2014 All-Star Community Award Application

City: Riverside
Population: 993

Contact name: Rusty Rogerson
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Contact Title: City Administrator
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Title of Project: Community Beautification

In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed.

During Calendar year 2013 the City Council set aside funds to help individual homeowners and commercial property owners improve the exterior of their homes and businesses. The funds could also be utilized towards the purchase of a home or commercial property.

Project Funding and Execution:

Total Cost/Projected Cost of Project: $225,000

List where funding came from (grants, donations, city funds, etc.)
The funds came from hotel/motel tax, LOST and Casino Revenues

Total time project took/projected to take for completion:
(to qualify project must be operating or completed between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013)

1/1/13 Start date
12/31/13 End date

or Project is ongoing

Please use only this form for entry. All entries will be judged solely on this form.
Explain the specific role of your city in this project.
Individual home owners could complete an application indicating improvements they would like to make on the exteriors of their homes. The application required two written bids for the material and the work. The Council then reviewed and approved forgivable loans up to $5,000 or 50% of the cost if the project cost less than $10,000. The approved homeowners then had the work completed acquiring the necessary permits, then submitted paid invoices for reimbursement.

The commercial portion of the project operated similarly to the residential with the additional benefit that the money could be used towards purchasing a commercial building. The City had two (2) existing businesses use this additional benefit and purchased buildings and expanded their businesses. Several other businesses did major clean up and exterior improvements.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?
Some of these projects will increase the valuation of the property on the tax rolls. The biggest benefit is that even homeowners who did not apply or receive one of these loans are cleaning up the exterior of their properties. The whole project has given the City a cleaner and fresher appearance. After completing the City Comprehensive Plan in December 2013 it is hoped that through planned development and continued emphasis on renovating the downtown area that improvements will continued to be made.

The total cost of the improvements made was over $720,000 from a $250,000 investment.

Resources
Please list Web sites judges may reference if they seek additional information. Do NOT include supplemental paper information. Only information on this form or the sites listed will be used in the judging process.

www.cityofriversideiowa.com

Signatures: (Must be signed to be eligible. Most members print to sign)

[Signatures]

Return this form by Monday, April 7, 2014.
Iowa League of Cities
Attn: All-Star Community Awards
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Des Moines, IA 50309
or
bethanycrile@iowaleague.org

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