



Frequently Asked Questions

Preserving our Past - Forging our Future

Old Fort Madison Capital Campaign 2025-2027

What is the significance of Old Fort Madison?

From 1808 to 1813, this site was truly on the frontier! It was the only fort in what would become the State of Iowa actually engaged in an international war – the War of 1812. There is SO MUCH HISTORY to learn and share! Since the inception of the fort replica in the 1980's, thousands of visitors have come by land and water to tour the Old Fort. We believe rebuilding the Old Fort and building a new Living History Center will attract even more visitors, bring back at least one riverboat cruise line stop, and help revitalize our community.

How will Old Fort Madison be improved?

First, we will remove the existing buildings for thorough repair and rechincking. The site will be raised about four feet to place it well above the flood plain. Then, we'll install new, higher foundations for all the existing and new structures. Next, we'll rebuild the blockhouse and the enlisted men's barracks that had been torn down, and reset the buildings that had been rolled off site. Then we'll build a new 4,200 square foot living history center that will share external architectural similarities with the Old Fort structures. It will include modern rest-rooms, an elevator, a meeting room, a kitchen, audio-visual capabilities, ample space for ever-changing displays of various kinds, and an expanded gift shop. Local and touring visitors will want to return!

How will the project plans be funded?

We are conducting a capital campaign to raise an estimated \$3.5 million. With help from the City of Fort Madison and the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, we are seeking local, state, federal and private grants. We are also meeting with local prospects to secure private contribution and in-kind services and support. Our Events Committee continues to plan exciting activities to promote, publicize and raise funds for the campaign. Annual memberships, repeat and new contributions, legacy/planned gifts, annual City support, gift shop receipts and ticket sales will provide ongoing funding.

How can I help?

There are many ways in which you can help the Old Fort!

ADVOCATE – This is your Old Fort. It provides historical information and entertainment for all ages. Tell your friends and neighbors what Old Fort Madison means to you, and how important this project is!

VOLUNTEER – We will always need volunteers! You can help in fund-raising, the gift shop and events.

Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY – Our 2025-2027 Campaign for the Old Fort project will cover the costs of rebuilding and constructing the new Living History Center. Please consider giving generously. We are asking for your consideration of a generous pledge so that Old Fort Madison can continue with its award-winning services and programs.

Can I name something with my gift?

Your gift to the OFMP allows the Board to apply your contribution where it's needed the most. And, Yes, we have an extensive list of Naming Opportunities related to all giving levels. They range from buildings to rooms, to spaces, to displays, and more.

Can I pledge over time and/or add a bequest to my will or include the OFMP as a beneficiary on my IRA?

Yes, gifts may be paid outright or pledged over a period of up to five years. And, a bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of a financial or legal advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to OFMP as part of your estate plan. With a retirement asset, like an IRA, the full value of the gift is transferred tax-free at your death and your estate receives an estate tax charitable deduction. Life insurance is another effective planned gift. Call 319-470-3642 to visit about the impact you wish to make. Be sure to consult with your advisor for personal tax and estate planning guidance.

Is my gift tax deductible?

Yes, because the OFMP is a federally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit charity, your gift is deductible to the extent allowable by law. Check with your tax advisor for specific advice.

How will my gift be recognized?

Opportunities for sponsorship of elements of the complex will be offered, but all contributions will be memorialized at the fort or Living History Center. All gifts will be recognized in a variety of ways. Permanent recognition displays will be included in the Old Fort complex. Donors may choose to be recognized Anonymously.

Any additional questions can be directed to:

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