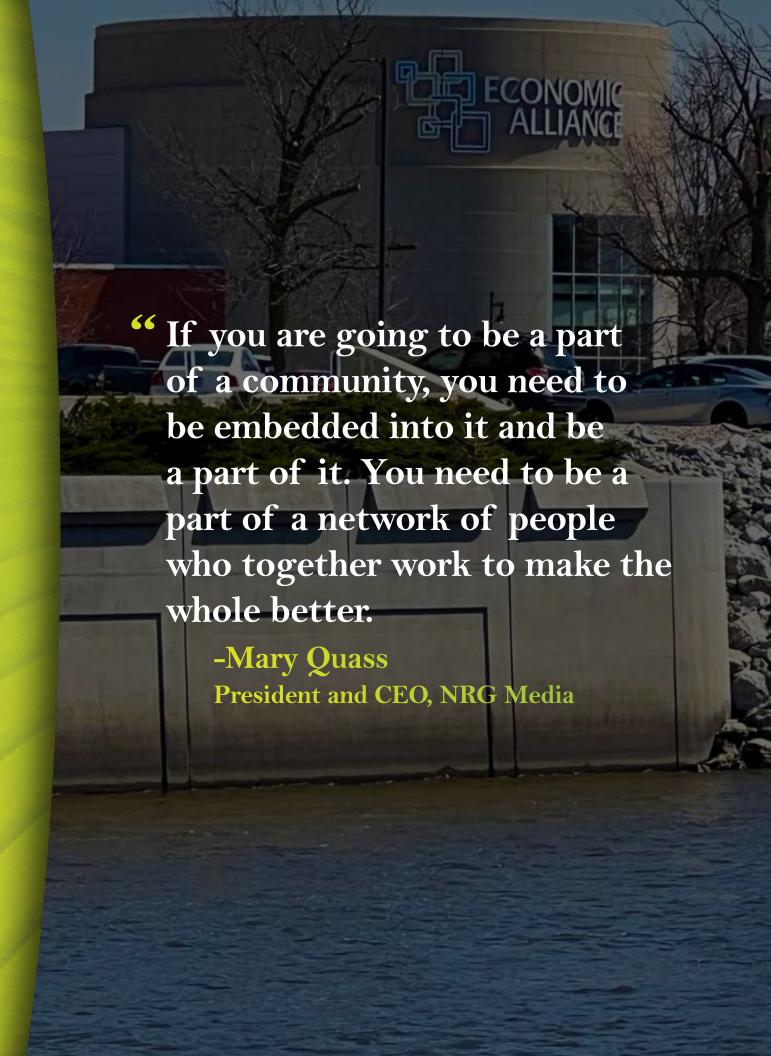
Top 100 Places to Live in the

City

City in America by Wal

The Economic Alliance was proud to unveil a fresh face in the digital sector in January 2023 - the new Economic Alliance website at cedarrapids.org. Without getting into too many technical terms and details, a project of this size is a true labor of love. In some way or another each person on staff played a critical roll in getting this project completed in partnership with a local member. It was an "all hands on deck" project, that now boasts everything that the Economic Alliance embodies and serves as an informational hub.

When we are seen, so are you. The lead driver for the new website and enhanced communications, was that members would remain the star of it all. It is a one-stop-shop housing the membership directory, community and business events, news and stories among many other important pieces. It stays true to all our core functions, and serves as the main information hub for all that we do.



## **Business Support Innovation Council**

**Dan Bensema** Real Business Value

Allan Boettger

The University of Iowa Pomerantz Career Center

The Heart Agency
Cherie Edilson

Member Marketplace
Kay Fisk

Cat Cantrill

Barbara Hames Hames Homes LLC

Tom Hughes Hughes Nursery & Landscaping

Ed Leighton-Dick

Kingfisher Technologies
Michelle Owens

Slingshot25
Sammy Petersen (Vice Chair)

**Kevin Platz** 

Bloomsbury Farm

Cedar Rapids Area Association of REALTORS

**Isaac Reis** Atlas Chiropractic

Patti Seda Seda Consulting

Jamie Seifken (Chair) Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery

Christina Springman
The Map Room

Heidi Steffen TitanTV, Inc.

**Tasha Stone** Stepping Stones

Susan Tyrrell

Hands Up Communications

Eric Van Kerckhove Allegra Marketing Print Mail

Jason Vestweber Skogman Companies **Shelby Williams** 

JCMR

Kyle Zimmerman

Guide Wealth Partners

**Community Development Innovation Council** 

Ryan Avila-Burillo Chophouse Downtown

Anthony Betters
New Bohemian Innovation
Collaborative / NewBoCo

Ryan Bosch

Equiatable/Bosch Financial

Derek Crockett BLX, Inc.

**Katie Curtis** 

Foundation 2 Crisis Services

Paul Desmond
Form Function Studio

Dina Dusek

Armstrong Development Co.

Gary Ficken

Bimm Ridder Sportswear

Eric Hanson KZIA-FM Z102.9

Cale Henderson
Cliff's Dive Bar & Grill

Nathan Kass Fehr Graham Mike Kurek HDR Inc

Angie Lippe The ESCO Group

Aaron Loan

Acumen
Jill Mast

de Novo Marketing

Nicole Mead Creative Planning LLC

Jessica Montgomery (Vice Chair)
The Metropolitan Group

Craig Montz (Chair)

Miron Construction Co., Inc.

Josh Moore

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

**Katie Ripke** 

Mercy Medical Center

Cecilia Rokusek

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

**Brandi Sawyer** 

The Olympic South Side Theater

**Monica Vernon** 

The District - Czech Village/New Bohemia

**Lori Wiles** *Wiles Design Group* 

Amanda Zhorne

Craft'd

Economic Development Innovation Council

Brad Canfield CCB Packaging

Patrice Carroll

ImOn Communications, LLC

Kim Downs
City of Marion
Vince Ellison
Benchmark, Inc.

Eric Engelmann
ISA Ventures

Timothy Faughn
Skyworks Solutions, Inc.
Vria Culiak (Chair)

Kris Gulick (Chair) EdgeData/Kris G. Gulick CPA

Bre Horstman

South Slope Communications

**Dean Houdeshell** *New Leader Manufacturing* 

**Dennis Jordan** *Alliant Energy - Interstate Power and Light Co.* 

**Tim Kintner** *Ohnward Bank & Trust* 

Jeff Leonard
Weitz Industrial LLC

Robb Loftsgard
Bankers Trust Company

Cydney Lovell (Vice Chair)
ITC Midwest

Shawn Lueth Anderson Bogert Nancy Lynk

U.S. Bank
Tyler McCarville

Kirkwood Community College

**Gavin McGrath** 

McGrath Buick/GMC/Cadillac

Marcus Meyer Inteconnex

Danielle Monthei Van Meter Inc.

Stefanie Munsterman Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission

Dave Parmley
First Interstate Bank
Jessica Roberts

Northwestern Mutual
Hailee Sandberg

Iowa State Extension and Outreach

GSTC Logistics, Inc.
Tara Welsch
Collins Aerospace
Brett Wilson

Luke Schmidt

Bayer Crop Science

**Large Investor Council** 

Jasmine Almoayyed Kirkwood Community College

Jen Bennett
Shive-Hattery Inc
Luke Bishop

BAE

Pete Bittorf
General Mills Operations, Inc.

Eric Dalton

Physicians Clinic of Iowa

**Laurie Dawley** 

Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P.L.C.

**Chris DeWolf** 

Lil' Drug Store Products, Inc.

Cindy Dietz
Collins Aerospace
Becky Ditch

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue

Shield of Iowa

Robert Garrison

Ingredion

Jack Gonder

Bankers Trust Company

Michelle Niermann UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital

Jesse Hammes Weitz Industrial

Zach Harris

Transamerica Companies

Lynn Hartman

Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC

Kelly Homewood
The Gazette

Julie Johnson Hall-Perrine Foundation

Dennis Jordan

Alliant Energy - Interstate Power and Light Co.

James Klein

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Cole Knudsen

Quaker Foods & Snacks a Division of Pepsico Inc.

Kathryn Kunert MidAmerican Energy Company

Kevin Leidwinger UFG Insurance Martin Lenss

The Eastern Iowa Airport

Kelly Lind-Daufeldt U.S. Bank

Scott Lindgren

Nordstrom

**Greg Luerkens** *Amana Society* 

**Dennis Marks** *City of Hiawatha* 

Lura McBride Van Meter Inc.

Bill McCartan
Bradley & Riley PC
Brian Mullins

ADM-Corn Processing Division

Gene Neighbor Farmers State Bank

Mark Nolte

GreenState Credit Union
Tiffany O'Donnell

City of Cedar Rapids
Thom Pritz

KCRG-TV9 / Gray Television

Dan Pulis
Cargill

Tim Quinn
Mercy Medical Center

**Chip Reeves** 

MidWestOne Financial Group
Charlie Rohde

Dakota Red/King's Material Inc.

Kirsten Running-Marquardt
Linn County Board of Supervisors

**Hunter Skogman** *Skogman Companies* 

John Smith CRST

Jason Smith
TrueNorth Companies LLC

Dave Sorg
OPN Architects
Scott Stimart

ImOn Communications

Terry Sullivan

Linn County Rural Electric

Cooperative

Sandra Vaughan

Collins Community Credit Union

Ryan Waller

City of Marion

**Rick White** 

HR Green

**Dennis Winders** 

RCI Imaging Center

Thank you to all representatives from Large Investor Council organizations who attended meetings this year!

#### **Policy Board**

**Tatum Buse** 

Collins Aerospace

**Hugh Ekberg (Chair)** 

**CRST** 

**Nick Glew** 

Community Savings Bank

**Ted Kepros** 

Kepros Physical Therapy and

Performance
James Klein

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Paula Land

Catherine McAuley Center

Pankai Monga

Channel Fusion, Inc.

Anne Parmley (Vice Chair)

TrueNorth Companies, LLC

**Jeff Pomeranz** 

City of Cedar Rapids

**Rocki Shepard** 

New Leader Manufacturing

Dr. Lori Sundberg

Kirkwood Community College

Mark Thoeny

GPB LLC

Economic Alliance Ambassadors

John Armon

Bankers Trust Company

Krista Barnell

KCRG-TV9 / Gray Television

Jessica Boyle-Roberts

Northwestern Mutual

**Matt Brandt** 

Hills Bank and Trust Company

Andrea Brommelkamp

Linn Area Credit Union

Sarah Buehler

Guide Wealth Partners

Nikki Clayton

Dupaco Community Credit Union

Trisha Cornwell

ESG Professional Accountants

**Bob Cunningham** 

The Gazette/Gazette Print Services

**Bryce Dake** 

NFC Cedar Rapids, LLC

Janelle DeMeulenaere

Guide Wealth Partners

**Dave DeWalle** 

Hy-Vee Food Stores

Steve Dodson

City of Hiawatha

Terri Dovle

Bankers Trust Company

**Bill Easton** 

Easton Design, LLC

Becky Eckley

Lindale Mall

LeeAnn Eddins

L.A. Eddins Design

**Bob Eustice** 

Edward Jones

Tim Ewing

eXp Realty

Julie Fay

Transamerica

Jake Fichter

----

BSI Engineering

Liz Foster

Northwestern Mutual

Ben Gander

MidWest One Bank

**Suede Gruenwald** 

LAMAR Advertising Company

Vicki Hanna

Hanna Plumbing & Heating, Inc

**Brittany Hannah** 

Via Sofia's Italian Kitchen

**Rachel Hauck** 

Community Savings Bank

John Heavens

Dupaco Community Credit Union

Paula Hill

Four Oaks Family and Children's

Services

**Kathy Holmes** 

City of Cedar Rapids

Laura Janssen

KCRG-TV9 / Gray Television

**Shar Jones** 

UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's

Hospital

**Cindy Lampe** 

ServiceMaster by Rice

**Kyle Low** 

Ohnward Bank & Trust

Susie Makinster

Five Rings Financial

**Bridget Martin** 

Northwestern Mutual

Sean McDonald

Farmers National Company

**Becky Miller** 

Hy-Vee Food Stores

Joel Miller

Linn County
Kevin Moser

Septagon Construction Company

Troy Munger

Skogman Realty

Kristen Myers

Ohnward Bank & Trust

Mike Nemeth

fp Music Academy, LLC

Tami Peck

Hilton Garden Inn

**Isaiah Pirtle** 

Collins Community Credit Union

Darcel Pledge

Excel Learning Center Daycare

Jessica Pleggenkuhle

New Leader Manufacturing

**Elizabeth Posekany** 

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

William Redmond

Mercy Medical Center

Deanna Reeves

Kirkwood Village / Watts Group

Lisa Rowe

Q4 Real Estate

Shaubhik Rov

Hills Bank and Trust Company

Jane Schlegel

Linn-Mar Community Schools

Nicole Schroeder

Wired Production Group

Janet Shepherd-Meier Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Teresa Smalley

Coldwell Banker Hedges Realty

Jordan Sullivan

Dubuque Bank & Trust

Renee Uthoff

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**Todd Vavra** 

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Josh Volgarino

Carson Wealth

Andy Whiting

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Sally Wiley

Level 10 Apparel

Megan Williams

Radisson Cedar Rapids

**Shelley Woods** 

Basepoint Wealth, LLC

**Richard Younts** 

Dupaco Community Credit Union

Holly Zimmerman

Fairfax State Savings Bank

Thank you, Members! (This list includes members

active as of 12-31-23)

Legacy

Alliant Energy - Interstate Power and Light Co./Travero

Collins Aerospace

Benefactor
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

City of Cedar Rapids

City of Hiawatha
Collins Community Credit Union

Dakota Red Corporation

Mercy Medical Center

Skogman Companies

The Eastern Iowa Airport Transamerica Companies

U.S. Bank NA
UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital

CRST The Transportation Solution, Inc.

Visionary

ADM-Corn Processing Division Amana Society, Inc.

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**RCI Imaging Center** 

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Corporation
Hills Bank and Trust Company

Hy-Vee Food Stores

International Flavors & Fragrances, Inc

(IFF) (formerly DuPont)
ITC Midwest

**Lesaffre Yeast Corporation** 

McGrath Family of Dealerships PMX Industries Inc.

Profol Americas, Inc.
Red Star Yeast Co LLC

RSM US LLP
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
Toyota/Lexus Financial Services

Investor

Acme Electric Company
Alliant Energy Power House

Banklowa Benchmark, Inc.

Altorfer Inc.

**BladeWorks** 

Boomerang CCB Packaging

Cedar Rapids Area Association of REALTORS

Cedar Rapids Community School District and Foundation

Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC **Cedar Rapids OBGYN Specialists Central Iowa Power Cooperative** (CIPCO) Centro Inc.

City of Fairfax City of Mount Vernon City of Robins

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

**College Community School District** 

**Community Savings Bank** de Novo Marketing **Estes Construction** F & M Bank

First Interstate Bank

Fluid Quip Technologies, LLC

Frontier Co-Op

**Graham Construction Company Grant Wood Area Education Agency Gray Venture Partners, LLC** 

Hibu

**Holmes Murphy & Associates** 

ImOn Ice International Paper

Involta LLC Iowa Interstate Railroad, LLC

JRS Pharma LP **King Construction** 

**Kraft Heinz** 

L.L. Pelling Company, Inc. **Legacy Manufacturing Company** 

**Linn Area Credit Union** McGrath Amphitheatre **Mediacom Business** 

**Mediacom Communications MI Conveyance Solutions New Leader Manufacturing Ohnward Bank & Trust Paramount Theatre** 

**Pirc-Tobin Construction** Point Builders, LLC

Rinderknecht Associates Inc **Riverside Casino & Golf Resort** 

Ryan Companies US, Inc. Skyworks Solutions, Inc.

The Accel Group The ESCO Group

**VenuWorks of Cedar Rapids** Veridian Credit Union

Walmart Super Center #2716

Wells Fargo Bank **West Side Transport World Class Industries** Worley Warehousing, Inc. **Wright-Way Trailers** 

#### **Commerce Builder**

7G Distributing, LLC **AARP Iowa AB Mauri** 

**Ahmann Companies** 

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**AMPERAGE Marketing and Fundraising** 

**AMTek Microwaves Anderson Bogert Area Ambulance Service** Armstrong Development Co.

**Aureon Consulting** 

Auxiant B.G. Brecke, Inc. **Baker Group** 

**Bayer Crop Science** 

**Benton Development Group Beyonder Getaway at Lazy Acres** 

**BHFO** BLX, Inc. **Boyson Heights BSI Engineering** Carson Wealth

**Cedar Crest Manufacturing** Cedar Graphics, Inc.

**Cedar Memorial Funeral Home** 

Company **Cedar Rapids Janitorial** 

**Cedar Rapids Kernels Professional** 

**Baseball Club** 

Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery

Cedar Valley Steel, Inc. CellSite Solutions, LLC Channel Fusion, Inc. **Choreo Advisors** 

Circle Computer Resources, Inc.

Climate Engineers Inc. Coca-Cola Atlantic Bottling

Coe College

**Communications Engineering** 

Company Confluence

Conlon Construction Co. **Construction Materials Inc** 

Cornell College

**Corner Store Apothecary & Wellness Corridor Business Journal** Creative Planning LLC

Crosby's

Crystal Group Inc. **D.W. Zinser Company** 

**Dave Schmitt Construction Company** 

Inc.

Dental Prosthetic Services, Inc.

DoubleTree by Hilton

**Dupaco Community Credit Union** E & F Paving Company, LLC Fareway Stores, Inc. Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.

Flavours by Sodexo@Coe College

Fleming Irrigation Future Systems, Inc. Garling Construction, Inc. Genova Technologies, Inc.

First Federal Credit Union

Gibbs Lamb Drown Commercial Real

**Estate Advisors** GSTC Logistics, Inc. **GTG Peterbilt** 

Hall & Hall Engineers Inc. **Hawkeye Electrical Contractors** 

Hawkeye Fire & Safety Hawkeye First Aid & Safety

**Hawkeye Holdings High Properties** Hogan - Hansen, PC Home Town Restyling LLC Honkamp & Co., P.C. **HP Pub & Grub Hunter Companies** 

**Hy-Vee Drug Stores IBEW Local Union 405 IFP Motion Solutions Inc** 

In Tolerance Iowa Beverage

**Iowa County Community** Development (ICCD) Iowa Lot Development, LLC

Iowa Realty

J.P. Gasway Company Inc. Janda Motor Services, Inc.

Jet There

John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center

**Kepros Physical Therapy and** 

Performance

**Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank** 

Keurig Dr. Pepper

KGAN/KFXA

KGYM-AM ESPN 1600 **Knutson Construction** 

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Meth-Wick Community, Inc.

Midtown Reserve

**Midtown Station** 

**Midwest Metal Products** MJ Commercial Cleaning LLC

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Newell Machinery Co., Inc. **Northwestern Mutual** Nvemaster Goode, P.C.

Pactiv Evergreen Inc. Park Cedar Rapids

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**Principal Financial Network of Cedar** Vallev

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q2Advantage, LLC Radisson Cedar Rapids

Raining Rose

**Rapids Reproductions Inc. Rathje Construction Company** 

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(WHA)

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Easton Design, LLC

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Kona Ice of Cedar Rapids, LLC **Koopman Partners LP** Kris G. Gulick CPA, P.L.C. KWWL-TV/NBC L.A. Eddins Design La Cantina Bar & Grill Laborers' Local 43 Lacavo Restaurant **LAMAR Advertising Company** LattaHarris LLP **Lattner Boiler Company Laurel Content LBA Foundation (Leaders Believers** Achievers) **Leadership for Five Seasons** Level 10 Apparel Life 101.9 Lindale Mall **Linn County Emergency Management** Agency **Linn-Mar Community School District Lion Bridge Brewing Company** Little Miss Finance Livability Media **Locals Love Us LPI Loans** LLV CFO Consulting LLC LP Street Food LTI Delivers Inc Lucky's on 16th Main Street Legacy, LLC Make-A-Wish Iowa **Managed Solutions Group** Manna Bread for Humanity/Manna 330 Marcus Wehrenberg Cedar Rapids Cinema **Marion Chamber of Commerce Marion Economic Development** Corporation (MEDCO) **Marion Process Solutions Martin Gardner Architecture** Matthew 25 McGough Construction Inc. McNary Marketing & Design LLC Meals from the Heartland **Mechanical Contractors Association** of Iowa **Medical Associates Health Plans** Melanie Olson Design Group Member Marketplace Inc. Mercer Health & Benefits **Mercy Iowa City Metco Credit Union** 

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**Olivet Neighborhood Mission** 

**Parks & Schmit Orthodontics** 

Orchestra Iowa

Ottsen Oil Co. Inc.

**Ovation Networks Inc.** 

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Parlor City Pub & Eatery

**Paulson Electric Company** 

O's Grill LLC

**Palmer Group** 

**Paragon Interiors** 

PointCore Graphic Pool Tech, a WGHK, Inc. Company **Prairie Capital Advisors Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality** Center Premier Staffing, Inc **Price Electric** Prime Capital Investment Advisors, LLC **Primera Engineers** Private Wealth Asset Management **Professional Appraisal Service** Professional Muffler, Inc. **Profile Plan Proshield Fire & Security Prospect Meadows Sports Complex PS Adfinity** Pub 217 **Pure Barre Cedar Rapids QPS Employment Group Quality Care Lawn Quarter Barrel Arcade & Brewery Quick Action Accounting & Business** Solutions LLC Rahmat Traders LLC Rains Architecture, PLLC **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers** Rally Appraisal, LLC Ramada by Wyndham Randy's Flooring Rapids Wholesale Equipment Co. Raygun Raymond Siddell | 360 Home Team | **Keller Williams Legacy Group RBC Wealth Management Ready Wireless Recon Roofing & Construction** Red Cedar Advisory, Inc.

Rehab Management Services, LLC

**Relion Insurance Services** 

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**Pedalers Fork** 

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Rapids

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Planning Tim Ewing, Realtor at eXp Realty **Timberland Promotions Inc Tomaso's Pizza World Headquarters Xquisite Limo** Tommy's Express Car Wash YMCA - Helen G Nassif YPN **Townsquare Media Cedar Rapids** Team Iowa Travel Leaders/Destinations **Traverse Landscape Architects** The Agency Tru Art Color Graphics/Bankers The Brems Group **Truck Country of Cedar Rapids Twisters Gymnastics & GameOn Sports** The HarMac U.A. Local 125/Plumbers & Pipefitters The Heart Agency **U.S. Small Business Administration United Way of East Central Iowa United We March Forward** University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics **Unzeitig Construction Company** The Prull Group Valenta Plumbing & Heating, Inc. Van Horn Ford Chevrolet of Newhall The Shell, Indoor Play Space **Career Center** Victory Leadership Coaching Realty Vino's Ristorante & R.G. Books Lounge **Rapids The Waldinger Corporation West Plains Engineering Inc Tires Plus Total Car Care** TitanTV **Together We Achieve** 

**Xavier Foundation** 

**Teahen Funeral Home** 

**Technical Specialty Systems Technology Association of Iowa** Terry-Durin Electric & Telecom Supply

That's STORbiz

The Arc of East Central Iowa

The Carriage House The Edison Pub and Eatery

The Funky Zebras

**The Heartland Companies** The History Center

The Ideal Theater & Bar The Joint Chiropractic The Keystones of Cedar Rapids

The Map Room

The Metropolitan Group

The Olympic South Side Theater

The Overture Group The Pacific Institute The Pointe at Cedar Rapids

The Restoration Project

The University of Iowa Pomerantz

The Vestweber Team at Skogman

The Views Senior Living of Cedar

**Theatre Cedar Rapids** Think Iowa City Thorland Company **Timberland Promotions** 

**Tomaso's Pizza World Headquarters** 

thank you for your support in 2023 our strategic partner

Tommy's Express Car Wash

Toula Yoga

**Townsquare Media Cedar Rapids** 

Travel Leaders/Destinations Unlimited

**Traverse Landscape Architects** 

**Trees Forever** 

**Triple A of Cedar Rapids** 

Tru Art Color Graphics/Bankers

**Advertising Company** 

**Truck Country of Cedar Rapids** 

**TSF Structures** 

**Twisters Gymnastics & GameOn Sports** 

U.A. Local 125/Plumbers & Pipefitters

**U.S. Small Business Administration** 

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**Unique Events** 

**Unite Private Networks** 

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**United We March Forward** 

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Clinics

**Unzeitig Construction Company** 

**Upper Iowa University - Cedar Rapids** 

Center

Valenta Plumbing & Heating

Van Horn Automotive Group

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Victory Business Consulting Villas Patio 2

Vino's Ristorante & R.G. Books Lounge

**Watts Group** 

**Waypoint Services** 

Wendling

**West Music Company** 

West Plains Engineering

West Side Sewing

Willis Dady Homeless Services

Window World of Cedar Rapids

Winifred's Catering and Event

Planning

**Wired Production Group** 

Women Lead Change

Woodruff Construction

**World Class Graphics and Displays** 

**Xavier Foundation** 

YMCA

**Young Construction** 

YPN

All attempts were made to keep business names current and accurate. We value all of our members and apologize if any omission or inaccuracies are reflected. Please let us know about something we missed by emailing economicalliance@cedarrapids.org.

#### **Government Partners**

**City of Cedar Rapids** 

City of Fairfax

City of Hiawatha

City of Marion

City of Mt. Vernon

City of Robins

**Benton County** 

**lowa County** 

**Linn County** 

State of Iowa

#### **Education Partners**

Coe College

Cornell College

**Grant Wood AEA** 

Iowa BIG

Iowa State University – CIRAS

lowa State University – Linn County Extension Service

Kirkwood Community College

Metro area school districts – Cedar Rapids, College Community, Linn-Mar and Marion School Districts

**Mount Mercy University** 

University of Iowa – MBA & Business Analytics

University of Iowa – John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center

University of Iowa – Pomerantz Career Center

University of Northern Iowa – Institute for Decision Making

Upper Iowa University - Cedar Rapids Center

**Xavier Foundation** 

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Alliant Energy

**Benton Development Group** 

Catherine McAuley Center

Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO)

Common Sense Institute

East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)

**Entrepreneurial Development Center** 

Greater Iowa City, Inc.

Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation

ICR Iowa

ISA Ventures

**ITC Midwest** 

Jones County Economic Development

Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa

Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative

Local SCORE chapter

**Marion Chamber of Commerce** 

Marion Economic Development Corporation

MidAmerican Energy

NewBoCo

**Robins Economic Development Initiative** 

**Small Business Administration** 

**Small Business Development Center** 

The Eastern Iowa Airport

Travero, Inc.

#### **Trade Association Partners**

Cedar Rapids Area Association of REALTORS

Greater Cedar Rapids Housing and Building Association

Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Buildng & Construction Trades Council

Hawkeye Labor Council (and participating Locals)

**International Traders of Iowa** 

Numerous State & Federal Business Associations

## Community Development Partners

**Cedar Rapids Tourism Office** 

**Downtown District** 

Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

Hall-Perrine Foundation

MedQuarter Regional Medical District

The District: Czech Village & New Bohemia

**Think Iowa City** 

United Way of East Central Iowa Willis Dady Homeless Services



Doug Neumann executive director



Mike Lukan economic development project manager



Jennifar Bassett downtown district program manager



**Evan McGuire** maintenance supervisor



Ron Corbett vice president of economic development



Julie Redmond office manager



& marketing manager



Laura Seyfer workforce specialist



Peggy Degnan administrative and project coordinator



**Coady Sierra** event manager



Jenn Draper event contractor



Barbra Solberg public policy strategist



**Brittnie Gerard** office clerk



Rebecca Sullens programs specialist



Colin Glandon maintenance specialist



Megan Swanson community development specialist, Iowa BIG



Deb Gulick finance and accounting contractor



Jamie Toledo economic development relationship manager



Clarissa Koch senior graphic designer



Phil Wasta MedQuarter executive director



Anne Laugen membership growth specialist



Audrey Wheeler director of organizational development



Pam Logue member support specialist



Nikki Wilcox director of strategic development

