



THE ROAD AHEAD PARTNERSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Road Ahead Awards 19 Route 66 Preservation & Economic Development Grants

Route 66, USA – Route 66 is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2026, and the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership is using the centennial celebration to help the millions of people who live, work, and travel the Mother Road through grants like the Route 66 Preservation & Economic Development (PED) Grant Program. Through generous support from American Express, the Road Ahead recently awarded more than \$40,000 to Route 66 businesses and attractions.

The 2025 Route 66 PED Grant Program awards go to 19 organizations in Arizona, California, Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Each recipient receives \$2,125 for their qualifying project as recommended by an independent Review Committee from across the eight Route 66 states.

There are four recipients from Arizona. The **VFW POST 6306**, located on historic Route 66 in Topock, will commission the painting of the Route 66 shield on the pavement at their address and plan a community centennial celebration. **Area 66** Outreach and Marketing will facilitate advertising efforts of the world-famous "Golf Ball" located in Yucca. **Kingland Studios Fun Center** in Joliet is creating brand-new characters inspired by Route 66 and its communities. Additionally, **Zettler's Market** will apply the reward toward much-needed repairs to its National Historic Register site in Ash Fork.

In California, two projects will benefit from the PED Grants. **Melting Pot Food Tours**, in the Old Pasadena business district of West Hollywood, will invest in tour guide training and update its website to highlight the 100-year anniversary of Route 66. **Cucamonga Service Station** is reconstructing its garage, completing the restoration of the historic site.

Two Illinois restaurants will also receive awards. Joliet's **White Fence Farm** on Route 66 plans to paint and replace fascia boards as needed following storm damage. In Virden, **Jo's Place** will restore its floors to improve safety.

In Rolla, Missouri, **Soda & Scoops** and **Red Door Gifts** will each be investing in building improvements to enhance the Route 66 experience. The third Missouri recipient, **Campbell Express Trailer Museum**, will have a new Campbell Trucking Mural painted in Lebanon Park.

In New Mexico, grants will support the "66 Artists on 66" Art Show and Handmade Souvenir Shop at **ART123 Gallery** in Gallup, and in Grants, the award will help replace and upgrade the electrical panel box at St. Teresa's Community Center.

There is a lot happening in Oklahoma. The **Bristow Historical Society**, will install benches and commission a Route 66 mural at Bristow's Town Square. **Magpie & Mulberry Market** will build a farmer's/vintage market at the corner of Route 66 and Highway 75 in Sapulpa. The **Arcadia Round Barn** will reprint its 12 historical panels and create brochures that tell the barn's story. The grant will fund professional architectural and structural planning for **Saint Cate's Route 66 Folk Art Cathedral**, a 1924 former church in Yukon. And in Tulsa, the iconic "COLD BEER" neon at **Arnie's Bar** along the original Route 66 will be repaired.

And in Amarillo, Texas, the grant assists in educational materials for a secure exhibit space and long-term conservation of the Helium Times Columns Monument and plaza at the Don Harrington Discovery Center.

Eligible activities included capital improvements, historic preservation planning or work, and accessibility or community outreach for businesses and attractions located on Route 66 that employ fewer than 20 full-time employees or are a small, locally owned franchise with five or fewer locations.

The PED Grant Program is an Official Route 66 Centennial Project as recommended by the Route 66 Centennial Commission. Future awards will be contingent on fundraising efforts to support the ongoing Route 66 PED Grant Program.

Established in 2016, with the support of the National Park Service and the World Monuments Fund, The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership's mission is to revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national and international icon through partnerships focused on promotion, preservation, research and education, and economic development.

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