



## Galena-Jo Daviess County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **Galena – Jo Daviess County Historical Society on “short – list” to receive a \$1.8M Federal Grant**

June 1, 2022

For over 20 years the idea of finding a new home for the Galena & U.S. Grant Museum has been researched, discussed, and plans drawn to make the new museum a reality. A public campaign was scheduled to begin with a Community Meeting in April of 2020, and then the world changed... As COVID-19 raged throughout the world, plans for a public campaign and new museum were put on hold.

In late 2021, an opportunity, not often, if ever available to Jo Daviess County, arose – the chance to obtain an Economic Recovery Grant from the Economic Development Administration of the Federal Government. With the support of the City and the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council Executive Director, Daniel Payette, an application was made for consideration by the EDA. At the end of April, the Historical Society received word that the application had made the “short-list” of projects for consideration of a \$1.8 million dollar (1:1) matching grant. Having passed the risk assessment portion of the review process, construction plans, ecological studies, environmental studies and matching funds will be reviewed. The Society Board, staff and friends have begun to make plans to raise the \$1.8M in matching funds prior to the official awarding of the grant in early fall of this year.

Why the urgency to have all of the matching funds in place this fall? The terms of the grant require that the project be completed and making a positive economic impact in the community it serves within 42 months of the award. To ensure compliance, the funds to match the grant must be in-hand prior to the awarding of the grant.

The grant offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Society to build a family-oriented, accessible place to connect with our region’s past through interactive exhibitions, education programs and events while providing a safe environment for all of the artifacts that support these exhibits and programs.

Plans for the one-level, 8,500 sf, museum, have already been developed and will feature large spaces for permanent exhibits, temporary galleries, event and program space and more. The next steps are procuring the construction documents and construction of the building itself, followed by exhibit formation and the opening of the doors to the public in the summer of 2026.

Community information meetings are planned on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa and on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Country Inn and Suites (behind DuPaco) beginning at 7:00 p.m. A panel of Board members and community members will be present to answer questions following a short presentation of the project and the opportunity to receive the Federal Grant from the EDA. For further information call the Society at 815-777-9129 or visit [www.galenahistory.org](http://www.galenahistory.org).