

Narrative Project Description

August 11, 2009

World Food Prize Hall of Laureates

Formerly Des Moines Public Library
First and Locust streets
Des Moines, Iowa

Developer:

The World Food Prize Foundation
666 Grand Avenue
Suite 1700
Des Moines, IA 50309

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President
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Mashal Husain, Special Assistant to the President

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Architects:

Architect of Record

RDG Planning and Design
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Design Architect

Gensler
30 West Monroe Street
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Landscape Architect:

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Project Description

The World Food Prize Foundation will lease from the City of Des Moines the former Central Library building, downtown, at First and Locust streets. The lease will have a term of 50 years with an optional 50 year extension. At The World Food Prize Foundation sole expense, they will improve the existing building and grounds into the world headquarters of this prestigious organization. As a building of historical significance, local landmark listing and on the National Register of Historic Buildings. The World Food Prize will endeavor to preserve the historical architectural design on both exterior and interior spaces while modernizing various elements within the facility to allow for its new use as offices, museum and conference space. Improvements include the following: (Also see the elevation and plan exhibits included with this submission.)

Exterior:

New roof and insulation systems

New energy efficient glazing at all windows and new replacement skylights

Repair and cleaning of stone facades

Construction of new historically derived designs for the stairs and entrances on both east and west elevations

Interior:

Restoration of WPA murals

New energy efficient mechanical system

New plumbing, lighting and fire protection sprinkler systems

New fire stairs and elevator

Restoration of interior finishes

Rehabilitation of spaces to new uses as offices, exhibit, museum and convention spaces

Site:

The new eastern building entrance will blend with the paving surfaces and landscape designs of the new Riverwalk, soon to be under construction.

The western land block will remove the current parking for auto use and will be transformed into a pedestrian use public park with pathways, abundant landscaping, lighting and fountains, along with design elements that recognize the World Food Prize sponsorship.

The intent is to start construction in October 2009 with the exterior building improvements shown on the drawings. The interior improvements are scheduled to follow in late 2009 or early 2010.

