



CITY OF INDIANOLA COUNCIL STUDY MEETING

October 17, 2022

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

110 N 1st Street

Agenda

- 1. Capital Improvement Plan Presentation**
- 2. Discussion regarding "Wonder on Buxton," a Hometown Pride project.**
 - A. Presentation
- 3. Discussion regarding upcoming agenda items from within the regular October 17, 2022 City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

“Wonder on Buxton”

A project by Indianola Hometown Pride and partners

Our vision is to transform a portion of North Buxton Street into a place that celebrates our community, connects the town to the college, invites people to gather together, tells the “story” of Indianola and Warren County, and inspires an overall sense of curiosity and wonder.

We will do this by installing a series of public art pieces, gathering spaces, landscaping, signs and other beautification improvements along the 2.5-block corridor from the Square to Simpson College, along North Buxton Street. These amenities will incorporate themes from our local cultural icons – hot air balloons, Simpson, music - and local history.

We hope to add something new to our community while maintaining things our community values. We are not envisioning closing streets, eliminating parking, or infringing on property owners’ rights. We will enact our vision using existing public spaces and spaces offered by our partners along the route.

This project addresses many goals:

- Connect the downtown Square and Simpson college in a visible and celebratory way
- Provide gathering spaces for community events and impromptu gatherings, and serve as a “spill-over” area for events on the square
- Attract visitors and residents to spend time here, visit our businesses, and get to know our story
- Celebrate and strengthen community pride and identity

Proposed additions to the project area (Renderings attached)

We’ve engaged an international team of designers to help us develop our concept and quote the costs. The attached drawings are **not** meant to be final designs, but to help clarify the vision and invite input.

1. Improvements to the County-owned parking lot north of the Opera, allowing the area to be used for special events (without losing the parking spaces)

- A collection of interventions will activate and define the space: decorative screening on the east border (hiding dumpsters), planters and a custom metal sign on the west border, resurfacing/resealing the lot, adding artistic design with pavement coating, and providing movable furniture for events. Elements of items 2 and 3 (below) will be present in the space. [Implementation Partners: Warren County, DMMO]

2. A 6-part sculpture series placed along the route, visually telling the story of our community

- Cloud-shaped sculptures will display artistic designs that represent important touchstones of our local culture. The cloud shape is in honor of our community’s long-standing connection to hot air balloons, and the designs on the sculptures will correspond directly with the "storytelling tour" (item 3 below). Sculptures will have a common shape, but will be designed by different artists (with oversight from our team to ensure consistency). [Implementation Partners: Indianola Public Arts Commission, Property owners where sculptures are placed (TBD): Warren County, DMMO, Simpson, City of Indianola]

3. Storytelling tour

- An interactive, artistic walking tour that tells the story of our local culture and history, using a hybrid of virtual and in-person elements. We will use QR code decals on sidewalks and buildings to direct visitors to a website with stories, images, music and spoken word. The sculpture series (item 2) will be our sign posts - providing a visually engaging piece to interact with in the real world. [Implementation Partners: Warren County Historical, Downtown Merchants, Carousel Theatre, Chamber of Commerce and others]

4. An informal gathering space on east lawn of County administration building

- An inviting configuration of seating and a storytelling sculpture (items 2 & 3) creates a place for informal gatherings and spillover for events on square or in the parking lot (item 1). [Implementation Partner: Warren County]

5. Wind sculpture art/way-finding on City light poles

- A series of small, spinning wind sculptures on the light poles will create a visual representation of the wind - connecting back to the overall theme of sky and clouds that honors our hot air balloon tradition. The sculptures are a primary way-finding marker for the corridor, providing an eye-catching visual cue that draws visitors in and leads them to items 1-4. [Implementation Partner: City of Indianola]

6. Sidewalk Pattern

- We will add an artistic pattern to the sidewalk to visually link the corridor, provide wayfinding, and add a fun element that encourages visitors to walk through. The pattern will use the same themes as items 1-5: it will represent our cultural touchstones and refer to the sky/cloud theme. [Imp. Partner: City]

7. Interactive sculpture or sidewalk archway with sound and light elements (concept only: no proposed design)

8. Collaborative mural led by local artist with public participation (concept only: no location or design yet)

Cost and Fundraising

We are currently fundraising for this project and welcome contributions of any amount. We invite potential funding partners to contact us to discuss how they would like to be involved. The estimated cost to complete the priority items above (1-6) is \$150,000-\$170,000.

For every dollar we raise locally, it allows us to request an equal amount of funding from the State as part of Indianola's "Iowa Great Places" designation. The State grant allows us to request up to 50% of the project cost if we can match dollars locally. Most "Great Place" communities receive this funding within the first 3-4 years of their designation period (we are in year 3).

Leadership and Community Input

Indianola Hometown Pride has formed an advisory committee to lead this project, with participation from Simpson College, the City of Indianola, the Indianola Public Arts Commission, Des Moines Metro Opera, Indianola Chamber of Commerce, the National Balloon Classic, local business, Warren County Hometown Pride, and others. We have done a public survey, focus groups and other meetings to get input from a wide variety of community members. We will continue to reach out to these stakeholders as the project progresses.

This project was first conceived as an objective of the 2020 Indianola Vision Plan created by Hometown Pride and its partners, and approved by city council. It was previously referred to as the "culture walk."

Why here? Why now?

This area of North Buxton is where several of our important community institutions intersect and connect. The square and Justice Center are on the south end, Simpson College is on the north end, and in between we have two historic buildings -one is home to Warren County while the other houses Des Moines Metro Opera.

As the improvements to the square and justice center are completed, this becomes a logical way to extend and build on these assets. Our timing for North Buxton (2023-2024) allows us to come in on the tail end of those projects, so that we can coordinate seamlessly with them, without overlapping.

Contact

We invite you to reach out with questions, comments or ideas for collaboration. We welcome all potential volunteers, supporters and sponsors. Contact Lorin@warrencountyhometown.com.



Draft Designs Provided for
Indianola Hometown Pride by:

All Together: A Placemaking and Design Studio
& Daily Tous Les Jours

Project Area Map

All locations are approximate and conceptual. Exact placements will be coordinated with property owners.

1. Parking Lot Improvements, to allow use as special event space while maintaining parking for daily use
Screening, resealing, pavement design, planters, sign

2. Cloud sculpture series
Sample locations for illustration purposes only. Exact placement TBD.

3. Storytelling tour
Many locations along route.

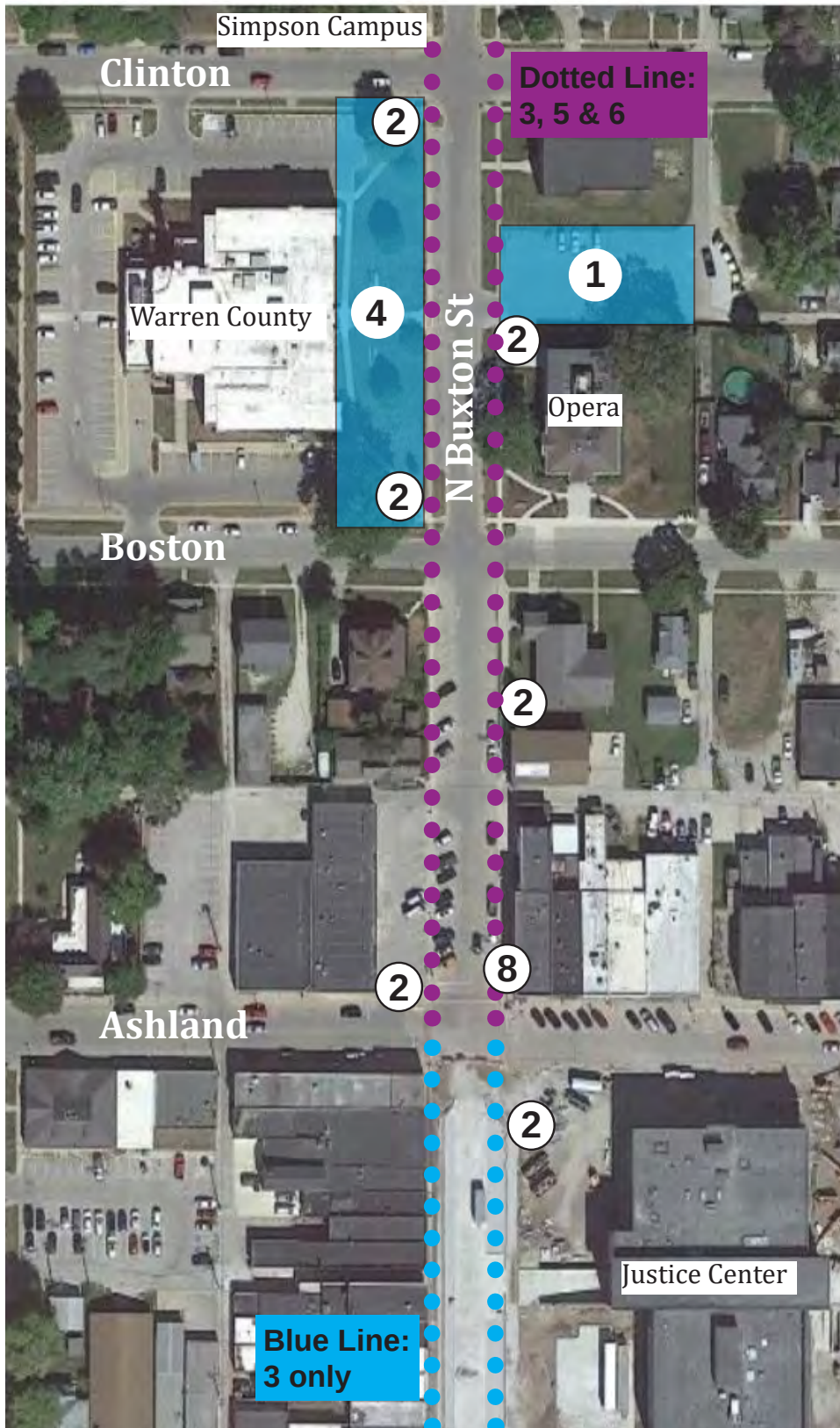
4. County Lawn Activation
Art, seating area, planters, "story-telling" tour

5. Wind sculptures on light poles
Placed on City-owned light poles along Buxton

6. Sidewalk Pattern
Artistic inlays with mosaic, brick or other long-lasting material

7. Interactive light/sound sculpture
Location TBD

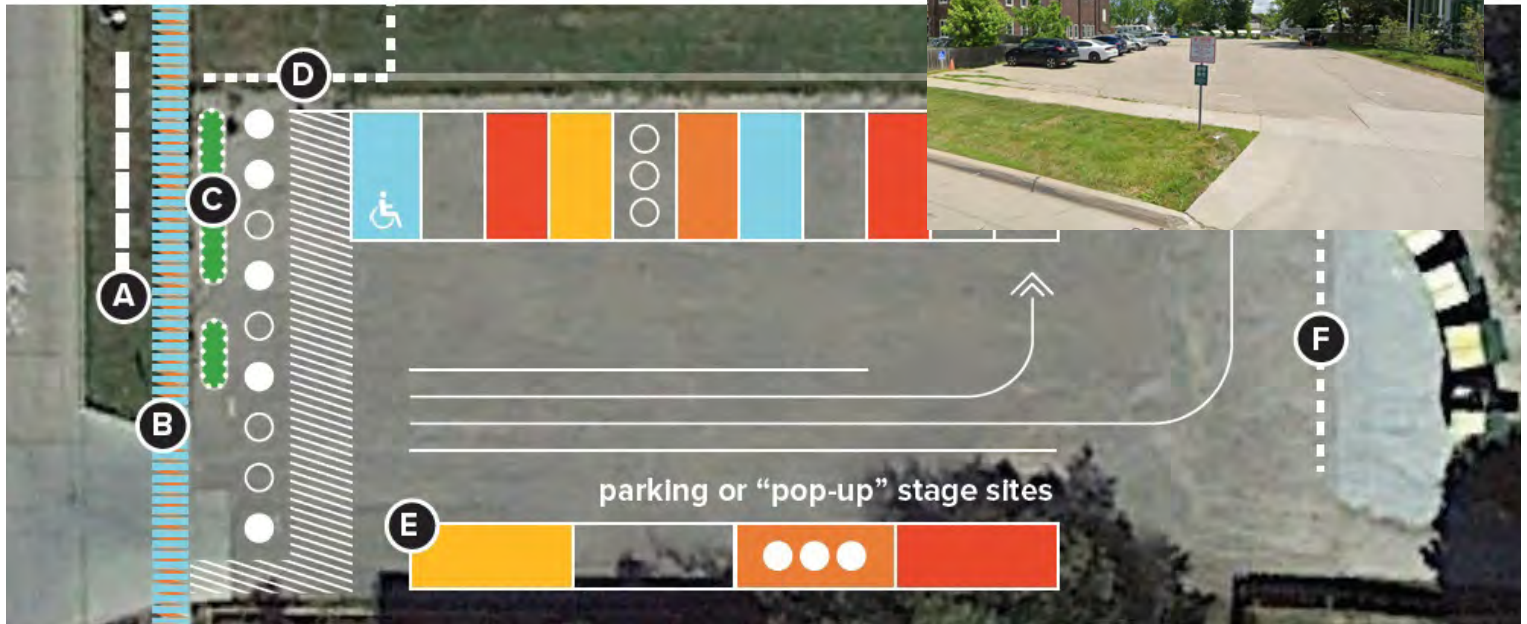
8. Collaborative mural
Location approximate. Exact placement TBD.



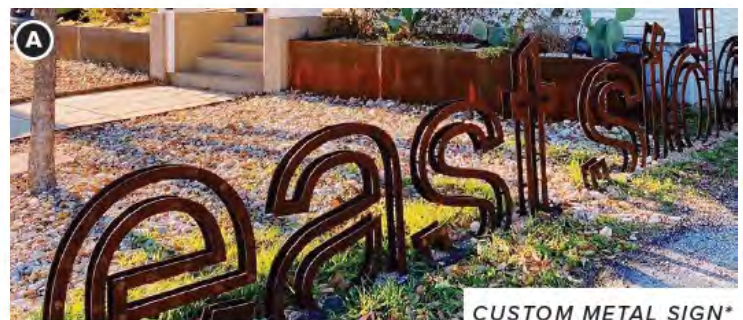
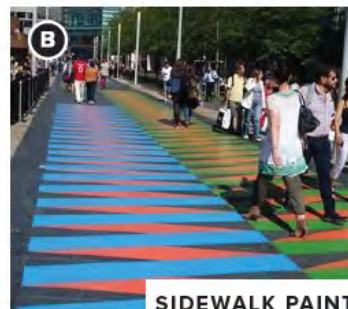
1. Parking Lot Improvements

To allow use as special event space while maintaining parking for daily use. Additions: Movable furniture, screens, planters, custom sign, pavement paint, resealing/repaving.

Designs by “All Together” and “Daily Tous Les Jours”

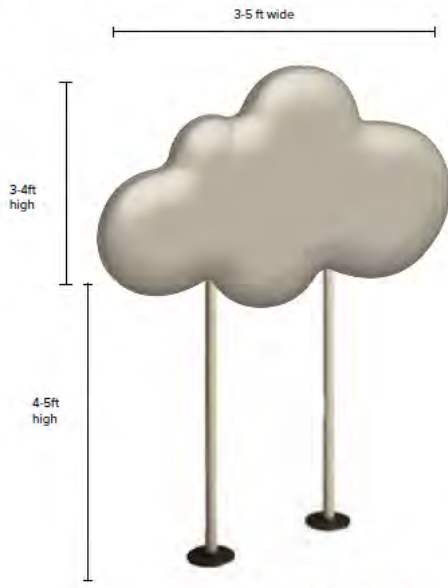


INSPIRATION



2 SCULPTURE SERIES

CONCEPT



A series of 6 cloud-shaped sculptures, placed at different points along the route, will display artistic designs that represent important touchstones of our local culture. The cloud shape is in honor of our community's long-standing connection to hot air balloons, and the designs on the sculptures will correspond directly with the "storytelling tour" (item 3). Sculptures will have a common shape, but will be designed by different artists (with oversight from our team to ensure consistency)

Designs shown below are for illustration purposes only, to show how we could integrate imagery from Indianola's cultural touchstones - left to right: hot air balloons, opera, history/Simpson (George Washington Carver). Artists will be recruited to create the final designs.



Illustration of one potential sculpture location.

3 and 4. County Lawn & Storytelling Tour

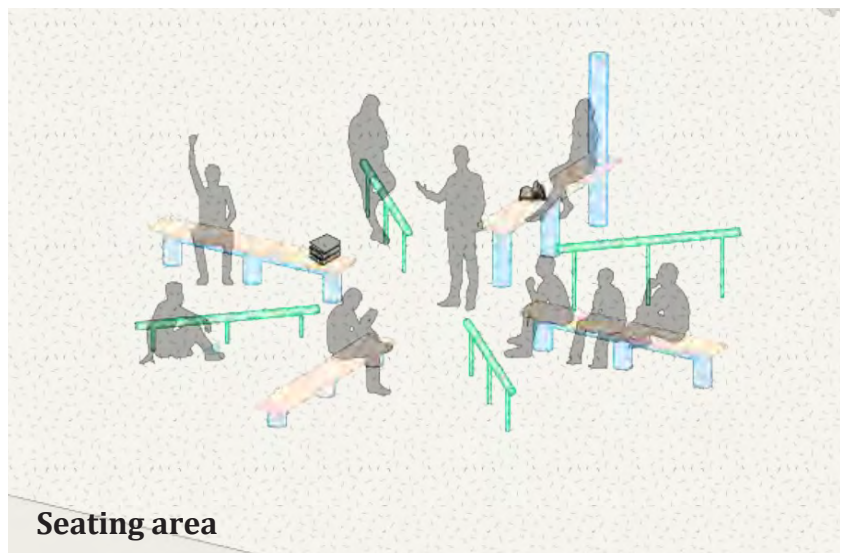
Art, seating, and walking tour



Art piece, informal seating, sidewalk pattern



QR code decal for "storytelling" site



Seating area



Signs for "storytelling" tour

The cloud sculptures described in item 2 will also serve as sign posts for the walking tour, and will feature visuals that illustrate stories from our local history and culture.

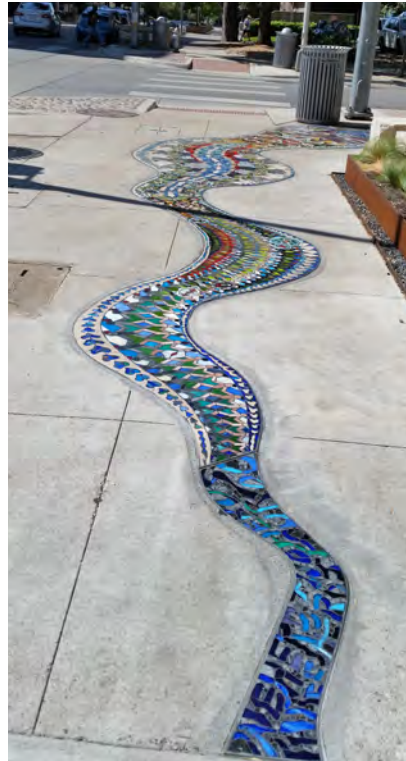
Illustrations shown here are for explanation purposes only. Artists will be recruited to create the designs.

5-8. Wind Sculptures on Light Poles Sidewalk Pattern & Collaborative Mural Light/Sound Sculpture or Archway

Designs by:
"All Together"



A spinning sculptural piece on the light poles serves as wayfinding and branding. The design provides a visual representation of the wind, connecting to the sky & cloud theme of the corridor and making a playful reference to our status as Iowa's home for hot air balloons.



Examples of sidewalk patterns.

Left: meandering path with inlaid ceramic mosaic
Right: music design with brick pavers
An Indianola-specific pattern would be designed by an artist.



Inspiration image only (previous Daily Tous Les Jour project) - a light/sound sculpture piece for Buxton has not yet been designed or bid.