



## July 2015 Our Town Grants

Through Our Town, the National Endowment for the Arts provides grants for arts-based community development projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core.

There are 69 Our Town grants this year totaling almost \$5 million. The 64 projects that are focused on either arts engagement, cultural planning, or design are listed by state and city.

[The five knowledge building projects](#) that are new this year are placed separately at the end of that geographic list because they are either national or regional in scope.

In addition to the knowledge building grants, this year's Our Town projects demonstrate a range of geographic, population, and ethnic diversity.

- The geographic spread of the 2015 projects extends from [Denmark, Maine](#) to [San Diego, California](#) and from [Anchorage, Alaska](#) to [Key West, Florida](#).
- Population also varies with 55 percent of the projects in areas with populations of 100,000 or less including the rural communities of [Byers, CO](#); [Postville, IA](#); and [Havre, MT](#).
- An impressive breadth of ethnicities are participating in this year's projects including in [Los Angeles](#) the neighborhoods of Little Bangladesh, Little Armenia, Koreatown, and Historic Filipinotown.

## **ALASKA**

### **Anchorage Museum**

Anchorage, AK  
\$150,000

Primary Partner: **Municipality of Anchorage**

To support Polar Lab, a program featuring indigenous artists focusing on contemporary indigenous issues in the north. Polar Lab activities will include artist residencies, workshops, interventions, and curated conversations, putting artists into public spaces to encourage positive social actions. Through research and public engagement, the Anchorage Museum and the Municipality of Anchorage, along with their partners, intend to create a sense of shared community through the exploration of the myths and stereotypes of the North around theme of the environment and global change. The Municipality of Anchorage has a population of 300,950.

## **ALABAMA**

### **DesignAlabama**

Montgomery, AL  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **City of Jasper**

To support celebratory Made-in-Alabama events and regional cultural planning. A series of events will highlight the talents and creations of makers and artists in Alabama. Regional planning workshops will engage residents in assessing cultural assets in their communities and exploring opportunities to elevate the creative economy of the south. DesignAlabama will partner with Auburn University School of Architecture to coordinate events in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, Mobile, and Jasper.

## **ARKANSAS**

### **Theatre Squared**

Fayetteville, AR  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **City of Fayetteville**

To support design fees for a downtown theater commons. Via a competitive process, an architect will be selected to design a new space that converts an existing parking lot into a thriving hub for artists and audiences. The theater commons will include a performance venue, rehearsal space, classrooms, studio space, and artist housing. City of Fayetteville and Theatre Squared will partner to engage the community and elicit public participation in the design process. Theater Squared is one of only two year-round professional theaters in Arkansas. This new facility will expand access to tens of thousands of additional community members, while serving as a new institutional anchor for the downtown district. The population of Fayetteville is 75,000.

### **Thrive**

Helena, AR  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **The Delta Cultural Center**

To support an artist residency program in downtown Helena. A recently renovated warehouse will house artist residencies, providing them with ample workspace to live, produce, and exhibit their work. Thrive, in partnership with the City of Helena and Delta Cultural Center, will provide artists with entrepreneurship training, and help integrate their artistic practice into local festivals and events throughout the city. The project will spark

a critical mass of creative individuals to be active community participants, contributing to the economic and cultural revival of Helena. The population of Helena is 12,900.

**CALIFORNIA**

**Kala Institute**  
Berkeley, CA  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **City of Berkeley**

To support Print Public, an innovative arts project to foster community interaction and activate vacant lots along San Pablo Avenue. Artists working in and across print media will participate in six-month residencies that culminate in temporary art installations and public programming, including artist designed billboards and public transportation installations. Kala Institute and City of Berkeley intend to bring people together where they are (on the bus, in their cars, at the library, etc.) to encourage conversations about place. The communities along San Pablo Avenue are diverse economically and culturally.

**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs** Primary Partner: **Alliance for California Traditional Arts**  
Los Angeles, CA  
\$200,000

To support Promise Zone Arts. The project team will create a cultural asset map focused on folk and traditional arts and orchestrate a series of site-specific cultural events that address the goals of improved educational opportunities, economic development, neighborhood safety, and livability. The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs is partnering with the Alliance for California Traditional Arts and LA Commons on the project and will be advised by a ten-member task force and various expert consultants. Situated in central Los Angeles, the Promise Zone's population of 165,000 people consists of dense and culturally diverse underserved communities including Little Bangladesh, Little Armenia, Koreatown, and Historic Filipinotown.

**City of Sacramento, California**  
Sacramento, CA  
\$125,000

Primary Partner: **Crocker Art Museum Association**

To support "River Crossing," an arts master plan and commissioning of new public art connecting the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento along the Sacramento River. The master plan will promote connectivity between the Washington District of West Sacramento, an area growing in population but historically isolated due to rail and freeway barriers, and downtown Sacramento, which has established art, entertainment, employment, and recreation opportunities. The project will culminate with the installation of public artwork situated on both sides of the river, highlighting the community's shared vision of the project. River Crossing is being led by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Council and the Crocker Art Museum. It was preceded by a Community Challenge Grant for Sustainable Community Development in 2011, sponsored by HUD, the EPA, and U.S. Department of Transportation, in order to establish smart growth strategies in the Washington District.

**City of San Diego, California (aka Commission for Arts and Culture)**

Primary Partner: **Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation**

San Diego, CA

\$75,000

To support the Chollas Creek Public Art and Urban Greening Project. This phase of the project, part of a larger urban greenway development, will result in the installation of art and design elements along a 2.6-acre pedestrian trail that connects a regional transit hub, affordable housing, a neighborhood shopping center, and an arts and cultural district. The project's team, led by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture and The Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, also includes state and local environmental groups. The site is an EPA-listed brownfield site situated within San Diego's Diamond neighborhoods, the City's most ethnically diverse communities. More than 6 distinct ethnic groups exist in the neighborhoods, with 60 percent of the nearly 87,000 residents speaking a language other than English at home, and a median income half that of the overall San Diego region.

**San Francisco Arts Commission**

San Francisco, CA

\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**

To support the Market Street Prototyping Festival. Artists, designers, and the public will be invited to submit ideas that improve and activate Market Street, the city's main artery. The festival will become a testing ground for design and public art prototypes that foster a more connected, beautiful San Francisco. During the festival, the community will experience the proposed design elements and public art, and will be invited to provide feedback to inform longer-term projects for temporary or permanent installation. San Francisco Arts Commission, Department of Planning, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts will oversee project activities that bring inspiration to the city's major infrastructure project, Better Market Street, which completely redesigns the street by 2018. Market Street will become the city's commons, creating opportunities for more than 250,000 daily passersby to experience meaningful connection, inspiration, and engagement.

**Elevating Soulciety (aka Soulciety)**

San Leandro, CA

\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Alameda County Health Care Services Agency**

To support the production of Unincorporated, a "hip-hopera" inspired by the 1927 film Metropolis. Over the course of two years, writers, dancers, musicians, poets, theater professionals, and visual artists will work to develop an original script, score, and series of performances focusing on the themes of social justice and equality. Elevating Soulciety and Alameda County Health Care Services Agency intend to transform vacant lots and buildings along the city's main boulevard into live outdoor performance and visual art spaces for the performances. Youth on probation will be engaged and learn valuable job skills, twenty four percent of whom live below the federal poverty line.

## **COLORADO**

### **M12 Incorporated (aka M12 Collective)**

Byers, CO  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **Washington County Colorado**

To support Action on the Plains: The Future Rural Archive to explore the future and evolution of rural museums. The project will bring together a curator, a design anthropologist, a folk musician, and a landscape architect to collaborate with four rural Colorado museums to re-imagine their uses while at the same time engaging the community in cultural activities. M12 Collective, Washington County Colorado, and their partners intend to be a catalyst for long term dialogue about the importance of rural cultural exchanges. Rural museums are important repositories but are often run by aging volunteers, housed in old buildings, and unable to provide outreach to the community.

### **Friends of Art Street (aka Arts Street)**

Denver, CO  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **City & County of Denver**

To support the training of low-income youth in job skills, urban design, and creative placemaking. Education and research training activities will result in the development of a master art plan and the design and installation of public art around a light rail facility in the La Alma Lincoln Park neighborhood. Friends of Art Street and Denver Arts & Venues will work with youth as well as neighborhood artists, residents, and businesses. The median income of the neighborhood served by the project is \$35,600, which is 25% below that of Denver as a whole.

## **CONNECTICUT**

### **City of Bridgeport**

Bridgeport, CT  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **The Trust for Public Land**

To support the creation of interpretive signage artwork at Johnson Oak Park and Tisdale School. The sculpture is one component of a larger park renovation and community engagement project taking place in neglected Johnson Oak Park. The interpretive signage artwork will describe the site's cultural and natural history in an effort to build a sense of ownership and identity for people within the surrounding community. It will be accessible for students from the Tisdale School, 20% of whom have disabilities. The project is a collaboration between the City of Bridgeport and the Trust for Public Land, and takes place in Bridgeport's East End neighborhood, a minority, low-income area where 25% of the population lives below the poverty line.

## **FLORIDA**

### **City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

Fort Lauderdale, FL  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **Florida Atlantic University**

To support streetscape design and ecological public art planning in North Beach Village neighborhood. Designers and city engineers will collaborate through a public participatory process to propose design concepts and public art that will enhance the pedestrian experience and mitigate flooding. In partnership with Florida Atlantic University School of Architecture, the City of Fort Lauderdale will demonstrate how public infrastructure can

incorporate art and design elements that simultaneously serve a functional purpose and foster a unique identity for the community. The City of Fort Lauderdale is a coastal city of 172,400 residents.

**City of Key West**

Key West, FL  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **The Studios of Key West**

To support an arts master plan and public art installations at Truman Waterfront, a new 28.2 acre urban park. An arts consultant will lead a public process to establish a master plan to guide the selection and maintenance of public art, cultural programming, and long term sustainability planning for the outdoor amphitheater. Public art will be commissioned at key sites identified in the plan. Partners include City of Key West, Studios of Key West, Art in Public Places, and Florida Keys Council of the Arts. Formerly a U.S. navy base, Truman Waterfront Park will be the centerpiece of the public waterfront, offering public space and arts amenities that will serve the city's 25,550 residents and nearly 2.7 million annual visitors.

**GEORGIA**

**City of Atlanta, Georgia (aka Office of Cultural Affairs)**

Atlanta, GA  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Atlanta BeltLine**

To support Atlanta BeltLine Arts and Culture Strategic Implementation Plan. The plan builds on the success of the Atlanta BeltLine, a 22-mile long historic railroad corridor being converted to public space that encircles the city and passes through 45 neighborhoods. The plan will enable strategic and coordinated development of cultural facilities, partnerships, and programs that will enhance livability for those who live along and use the BeltLine. Led by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs and Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., the project will also engage local and regional non-profit partners, including cultural institutions and universities and colleges. The neighborhoods along the Beltline are home to over 20% of Atlanta's population of 445,000 people, and are both underserved in open space and socioeconomically disadvantaged.

**WonderRoot**

Atlanta, GA  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Fulton County Arts Council**

To support En Route, a public art project that provides a platform for community dialogue on access, mobility, and public transportation. Artists will be selected to design and execute public art projects at several transit stops throughout Atlanta. WonderRoot, Fulton County Division of Arts & Culture, and Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), will partner to oversee artist selection and engagement to ensure that each unique artwork will be responsive to the existing community. The project will stimulate conversations about the role of public transit and result in the beautification of transit stations throughout MARTA system, challenging existing perceptions that the system is unsafe and unclean. The Atlanta metropolitan area has a population of 6,100,000.

**Macon Arts Alliance**  
Macon, GA  
\$134,370

Primary Partner: **Macon Bibb County Urban Development Authority**

To support an artist residency program and cultural plan for Mill Hill neighborhood. Via a national call, artists will be selected and embedded in the neighborhood to work with the local community on arts projects and programming. Consultants will collaborate with residents, visiting and local artists to conduct creative asset mapping to inform a cultural plan. Macon Arts Alliance and Macon-Bibb County will provide leadership for the project to ensure community participation and visioning that guides the future of Mill Hill and positions the arts as central to the revitalization strategy. Located within walking distance of the downtown business district, Mill Hill is a historically significant neighborhood. Macon has a population of 154,700 and is one of 14 cities designated by the White House in its Strong Cities Strong Communities program.

**Deep Center (aka Deep)**  
Savannah, GA  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **City of Savannah**

To support Block by Block. Through this program, two lead artists will guide a year-long process, engaging up to 25 children, ages 11 to 18 to conduct research, go on site visits, and interview a diverse group of community experts in order to discover what cultural assets make their neighborhood unique. The children will then process their experiences through arts-based projects and creative writing activities, culminating in a mural depicting the identified assets, colorful neighborhood markers, a website, and a celebratory art march and live reading. 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. The participating children will come from Savannah's West Side neighborhood, a low-income community that will be the focus of the project.

## **IOWA**

**Resource Conservation and Development for Northeast Iowa (aka Northeast Iowa RC&D)**  
Primary Partner: **City of Postville**  
Postville, IA  
\$75,000

To support the development and construction of public art in communities along Iowa scenic byways. The project will introduce creative placemaking strategies and facilitate community workshops for city officials, residents, scenic byway boards, local arts organizations, local artists, and schools to identify public art concepts that reflect the local identity and stimulate cultural tourism. Artists will be selected to create public art based on concepts articulated by the community. Northeast Iowa RC&D, City of Postville, and other partners will establish an advisory committee to assist with artist selection. Completed public art pieces might include sculptures, murals, stained glass, or performances. The project will serve several rural communities with populations that range between 300 and 2,500.

## **KENTUCKY**

### **Berea College**

Berea, KY  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **Eight rural towns described below**

To support cultural asset mapping in the Kentucky Highlands Promise Zone. Via a series of community meetings and workshops, Berea College will lead a comprehensive asset mapping process to identify local arts and cultural assets that can be leveraged to craft a rural revitalization strategy. Partners on the project include eight rural towns, Berea College, Kentucky Arts Council, and Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation. The Arts Incubator of the Rockies will lend its expertise by providing artists, businesses, and Kentuckians with curriculums, tools, and resources to support and connect their work. Kentucky Highlands Promise Zone has an overall poverty rate of 30%, and includes the rural counties of Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, Letcher, Perry and Whitley County.

## **LOUISIANA**

### **Good Work Network**

New Orleans, LA  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Ashe Cultural Arts Center**

To support Roux Carré. The project partners will provide an artist residency program and professional development training for 40 performing and visual artists. The artists will receive hands-on training in marketing and public relations, business development, fundraising, financial and back office management, and performance booking. They also will be offered space in Good Work Network's newly constructed outdoor market and performance space. The project incorporates a broad partnership with the City of New Orleans Mayor's Office of Cultural Economy, Ashe Cultural Art Center, Puentes New Orleans, Nfungotah Inc./Dance for Life, and the Good Work Network. It targets business development opportunities in the OC Haley neighborhood of Central City New Orleans, working with women and minority populations.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### **True Story Theater**

Arlington, MA  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **Town of Arlington**

To support public performances and workshops that will strengthen the work of volunteer committees engaged in a general town planning process. Playback Theatre will engage the public using the arts to bring broad resident input into committee work in a lively, personally engaging way. Workshops will train committee members in how to speak more compellingly and bring arts processes into meetings to improve communication. They will expand the impact of and share lessons learned from the performances and workshops. True Story and Town of Arlington intend to increase civic engagement including the number and diversity of volunteers on town committees. Arlington, population 42,850, encourages ordinary residents to be active in town decision-making through 13 task groups that work on almost every facet of town life.



**Double Edge Theatre**  
Ashfield, MA  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Town of Ashfield**

To support the creation of Collaborative Territories, a site specific performance, and programming for a shared studio space for local artists. The free performance will be multidisciplinary and will rehearse in the open as part of a public process, leading audience members in procession from the town common, through the town center, to Ashfield Lake. Activities, including building workshops and exhibitions, will be held at the new shared studio space. Double Edge Theatre Productions and Town of Ashfield intend to raise the visibility of farms, artists, craftspeople, and tourism, galvanizing cross-sector exchanges and resource pooling. Ashfield is an underserved, rural town in western Massachusetts with a population of 1,737.

**City of Boston, Massachusetts**  
Boston, MA  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **Massachusetts College of Art and Design Foundation**

To support an artist residency program in Boston City Hall. Artists will be selected to work alongside city departments and introduce creative approaches that transform the delivery of municipal services. The residency program will provide participating artists with stipends, capacity development, training, and support to execute a pilot project over a six month period. The City of Boston will partner with Massachusetts College of Art and Design to effectively embed artists in local government work and bring new ideas for implementing Boston's Mobility Action Plan and 100 Resilient Cities Plan. The City of Boston has 646,000 residents.

**Arts Company**  
Cambridge, MA  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **Town of Ashland**

To support the design of an educational exhibit and observation station at Nyanza Superfund site. The project will be led by an artist to engage the community and foster meaningful conversation about environmental remediation via graphic design and storytelling. Key project partners, including Arts Company, Town of Ashland, Ashland Library and Ashland Public Schools, will utilize the Nyanza exhibits to educate youth to be stewards of the environment. Located in Ashland, MA, the Nyanza Superfund site remains active as a polluted site that is being remediated. Town of Ashland has a population of 17,000.

## **MARYLAND**

### **Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County**

Primary Partner: **Mid-County Regional Services Center of Montgomery County**  
Silver Spring, MD  
\$50,000

To support We ART Wheaton! Activating the Wheaton Arts & Entertainment District. The project will take place in underutilized commercial and public spaces in Wheaton, offering a schedule of year-round artistic performances, one-day festivals, and temporary art installations created by traditional folk artists and cultural groups. The events will culminate in the launch of the Wheaton Arts & Entertainment District and the unveiling of a large-scale public art installation in Veterans Urban Park, created by Matthew Mazzotta in collaboration with Wheaton's diverse community of immigrant artists and residents. Located on the outskirts of Washington, DC, Wheaton has a population of 48,284, with 33% of residents born outside of the U.S.

## **MAINE**

### **Denmark Arts Center**

Denmark, ME  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **Town of Denmark**

To support Something Rotten, an artist residency program. The project places artists at the town landfill to create site specific work out of garbage found on-site, which will be displayed for one year. Denmark Arts Center and Town of Denmark intend the artwork to challenge how residents view art while activating an underused community asset and fostering dialog about broader aesthetic and environmental issues. The Town of Denmark has a population of 1,150 that is rural, poor (per capita income of \$27,000), and relatively elderly (median age of 47).

## **MINNESOTA**

### **Asian Economic Development Association**

Saint Paul, MN  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **City of Saint Paul**

To support Little Mekong Water Festival to showcase the art and cultures of the Hmong, Lao, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Thai people. Artists, selected via RFP, will present artwork, music, dance, and interactive activities that highlight Minnesota's Southeast Asian heritage and its connection to the Mississippi River. Asian Economic Development Association, City of Saint Paul, and their partners will utilize area assets to combat disinvestment in the Frogtown neighborhood, positioning it as economic and cultural hub. Approximately 40% of Frogtown residents live in poverty.

## **MISSOURI**

### **Creative Exchange Lab**

Saint Louis, MO  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Harris-Stowe Foundation**

To support the East St. Louis Cultural Economic Development Neighborhoods Initiative. Multi-disciplinary project teams consisting of a resident youth, urban planner or designer, local artist, and university students will engage three East St. Louis neighborhoods in cultural asset mapping. Cultural assets may range from visual arts and historic architecture to less conventionally recognized cultural contributions such as church choral traditions and barber/beauty shop practices. The mapped assets will lead to unique cultural-economic development plans for each neighborhood, with the goal of greater community pride, economic development, and regional visitor attraction. The project is a partnership between the Creative Exchange Lab and Harris-Stowe State University, the St. Louis area's only Historically Black College or University.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

### **Mississippi State University**

Mississippi State, MS  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **City of Marks**

To support conceptual designs and ideas for an interpretive trail and center that commemorates the Mule Train. The project will highlight and interpret sites of the historic 1968 Poor People's Campaign where protestors from across the south boarded a wagon train pulled by mules that originated in Marks and ended in Washington, DC. Oral histories will be collected on notable events, timelines, and places throughout Marks. Mississippi State University Carl Small Town Center, in partnership with City of Marks and Quitman County Board of Supervisors, will lead community workshops to identify trail highlights throughout city and propose historical exhibitions and experiences that recreate and celebrate the Mule Train. The planning process will highlight Marks's history as part of a broader regional tourism development strategy for the Delta region. The City of Marks has a population of 38,600.

## **MONTANA**

### **Opportunity Link**

Havre, MT  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **County of Hill**

To support the creation of an art trail and the commission of public art along the Hi-Line of North Central Montana over 10 rural counties and 2 indian reservations. The project will engage artists, government officials, and residents in a series of local meetings and regional planning charettes to draft a plan to identify arts assets and public art opportunities, describe the regional art identity, establish a network and business support system for regional artists, outline concrete action steps for arts wayfinding, and boost arts education. Public art will also be commissioned and installed across the region. Opportunity Link, County of Hill, and partners intend to promote arts as a defining characteristic of the region. The art trail will serve 150,000 regional residents and tourists over 31,000 square miles.

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

### **North Dakota Museum of Art**

Grand Forks, ND  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Cankdeska Cikana Community College**

To support the activation of native arts practices in the Spirit Lake Tribe to address tribal societal needs. Activities include art-making workshops led by established tribal artists, the development of a master art plan, and exhibitions, performances, and lectures. North Dakota Museum of Art and Cankdeska Cikana Community College intend to increase public understanding of and participation in the arts while using the arts to heal the community by giving tribe members suffering from substance abuse and unemployment new ways to participate in community life. Spirit Lake Tribe members are lower income and number around 6,200.

**Three Rivers Arts Council**

Wahpeton, ND

\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Wahpeton Parks & Recreation**

To support the creation of public art in Chahinkapa Park. The project will include Native American artist residencies, the creation of public art, and related arts engagement and educational activities. Three Rivers Arts Council, Wahpeton Parks and Recreation, Circle of Nations School, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe, and other partners intend to establish the community's connection to and stewardship of its unique environmental habitat of endangered tallgrass prairie. They aim to develop the area's ecology and Native American culture as a community asset. Wahpeton, originally known as Chahinkapa (meaning "end of the woods"), is the nearest population center to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe's Lake Traverse Reservation, which has 12,300 members.

**NEW JERSEY****Cooper's Ferry Partnership**

Camden, NJ

\$50,000

Primary Partner: **New American Public Art LLC**

To support C-Note, an artist-driven storytelling and public art project in Camden. Artists and designers will engage residents to collect oral histories and develop mobile kiosks that will transform vacant lots into hubs of storytelling and idea exchange. Cooper's Ferry Partnership, New American Public Art, and the City of Camden will engage community organizations and institutional partners to capture and document recorded stories from residents that will be presented as part of the public art kiosks. The project will lift up the voices of Camden residents, and will serve as a model for the power of public art to activate vacant spaces, improving community pride and public safety. The City of Camden has a population of 77,000.

**NEW MEXICO****Creative Santa Fe**

Santa Fe, NM

\$150,000

Primary Partner: **City of Santa Fe**

To support design fees and community engagement for Arts + Creativity Center, an affordable artist live/work space. An architect will be selected via an advisory board representing local artists, institutions, government, and businesses. City of Santa Fe, New Mexico Inter-Faith Housing, and Creative Santa Fe will oversee the project, including community visioning workshops, management of the design process, and establishment of business development resources to serve artist entrepreneurs. Arts + Creativity Center will be the anchor of a light industrial area with increasing artistic activity, serving as a critical venue for artists to live, work, and present their talents. Santa Fe has a population of 82,000 residents.

**NEW YORK**

**Town of North Hempstead**

Manhasset, NY  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Long Island Traditions**

To support the Maritime Heritage Town Dock Resiliency Project. The initiative is an effort to incorporate creative placemaking into the reconstruction of the town dock, which was damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Through a cultural resource survey and collaborative visioning process, the town will transform the dock from an underused parking lot into an attractive, interactive park with green infrastructure, natural and built art elements, and spaces for community gatherings and arts programming that connect to the area's maritime heritage. The Town of North Hempstead is partnering with Long Island Traditions, a local folk arts organization, and Landmark on Main Street, a community and performing arts center, to engage the community in working with an artist to design a new Town Dock Park that will strengthen the community's social and physical resilience. North Hempstead has a population of 226,322.

**New York City Housing Authority**

New York, NY  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **Casita Maria**

To support "Make Mott Haven," a neighborhood-based effort to enrich the lives of South Bronx residents through local arts and cultural opportunities. The projects will bring together a wide variety of cultural programming, including public education and arts workshops, small and large scale dance and music performances, an artist residency program for up to five artists per year, film screenings and free workforce training in film production, and an annual large scale arts festival celebrating the area's rich cultural history. Primary partners are NYCHA and Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education, with active engagement from Dancing in the Streets, community development organization SoBRO, and the Ghetto Film School. This project builds on a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative planning grant awarded to NYCHA in 2012 from HUD to create a master transformation plan for the Mott Haven neighborhood.

**Women's Studio Workshop**

Rosendale, NY  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **Town of Rosendale**

To support artists in residence to create public art for Rosendale's public spaces. Selected via a competitive process, artists will develop a public art project to be sited in a park, host an exhibition at the Women's Studio Workshop, and lead community engagement activities to ensure local buy-in for their public work. Women's Studio Workshop, Town of Rosendale, and other community partners will support Rosendale's redevelopment strategy by using its parks and rail trails to unite audiences and artists in creative interactions that spark tourism and population growth. Rosendale has recently reestablished its economic footing through the arts with an increase in tourism, downtown storefronts renting, and in-migration to the community.

## **OHIO**

### **Cleveland Public Theatre**

Cleveland, OH  
\$150,000

Primary Partner: **City of Cleveland**

To support Station Hope, a multi-neighborhood tour of free pop-up performances celebrating the Underground Railroad. The project will feature local artists, selected by RFP, and will culminate in a weekend-long festival at the historic St. John's Church, the only authenticated Underground Railroad stop in Cleveland. During the selection process, Cleveland Public Theatre and City of Cleveland will strive to select pieces that include community interaction and are inspired by social justice. Community demand for Station Hope is strong with the number of participating neighborhoods, all low income, quadrupling since its inception in 2014.

### **City of Oberlin, OH**

Oberlin, OH  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **Firelands Association for the Visual Arts**

To support the design of a cultural wayfinding system for the City of Oberlin. Via a competitive process, a consultant will be selected to establish a brand identity and design a comprehensive wayfinding system that highlights cultural institutions, organizations, and points of interest. City of Oberlin and Firelands Association for Visual Arts will convene a project steering committee that includes representation from eight additional community organizations. The new wayfinding system will ultimately improve visitor experience and highlight the extensive arts and cultural offerings available to Oberlin's 8,286 residents.

### **Arts Commission of Greater Toledo**

Toledo, OH  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **City of Toledo**

To support artists residing in downtown Toledo to develop arts programming that celebrates the cultural heritage of the neighborhood. Via creative programming, such as live music performances in historic churches and on front porches, resident-artists will help to instill a sense of neighborhood pride in areas suffering from high unemployment, crime, and poverty. The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo and the City of Toledo will collaborate with two neighborhood organizations, Historic Vistula Foundation and East Toledo Creative Corridor, to identify artists and coordinate programming. Toledo has a population of 282,313.

## **OREGON**

### **City of Milton-Freewater**

Milton-Freewater, OR  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Shakespeare UnCork'd Walla Walla**

To support TALK PLAY DREAM: HABLAR JUGAR SOÑAR, a series of bilingual cultural programs to enliven Milton-Freewater and bring together disparate populations. The project will engage community members in cultural asset mapping, creative pop-up events, workshops, performances, and festivals. The City of Milton-Freewater, Shakespeare Walla Walla, PearlDamour, and other partners intend to bridge the divide between the city's Anglo and Latino communities, fostering conversation through shared stories. The City of Milton-Freewater has a population of 7,060, more than 40% of which is Latino, nearly double that of 30 years ago.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress**

Hazleton, PA  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **City of Hazleton**

To support architectural designs for the new City Arts Center. The center will be located in a historic bank building that has been targeted as a high priority project of the city's recently completed Strategic Downtown Revitalization Plan. Its design will include exhibition, classroom, and studio space. City of Hazleton, Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress, and Hazleton Art League will partner to manage community outreach to ensure that the design and programming of the center meets the needs of residents. The new center will expand the accessibility of arts programming to Hazleton's increasingly diverse population, and serve as a cornerstone of the downtown. Hazleton's population is 25,300, 40% Hispanic.

## **PUERTO RICO**

### **Universidad del Sagrado Corazón**

San Juan, PR  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **Municipio de San Juan**

To support Imagine Santurce, a participatory creative asset mapping and cultural district planning process for Santurce, a barrio of San Juan. Creative asset mapping will highlight existing cultural institutions, artists, arts-based businesses, and community organizations, while identifying potential opportunities for leveraging these key assets. Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, Municipality of San Juan, Foundation for Puerto Rico, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Urban Planning are part of a broader community-based coalition of members working together to capitalize on the cultural and artistic attributes of Santurce as a catalyst for social and economic growth. Partners will help to guide a cultural district plan to guide arts policies and strategies to stimulate neighborhood revitalization. Santurce is San Juan's most densely populated barrio that consists of 77,000 residents, 49 percent of which are in poverty.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **City of Rock Hill, South Carolina**

Rock Hill, SC  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Arts Council of York County**

To support Rock Hill Designs for Rock Hill Places: Phase I. Project activities include design and installation of the Woolworth Walkway and the creation of a Public Art Roadmap to be used in future public improvement projects. The project's larger goal is to incorporate locally-inspired art in public infrastructure projects throughout the city, particularly reflecting the city's dramatic civil rights history as home to the Woolworth and the McCrory's lunch counter sit-ins in the 1960s. The City of Rock Hill is partnering with the Arts Council of York County along with a wide consortium of local organizations across business and arts interests. Rock Hill, home to 64,555 people, is formerly a textile town with high unemployment rates.

**Catawba Cultural Preservation Project**  
Rock Hill, SC  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Catawba Indian Nation**

To support Catawba Cultural Preservation Project Yap Ye Iswa Festival and Artisan Development. The project will strengthen both the artistic and business capacity of Catawba tribal artisans by providing business training - including financial literacy, ongoing technical assistance, and coaching - and opportunities for new and expanded markets through a series of cultural events and festivals. A key component of the project is an overarching marketing and communications strategy that can be used by individual artisans and by the tribe as a whole. The project will utilize First People's Fund Native Artist training and Pratt Institute's Arts Management program, who will work to pass on Catawba cultural traditions from elders to tribal youth, and to share those cultural traditions with a wider metropolitan audience. Catawba tribal lands, located outside Charlotte, North Carolina, serve approximately 2,600 tribal members, 24.4% of whom live below the poverty line and 20% of whom are unemployed.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Cheyenne River Youth Project**  
Eagle Butte,, SD  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **About this Life, Inc.**

To support Waniyetu Wowapi (Winter Count) Art Park. Professional graffiti artists from across the country will be invited to teach a series of arts workshops to the Lakota youth of Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and assist them in the design of graffiti murals at the Art Park. Under the leadership of Cheyenne River Youth Project, About this Life, and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Art Park will become a source of pride for the reservation, providing an alternative to vandalism and an opportunity to engage youth via the arts. Based in rural South Dakota, Cheyenne River Youth Project currently serves over 1,700 youth and 400 families annually.

**Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation**  
Porcupine, SD  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Oglala Sioux Tribe**

To support the design of pow wow grounds, studio spaces, and artist live/work space on Pine Ridge Reservation. New cultural facilities will provide much needed space for Oglala Sioux members to exercise their creativity, develop new skills, and establish new artisan businesses. Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation will lead the project activities, in partnership with Oglala Sioux Tribe, First People's Fund, and ArtSpace Projects, Inc. The project will serve the creative community of Pine Ridge Reservation residents, half of whom are under the age of 25. Pine Ridge Reservation is a Promise Zone with a 49% poverty rate and a population of 35,000.

## **TENNESSEE**

**Community L.I.F.T.**  
Memphis, TN  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Memphis & Shelby County Office of Sustainability**

To support training for emerging musicians, programming for artist residencies, and a community-led design process in the Soulsville neighborhood. Local residents, businesses, students, and institutions will come together to re-imagine a vacant property as a creative community space. The Slim House Studio will host training,



apprenticeship programs, and residencies for emerging musicians, performers, and visual artists. Community L.I.F.T., Memphis-Shelby County, and the Soulsville Neighborhood Association will collaborate to lead the community engagement process and oversee artist training and programming. Soulsville is home to the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, and is a low income neighborhood that is 94% African American.

**Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission**

Nashville, TN  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Lipscomb University**

To support THRIVE Learning Lab. The Lab will be taught by experienced public artists and placemakers and will introduce 20 participants (two groups of ten) to best practices in community-based, creative placemaking techniques. Selected graduates from the Lab will be chosen via jury to complete temporary placemaking and public art projects in select Nashville neighborhoods previously identified as targets for cultural investment. The project is a partnership between Metro Nashville Arts Commission and Lipscomb University's Andrews Institute for Civic Leadership, a program specifically dedicated to offering non-degree citizen education and action opportunities that expand citizen involvement and leadership.

**TEXAS**

**Bastrop Fine Arts Guild**

Bastrop, TX  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **City of Bastrop**

To support architectural designs and a site master plan to repurpose the 100-year-old Powell Cotton Seed Mill into the Lost Pines Art Center. When complete, the new center will serve as a key anchor to revitalize the historic downtown core while providing gallery, live/work, studio, and classroom space for the community and local artists. After extensive public outreach, planning, and launching a capital campaign, Bastrop Fine Arts Guild partnered with the City of Bastrop to hire Barley & Pfeiffer Architects of Austin to design the center. A city of 7,554 residents, Bastrop continues to recover from devastating wildfires in 2011, and is leveraging arts as part of their recovery plan.

**buildingcommunityWORKSHOP**

Brownsville, TX  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **City of Brownsville**

To support programming at Art Market Square, an arts incubator and cultural hub. Located in downtown Brownsville, Market Square will be transformed from a vacant storefront into an activated space that hosts artist installations, community meetings, performances, and studio workspaces. bcWORKSHOP will partner with City of Brownsville and Brownsville Museum of Fine Art to select local artists to receive entrepreneurship training and to lead arts projects alongside the community. Market Square will anchor the revitalization of the downtown district in Brownsville, a city with 181,000 residents located on the U.S./Mexican border.

**Houston Arts Alliance**

Houston, TX  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **City of Houston Parks and Recreation**

To support the planning and commission of art for park sites along the Bayou Trails pathway. Artists will be selected via RFP by a panel of local art professionals, park stakeholders, and neighborhood residents based on

their proposals for park specific public art, performances, or installations. Houston Arts Alliance and Houston Parks and Recreation Department will host community and artist convenings to engage the community in visioning to develop an end product that reflects the culture and history of surrounding neighborhoods. The goal is to develop a corridor of connectivity to highlight diversity and combat the socioeconomic isolation of individuals between neighborhoods, a consequence of Houston's car-centric city design.

**City of San Antonio, Texas, Department for Culture & Creative Development**

Primary Partner: **The United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County**

San Antonio, TX

\$100,000

To support artist residencies in San Antonio's EastPoint Promise Zone. The project will educate and empower local artists to generate community-driven public art projects in a challenged urban neighborhood. Public art and design concepts will complement capital improvement projects currently underway with allocated city funding. The City of San Antonio's Department for Culture & Creative Development and United Way will partner to oversee the residency program and provide community engagement training for artists. Located east of downtown, EastPoint Promise Zone consists of four square miles, and has nearly 65,000 residents and a poverty rate of 35%.

**City of Texarkana, Texas**

Primary Partner: **Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council**

Texarkana, TX

\$100,000

To support Texarkana, Texas Market Grounds - Farm, Arts, and Historic District Cultural Public Space Project. Designers from the University of Arkansas Community Design Center and internationally renowned architect Marlon Blackwell will propose plans for art and public space design, ensuring walkable streets that incorporate local cultural elements. The City of Texarkana, Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council, and the Housing Authority will facilitate a community engagement process to inform the master plan and public art commission. Located in the downtown area, the Texarkana Arts and Historic District has a 48% poverty rate. The population of Texarkana is 37,400.

**UTAH**

**Ogden City Corporation**

Primary Partner: **Weber Arts Council**

Ogden, UT

\$50,000

To support Ogden Arts Hub. The project consists of community visioning for the Jefferson Arts District, including program planning for the new Ogden Arts Hub arts agency and maker space, and the Jefferson Hall music performance, recording, and education space. The project also incorporates direct support for local artists, including business development classes and training, a call for entries and commissioning of a public art piece, and a three-month artist residency program. The Ogden City Community & Economic Development Department and the Ogden City Arts Advisory Committee are the primary partners, with Union identified to manage the maker space and the Weber Arts Council to guide the artist education programs. The Jefferson Arts District will serve a growing artist community in Ogden City and is located in the East Central neighborhood, where 34% of residents live below poverty level, 12.5% are unemployed, and 20% are recent immigrants.

**VIRGINIA**

**City of Martinsville, Virginia**

Martinsville, VA  
\$25,000

Primary Partner: **The Piedmont Arts Association**

To support the commissioning of public artwork for the Piedmont Public Art Garden to provide a creative space for residents. The project will select artists via RFP and will include the public in the design phase of one of the sculptures as well as the installation phase of a tile mosaic sculpture. The City of Martinsville, VA, and Piedmont Arts Association envision the garden leading to increase property values and reduced crime. The City of Martinsville, VA, has a median income of \$41,000, and a population of 68,000.

**City of Norfolk**

Norfolk, VA  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Downtown Norfolk Development Corporation**

To support Art and Rising Tides, a project for sea level rise and environmental art in the Norfolk, Virginia, Arts District. This project will complete detailed site plans and commission a public artist to work with architects, urban planners, and community partners to develop and implement ideas for the Downtown Arts and Design District. Project partners include Norfolk Bureau of Cultural Affairs and the Downtown Norfolk Development Corporation, as well as Norfolk's Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Naval Station Norfolk, and the Better Block program. The project's theme of sea level rise responds to Norfolk's position as the U.S. city most at risk from rising tides and flooding challenges, aside from New Orleans.

**Elizabeth River Project**

Portsmouth, VA  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **City of Portsmouth, Department of Museums**

To support an art installation celebrating the Elizabeth River. Scottish artist Rob Mulholland will complete a major sculpture installation as part of the 2016 Elizabeth RIVERFest, an environmental festival created to inspire the region to see the river in new ways, appreciate its ecology, and engage in its stewardship. Mulholland will create up to ten permanent outdoor sculptures and ten temporary sculptures. The temporary sculptures, designed with the assistance of at-risk youth from the community, will be used as guides leading festival goers across the Jordan Bridge, the region's highest bridge, to the permanent sculptures installed in Paradise Creek Nature Park. The project is a partnership of the Elizabeth River Project, a local non-profit focused on cleaning up the polluted river, and the Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center, with support from numerous regional arts and municipal partners. The Elizabeth River watershed includes the 500,000 residents who live in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach.

**VERMONT**

**City Of Montpelier, Vermont**

Montpelier, VT  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Community Engagement Lab**

To support the creation of a public art master plan to connect current and future downtown design and cultural initiatives. Montpelier ArtSynergy Project will be led by a consultant, selected via RFQ, and will include community engagement through focus groups, interviews, visioning workshops, public hearings, and exhibitions

of the public's visions. The City of Montpelier and Community Engagement Lab will install a piece of public art at the culmination of the project to celebrate the adoption of the plan. The City of Montpelier has a population of 7,885.

**WASHINGTON**

**Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority**

Primary Partner: **City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture**

Seattle, WA

\$75,000

To support creative placemaking projects in three distinctive cultural districts of Seattle, Chinatown, Japantown, and Little Saigon. Project activities include an artist-designed light installation at an underpass, public art that celebrates Asian American history and heritage, and a design workshop to enhance a key historic alleyway. Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority and City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture will partner to plan and execute district activities that reflect the identity of the existing community, attract local business development, and foster safer public spaces. The City of Seattle has a population of 652,400.

**WISCONSIN**

**Wormfarm Institute**

Reedsburg, WI

\$25,000

Primary Partner: **Sauk County**

To support ephemeral art installations, pasture performances, and artist-designed farm stands as part of a 50-mile self-guided tour through Sauk County. The Farm/Art DTour will feature art works, performances, and other cultural experiences, including artist designed roadside farm stands. Art will be created by selected professional artists as well as farmers and landowners along the route. Wormfarm Institute and Sauk County will drive tourism to the region and bring together farming, conservation, and the arts in ways that engage the imagination and deepens the sense of place. Sauk County is a rural region with a rich agricultural heritage.

**WYOMING**

**Jackson Hole Public Art**

Jackson, WY

\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Town of Jackson**

To support phase one of the Jackson Hole HeARTery project, the commission of public art for the North Cache Street corridor. Via RFQ, three artists will be selected to tour the site, present on past work, and be interviewed by a selection panel, the Public Art Task Force, and key stakeholders. One artist will be selected to submit a conceptual proposal incorporating community feedback. Jackson Hole Public Art and Town of Jackson intend the public art to activate the corridor which includes underutilized buildings and empty lots, tying the artworks to the ongoing renovation of the pedestrian spaces on North Cache Street. The primary audience for these activities includes the 20,000 town and Teton County residents and an estimated 3.5 million annual visitors.

## **KNOWLEDGE BUILDING GRANTS**

### **Alternate ROOTS**

Atlanta, GA  
\$100,000

To support Southern ROOTS of Creative Placemaking. ROOTS will identify, document, compile, and disseminate best practices of creative placemaking in the South. ROOTS also will produce regional and local convenings, a learning cohort of multigenerational artists, and a retreat for more than 200 Southern artists and cultural organizations. Project activities will bring together a diverse audience of social practice artists, community organizers, social justice organizations, and other key leaders that are working to improve livability in their communities and instill a sense of pride in place. ROOTS will work to heighten the visibility of creative assets and establish pathways for artists to lead community and cultural development projects more effectively.

### **Art of the Rural**

University City, MO  
\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Rural Policy Research Institute**

To support Next Generation: Future of Arts and Culture Placemaking in Rural America. Art of the Rural, in partnership with the Rural Policy Research Institute at the University of Iowa, will expand the potential for rural creative placemaking within broader cultural and development-based conversations through a digital learning commons, a national convening, regional networking activities, and knowledge exchanges in rural Iowa, Kentucky, and Minnesota. An extensive network of rural arts and community development partners will help to execute the project, including Appalshop, Des Moines Social Club, Springboard for the Arts, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Wormfarm Institute, M12 Collective, Double Edge Theater, and the Kentucky Governor's Office.

### **National Alliance of Community Economic Development Assocs.**

Washington, DC  
\$100,000

Primary Partner: **American for the Arts**

To support the Creative Placemaking Immersion Program. The project is a partnership between National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA) and Americans for the Arts (AFTA). Project partners will conduct a national scan of existing creative placemaking practices, and will exchange information through convenings and peer networking. AFTA also will deliver direct project assistance to three NACEDA member organizations that will utilize arts and cultural strategies as agents for physical, social, and civic transformation in low-income neighborhoods. The project will offer a unique hands-on opportunity for cross-sector learning and will be guided by additional partners that will include ArtPlace America and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. NACEDA is an alliance of 42 state and regional community economic development associations in 28 states, including more than 3,500 community-based development organizations.

### **Springboard for the Arts**

Saint Paul, MN  
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **International Downtown Association**

To support capacity building of downtown development practitioners to implement creative placemaking projects. A partnership with the International Downtown Association (IDA), project activities will include sharing existing models of where and how artists are working with business districts, developing toolkits, and delivering

training sessions that coincide with IDA convenings. Activities also will include providing direct assistance to pilot communities on creative placemaking projects. IDA members and other business districts will expand their understanding of the value of working with artists and learn new ways of working together. Conversely, the project will increase the capacity of artists and arts organizations to work more effectively with economic and community development experts.

**Trust for Public Land**

San Francisco, CA

\$100,000

Primary Partner: **City Parks Alliance**

To support Nature of Community: Parks and Creative Placemaking Colloquium and a Creative Placemaking in Parks field guide. The Trust for Public Land and City Parks Alliance will produce a dedicated colloquium to exchange creative placemaking strategies for public park spaces, facilitate peer-to-peer learning, and encourage dialogue among a diverse audience of parks and community leaders, landscape architects, arts and cultural not-for-profits, city leaders, and artists, curators, and art administrators. The outcomes and guidelines that will emerge from the colloquium will be incorporated into the field guide for parks administrators. The Trust for Public Land has offices in approximately 30 states, and has helped protect, design, and develop more than 800 parks, playgrounds, and gardens in cities throughout the United States.