

# American Farm Museum & Education Center





# Agriculture Industry:

## Nationally:

Farmers are approximately 1.3% of US workforce

- US farmers produce 34.28% of world's soybeans
- 36.48% of world's corn
- 13.4% of world's cotton
- 7.6% of world's wheat

## Michigan:

- Second largest industry
- Contributes \$101.2 Billion annually
- 22% of State of Michigan employment
- 300+ commodities
  - cherries, blueberries, eggs
  - Field crops = \$95million annually



# Why Michigan?

- 25,285 Farmers
  - 9,139 Female Farmers
- Average Farm = 191 Acres
- Second largest industry is farming
  - \$102.2 Billion Annually

## Michigan Farm Ownership

- Family = 88.05%
- Corporations = 5.19%
- Partnerships = 6.76%



# Lenawee County - It just makes sense!

- 1,424 farms in Lenawee County - more than any other county in the state
- Third in total acres farmed - 399,349 acres of farmland
- Number One in production of soybeans, corn and wheat production



# A Humble Beginning....



# The Charles & Barbara Burkholder Farm Toy Collection









# Board of Directors Leadership:

- Peter Durbin, CEO - educator, retired
- Melissa Durbin Tsuji, President- Siena Heights University faculty and administrator
- Jerry Roessler, Trustee- Ag businessman, retired
- Mike Cory, Trustee- Blissfield Financial Services, farmer





## Five Year Strategic Goals:

- Create a unified campus of buildings and plantings capable of being constructed and planted in stages
- Design, construct and open a nationally recognized educational center which will not only capture the significance of the American farmer, but will also explain his or her role in the food production process
- Demonstrate how the design of the elements used in the site's layout, landscaping and architecture are not only sustainable and environmentally friendly, but also within reach of everyone
- Construct storage for museum exhibits. To date this includes: a million dollar plus - agricultural toy collection, full-sized farm equipment and other farm related objects
- Develop a variety of interactive exhibits which entice visitors to not only learn more about the food supply chain, but also the wide variety of production methods available
- Demonstrate how modern agriculture will not only sustain and benefit our health, but also preserve the Earth



# Critical Milestones:

- Completed Phase 1 of strategic direction - involved start-up documents including: a feasibility study of 70 regional constituents, business plan and strategic plan
- Closed Phase 2 which included: inventory, packing and moving the Charles and Barbara Burkholder Farm Toy Collection - an estimated 13,000 pieces and a 360 pedal tractor collection. These items were given by the Burkholders in a Deed of Gift in September 2012
- Purchased the former Home Canning Company property
- Purchased Whiteman Rhorback Property
- Environmental studies have been completed



# Critical Milestones Continued:

- Site plan has been redesigned in order to build out the Museum campus in construction phases
- Fundraising continues to support construction
- Preliminary Construction Schedule

Phase I - land purchase, site preparation and development, roadways, construction of storage facility for Burkholder Farm Toy Collection, Historic 1860s Barn

- Welcome Center/Gallery/Concourse, chapel, signage and landscaping
- Phase II - Education Center, Gallery Building #1, completion of parking
- Phase III - Multipurpose Hall, Gallery Building #2
- Phase IV - Galleries #3 and # 4



# A Sense of Place:

- World renowned architect Friedrich St. Florian has been retained to design the complex
- St. Florian's team will design a space that takes visitors from the mid-1850's into the 21st Century
- The Past will be used to knit together how farming, a way of life, changed as technology changed, human needs, population growth and world politics flexed their influences
- The Present will be used to ground visitor's minds as they are moved towards understanding the demands, influences and possibilities of the Future



# The Site:













# The Museum Designer and Architect:



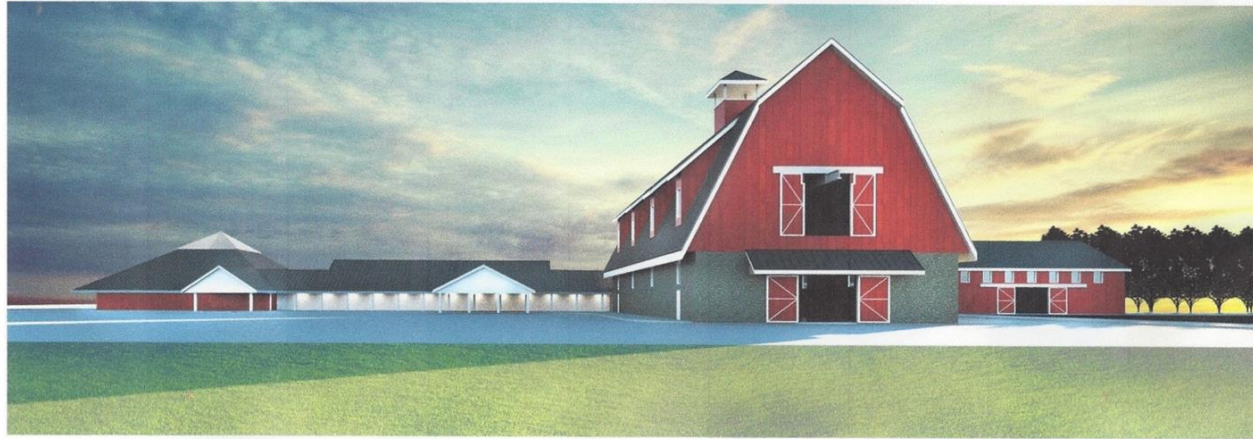
**Friedrich St. Florian**





# Friedrich St. Florian:

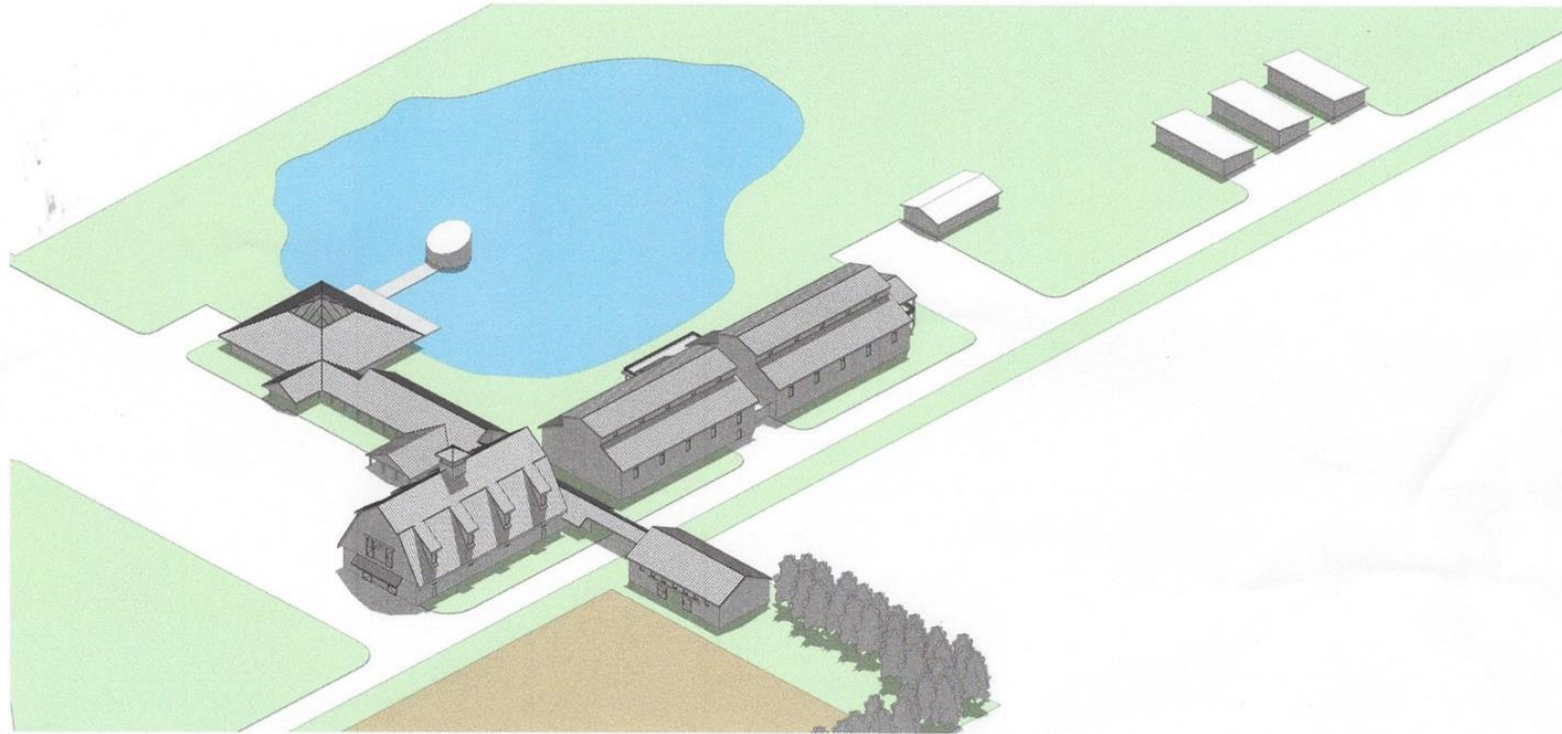
- Friedrich St. Florian is the renowned designer of the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. He is the principal architect of a firm bearing his name in Providence, RI. Mr. St. Florian has designed numerous structures around the globe. He has works on permanent display at the MoMA in New York and the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris. The WWII Memorial is his most visible work to date.
- St. Florian is the architect for the American Farm Museum and Education Center, thanks to his association with the Durbin Family and their instrumental role in the Memorial.



AMERICAN FARMER'S MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER | BLISSFIELD, MICHIGAN  
TRI-COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, INC.

FRIEDRICH ST. FLORIAN ARCHITECT





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AXONOMETRIC VIEW #3

FRIEDRICH ST. FLORIAN ARCHITECT



# Key Components:

- After much research and consultation, the board of directors has identified four key areas to developing the first five years of the American Farm Museum and Education Center:
- Build
- Engage
- Educate
- Sustain



# Collaborative Partnerships:

- Synergistic partnerships are being explored with Michigan State University and University of Michigan
- Board members have met with U of M Museum Studies faculty and leadership. They are very interested in pursuing an educational agreement
- Michigan State University officials met with board leadership to explore future collaboration. MSU has asked to be kept informed. MSU landscape architecture students will be working St. Florian and landscape architect



# The Education Center



# The Education Center:

- Educate the public in the vast diversity of the agricultural field in an unbiased information
- Rotating, changing and evolving exhibits focusing on the areas of agriculture
- Be a resource for the agricultural industry
  - Meeting site
  - Address areas of industry interest
  - Challenges industry faces
    - Supply and demand in the next 25 years
    - Not compromising cost and quality
  - Topics could include: bioresearch, legislation, political issues,
    - Health and nutrition – school age children
    - Genetic Modified Ag Products





# Education Focus:

- Health and Nutrition
- Genetically Modified Seeds
- Improper Advertising
- Defining Natural & Organic
- Water Quality & Environmental Issues
- Responsible Farming
- Biotechnology
- Proactive Consumer Education
- Up and Coming Commodities
- Technological Advancements
- Chemicals & fertilizers



# Education Center Interactive Galleries could provide hands-on learning about the following:

- Crop Farming
- Dairy Farms
- Livestock
- Equestrian farms
- Nursery and landscaping
- New commodities – wineries, breweries
- Mega and small community farming
- Forestry
- Farm fisheries
- Conservation



**Save the Date**

**Farm to Table Dinner**  
**Saturday, August 3, 2019**  
**Blissfield, Michigan**



Like us on Facebook!

American Farm Museum & Education Center



# What we need from the community:

- Support
- Monetary donations
- Volunteers
- Help raising awareness for our project







# Questions?

American Farm Museum & Education Center

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