LEADING CHANGE

TOWARD UNIVERSAL DESIGN IN HOUSING

Together

PROCESS

STEP 1
IDENTIFY GOAL:
Reduce impediment to fair housing by producing more housing that is affordable, accessible and usable throughout a person's life span

STEP 2
IDENTIFY PARTNERS:
Local developer, architect, contractor, investor
Building officials, advocates, people with disabilities who have experience in universal design
Local City staff
Passionate disability rights advocate

STEP 3
IDENTIFY PROJECTS:
Washington Court Apartments - 36 affordable units
Tax credits & National Registry of Historic Places
759 Bluff Street - 7 units, shared common areas, easy access to community amenities and services

INCORPORATE UNIVERSAL DESIGN ELEMENTS:
9 inch toe kicks on cabinets, shallow depth rear drain sinks, lowered work spaces, U-shaped handles, roll-in showers some units, drawer microwave, side-door oven

RESULTS

Washington Court Tenant Research Results
University of Iowa College of Law research project
Information on tenant usage & features to increase competitive advantage
Published in “Accessibility and Universal Design in Affordable Housing”

759 Bluff Street
Video produced detailing the project and its universal design features

City of Dubuque Housing & Community Development Department's work on these projects recognized at Lt. Governor's Summit on Housing for Persons with Disabilities
759 Bluff Street

Built in 1897, this historical building is centrally located in downtown Dubuque and was reconstructed and restored to provide an accessible home for seven income eligible, mobility impaired individuals.

- Apartment doors pre-wired for electronic opener
- Keyless apartment door locks
- Tripless entry thresholds

- Outlets at varied heights
- Backlit rocker switches
- Audio-visual fire alarms

Uniting People Beyond Disability

Step by Step

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LEADING CHANGE

IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIVATE BUSINESS

Together

PROCESS

STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE ISSUE:
Residents with disabilities unable to access some older businesses in town
Businesses confused about legal requirements

STEP 2: RAISE AWARENESS:
"Thanks for Saving my Space" PSA
Complimentary audits and recommendations

STEP 3: SEEK SUPPORT:
City Council makes improved accessibility throughout the community a Council priority

2002

2003

2006

2007

Resident leaders, the City of Dubuque, and the Chamber of Commerce begin collaborating on ways to support businesses in identifying and implementing low-cost accessibility improvements.

RESULT

Launched with speaker at Chamber of Commerce Annual Luncheon
Promoted with a series of billboards and public service announcements
Explained in informational interview on public access television

PUBLIC AWARENESS VIDEO:
Produced in collaboration with Happee Smith Productions, Michelle Ohmes, and Hartig Drug

WEBSITE AND ONLINE SURVEY:
Allows businesses to self-survey, make recommended improvements, and be recognized

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VOLUNTARY SURVEYS

Since 2007, over 300 businesses have voluntarily completed the surveys, made improvements, and been recognized as Proudly Accessible Dubuque businesses. The result is access for customers and sales for business.

Recognized businesses use the logo in ads
Recognized businesses are noted in the Visitor's Guide

CITY INSPECTIONS

In 2008, the City Council amended the building code and hired a part-time inspector to proactively inspect businesses for readily achievable improvements.

Tier 1
Inspections: parking, route, entrance

Tier 2
Inspections: counters, aisles, public restrooms

Tier 3
Inspections: elevators, lifts