

# ISLAND HUB

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**The Vision for the Multi-Purpose Reuse of  
the Historic Bird Island Elementary School**

**2022**



# ISLAND HUB



## The Island Hub will be a multi-purpose reuse of the historic Bird Island Elementary School in Bird Island, MN.

Long a treasure of the community, the School District has closed the school, moving all students to its second campus in Olivia. It will engage in plans to renovate its second campus and possibly portions of the closed Elementary School. This creates an opportunity for a unique community collaboration between the Bird Island Cultural Centre, Rural Computer Consultants, Developing Roots and the School District. This one-of-a-kind public/private partnership will foster school sports, student learning, business expansion, event space, community wellness and arts programs for residents and visitors throughout Central Renville County.

Bird Island has a rich cultural heritage of supporting the arts and creative sectors along with sports and business. The Island Hub will literally be a hub as well as a center of commerce for the entire community. This will be an employment center, a place to take classes, a place to hold family reunions, weddings and the like, a place for fitness and wellness and a place to learn about and purchase healthy locally grown foods year-round.

## The Vision for the Island Hub

**Create** business opportunities for the community

**Address** health and wellness needs of the community  
(youth, adults and seniors)

**Community** resiliency

**Provide** spaces that are needed long-term,  
i.e. community kitchen, large community event gathering space(s)

**Host** extra-curricular activities that complement the school,  
i.e. gym, theater, dance, volleyball

**Offer** the opportunity to preserve a community asset so that  
it can provide things that help attract former residents back

**Preserve** places and spaces for young entrepreneurs and  
trailing spouses

**Transform** a vacant building into a community asset to  
stabilize the population

**Provide** space to allow expansion of art  
programming and other cultural center programs



## Island Hub

# PRIMARY PROJECT PARTNERS



### CULTURAL CENTRE IN BIRD ISLAND

Serves as the community hub for the arts and has been in operation since 2017. The Cultural Centre provides classes, hosts special art events and gallery exhibitions for all ages. The Island Hub project provides an opportunity to expand the Cultural Centre's offerings and include fitness and wellness as part of the mix that will meet the growing needs of the community.

### RURAL COMPUTER CONSULTANTS, INC.

RCC's primary goal and purpose is to create, maintain and enhance quality, affordable, complete and where-ever feasible, self-supporting software packages, that are consistent and easy to use, and meet the needs of industry specific customers.

Rural Computer Consultants was founded by the Sheehan family in the 1970s and continues as a family-owned and managed company employing more than 70 people with a majority living and working in Central Renville County. The Island Hub project provides an opportunity to expand their business to employ an additional 10-15 people and to create a collaborative workspace for the community.



### DEVELOPING ROOTS

Developing Roots' founder, Leta Jacobs, is an experienced vegetable and plant grower having grown edible and ornamental plants much of her life. The Island Hub project provides an opportunity for her to expand capacity with the addition of a deep winter and traditional greenhouse space; as well as community education and gathering space. In turn, bolstering the ability to expand plant sales, provide local fresh produce to the community and offer an indoor gathering space year-round. Exciting new collaborations with local seed companies have also opened new opportunity for year-round education and food production.



### BOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOLD School District will continue to make use of the large gymnasium space for after-school activities after its Olivia campus is renovated.



## ISLAND HUB

# GOVERNANCE, PROJECT FUNDING AND TIMELINE

### GOVERNANCE

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Island Hub, Inc. a newly formed Minnesota 501(c)(3) Nonprofit, has been established to manage the proposed Island Hub building complex.

### PROJECT FUNDING

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The Island Hub is an approximately \$11.2 million project. The majority of funding will come through a combination of Minnesota State bonding, federal funding, local philanthropy and other local and regional private and public sources.

### PROJECT TIMING

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The project is currently in predevelopment. The School District plans to vacate or possibly renovate portions of the building in the Summer of 2023. The Island Hub is expected to start construction in 2024, with completion expected by early 2025.

### YOUR SUPPORT

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Go to [birdislandculture.com](http://birdislandculture.com) to make a tax-deductible contribution to this project. Your gift will ensure a dynamic future for this historic school and the new programs and vitality this unique public/private partnership will bring to the community.



FOR MORE PROJECT INFORMATION,  
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