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News Release

For Immediate Release

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River District Association launches architecture and history book

Rockford, IL -- River District Association is pleased to announce the launch of a new book that will draw attention to the many assets of Rockford's downtown neighborhood, River District.

The book, *Downtown Historic Architecture Rockford Illinois*, is a glance at Rockford's historic and architecturally interesting downtown featuring full-color photographs of over fifty buildings with tidbits of information about each. A general history of Rockford and a glossary of architectural terms are also included in it. "This book is a great addition to anyone's local history collection," said Jan Jann, River District Association (RDA) board member and Promotions Committee Chair.

The book, published by ginestrawatson agency and RDA, is available for purchase in the River District office, 127 N. Wyman St., 2nd floor, Rockford, Illinois (815-964-6221, info@riverdistrict.com). Bulk rates and consignments available. Other locations to purchase the book are Belles Firm of Architecture, 1001 E. Jefferson St., Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, 946 N. Second St., Gerlinde's Water St. Café, 115 N. Water St., Midway Village & Museum Center, 6799 Guildford Rd., and Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum, 411 Kent St.

Two grants were awarded to River District Association that helped make this project possible. This project was supported by a grant from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. And, this project was funded in part by a grant from the Community Arts & Humanities Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois."

Many people worked on a committee to compile, write, edit, photograph, proofread, and publish the book. The Advisory Committee led by Pam Hein (RDA board Secretary) included Gary

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Anderson (RDA board member and Design Committee Chair), Janna Bailey (Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum), Ginny Gregory (City of Rockford), Suzanne Crandall (Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau), Brian Harger (RDA board member and Economic Restructuring Committee Chair), Scott R. Long (RDA board VP), Jon Lundin (Abilities Center), Jennifer McInnis (The Buckley Companies), and Kim Wheeler.

One of the committee members, Sue Crandall said, "I think the book will have many uses, educational for Rockford area people and for the hundreds of tourists we welcome all year around. As a native and probably the oldest person on the committee it was indeed heartwarming to see where we have been and the wonderful journey we are still on."

ginestrawatson agency took many of the photographs, as well as creating the layout and design of the book. Additional photo credits go to Bradley & Bradley Architects.Engineers, City of Rockford, Don Bissell, Dick Schacht, Greg Baker, Jennifer McInnis, Mike Graham, Midway Village and Museum Center, Nels Akerlund, Pam Hein, Rockford Area convention & Visitors Bureau, Robert Anderson, Rockford Woman's Club.

Kim Wheeler, RDA Executive Director said, "this book project was initially started because of all the data that had been compiled for the Historical Walk-Abouts program that was started six years ago. After a few years the people who worked on the historical tours thought it would be a good idea to create a colorful and permanent way to showcase the variety of buildings and history of our community." *Downtown Historic Architecture Rockford Illinois* is the result.

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