



FY 2021 Our Town Projects

As of May 11, 2021

In the National Endowment for the Arts' FY 2021 spring grant announcement are recommended awards in three funding categories—Grants for Arts Projects, State and Regional Partnerships, and Our Town. Of the more than \$88 million in funding included in this announcement are 63 Our Town projects totaling \$4 million. These grants will support creative placemaking projects in 28 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Northern Mariana Islands.

This year, a significant number of organizations submitted proposals with powerful visions for how arts, culture, and design can guide communities towards reconciliation and meaningful change. The Our Town portfolio is diverse in many respects. The common thread is their desire to establish new ways of working that sustain the integration of arts, culture, and design into strategies for strengthening communities.

To view All Our Town grants, go to the [Recent Grants page](#)

Overall, this round of Our Town funding is noteworthy because:

- There was a significant increase in the number of applications: 150 more organizations submitted eligible applications than did in FY 2020.
- Sixteen recommended projects, more than 25 percent, will take place in rural or tribal communities across the country, from the Alaska's North Slope to Tallahatchie County, Mississippi.

The following projects are examples of arts organizations leading the way on important issues of the moment with support from the Our Town program.

1. Address racial inequities
 - Emmett Till Memorial Commission of Tallahatchie County in Sumner, Mississippi, in partnership with the Tallahatchie County Board of Supervisors and MASS Design Group, will receive \$100,000 to support community planning, design workshops, and architectural drawings for a memorial honoring Emmett Till at Graball Landing.
 - Pangea World Theater in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in partnership with the Minneapolis Office of the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, the Lake Street Council, and the Native American Community Development Institute, will receive \$100,000 to support community theater workshops, artist training, and public art focused on the Lake Street corridor of Minneapolis that will allow participants to reflect on their experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic and recent social unrest.

2. Reassert Indigenous culture and history.
 - 500 Sails in Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, in partnership with Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, will receive \$25,000 to support youth dance workshops and performances celebrating the traditional maritime heritage of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
 - Fort Apache Heritage Foundation in Fort Apache, Arizona, in partnership with Swaback Architects and Planners, the White Mountain Apache Tribe Historic Preservation Office, and the White Mountain Apache Indigenous community will receive \$100,000 to support community engagement and a site design plan. Those activities will center White Mountain Apache cultural values, interests, and preferences in the visitor experiences of Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark.

3. Feature novel partnerships that will lay the groundwork for long-term systems change.
 - ArtsWestchester in White Plains, New York, in partnership with the White Plains Housing Authority and the City of White Plains, will receive \$50,000 to support a cultural plan and artist residency program for Brookfield Commons, a public housing community currently being redeveloped. The project will involve the residents in the vision for their community and will serve as a model for other housing authorities.

4. Advance our understanding of and progress towards the challenges of:
 - Climate change
 - Friends of A Studio in the Woods in New Orleans, Louisiana, in partnership with Plaquemines Parish, will receive \$75,000 to support communities on the southern Louisiana coast through artmaking activities that respond directly to rising sea levels and other ecological impacts due to climate change.
 - Health and Wellness
 - The RiffRaff Arts Collective in Princeton, West Virginia, in partnerships with the City of Princeton, Community Connections, West Virginia University Center for Resilient Communities, and other local nonprofits, will receive \$75,000 to support arts programming to initiate discussions on critical issues such as homelessness, mental health, and drug abuse.