



Rockford Area Arts Council

The Rockford Area Arts Council supports, promotes, and develops access to the arts for everyone.

On November 14, 2024, the Arts Council received the keys to the Rockford National Guard Armory building, 605 N. Main Street. Though there will be no evidence of creativity for months to come, the Arts Council staff is hard at work developing a robust capital stack for the future development of the property. Our vision can be summed up as a cultural civic center; our priorities include:

- Partner agency office space
- Affordable space for partner agency services, programs, and events
- Support for cultural groups convening space
- Subsidized artist housing
- Special events – weddings, proms, concerts, and workshops
- Affordable storage for cultural groups and partner agencies

Rockford National Guard Armory

Arts Council Project Timeline

% Complete	Task	Timeframe
✓ 100%	Arts Council purchases Armory	11/14/2024
✓ 100%	RAAC Submits Federal EPA Grant Application	11/14/2024
✓ X1	Legislator, partner organization, community meetings	11/2024 – 5/2026
	Award Notice for Federal EPA Grant	5/2025
	If Awarded, project moves ahead; If not awarded, Armory is returned to City of Rockford	6/2025
	Capital Stack for Armory Initiative is prioritized; potential partners become active investors	6/2025-12/2026
	Environmental Engineer Bids for Clean-up	12/2025 – 2/2026
	Hire Environmental Engineer Firm for Clean-up	3/2026-12/2026
	If capital stack provides sustainable funding model, RAAC moves forward; if not, RAAC could return Armory to City of Rockford or sell it	12/2026
	Development of the Armory Property that includes subsidized artist housing, practice rooms, office space, event space, partner opportunities, etc.	1/2027-12/2029