

**Green Giant Welcome Center  
1130 Giant Drive, Blue Earth MN 56013**

**Report Prepared by:  
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**Green Giant Welcome Center  
Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) Annual Report**

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FROM: Mary Kennedy, City Administrator, City of Blue Earth

DATE: January 2021

SUBJECT: Annual Report for State Fiscal Year 20, which ran from July 1, 2019 to June 30,  
2020.

- M.S. [3.303, Subd. 10](#)
- M.S. [129D.17, Subd. 2\(d\)](#)

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**1. Green Giant Museum Programming and Operations**

Add easier access for people with disabilities as well as the promotion, programming, and operations of Welcome Center and Museum with operations and programming beginning August of 2019 and continuing through the life of the grant

**2. Governing Body and Contact Information of Funding Recipient**

The City of Blue Economic Development Authority (EDA) is the managing organization for the Giant Welcome Center in conjunction with the Blue Earth City Council and the local Chamber of Commerce. They are located at 125 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street Blue Earth, MN 56013.

Telephone: (507) 526-7336

Information on this project is available at <http://blueearthchamber.com/featured/giant-attractions-in-blue-earth-mn/> or at <http://becity.org/economic-development/>

Board members are volunteers, and each is appointed by the Mayor of Blue Earth annually. City Hall has on file for review all documents and receipts pertaining to this grant project.

Blue Earth EDA

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Secretary/Treasurer	Peggy Olson	(Term expires December 2022)
President	Ann Hanna	(Term expires December 2022)
Vice-President	Lissia Laehn	(Term expires December 2024)
Board Member	Jamie Jones	(Term expires December 2024)
Board Member	Bill Rosenau	(Term expires December 2024)
Board Member	Richard Scholtes	(Term expires December 2023)
Board Member	John Huisman	(Term expires December 2023)

Blue Earth City Council

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Mayor	Richard Scholtes	(Term expires January 4, 2021)
Member at Large	John Huisman	(Term expires January 4, 2021)
Member at Large	Marty Cassem	(Term expires January 2, 2023)
Member at Large	Glenn Gaylord	(Term expires January 4, 2021)

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Member at Large	Russ Erichsrud	(Term expires January 2, 2023)
Member at Large	Dan Warner	(Term expires January 4, 2021)
Member at Large	Wendy Cole	(Term expires January 2, 2023)

**3. Grant funding for FY20**

Total grant award: \$133,100 budgeted as follows:

Promotional Materials	\$28,600
Operations Expenses	\$33,900
Staffing Costs	\$61,500
Accessibility Costs	\$9,000

**4. Amount and Source of Additional Funding**

\$1,500	Explore MN (Covid-19 Crisis Grant) for marketing.
\$3,000	Faribault County Economic Development Authority (CARES Act Relief Fund Grant) due to being affected by Executive Order closures.

**5. The duration of the project(s)**

Operational and Programming	August 23, 2019 – June 30, 2020.
Construction	November 6, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

**6. The number of full-time equivalents funded under the project(s)**

The project grant was not used for personnel salaries. Overall direction was led by the Executive Director, whose salary is from sales of souvenirs. Currently, there is one full time and one part time employee.

**7. The direct expenses and administration costs of the project(s)**

\*Spreadsheet attached.

**8. Actual outcomes and evaluation of the project(s):**

Achieved most of the outcomes.

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The Green Giant Museum was able to add accessibility by having automatic doors installed. Additionally, a video system was installed which utilizes closed captions and voice commands. The Welcome Center was open seven days a week during the busy tourist season. The staff promoted the museum using targeting advertising and used local advertising to promote the events that were able to be held following state guidelines. The building was closed during the start of Covid-19 pandemic due to the nature of the stay-at-home orders, so some of the programming had to be postponed to a later date and the museum had to be closed to visitors.