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ImagiNEXT Moves Into Voting Phase Community To Help Determine Top 25 Ideas for Marion

The Community is being asked to submit their vote for the top 25 ImagiNEXT ideas now through March 5. Online voting will take place at marionimaginext.org/vote-here. Paper ballots are also available at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Ave, and Marion Public Library, 1095 6th Ave.

ImagiNEXT kicked off in October 2017 to engage the greater Marion area in an open, all-inclusive discussion to develop great ideas that reinforce the fact that Marion, Iowa is the best place to raise a family and grow a business. By January 15, over 3,000 ideas had been generated through community brainstorming and online submission.

“We would like to recognize the work of our citizens who submitted over 3,000 ideas through the ImagiNEXT process,” said Jill Ackerman, Marion Chamber President. “Engaging the community in dreaming about what they want their place to be like is a valuable community development tool.”

The ImagiNEXT Selection Committee, made up of community volunteers, has had the difficult task of narrowing the ideas in preparation for this community vote. Ackerman added, the 23-member committee has been an honor to work with.

“They are an incredibly smart group who clearly have a passion for making Marion the best place for families and businesses.”

Once the top 25 ideas are determined by public vote, the Selection Committee will again narrow those to a final 3-4 ideas that will be part of an application to Iowa Great Places. Designation is given to communities with a strong vision for innovation, and enhancing vitality and quality of life. The program supports the development of new and existing infrastructure intended to cultivate the unique and authentic qualities of regions in Iowa.

“As was proof with Imagine8, this process has a lasting impact on the community,” said Ackerman. “Without the support of Blue Sky Productions, City of Marion, Farmers State Bank, Iowa BIG, and KCRG TV9, we wouldn’t be able to engage the community at this level.”

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The mission of the Marion Chamber of Commerce is to be a leading advocate for the business community, creating an attractive environment where business will flourish and citizens achieve the highest quality of life.