



Award of MERIT

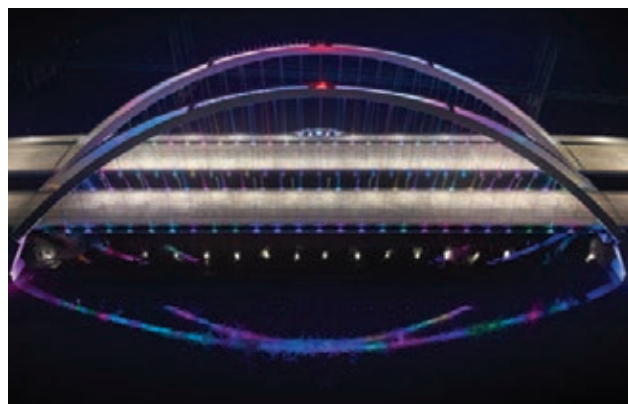
I-74 Mississippi River Bridge

Bettendorf, IA, and Moline, IL

HLB Lighting Design

Faith Baum, Elizabeth Johnson, Oktay Akanpinar, and Joe Spinnato

“It is an honor to represent this community with a nighttime photo of their signature bridge on a US postage stamp, and we are delighted to celebrate the project’s completion in tandem with Faith Baum’s retirement.”
—Elizabeth Johnson



Dynamic uplighting brings the double-basket-handled arch structure to life at night. Color-changing luminaires focus on the bottom surfaces of the arches, creating an apex of color and light on this vital infrastructure project. Custom DMX controls were pre-programmed with dozens of celebratory scenes. They use slow movement and color shifts to provide visual interest without distracting drivers.

Extreme temperatures, harsh winters, a high floodplain, and the great distance from shore required robust luminaire and control-distribution specifications. Finishes mitigate corrosion, and fixtures were located to allow accessible maintenance and prevent vandalism. Narrow-optic floodlights focus on small sections of the arch for smooth dynamic effects. Focusing was a formidable challenge, performed over five nights from river barges.

Full cut-off luminaires on the pedestrian path and soft lighting at the overlook have made walking across the bridge a popular nighttime activity. The illuminated glass oculus invites respite. And the identity-element columns cleverly incorporate reflective blue highway sign material, which evenly distributes the illumination from a single source at the bottom of each column.

After 13 years of planning, fundraising, and design, the new signature bridge uses strategic dynamic lighting and thoughtful general illumination to create a safe and welcoming landmark.

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