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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### RDA BOARD AWARDS GRANTS FOR FALL 2019

Davenport, IA – On Wednesday, November 20, 2019 the Regional Development Authority (RDA) Board awarded 64 grants totaling \$1,341,212 to area nonprofit, civic, and governmental organizations – bringing the total grants awarded by RDA since 1991 to over \$71 million. For this granting cycle, economic development projects received 23% (\$306,500) of the total funds, proposals for arts, culture, and education purposes received 30% (\$400,130), and human service projects received 47% (\$634,683).

RDA continues to invest heavily (\$490,000) in capital campaign and building improvement projects that strengthen the infrastructure of the nonprofit sector. This included continued distributions for multi-cycle grants to the Scott County Family YMCA, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges for the Urban Campus, and wetlands development with the Nahant Marsh (\$50,000). New capital projects included Bettendorf Public Library renovation of a community “makers’ space” (\$40,000) and a Children’s Garden Expansion at the QC Botanical Center (\$40,000). Smaller facility renovation grants were awarded to the Handicap Development Center (\$15,000), QC Veterans Outreach Center (\$19,968), WVIK Public radio Foundation (\$35,000), and The Community Broadcasting Group (WGVV) (\$12,500).

Of note, over \$250,000 in grants were awarded to support smaller volunteer-driven nonprofits, including Lead(H)er, Association for Fundraising Professionals (AFP), 100 Black Men, Up With Families, Mississippi Valley Blues Society, Living Proof Exhibit, and Tapestry Farms. RDA grants support these organizations in many different ways including operating support, facility renovations, and technology updates. “These organizations create so much good in our community and engage volunteer efforts that would be difficult to place a dollar value on,” said Matt Mendenhall, RDA President/CEO. This year, in addition to supporting each of these volunteer-driven organizations with grant funds, RDA became a funding partner of the United Way of the Quad Cities’ Nonprofit BOLD Institute. “While the details for the Institute will be announced by the United Way, the RDA Board believes that a larger system-wide approach to strengthening the nonprofit sector will provide capacity building opportunities that small organizations may not be able to afford” said Mendenhall.

In January, 2020, RDA will present information about new grant criteria introduced in March 2019. The purpose of the presentation will be to communicate details for how RDA will make grant decisions starting in the spring of 2020. Details on the presentations will be posted on the RDA website ([www.rdauthority.org](http://www.rdauthority.org)) in late December, 2019.

A complete list of all grant recipients and amounts is included with this release.

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