

Harvester Artspace Lofts

1000 S. Main Street | Council Bluffs, IA 51503 | Opened 2010



Photo by Theresa Grimmes

A Home for Artists in the Heartland

Council Bluffs is part of the Omaha metropolitan area, an eight-county region that straddles the Missouri River in Nebraska and Iowa. Council Bluffs grew up around the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad, and by the mid-20th century it was the nation's fifth largest rail center. But with the contraction of the rail industry, the community experienced a corresponding decline.

In 2006, seeking to revitalize downtown Council Bluffs, the Iowa West Foundation invited Artspace to explore the feasibility of transforming a former International Harvester Warehouse into an affordable live/work project for artists. Built in 1888, the Harvester is a four-story building with approximately 47,000 square feet in the main structure and an additional 24,000 square feet in a spacious one-story addition that dates from 1928.

This sturdy brick structure has found new life as the Harvester Artspace Lofts, a 36-unit project that also provides 5,320 square feet of space for arts-friendly commercial use. Since its completion in 2010, the Harvester has become a welcome addition to the area's arts scene. Among its residents are a number of artists who have moved from Omaha to take advantage of the Harvester's affordable rents. The Harvester is part of a burgeoning renaissance of downtown Council Bluffs that has seen the addition of several creative businesses and restaurants in recent years.

“Council Bluffs is on the map for its public art pieces, art culture and now Harvester Artspace. This building is beautiful, the people that occupy it are beautiful, it's already won an award from the city as an historical building that's been revamped and I say it deserves another.”

— Josh Powell, Artist



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DEVELOPMENT COST

\$11.2 million

TOTAL AREA

71,646 sq. ft.

COMMERCIAL AREA

5,320 sq. ft.

LIVE/WORK UNITS

36

ARCHITECT

Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture

FINANCING

City of Council Bluffs HOME Funds

Iowa Department of Economic Development

Community Development Block Grant Program Funds

Federal Home Loan Bank – AHP

Iowa Housing Finance Authority

Pottawattamie County CDC Environmental Grant

U.S. Bank Community Development Corporation

U.S. Bank, N.A.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Iowa West Foundation