



NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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**Vision Iowa grants \$1.23 million to River Museum's Mississippi Plaza
and the city of Dubuque's River Front Marina**

Dubuque, Iowa – Jan. 13, 2010—Today, Vision Iowa awarded a grant of \$1,230,000 to the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa. The grant is from the Vision Iowa RECAT program which is River Enhancement Community Attraction & Tourism, and is to support the development of an outdoor plaza between the Museum & Aquarium and its new Great Rivers Center which will open in summer 2010, and will be located at the former Diamond Jo Casino building. The outdoor plaza is scheduled to open in 2011.

The River Museum's Mississippi Plaza will be an outdoor museum space which will include a flowing stream with live fish, a toddler Huck Finn ride, dancing waters fountain, pavilions, outdoor food and beverage and seating along the water's edge. The total cost of the plaza is estimated at \$1.8 million. The Museum has raised \$451,000 towards this effort.

Jerry Enzler, executive director of the Museum & Aquarium said, "This is a tremendous boost to Iowa and to the Port of Dubuque. The Mississippi Plaza will be a dynamic space to enjoy the river and will compliment the exciting opening of the Great Rivers Center."

The project also includes the addition of 43 transient boat slips to the City of Dubuque's visiting boat docks in the Ice Harbor. This addition will result in a total of 68 transient boat slips in the Ice Harbor. Amenities in the project include: ADA accessibility, a dockside shower/bathroom facility, laundry facilities, pump-out and waste reception equipment, and electrical and water hook-ups.

"This is great news for Dubuque. We are very grateful to Vision Iowa for this grant and their continued partnership in revitalizing our riverfront," said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. "The expansion of the museum and aquarium and the addition of visiting boat docks in the Ice Harbor are significant to the continued growth of tourism in our community."

The Museum & Aquarium also received a \$10,000 marketing grant to assist in the promotion of the attraction.

Vision Iowa also awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Dubuque Art Center for its planned "Art Market: Dubuque" a series of events aimed to provide a venue for a wide variety of fine and functional art, live music, theater performances, kids activities, and more.

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