



2016 Our Town Projects

Number of Grants: 64 Total Dollar Amount: \$4,300,000

ARTs East New York

\$100,000 Brooklyn, NY

To support Living Livonia. The project will involve the activation of a 20,000-square-foot vacant lot in East New York. Project activities include artist residencies, the establishment of an artisan market, community planning workshops, and creative entrepreneurship training. ARTs East New York will partner with New York City Department of City Planning, Local Development Corporation of East New York, and Brooklyn Arts Council to recruit local artists and creative entrepreneurs to transform a vacant property into a burgeoning public space hosting artist studios and small business storefronts. Living Livonia will empower local residents by providing both entrepreneurship and community engagement training to facilitate conversation and planning for the future of East New York. East New York has been on the receiving end of displaced residents in New York City for more than a decade with 34% of the community living below the poverty line.

Allison Orr Dance Inc. (aka Forklift Danceworks)

\$100,000 Austin, TX

To support Forklift Danceworks' program My Park, My City. Through a multi-year residency, Forklift will select community artists to create collaborative community-based performances and lead town hall meetings and school-based workshops, engaging residents of Austin's Eastern Crescent in a process of reimagining their relationship to neighborhood parks and pools. The project is in partnership with Eastern Crescent neighborhood associations, the City of Austin's Innovation Office, Cultural Arts Division/Economic Development Department, and Austin's African American Cultural Heritage District. The goal is to strengthen citizens' sense of ownership of public space and re-energize the network of residents, municipal employees, and neighborhood organizations that live and work in a part of Austin that has long experienced economic segregation, systemic inequity, and benign neglect.

American Dance Institute (aka ADI)

\$75,000 Rockville, MD

To support the courtyard design for ADI's artist residency site in the Village of Catskill, New York. ADI is renovating a former lumberyard and associated buildings into a permanent home for its artist residency, which will include a state-of-the-art theater, artist housing, and an open interior courtyard designed for public gatherings and performances, artist talks, the local farmers market, and visual arts displays. The project is a partnership with the Village of Catskill and is integral to the community's overall Downtown and Waterfront Revitalization Strategy. ADI's new home will be designed to engage local residents as well as tourists and visitors to the area.

Appalachian Artisan Center of Kentucky, Inc. (aka AAC)

\$50,000 Hindman, KY

To support Spark Knott County programming in tool making and artistic blacksmithing. The initiative establishes a full time blacksmithing studio at the Appalachian Artisan Center of Kentucky (AACK) dedicated to an ongoing schedule of metalworking workshops and apprenticeships for local youth and adults under a master artisan. The partnership between AACK and Knott County supports a sustainable local economy for this rural area, which is based in the production and marketing of high quality regional art and Appalachian craft. SPARK will increase the entire community's pride in Appalachian heritage by honoring the labor of the past, and move the underserved community forward to self-sufficiency beyond reliance on the coal industry.

Art Institute of Chicago (aka The School of the Art Institute of Chicago)

\$75,000 Chicago, IL

To support the Homan Square Arts Initiative. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) will host three specific arts programs-a social impact artist residency, free arts classes for all community members, and workshops where SAIC students will work with local residents on public art projects. These activities will take place in the historic Nichols Tower (the original Sears Tower), in partnership with the Foundation for Homan Square, Luftwerk, and the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Art of the Rural

\$50,000 Winona, MN

To support phase three of Next Generation: The Future of Arts & Culture Placemaking in Rural America. Art of the Rural, in partnership with the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) based at the University of Iowa, will continue to disseminate knowledge on creative placemaking as a strategy to improve rural communities. During the first and second phases of this work, Art of the Rural developed a digital learning commons and facilitated rural peer exchanges in Minnesota, Iowa, and Kentucky. The third phase will support the expansion of the digital learning commons, a fellowship program to build the capacity of rural communities to undertake creative placemaking work, and a national conference to unite a broad network of rural leaders working across the country. RUPRI will continue to share best practices on rural arts and cultural strategies to its diverse network that includes Delta Regional Authority, Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation, U.S. Department of Agricultural Rural Development, state agricultural offices, and more.

Arts Council, Inc.

\$50,000 Huntsville, AL

To support architectural and landscape designs for the redevelopment of the Grissom High School campus into community arts facilities. The 46-year old campus is being renovated to improve the school's auditorium and arts management and production facilities, and incorporate a new, state-of-the-art public library, outdoor amphitheater, walking paths, and connections to the neighborhood. Fuqua & Partners Architects have been engaged to design the project, which is a partnership between Arts Council, Inc., the City of Huntsville, and Huntsville/Madison County Public Library. The redeveloped facility will catalyze investment in the area and serve neighborhood residents, the larger Huntsville community, and local arts organizations that have expressed the need for performance and office space.

National Endowment for the Arts 2016 Our Town Awards

Artspace

\$50,000 New Haven, CT

To support Game On!, Artspace's annual citywide Open Studios festival. The festival will engage artists and community members through commissioned works of art that will explore how the Goffe Street Armory can connect with the surrounding neighborhood. With guidance from the City of New Haven and members of a neighborhood planning committee envisioning the Armory's future, Game On! will work with adjacent partner organizations-Prescott Bush Senior public housing, Hillhouse High, New Haven Correctional Center, and DeGale Field-to re-brand the vacant Armory and link it more closely to its surroundings. The festival activities will support the hundreds of artists and more than ten thousand community members who participate in the festival, as well the neighborhood organizations that may benefit from a re-branded armory.

buildingcommunityWORKSHOP

\$75,000 Dallas, TX

To support the integration of creative placemaking and design strategies into the work of the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) and their community-based partner network. The buildingcommunityWORKSHOP will provide training to a core group of HAC regionally based housing specialists, develop a repository of best practices, facilitate a peer-exchange program, and publish articles that reach rural housing developers. Through training and demonstration projects, affordable housing developers and residents will be empowered to participate in the community design process and ultimately create more livable, vital places that celebrate the unique culture of the community. HAC reaches 6,500 rural practitioners and helps build the capacity of local organizations to develop affordable homes in rural America, and maintains a special focus on particular groups and regions such as Indian country, the Mississippi Delta, farmworkers, the Southwest border colonias (communities within the mainly rural US-Mexico border region with marginal conditions related to housing and infrastructure), and Appalachia.

Center for Land Reform, Inc. (aka Center for Community Progress)

\$25,000 Flint, MI

To support A Bridge Between Policy and Design: Creative Placemaking on Vacant Properties. Center for Community Progress will partner with the J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City at City College of New York to equip local city leaders from across the country with knowledge, systems, and creative placemaking tools to transform vacant lots in ways that support equitable revitalization. Project activities include a learning exchange between local government, community development, and arts leaders; an assessment of policy barriers that impede the ability of local organizations to implement creative placemaking on vacant properties; and a transmission of lessons learned to Center for Community Progress' network. As a national leader on solutions for blight and vacancy, Center for Community Progress serves as the leading resource for local, state, and federal policies and best practices that address the full cycle of property revitalization, from blight prevention through the acquisition and maintenance of problem properties, to their productive reuse.

Central Park NC (aka STARworks Center for Creative Enterprise)

\$50,000 Star, NC

To support NC Woodfire! Fest 2017. The STARworks Center for Creative Enterprise, in partnership with numerous local arts and county government agencies and local businesses, will host a 12-day celebration of Seagrove's historic pottery legacy. The event includes the creation of public art, pottery making demonstrations and tours, music, wood-fired food, and exhibitions showcasing the work of historic and contemporary ceramic artists. Established in the 1700s, Seagrove is a rural ten-square-mile area where Randolph, Moore, and Montgomery counties meet, and is believed to be the oldest ongoing non-native American pottery community. The festival will illustrate the rich ceramic tradition of the area, highlight the natural resources that make this local tradition possible, and introduce new potters to the public.

Chamber Music America

\$100,000 New York, NY

To support the sharing and implementation of creative placemaking approaches within the chamber music field. Chamber Music America will facilitate a pilot artist residency program in Louisiana cultural districts to explore how ensembles and other performing artists can integrate their work into the civic fabric of neighborhoods more effectively. Louisiana Office of Cultural Development will identify cultural districts for the pilot program, with a focus on places ripe for experimentation with the performing arts. Following lessons learned through the pilot artist residency program, Chamber Music America, in partnership with Project for Public Spaces, will design interactive learning sessions, webinars, and best practice case studies that ultimately will inform a creative placemaking toolkit for ensemble musicians nationwide. Chamber Music America is the national service organization for ensemble music professionals, with thousands of members that include individual musicians, ensembles, presenters, artist managers, composers, educators, and others in the national chamber music community.

City and County of San Francisco, California (aka San Francisco Arts Commission)

\$75,000 San Francisco, CA

To support Chinatown Alleyways Project. The multidisciplinary program includes a pop-up gallery and studio serving local youth, mural projects, neighborhood performing arts festivals, and cultural education workshops and tours. The project builds on three phases of work pursued by the Chinatown community during the past 30 years to revitalize and advance the role of its alleyways, which play an important socioeconomic role in the community's life and livelihood. It is a partnership between the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Chinese Culture Foundation, and the Chinatown Community Development Center. San Francisco's Chinatown is a densely populated neighborhood of 100,000 people with a median family income of \$24,000, home to a dynamic mix of residents, businesses, schools, churches, family associations, and nonprofits that have deep roots there or have recently arrived at this significant immigration gateway.

City of Anderson, South Carolina

\$75,000 Anderson, SC

To support Church Street Heritage Project. The goal of the project is to honor the historic economic and cultural contributions of African Americans in Anderson. The city will work in partnership with the Anderson Arts Center to commission as many as eight pieces of public art and install them along with interactive music and oral history recordings in a new public park. The park sits on the footprint of historic Church Street, which was the hub of African-American economic and cultural life from 1900-80, though none of the original streetscape remains today.

City of Cleveland, Tennessee

\$25,000 Cleveland, TN

To support the commissioning of public art. The City of Cleveland, in partnership with the Museum Center at Five Points and the Cleveland Arts Center, will issue a call for proposals from artists within 50 miles for the commissioning and creation of a mural and 3 sculptures, to be installed in four different locations downtown. The commission is part of a larger program to establish the Cleveland Arts Center as an arts incubator, making arts more visible and boosting economic growth in downtown Cleveland.

City of Durant, Oklahoma

\$50,000 Durant, OK

To support the master plan and design of an arts district. The project will feature a series of community workshops to identify programming for the arts district, design features and opportunities for public art display, redevelopment options for proposed incubators, and corridor plan improvements. The City of Durant and the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival organization, along with the Choctaw Nation and many other local stakeholders, will develop the master plan and a design to create a vital, diverse arts district within a main corridor connecting Historic Downtown Durant and the Choctaw Nation Resort area. This project supports the objectives of the Promise Zone designation to increase the economic vitality of the city and address workforce and education goals for the city's underserved community who make up roughly 40% of the total population.

City of Holyoke, Massachusetts

\$50,000 Holyoke, MA

To support I-391 Art Park. The City of Holyoke intends to transform a heavily trafficked, vacant, unkempt highway underpass and parking lot into a public park with improved lighting and art installations. The project, a partnership comprising the city, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and several local arts and civic organizations, will connect the Springdale neighborhood to downtown, providing a safe walking route for the largely Latino residents who live in the area. The park also will encourage new thinking about South Holyoke as a safe and vibrant neighborhood in which to live and invest.

City of Kansas City, Missouri

\$100,000 Kansas City, MO

To support West Bottoms Reborn: Activating Public Space through the Arts. The project entails the selection and design of three public spaces and the installation of public art on one of the sites. The project is a partnership between the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Kansas City Design Center, which was initiated by the Historic West Bottoms Association in response to the rapid redevelopment of warehouse buildings and neglected public space in the formerly industrial area. The project's goal is to create a more cohesive urban experience and to make more visible the existing artist community that already works in the area. It also responds to numerous area economic development and environmental plans, including the Environmental Protection Agency's Overflow Control Plan to improve flood conditions from the adjacent Kansas and Missouri Rivers.

City of Lakewood, Colorado (aka Heritage, Culture & the Arts Division)

\$100,000 Lakewood, CO

To support the development of 40W ExplorARTory Loop. The City of Lakewood's Heritage, Culture & Arts Division will create an interactive arts walking and biking experience in the heart of the state-certified 40 West Creative District. A social practice artist and artists experienced in working in public spaces will be employed to collaborate with project partners and the diverse community to delineate the path with visual cues, install playful arts elements along the route, and create iconic arts installations at the three Loop parks. The partnership between the City of Lakewood and 40 West Arts, Inc., continues the work on the Loop started through an Environmental Protection Agency area-wide planning effort in 2012. The ExplorARTory Loop will reflect the unique context, voice, and culture of the socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhood located along historic West Colfax Avenue and the new W Line light rail in Lakewood, Colorado.

City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (aka DCA)

\$100,000 Los Angeles, CA

To support Celebrate Pacoima. The program will include new cultural infrastructure in the form of an arts incubator, an open-air museum and gallery, creative industries training, and a technology incubator. The project will use apprenticeships, youth arts education classes, and cultural programming to address systemic community issues, including advancing economic opportunity, public health, and safety. Celebrate Pacoima is a partnership comprising the City of Los Angeles, Pacoima Beautiful, and the City Council District administration, and will serve the Pacoima neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley, where more than 20% of the population lives below the poverty line.

City of Mesa, Arizona (aka Mesa Arts Center)

\$75,000 Mesa, AZ

To support Downtown Lab (D-Lab) Project, a series of temporary artist projects, and design prototypes to activate downtown Mesa. Artists will be invited to submit concepts for temporary interactive art installations that will increase foot traffic and enhance connectivity among key cultural venues, businesses, and new light rail stations. In partnership with Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation and Downtown Mesa Association, Mesa Arts Center will oversee the open call and selection of artists to develop site-specific proposals along with the community, culminating in the D-Lab festival. D-Lab is a project that evolved from the community-driven Central Main Street Plan with the goal of fostering more gathering places, streetscape activation, and walkability. Downtown Mesa is undergoing rapid change with the arrival of a light rail connection to Tempe and Phoenix.

City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

\$50,000 Milwaukee, WI

To support MKE Plays' community-based park design and artwork creation. The project engages neighborhood residents, local artists, and local youth serving organizations to create public artwork and aesthetic enhancements in deteriorated park spaces. The City of Milwaukee and Artists Working in Education will partner to support neighborhoods in creating a vision for their park spaces that reflects the social and cultural assets of the community. The restoration of four of the city's playgrounds will bring much-needed improvement to many of Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods, and will create safe and attractive places for cultural exchange.

City of Natchez, Mississippi

\$50,000 Natchez, MS

To support creation and implementation of a public art and public health initiative called Blueprint for Cultural Health. The project features artist residencies in three established Natchez artist organizations; community guided artist interventions co-created with local businesses to inspire healthier living practices; and development of a research program with local universities to measure the impact of artist innovation on community health. The City of Natchez will partner with the Natchez Art Association on community outreach programs, workshops, and exhibits associated with the project. A specific focus will be given to issues of health equity among disproportionately affected low-income communities of color who make up 51% of the total population of Natchez.

City of Portland, Maine (aka Portland Public Art Committee)

\$25,000 Portland, ME

To support public art commissions and the redesign of Congress Square Park. Friends of Congress Square Park, City of Portland, and the Portland Public Art Committee have engaged a wide range of local organizations, businesses, residents, and designers in planning the transformation of this public space. This phase of the project will include the commissioning of a design team and public artist to collaborate on public approvals, delivery of final designs, and construction documents. Located in the heart of Portland's Arts District, Congress Square Park will serve as a community hub and public space for residents, visitors, and artists to connect.

City of Providence, Rhode Island

\$100,000 Providence, RI

To support neighborhood transformation: Cranston Street Armory animated by art. The multidisciplinary project will envision potential redevelopment strategies for the vacant armory building and adjacent park through a combination of community engagement with artists, community organizers, and residents; innovative arts programming; and community design charrettes led by architecture firm Durkee Brown. The project is a partnership comprising the Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, FirstWork, and more than a dozen arts and community organizations. The goal is to revitalize the historic armory building as a catalyst for economic development in the surrounding West Side neighborhood, where one-third of families live below the poverty level.

City of Tacoma, Washington (aka Tacoma Arts Commission)

\$50,000 Tacoma, WA

To support the development of a Culture & Transportation plan for the heart of Tacoma's Theater District. Artists, cultural organizations, and the broader public will be engaged in the redesign of an important gathering and transportation hub to increase access, improve use for cultural activities, strengthen the connection to the region, and improve the look and feel of the spaces through quality design and public art. The partnership with the City of Tacoma, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, and Pierce Transit will identify effective creative placemaking strategies to enhance the public, semi-public, and private spaces in the heart of Tacoma's Theater District in downtown. This project will serve the citizens of Tacoma and the outlying region by increasing the usability of and access to this public space.

City of Urbana, Illinois (aka City of Urbana Public Arts Program)

\$50,000 Urbana, IL

To support Open Scene: Debuts of Youth's Views in Downtown Urbana. The five-phase project will be led by a team of community stakeholders, a dozen youth, and four commissioned artists, who together will lead community workshops and create art that identifies the cultural needs of all of Urbana's diverse residents. The Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, located in downtown Urbana, is the primary partner with the City of Urbana Public Arts Program, and will both host the program's activities and be the ultimate hub for addressing the cultural needs that are identified. Open Scene's team leadership approach-youth partnering equally with adult community stakeholders-empowers local youth and works as a creative means of civic engagement and strategic planning for Urbana.

Coalition for Ozark Living Traditions (aka COLT)

\$30,000 Thayer, MO

To support the architectural design of Oregon County Food Producers and Artisans Co-op Culture Hub. Project activities will support the design, strategic planning, and programming of a new building to house the Oregon County Food Producers and Artisans Co-op on the court square in Alton, Missouri. The facility will serve as a cultural hub providing a retail space for regional products, a community kitchen, workshop, meeting space, gallery, and performance space. In 2014, the community began planning for the development of a new co-op building during a two-and-half-day workshop led by the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design. The project is a partnership with Oregon County to help stimulate the local economy via local artisan and food production and serve as a key community anchor to drive revitalization in the heart of Alton. The building will serve both the 126 co-op members and the residents of Alton.

County of Martin, Florida (On behalf of Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency)

\$50,000 Stuart, FL

To support design for the Old Palm City Ripple Eco-Art Project. Martin County will reconnect the historic Old Palm City neighborhood with the St. Lucie River at three distinct sites using a series of artist designed rain gardens, hydro sculptures, and other interventions to manage polluted stormwater. The project is a partnership between Martin County CRA and the Arts Council of Martin County, and will engage artist Lucy Keshavarz of Art & Culture Group to develop the project. Ripple will make visible the community's connection to water and the water quality impacts of humans on the St. Lucie River, which is part of the larger Indian River Lagoon system, the most diverse estuarine (mix of fresh water and salt water) environment in North America.

Dallas Chamber Symphony

\$50,000 Dallas, TX

To support Taking It to the Streets. The project will bring Dallas Chamber Symphony performances to downtown neighborhoods. Members of the Dallas Chamber Symphony will perform in public locations throughout the downtown area to facilitate informal music making, engage the community, and lift up the spirit of residents and commuters via musical encounters. The Southern Methodist University Music Therapy Program and the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs will partner on the project to assess the impact of the project and permit the use of public space. Additional potential partners have been identified to expand targeted engagement with homeless and at-risk populations. This project will primarily focus on Dallas' Central Business and Arts Districts, with additional programming in adjacent neighborhoods.

Deep Center, Incorporated (aka Deep)

\$50,000 Savannah, GA

To support Story Map. Through this program, lead artists will guide a year-long process, engaging as many as 24 young people to conduct research, go on site visits, and interview diverse community experts to discover what makes their neighborhood unique. The youth then will process their experiences through arts-based projects and creative writing activities which will be shared with the public. The project is a partnership between the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Deep Center, which promotes literacy by challenging young people to engage with language and their stories through writing, reading, and performance. Story Map takes place in the interrelated communities of Sandfly, Coffee Bluff, and Thunderbolt Island-three neighborhoods linked by African-American heritage and dependence on the coastal waterways for their livelihood.

Desert Botanical Garden

\$100,000 Phoenix, AZ

To support Spaces of Opportunity in south Phoenix. Spaces of Opportunity is a project to transform 20 acres of land into a community-based food hub and cultural gathering space. Desert Botanical Garden will partner with Roosevelt Elementary School District, Cultivate South Phoenix, and City of Phoenix to lead the architectural design process for a performance stage and outdoor classroom, commission murals, and establish an arts education program in conjunction with nearby schools. Project activities will complement U.S. Department of Agriculture's recently awarded funding to support capacity development for the food hub. The project will enhance an underserved community by providing access to open space that enables residents to celebrate their cultural heritage, engage in arts activities, and produce and consume fresh produce.

Durham Arts Council

\$100,000 Durham, NC

To support implementation of the arts driven Downtown Durham SmART Corridor initiative. This project will launch permanent and temporary public art and design projects identified in the city's Vision Plan. Plans include lighting the south entrance of the corridor at the 147 Freeway, designing a new parking deck wrap and new surface patterns for pedestrians crossing the railroad line to the City Center area, and a public art gateway at the northern terminus. The Durham Arts Council and City of Durham will partner to implement the Mikyoung Kim-designed plan to connect three distinct districts-American Tobacco, City Center, and Central Park. Improved pedestrian access and artfully designed public spaces will support arts based events and greater participation for the residents in this rapidly transforming city.

Epicenter

\$50,000 Green River, UT

To support the Rural and Proud Initiative to assist and support revitalization projects in downtown Green River. The initiative will utilize designers-in-residence to help propose and implement art and design based community development projects such as community asset mapping and public art planning. The City of Green River and Epicenter will collaborate to select potential projects and corresponding designers. The initiative will work the 952 residents of Green River to amplify the community's history and pioneering tradition, invigorate them to creatively voice their desires for the future, and activate the downtown.

FORECAST Public Artworks (aka Forecast Public Art)

\$100,000 St Paul, MN

To support a partnership between Forecast Public Art and American Planning Association (APA) to translate knowledge of the public art field into learning tools for urban planners. This collaboration will result in creative placemaking curricula and continuing education units for urban planners to influence the livability of mid-size American cities. The resulting curricula for the pilot public art certificate program will focus on best practices in planning and designing healthy cities through the public art lens, including guidance on working with artists, tactical strategies for implementing public art projects, meaningful community engagement, and racial and economic equity. In year two, Forecast will facilitate an APA chapter and a team of regional artists in planning, designing and creating temporary demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of the training. APA is an independent, nonprofit educational organization with approximately 40,000 members and subscribers and provides leadership in the development of vital communities across the nation.

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Ltd. (aka Burlington Discover Jazz Festival)

\$25,000 Burlington, VT

To support Discover Burlington: Getting from A to BTV. The event, part of the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, will commission visual and performing artists to create work that highlights the city's transportation resources in surprising ways, including public transit, walkability and wheelchair access, bike-friendly roadways and paths, and parking infrastructure. The project is a partnership of the Flynn Center and the City of Burlington Department of Public Works, along with numerous local arts and civic organizations. The project's goal is to raise awareness of underutilized transportation options and future transportation projects, and establish investment in the multi-modal future of city transit from Burlington's metro area residents.

Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park (aka Peralta Hacienda)

\$50,000 Oakland, CA

To support the redesign of the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park. The six-acre park and historic house form a cultural and educational hub for local families and youth, and a regional center for historical inquiry and discovery. Walter Hood will be commissioned to engage the community in proposing designs and construction drawings for the historic core of the park, which has stood abandoned since it was damaged by an earthquake in 1868. City of Oakland will serve as a key partner to convene community stakeholders during the public engagement process and ultimately to facilitate capital construction. Located in the predominantly Latino community of Fruitvale, the park is located in the geographic center of Oakland, at the crossroads of highways, public transportation, commercial corridor, and schools.

Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (aka GPAC)

\$200,000 Pittsburgh, PA

To support artist residencies with organizations that serve new immigrant communities in Pittsburgh. As part of the city's Welcoming Pittsburgh Initiative, this project will initiate civic engagement and cultural exchange with members of new immigrant communities in neighborhoods that lack public art. Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council's Office of Public Art, Mayor's Office, and City Planning Department's Public Art Division will work together to match visual, literary, and performing artists with various organizations that serve new residents from Bhutan, Burma, Iraq, Somalia, Mexico, and other countries. Each artist and their host organization will spend one year collaborating and engaging the community, and the second year producing a creative project whose concept is generated through the first year of collaboration. The Welcoming Pittsburgh Initiative is driven by a plan shaped through a community process that engaged a diverse 40-member advisory council and more than 3,000 community members, to guide the city's immigrant integration efforts during the next five years.

Harrison Center for the Arts (aka Harrison Center)

\$75,000 Indianapolis, IN

To support Pre-enactment Theater. The initiative is designed to revive a sense of community pride and fuel both neighborhood and commercial revitalization. Local actors and designers will collaborate with nearby schools and local stakeholders to re-envision the Monon 16 neighborhood as a vibrant community via set design and performing arts. Pilot performances will take place in vacant storefronts and abandoned lots to demonstrate the potential of the Monon 16 and celebrate existing assets. Partners include Harrison Center for the Arts, City of Indianapolis, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Located in a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Promise Zone, Monon 16 is a neighborhood in which 32.7% of the residents live in poverty and 33% of the 4,098 properties sit vacant.

National Endowment for the Arts 2016 Our Town Awards

Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts Corporation (aka McCoy Center for the Arts)

\$50,000 New Albany, OH

To support development of a cultural district plan and phase two of design of an amphitheatre. Informed by the city's Master Plan and New Albany Company downtown studies, the Cultural District Plan will discuss usage of the McCoy Center for the Arts and the amphitheater as it relates to the local arts and education community, as well as the town center and adjoining market and health and wellness districts. In partnership with the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts and City of New Albany, the McCoy Center will work with local artists, arts organizations, and community representatives. The plan will provide access to the residents of New Albany and its neighboring communities to the amphitheater.

LA Arts

\$50,000 Lewiston, ME

To support Lewiston Auburn: A Place for Makers: Past, Present, and Future - Transformation through artisan-based manufacturing. The project will identify the physical space, technical requirements, and business needs of artisan-based manufacturers and will develop a brand identity associated with this local arts industry. Related promotional events include a makers forum/showcase, pop-up retail space, and an exhibition highlighting the regional maker tradition's past, present, and future. Project partners include LA Arts, Lewiston Auburn Economic Growth Council, Pratt Institute, and local arts industry businesses and non-profits. The twin cities of Lewiston and Auburn have a 100-year history of textile manufacturing and a much newer local textile industry tradition generated from the city's growing East African community.

Lawrence Arts Center (aka The Lawrence Arts Center)

\$50,000 Lawrence, KS

To support Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World. The festival will engage as many as eight nationally and internationally recognized artists to partner with local artists and explore through diverse artistic media what freedom means to people of different nationalities, races, genders, classes, and cultures. The festival also will showcase films produced by bilingual middle school students at filmmaking workshops provided by the Lawrence Art Center (LAC) in collaboration with Centro Hispano, Lawrence's social service agency for Latino families. The festival is a partnership between the LAC and City of Lawrence, and will highlight the people and places, heritage and culture, that make Lawrence, Kansas, unique while also drawing new cultural, social, and economic resources to the community.

Maryland Institute (aka Maryland Institute College of Art)

\$75,000 Baltimore, MD

To support the North Avenue Knowledge Exchange (NAKE). This community-based education platform will provide free access to high quality classes for neighborhood stakeholders to learn from each other and engage in projects that improve the Station North community. In addition to those courses taught by local residents, partner institutions may offer arts-based instruction in design, drawing, video production, and literature, as well as classes on livability for residents on topics such as financial literacy. NAKE is a partnership between Maryland Institute College of Art, Station North Art & Entertainment District, Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts, Inc., and Red Emma, a local coffeehouse and bookstore that has pioneered this program through the Baltimore Free School. The project addresses Baltimore's endemic inequitable access to quality education and supports approximately 2,400 local residents, 70% of whom are African American and where 17% are households living in poverty.

Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County Tennessee (for Metro Planning Department of Nashville & Davidson County)

\$50,000 Nashville, TN

To support the plan for the Wedgewood-Houston Urban Magnet maker district. Metro Arts will lead a study on the economic impact and needs of makers and urban manufacturers, and identify areas to create or add affordable housing and workspaces in the Wedgewood-Houston neighborhood of Nashville. The Planning Department and the Nashville Cultural Arts Project will partner with local artists to build relationships between new and old residents and identify and reduce tensions between residential and light industrial and maker uses in the neighborhood. The plan will stabilize two aspects of the predominantly African-American community, amid a gentrifying housing market, to ensure the sustainability of the area's existing low- and moderate-income households and their housing stock, while maintaining and adding new artisan and light manufacturing spaces.

Milton Public Library

\$75,000 Milton, MA

To support Sky Over Milton. The project will comprise a series of creative programs and civic dialogues about race, difference, and civic responsibility. Milton Public Library and Boston Playwright's Theatre will partner to produce a series of interactive public events where long-time residents and newcomers can participate together in art making, conversations, performances, and writing workshops. In the past two decades, Milton has experienced a demographic shift to include new populations of Haitians, Vietnamese, and Nigerians. The project is intended to give residents of different ages, backgrounds, classes, and ethnicities the opportunity to interact with each other and take pride in living in the same town.

Opera America

\$50,000 New York, NY

To support learning and capacity building for opera companies to become agents of community building in cities across the country. Drawing on the expertise of Tucson Pima Arts Council, Opera America will establish a creative placemaking community of practice by forming a cohort of field leaders and opera companies who will develop, implement, refine, and assess the impact of pilot projects. The project will result in the development of case studies and other best practice resources for the field of opera. A multimedia art form, opera possesses a unique capacity to enrich the lives of diverse audiences, support community building, and communicate universal human stories. Serving the entire opera field, Opera America, with a membership of more than 150 professional opera companies, supports the creation, presentation, and enjoyment of opera.

Organized Village of Kasaan

\$75,000 Ketchikan, AK

To support the reintroduction of Haida canoe carving skills to the Native village of Kasaan. Project activities include studying the Haida canoe form using historic photos and museum pieces, hosting canoe and paddle carving workshops, collaboratively carving two traditional Haida canoes, and introducing contemporary materials to the art form to construct at least two additional canoes. The Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation and Organized Village of Kasaan will partner to foster meaningful interaction among community residents, Tribal members, Native woodworkers, and non-Native carvers. More than 10 artists and 700 participants will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to carve and preserve these cornerstones of Haida culture that were lost in the past 100 years.

Pangea World Theater (aka Pangea)

\$100,000 Minneapolis, MN

To support Lake Street Arts!. The initiative will use community engagement, community art apprenticeships, and public art to inform ongoing community planning processes through projects that represent the East Lake Street community. Pangea World Theater and the Minneapolis Department of Community Planning will collaborate on this project to develop a more equitable and sustainable model of growth that will be part of an evolving blueprint for all of Minneapolis. Using culturally relevant placemaking strategies, Lake Street Arts! will engage the primarily low income and immigrant residents in developing a vision for East Lake that will inform the Comprehensive Plan Minneapolis is currently updating, and set the stage for implementing a Cultural Corridor.

Pennsylvania Humanities Council

\$45,000 Philadelphia, PA

To support the activation of a Creative Exploration Zone (CEZ) in Chester, Pennsylvania. Local artists, youth, and community activists will create a pop-up community space, DIY youth-led programming, and arts events to promote improvements on the 500th block of the Avenue of the States, just one block from Chester's City Hall. CEZ will build on grassroots placemaking strategies that are already taking place on the avenue. The project team will include the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the City of Chester Planning Department, Public Workshop, and the Artist Warehouse, in addition to numerous local civic groups. The project goal is to capture the community's distinctive identity with quick, low-cost, design projects that encourage play/exploration, showcase local creative energy and talent, and engage the city in a policy-making discussion about environmental changes that will improve livability for Chester's residents.

PlanSmart NJ

\$50,000 Trenton, NJ

To support Partnership for Better Creative Placemaking. The project will improve the capacity of communities in New Jersey to implement creative placemaking projects more effectively. In partnership with National Consortium for Creative Placemaking and New Jersey State Council on the Arts, PlanSmart NJ will facilitate community coaching, build a statewide community of creative placemaking practitioners, conduct research on the creative sector, and train artists and local leaders. An independent, nonprofit planning and research organization that shapes land use policy across the state, PlanSmart NJ will build a statewide community of creative placemaking practitioners that demonstrate the value of arts and culture in community building and achieving economic and social equity.

Regents of the University of California at Berkeley

\$50,000 Berkeley, CA

To support the design, public deployment, and evaluation of interactive urban lighting in San Leandro, California. A public installation of artist-designed programmable, motion-triggered interactive sidewalk lights will establish safe, secure, and engaging walking zones between the city's downtown and public transit hubs. This partnership between Regents of the University of California at Berkeley and the nearby City of San Leandro supports the overall master plan for the city's downtown revitalization. The project will be a valuable resource for both the city and its residents, with a focus on providing safe walking routes for those that do not have access to private transportation, commute via public transit, or travel on foot in the evenings.

National Endowment for the Arts 2016 Our Town Awards

STUDIO 395 Foundation

\$25,000 Lake Elsinore, CA

To support The Artcademy. The project will include arts instruction and programming, along with the design of a permanent community arts facility housed in Riverside County's unused courthouse and jail. A partnership between STUDIO 395 and the City of Elsinore, the project will improve livability in the community by reusing a prominent building downtown and offering vocational art/craft instruction, such as metal and wood working, glass work, culinary arts, digital design work, and photography, to support the city's predominantly Hispanic population that lives near the civic center location, approximately 70% of those within walking distance.

Salt Lake City Corporation

\$25,000 Salt Lake City, UT

To support Urban Arts Festival. This two-day festival will provide emerging artists the opportunity to exhibit, perform, and interact with the public in a new mixed-use downtown public space adjacent to the new Eccles Performing Arts Center on Regent Street. The festival, hosted by the Salt Lake City Corporation and the Utah Arts Alliance, will include 100 exhibiting artists, three performance stages and 30 acts, live mural painting, a Kids Art Yard, the Voice of the City Film Festival, and a Skateboard Deck Art Competition. The festival's new location will celebrate an emerging downtown arts district for Salt Lake City.

Sealaska Heritage Institute (aka SHI)

\$100,000 Juneau, AK

To support Haa Latseen Community Project - strength, resilience, and opportunities through the arts. Sealaska Heritage Institute will conduct Native Alaskan woodworking and small business classes designed to provide creative entrepreneurship opportunities for tribal and non-tribal residents in Juneau, Alaska. The project includes partnerships with the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council, City and Borough of Juneau, Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Sealaska Corporation, and Lemon Creek Correctional Center. The arts and business-based programming will assist a cohort of more than 40 low-income individuals of mostly Alaska Native heritage with transitions from incarceration to release and economic self-sufficiency through teaching them to make native art objects for sale at the institute's highly trafficked center.

Shreveport Regional Arts Council (aka SRAC)

\$100,000 Shreveport, LA

To support UNSCENE!. The project will feature as many as four three-month artist residencies featuring nationally renowned artists paired with local artists who will create temporary installations, performances, films, readings, and other programming focused on audience participation and engagement. Artists will live in the Kellenberg Artist Tower at the center of Shreveport Common, which is a nine-block area of downtown Shreveport that has been targeted for planning and revitalization efforts. UNSCENE! will be managed by the Shreveport Regional Arts Council and Shreveport Public Assembly and Recreation department; additional partners will include the Parish of Caddo, Downtown Development Authority, and Shreveport-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau.

Site:Lab, Inc. (aka SiTE:LAB)

\$50,000 Grand Rapids, MI

To support temporary, site-specific installations and performance-based art in the Roosevelt Park neighborhood. Slated for redevelopment by Habitat for Humanity in 2017, three acres of land have been made available to Site:Lab for an interim use to facilitate dialogue about the site's redevelopment and provide unexpected arts encounters for the community. Vacant houses on the property already have been transformed into studios for artist residencies and hubs of public engagement. The City of Grand Rapids will partner with Site:Lab in year-long activities that will culminate in large-scale installations by national and international artists as part of the ArtPrize Competition, which attracts more than 400,000 visitors annually. Roosevelt Park is a primarily Hispanic community located two miles from downtown Grand Rapids.

Summer of the Arts

\$50,000 Iowa City, IA

To support arts and education programming at the Iowa City Southeast District's Dream Center. Professional artists will lead a series of month-long dance, printmaking, creative writing, and music workshops with a diverse group of neighborhood young people, including at-risk youth. Additional sites for proposed art exhibits, performances, and a celebratory arts festival include Wetherby Park, the Pepperwood Plaza Shopping Center, and the Grant Wood Elementary School. The project is a partnership between Summer of the Arts and Iowa City and includes community arts groups such as the Englert Theater, the Iowa Young Writers Group, the University of Iowa, and the Dream Center. The project works with youth from the South District, home to more than 60% of the city's black and Hispanic residents.

Trust for Public Land (aka TPL)

\$100,000 San Francisco, CA

To support creative placemaking activities in Story Mill Community Park in Bozeman, Montana. Project activities support the community engagement process necessary to produce designs and create public art components for the park. The Trust for Public Land is partnering with the City of Bozeman to lead the park design, master plan development, and construction process. This project will benefit the 39,860 residents of Bozeman, as it will provide an opportunity for neighborhood leadership to collaborate with public and private partners, capitalizing on community assets and identity through engaging culturally diverse youth to provide a safe space to share stories, which then will be translated into public art for the park.

Trust for Public Land (aka TPL)

\$50,000 San Francisco, CA

To support the design of Lynn Brook Park in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Trust for Public Land will partner with Public Art Chattanooga, and local community groups to facilitate public workshops, select an artist/design team, oversee design work, and implement public art and/or arts programming. The transformation of this 1.4-acre vacant lot into a community park is a response to goals and needs articulated in Thrive 2055: a citizen-led planning process, Chattanooga's Neighborhood Assessment, and the city's Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment. The proposed park is accessible by a ten-minute walk to a diverse population of more than 2,550 Chattanooga residents.

Tucson-Pima Arts Council, Inc. (aka TPAC)

\$75,000 Tucson, AZ

To support Cultural Belonging and Transformation: Placemaking from the Community Up. The project will focus on how arts and cultural practices can positively affect public health, participatory budgeting, criminal justice reform, land stewardship, and the Appalachian economic transition from coal. Tucson-Pima Arts Council, Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts NY, LA Commons, Arts & Democracy, and Kentucky Cultural Organizing Alliance will partner to conduct workshops, learning exchanges, trainings across the country, and will research issues relevant to underserved communities. The project will unearth creative approaches for inclusive civic engagement, and ultimately build community capacity to participate in local planning processes. Project partners will convene diverse audiences, including artists, culture bearers, educators, community developers, planners, activists, and policy makers.

University of Baltimore

\$75,000 Baltimore, MD

To support promotion and outreach for the Baltimore Arts & Cultural Mapping Project. This project will implement a marketing and engagement campaign to promote the use of a new mapping tool. The initiative will target arts and culture institutions, community development corporations, businesses, civic leaders, and the general public through use of social media, paid media, and earned media. The University of Baltimore will partner with the Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts to provide project and data management for the project. This interactive creative placemaking tool will provide the residents of Baltimore with access to arts and culture data such as artist housing locations; work, performance, and exhibit spaces; and nonprofit and for profit arts organizations. The project also will provide overlays of demographics and density, commercial and residential properties (vacant and occupied), parks and greenspaces, and other civic and social information.

Wilmington Renaissance Corporation (aka WRC)

\$75,000 Wilmington, DE

To support the design of pocket parks and passages in Wilmington's Creative District. Wilmington Renaissance Corporation will commission the Philadelphia-based design firm, Groundswell, to connect creatively the adjacent neighborhoods with downtown cultural institutions. City of Wilmington Department of Planning and Development will assist in the implementation of the project and public outreach as part of the adopted 2012 Creative District Vision Plan. Alleyways and vacant spaces will be reimagined as potential community gathering spaces, venues for performance, and aesthetically appealing corridors that drive increased foot traffic and activation of the downtown.

Young Audiences of Western New York, Inc. (aka Young Audiences WNY)

\$100,000 Buffalo, NY

To support a celebration of Buffalo's diversity through temporary public art pieces. Contemporary artist Nick Cave will come to Buffalo to work with local ethnic organizations, high school students, and leading cultural organizations on works of performance art to celebrate the racial diversity of the city. Young Audiences of Western New York and the City of Buffalo will partner on the project to bring neighborhood knowledge, physical structure investment, and planning expertise to the process. The project will work to weave together the rich ethnic traditions and creative experimentation of five Buffalo neighborhoods and the city's residents.

Youngstown State University

\$100,000 Youngstown, OH

To support Youngstown Arts District. The project incorporates several interrelated activities-the launch of the inPLACE "what does the city mean to you?" storytelling campaign with City of You; integrating the storytelling campaign with an exhibit at the McDonough Museum of Art; the official launch of the Arts and Innovation District action plan; and fabrication and installation of commissioned public art projects. The project is preceded by a design charrette focused on enhancing underutilized spaces on several downtown streets. The City of Youngstown and Youngstown State University are partnering with numerous arts and culture organizations to explore community, economic, and cultural development opportunities which will benefit the city's residents.