



FY 2016 Our Town – Federal Partnership Projects

Efforts expanded this year to work across government agencies to coordinate federal assistance and expertise to help local communities through initiatives such as U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Promise Zones

Appalachian Artisan Center of Kentucky, Inc.

\$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.

City of Durant

\$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 of 15,856.

Harrison Center for the Arts

\$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.