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**ARTPLACE AMERICA INVESTS AN ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION
IN THE FIELD OF CREATIVE PLACEMAKING**

38 grants to organizations working in communities across 26 states will further position arts and culture as a core sector of community planning and development

July 13, 2015---ArtPlace America (ArtPlace) is proud to announce 38 grants to creative placemaking projects in communities of all sizes across 26 states. In these projects, artists and arts organizations will play an explicit and central role in helping to strengthen their communities' social, physical, and/or economic fabrics.

In Kivalina, AK, ethnographic artists will lead a planning process to relocate the 400 members of this Inupiat coastal community that is threatened by climate change. The artists and residents will take this opportunity to re-inhabit traditional lands and improve the community's infrastructure.

In Washington, DC, the Washington Performing Arts Society will work with local artists and residents to collect community stories as part of the development of the 11th Street Bridge Park, a new linear park that will re-connect three disparate communities, to ensure that all of the community voices are represented as this new civic asset opens.

In Detroit, MI, local residents and artists will develop a new entrepreneurship hub at an intersection that is among the most heavily impacted by Southwest Detroit's illegal street economy. The building, plaza, and green space are intended to simultaneously boost economic opportunity and public safety within the neighborhood.

A full list of the 38 grants announced is available [here](#).

With today's announcement, ArtPlace's National Grants Program has funded 227 creative placemaking projects in 152 communities of all sizes, totaling \$66.8 million worth of investments across 43 states and the District of Columbia.

ArtPlace received nearly 1,300 applications for this year's grant cycle, from which 90 finalists were selected. Of the 38 grantees announced today, 50% of them are first-time ArtPlace applicants; and 97% are first-time grantees.

ArtPlace also continues to invest in rural America: with 29% of the grantees working in communities with populations less than 50,000.

ArtPlace looks to fund across [10 sectors of community planning and development](#). These grantees will bring artists and arts organizations to work with community issues related to agriculture/food, economic development, environment & open space, health & human services, housing, immigration &

social justice, public safety & criminal justice, transportation, workforce development, and youth & education. Specifically, 11 of the projects will look at environment & open space; 7 at economic development; and 5 at transportation.

"The National Grants Program is actively building a portfolio that touches each of the sectors and stakeholders that make up the community development field," said ArtPlace's Director of National Grantmaking F. Javier Torres. "Last year, ArtPlace developed a Community Development Matrix to help us better evaluate our success on this front. So, we're thrilled that this year's 38 grantees represent a dynamic spectrum of creative approaches and partnerships in community development that expand the dimensions of our portfolio."

"We are thrilled to once again be supporting communities that are bringing artists and arts organizations to the community planning and development table," said ArtPlace America Executive Director Jamie Bennett. "There continues to be a growing understanding in this country that artists are the one asset that exists in every community and that artists have a unique value to add when they work alongside other citizens in shaping the futures of their communities."

"Each one of these grants supports a geographic community: a collection of people who live, work, and play within a defined circle on a map," continued Torres. "In each case, a community development challenge or opportunity was identified by local stakeholders; and these 38 grantees are serving as conduits for their community's desires by leading arts-based solutions through their projects."

ArtPlace America will invite applications for its next round of funding in early 2016. The opportunity will be open to projects working in any community in the United States. To receive notification when these guidelines are available, subscribe to ArtPlace's updates at the top right corner of our [homepage](#).

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About ArtPlace America

ArtPlace America (ArtPlace) is a ten-year collaboration of foundations, banks, and federal agencies that exists to position art and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities. Visit www.artplaceamerica.org for more information.