

Here is a complete list of ArtPlace’s 2016 National Creative Placemaking Fund finalists:

State	City	Applicant Name	Project Description
AK	Kodiak	Anjuli Grantham	Kodiak, AK is a small town on a large island in the middle of the North Pacific. Kodiak is the third largest fishing port in the nation and home to many seafood processors. Much of Kodiak's workforce commutes in, work for a number of months, and leave to other parts of the country where they own, invest, and grow roots. As a result, local fishing and seafood industry are increasingly finding it difficult to keep a workforce with the lack of social amenities available to year-round residents. A group of multidisciplinary artists are partnering with local government, business, and residents to activate Kodiak with performance and visual design upgrades to engage workers during and after the workday. There efforts are part of a series of incentives the town of Kodiak is testing to both retain and attract the necessary workforce to keep Kodiak’s economy thriving.
AZ	Cottonwood	Food Mapping for Cottonwood and Community	Cottonwood, AZ is a small city in Central Arizona with a unique landscape that is rich in agricultural history. Despite this, residents of Cottonwood experience some of the highest rates of food insecurity in the region. To address this challenge, available food sources will be mapped and disseminated to the community through artistic interventions.
AZ	Phoenix	Desert Botanical Garden	The Villas Esperanza neighborhood in Phoenix, AZ is roughly one square mile with a population of 8,612. Currently, the local food system does not align with community residents' needs, values, and cultural roots. Using oral history, traditional performances and culinary arts, Desert Botanical Garden will transform an 18-acre property from a blighted land parcel to a farm, garden, market, and community gathering location.
CA	Hayward	Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League	Ashland and Cherryland cover four square miles in unincorporated Alameda County, CA. Over decades of disinvestment, these neighborhoods experienced high levels of poverty, which has resulted in crime rates 3 times higher than the county average. To create safer neighborhoods and economic viability, the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League will create a “Polis Station” that includes a multi-purpose complex that joins a Sheriff’s Office substation with a community plaza and hub with space for gatherings for art, civic engagement, and community building.

CA	San Francisco	Deanna Van Buren	On the southeast shore of San Francisco lies Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP), a neighborhood with disproportionately high rates of multi-generational incarceration, crime, and murder risk. Little access to education, jobs, social services, medical care, transportation, and youth programs has resulted in economic and social isolation and higher rates of crime. To change this, FORUM design studio will create a mobile resource village program inspired by local engagement, cultural expression, and entrepreneurship to provide social services and resources in beautifully designed public spaces that address residents' concerns.
CA	San Jose	San Jose Taiko Group Inc.	San Jose's Japantown is in close proximity to the downtown core and Silicon Valley. After decades of decline, it is currently being revitalized through an active small business community, a passionate neighborhood association, and public/private investment. San Jose Taiko together with the City of San Jose, commercial developer Related California, the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose, and the Creative Center Working Group will transform a blighted 5.75 acre lot into a community-designed space to provide a needed cultural anchor for the community.
CA	San Ysidro	UC Regents/UC San Diego	The Casa Familiar project is located within a historic 20-block grid of small parcels and a network of underutilized alleys in San Ysidro, CA. The area lacks adequate pedestrian and public infrastructure, and with many vacant parcels it has the largest deficit of affordable housing and public space in the city. To address the housing challenge, Casa Familiar will transform a historic church into a neighborhood arts incubator called El Salon, and it will also create an open-air pavilion called Casa Patio, adjacent to the church, that will be programmed for community engagement through arts education and cultural activity.
CO	Denver	Re:Vision	Westwood is a predominately Latino neighborhood in southwest Denver, CO, that has suffered decades of neglect and lack of public infrastructure improvements. Sidewalks are narrow and often don't connect, forcing pedestrians to take incongruent pathways when navigating the neighborhood. Re:Vision plans to build a plaza and art center where people can gather to celebrate art and culture, and by uniting it to the parks and schools in the neighborhood, Westwood will have safer arteries throughout the entire community.

CO	Denver	Warm Cookies of the Revolution	District 9 in Denver, CO includes various neighborhoods from the central business hub to the Rino arts community and the Latino neighborhoods of Eltria-Swansea and historic African-American jazz district known as Five Points. District 9 is rapidly changing, and among recent plans for city-led redevelopment efforts, including new light rail stops, highway widening, and much more, citizens are being left out of government processes and budgeting, which are highly convoluted and inaccessible. In an effort to encourage democratic participation, artists, engineers, robotics teams and everyday people will create a Rube Goldberg-style machine that will be at the focal point of public events and workshops that are focused on including community members in government planning and development around transportation.
DE	Wilmington	Jason Aviles	Wilmington, DE is building a Creative District as part of a comprehensive economic development strategy downtown. 83% of the District's residents are African American living in an area that is a classified "food dessert". Despite Central Wilmington's varied array of local businesses, the small convenience stores in the area carry very limited produce at significantly higher prices, creating serious barriers for the 65% of households making under \$24,999 to consume a nutritious diet. Over 40% of households in this community do not have personal transportation, making it challenging to utilize public transit to access fresh fruits and vegetables. The Green Box will use recycled shipping containers to build a community commercial structure that integrates artistic expression and sustainability principles.
DE	Wilmington	Levitea	Wilmington, DE has designated 223 acres of downtown real-estate as their Creative District. The area is comprised of many small businesses, law firms, banks, and unused commercial office space. With much of DE's corporate tax incentives focused on attracting large industry, unfortunately much of these company's profits are then extracted to other parts of the country. A small group of creative leaders has begun to invest in building locally owned businesses to ensure the more than 6,000 residents that live in the creative district will benefit from the designation as much as corporations do. One of these creative businesses, Levitea, was founded in 2004 and has quickly grown to be a cultural anchor and hub. Levitea is expanding its support of local artists by purchasing and rehabbing two buildings on what is largely an abandoned block. Levitea will expand its capacity to be a creative anchor by offering artist live-work space alongside the monthly exhibits, concerts, and socials offered at Wilmington's only loose-leaf tea shop.

FL	Florida City	Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.	Florida City, FL has a predominant community of Latino farmworker families, 42% of which are struggling below the poverty line and whose health is compromised not only by chronic exposure to toxic pesticides, but by the prevalence of health disparities, such as obesity and diabetes. Given poverty residents' economic constraints, there is limited access to preventive health care, and little means to cultivate sufficient healthy food. Despite these challenges, there is extensive community knowledge on growing healthy cultural foods and healing herbs. To address these health disparities, the Farmworker Association of Florida will create La Farmacia Popular, or the People's Pharmacy, to create a nurturing space of multicultural and intergenerational experiential learning and healing through cultural folk art and creative workshops that will bridge storytelling with agriculture and skill sharing.
FL	Miami	Urban Impact Lab	Miami, FL is a 500,000 person city on 55 sq. miles of land, of which 20 miles are on the waterfront. Some express that Miami's largest threat is said to be sea level rise. The Urban Impact Lab is proposing an interactive light-art installation that uses Miami's iconic buildings and the bay as its canvas in order to galvanizing communities to build a culture of resilience, open paths towards awareness, and bring creative solutions to light.
FL	Opa-locka	Opa-locka Community Development Corporation	Despite the majority of Latino and black residents' informal agriculture and food enterprises, the city of Opa-locka in northwest Miami-Dade County, FL remains a food desert. To formalize community hobbies and traditions into economically viable businesses and increase food security that is culturally specific to community needs, The Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, Inc. together with artists in the community will create the THRIVE Campus. Complete with an urban farm, commercial kitchen incubator, marketplace, events facility, and arts charter school, three vacant lots in the city's downtown will be transformed into a site where residents can become stakeholders in their community's health.
GA	Atlanta	Project South	Atlanta, GA - South Atlanta was created as a land grant in 1867 to be settled by formerly enslaved African Americans after the Civil War. The neighborhood is steeped in history but has been afflicted by generational poverty, violence, & underdevelopment. Many urban renewal efforts have failed to produce lasting change. Young people in this community continue to be criminalized and are seen as harbingers of a lack of safety. Project South is proposing to rehab a critical community anchor at 9 Gammon Ave where young people will work with architects and designers to implement a community driven redesign process that seeks to unite the community and shift perceptions of young people while developing a vital community space.

HI	Pu`unene	Lehua Simon	Pu`unene, HI is an unincorporated community in the central part of Maui, Hawaii where, for over 175 years, 36, 000 acres of land have been used for the operations of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S). HCS&S has announced that they will be shutting down operations at the end of 2016 and the transition of these lands will have a tremendous impact on the entire island - its agriculture, environment, energy systems, workforce and economy. The Mālamalama Maui project will deploy artists to work with local small business and residents and develop films and media campaigns to inform stakeholders of the pending transition, develop new ideas for the future use of this land, and to share locally developed alternative solutions for use of the Sugarlands with government decision-makers.
IL	Chicago	Sweet Water Foundation	Chicago, IL - The Perry Avenue Commons is at the nexus of the Englewood and Washington Park neighborhoods approximately 6 miles south of downtown. The Sweet Water Foundation is partnering with local residents, the Hyde Park Arts Center, and the Art Institute of Chicago to drive economic revitalization for this community through the design, installation, and maintenance of art and urban agriculture across 2 acres of vacant land.
IN	Indianapolis	LaShawnda Crowe Storm	Indianapolis, IN - Individual artists and designers have teamed up to remediate the unsafe conditions of northwest Indianapolis. As a result of the installation of a highway in the 1970's and subsequent public and private disinvestment over the last 40 years, the community has continued to fragment and generated a lack of connection amongst residents. As a demonstration project, these artists will work to revitalize a walking corridor used by most young people to get to and from school. Working with current and returning residents (whom have been previously incarcerated) to rehab a series of vacant lots and houses, this community hopes to increase safety while supporting the reintegration of individual ex-offenders.
KY	Louisville	Seed Capital KY	Once culturally diverse and economically rich, the neighborhoods of Russell, Shawnee, and Portland near downtown Louisville now struggle with rampant poverty and limited economic activity. The FoodPort transforms a 24-acre brownfield site at the intersection of these neighborhoods into a food hub and community asset. Through a community engaged process with neighborhood residents, artists, nonprofits, and anchor arts institutions, these communities will shape the future of arts and cultural programming at the FoodPort.

LA	New Orleans	Greater New Orleans Foundation	The neighborhood of Treme, New Orleans, suffers from flooding due to poor infrastructure as seen in the design of Armstrong Park. Residents of Treme face the "backdoor" of the park, barred by an imposing iron gate, where the concentration of parking lots and few recreational areas reside. Treme residents and New Orleans' creative community will help design a new entrance to Armstrong Park along with new infrastructure that will absorb rainwater and decrease runoff that floods the streets. An artist-designed communications campaign will simultaneously engage residents about sustainable urban water management and green infrastructure.
LA	New Orleans	Tulane University	The Hung Dao community in Lower Algiers is New Orleans' oldest Vietnamese neighborhood. To maintain its traditions and celebrate its cultural heritage, the Hung Dao community will create a heritage garden at the site of a 6.5 acre park. The heritage garden will be activated through annual festivals, culinary demonstrations, fresh produce and prepared food markets, and educational events focused on this New Orleans-based Vietnamese community.
MA	Adams	Old Stone Mill center llc	Adams, MA is an aging--low income area that has lost most of its factory jobs and business community in search of strategies to remake itself into a sustainable small town. In partnership with the City of Adams, the Old Stone Mill Center is rehabbing a historic landmark and transforming it into a vital economic center for Adams. Given the state of the local landscape and landfills, there is an urgency to reuse and conserve resources in this region. Artists and engineers will sort materials, process and re-engineer them using zero waste practices as they seek to rebuild economic opportunity in the town of Adams.
MA	Aquinnah	Town of Aquinnah	The Aquinnah community of Martha's Vineyard, MA is the most rural of six total island towns with a historic Wampanoag community. Local residents struggle because of the lack of year-round stores, schools, and other key amenities. Currently, the Aquinnah Circle is the primary destination for residents and tourists alike, but without any facilities, the area is unable to retain visitors. To increase economic opportunities the town of Aquinnah will work with local artists to design streetscapes and honor the histories of the area while also creating additional community attractions for tourists.
MA	Boston	Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Inc.	Boston, MA has the only remaining Chinatown in all of New England. These ethnic enclaves have proven to be vital for the effective integration of immigrants, especially in the realm of mental health. As the population of Chinatown changes, the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center is proposing the launch of an artist in residence program that will support integration of new arrivals through traditional Chinese cultural expressions while connecting them to vital housing, health, and workforce resources.

MA	Boston	IBA - Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion	<p>Boston, MA is a city of neighborhoods. Villa Victoria is an affordable housing oasis in the neighborhood known as the South End of Boston. Villa Victoria was established by Puerto Rican activists fighting for housing rights nearly 50 years ago. In January of 2016, IBA was selected to partner with the Boston Housing Authority to redevelop an additional 145 units of affordable housing adjacent to Villa Victoria on W Newton Street; a perceived barrier at the center of a decades long turf war between local youth gangs. IBA will build upon this redevelopment opportunity and activate a series of public spaces, including O'Day Park, to address the incidence of violence in their community and effectively integrate the people in these places while stabilizing and revitalizing their housing.</p>
MA	Boston	The Fenway Alliance	<p>Boston, MA - The Fenway neighborhood has undergone a dramatic transition over the last decade with the rapid influx of luxury housing and retail that has drastically changed the demographics and the visual landscape of the community. At the core of this change are some of Boston's critical cultural anchors that include the Museum of Fine Arts (and its school), Fenway Park, The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Conservatory, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and Mass College of Art & Design. Over the last two years, many of these institutions have undergone leadership transitions. These changes have led to disconnects between the organization's resources and their surrounding community. The Fenway Alliance will leverage an artist in residency program to coordinate old and new residents in articulating their priorities for their neighborhood and designing public forums where new institutional leadership may have their organizational strategies informed by the needs of their neighbors and learn how to deploy their assets to strengthen the surrounding community.</p>
MA	Cambridge	Cambridge Community Foundation	<p>Cambridge, MA, affectionately called <i>The People's Republic</i>, is known for its landmark educational institutions and as a hub for science and technology industry. At its core is Central Square which was conceived as a downtown district for the city in the 1850s. The Cambridge Community Foundation is proposing to work alongside the city, several arts anchors, and local industry, that have brought great prosperity to this region, to ensure that the City's cultural assets are not casualties to the rapid growth in the region. Through a series of public programs and proto-typing interventions the Foundation will support local stakeholders in developing a more cohesive visual identity to drive more sustained investment in Central Square's diverse cultural assets.</p>

MA	Greenfield	Greening Greenfield	Greenfield, MA is the largest community in Franklin County, the most rural county in Massachusetts. Greenfield's balance of rural and urban living is challenged by the existence of a number of brownfield sites dating back to the town's industrial history that are affecting the quality of the local groundwater. Also, in 2010, housing development in the downtown dismantled the town's sole skate park, leaving the 19.7% of Greenfield's population that is under 18 years of age and other older skaters without an athletic facility. A dynamic group of community leaders are partnering with local government and landscape designers to rehabilitate the brownfield site at 34 Riddell Street with a concrete skate park that would cap the brownfield and create a beautiful community asset for local skaters.
MA	Mattapan	Local Initiatives Support Corporation -Boston	Boston, MA is home to the dynamic neighborhood called Mattapan which lies at the southern tip of the City. Mattapan has historically been one of Boston's most vibrant and ethnically diverse neighborhoods. Despite the richness of resources and resilience of its residents, Mattapan has long suffered from disinvestment. Boston-LISC is partnering with a comprehensive set of residents, businesses, and artists to develop a locally led vision for investments planned in Mattapan in the next decade. Through exhibits, performances, and public celebrations Boston-LISC will ensure a comprehensive set of local stakeholders are engaged in a public process that will largely determine public and private investments in new transportation, housing, and public space for the neighborhood.
MA	Worcester	Worcester Cultural Coalition	Worcester, MA has always been known as a creative city given the large number of inventions that have come from this town since its inception. The local government is focused on shifting perceptions of Worcester's downtown in order to build residential density, meet the needs of existing residents, and attract private investment. Storefront vacancy rate in the district is high and amenities for residents are lacking due to perceived public safety concerns. The Worcester Cultural Coalition will open a collaborative co-working and performance space at 20 Franklin St., across from the Worcester Commons, to coordinate the deployment of community groups and artists to assist with community policing, public health check-ins, and public engagement within this key public amenity.

			<p>This project focuses on a 30-acre section of the Station North Arts District, from Trenton to 21st Street and Howard to St. Paul Street. This community's planning and development challenge lies in the historical, cultural, relational challenge with the Korean community. As cultural difference, language barriers, lack of trust, and fear created racial divides that contributed to the street protests of 1990 and 2015, the Korean community has become a challenge with which to build partnerships as the owners keep their buildings vacant, renting out the buildings only to other Koreans, and closing local parking lots. Aletheia Shin, a Korean artist, has been collaborating with Korean business owners and will now work to bridge the Korean community with the broader revitalizing neighborhood. Creative Kye will deploy arts and culture to activate a Korean own vacant building as a hub for collaborative projects including the transformation of an old vault in the building to a community bank that maps the existing assets in the community, host exhibitions as part of Station North's All Over the Streets, a monthly art openings walk, feature groups of community stakeholders and utilize the exhibition as a platform to build community identity, initiate dialogue on issues identified by the community as a catalyst toward collective action.</p>
MD	Baltimore	Aletheia Shin	
			<p>Baltimore, MD - Curtis Bay is located in south Baltimore, bounded by the Fairfield peninsula on the east, highway 695 to the south, and by highway 895 to the north and west. Curtis Bay is home to a high concentration of polluting industries. As a result, the Baltimore Health Department recently determined that Curtis Bay had a 51% avertible death rate. The United Workers of Baltimore have been using the power of storytelling and organizing to help put the brakes on the construction of the nation's largest incinerator to be built in Curtis Bay by 2020. If built, it will be less than a mile away from a public high school. Through spoken word, video, exhibitions and more local artists will lead the community into a parallel, proactive and visionary phase. Artists will help facilitate a culture-infused community visioning process that will illustrate the possibilities of transforming what has historically been a toxic dumping ground into an area with solar farms, recycling facilities, and urban agriculture.</p>
MD	Baltimore	United Workers	

MI	Detroit	Detroit Afrikan Music Institution	<p>Detroit, MI is as much known for its industrial history as it is for its musical history. Despite much of the public performance infrastructure having decayed, Detroit's local musicians have thrived and are an untapped resource to drive economic development in several North End neighborhoods. Using contemporary architectural interventions and experimental music programming, TRIP Detroit activates a constellation of five significant, underused or at-risk sites related to Detroit's music heritage. Each site in the network will be stabilized, occupied, reimagined, visually renewed, and uniquely animated. The interventions will be deeply-rooted in the singular history of the individual sites and in their enduring relationship to the communities where they are located. From weekly music master classes, to community open-jam and rehearsal sessions, to cross-genre dance parties, and live performances, the project will offer open access to a living legacy for local and national audiences. United, the constellation will catalyze a network of cultural infrastructures dedicated to the advancement of future generations of Detroit-based musicians.</p>
MI	Detroit	Detroit Strategic Framework, Inc. dba Detroit Future City	<p>Detroit, MI - The HOPE Village Initiative community is a 100 block area around the Focus: HOPE campus, located in the center of Detroit. A microcosm of Detroit, it shows disinvestment and population loss, but also includes a historic district, a library with the highest usage of all neighborhood libraries, walkable streets and a portion of a proposed greenway that will circle the city. Detroit's aging energy infrastructure represents a significant economic, environmental, and public health challenge for residents. With energy costs higher than the national average and projected to increase 48% over the next 25 years, issues with power reliability and concerns over air quality—due in part to point source pollution from older power plants—and childhood asthma rates 3 times the national average, Detroit has significant demand for new sources of equitable power. Through a participatory design process, a solar art installation will be constructed to provide clean electricity to the community. The design and installation will take a social practice approach, responding to the needs of the neighborhood and engaging as many people of all ages as possible.</p>
MI	Detroit	Grace in Action	<p>Detroit, MI - The Springwells neighborhood in Southwest Detroit includes 17,000 people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. Grace in Action was born out of a deep neighborhood process through which priorities for economic opportunity were defined by local residents. Having recently gained site control of a former funeral home and several vacant parking lots, Grace in Action will deploy a community engaged design process to complete renovation of this community anchor into the facilities requested by local residents to cultivate their artistic and economic capital.</p>

MI	Detroit	Nyasia Valdez	Detroit, MI - Southwest Detroit has a vibrant and diverse community that suffers from a lack of access to good paying jobs and rising rents and homeownership taxes. A collaboration of local arts organizations is looking to intervene to advance the wealth building capacity of local residents through the development of a community land trust that will coordinate the development of affordable housing, affordable commercial, and cultural organizing space.
MI	Detroit	Oakland Avenue Urban Farm	Detroit, MI has over 1400 urban farms meeting vital food access needs across the city. The Oakland Avenue Urban Farm in Detroit's North End has a broad network of community and institutional partnerships that are uniquely poised to transform an active and impactful agricultural project into a prototype for equitable and environmentally pioneering redevelopment. The North End's challenging socio-economic scenario offers the impetus, space and opportunity to explore new methods of stewardship where architecture, landscape and infrastructure can increase capacity and financial sustainability. A network of farmers, architects, landscapers, permaculture gardeners, engineers, and community advocates, who over the course of the past year have collectively purchased a series of vacant properties, doubling the footprint of the famed Oakland Avenue Urban Farm; will now transform four homes into sites of productive, artistic and culinary experimentation using off-the-grid systems: including solar, wind and biomass prototypes. Contemporary design will unify the landscape with the structures creating Detroit's first sustainable green campus dedicated to community-led innovation in urban farming.
MI	Detroit	Sidewalk Festival of Performing Arts	Detroit, MI - Brightmoor is a community on the edge of greatness. It has a very unique, underutilized natural landscape in the form of Eliza Howell Park, 250 acres of land, marginally maintained by the city with little public engagement and no official programming. With high rates of poverty, unemployment, lack of engagement with nature and the arts, and a constant bombardment of negative neighborhood branding, community and resident perceived self-efficacy is quite low. Studies show many problems associated with lack of active engagement with nature and community, such as depression, obesity, and attention deficit disorder. Artists and residents are uniting in a series of community curated residencies, performances, installations and workshops. The Eliza Howell Park residency program reforms the park as a community resource for performance, land art, recreation and outdoor education. The Superhero Training Academy will turns vacant lots into a mythic adventure playground to empower creative genius in youth and families through play and art therapy. The Cross-Pollination Corridor transforms a blighted dead-end street into a pollinator's wonderland, with a Honey Bee and Butterfly Educational Center, a meditative and artistic flower garden, and a community tea house. These are the building blocks of a healthy networked community.

MI	Detroit	Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision	As with much of Detroit, 25% of the homes in the McGraw Lonyo neighborhood are vacant and blighted. The Detroit Future City plan zones McGraw Lonyo green residential and suggests decreasing city services. As one of the most densely populated and diverse neighborhoods in the city, an organized community can protect and grow the neighborhood by creating art and gardens from blighted property. The SWGrows Urban Agroecology Hub Sunken Greenhouse Project will be an innovative example of green infrastructure developed by the community. SWGrows Urban Agroecology Hub Sunken Greenhouse Project is a collaboration between community organizer, artist, and urban farmer Antonio Cosme of the Raiz Up street art collective, residents, and a team of expert partners including: Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, Detroit Black Food Security Network, Keep Growing Detroit, Greening of Detroit, Five Turtles Farm, architects from the Archolab Afterhouse and the University of Michigan. This project will build a nucleus for agricultural entrepreneurship, access to fresh foods, and creative reuse of vacant land through community informed landscape design.
MI	Detroit	The Orchard	Detroit, MI - The Banlgatown neighborhood of Detroit is rich in community assets despite many of Banglatown's residents relying heavily on food stamps and WIC programs to feed their family. With a lack of access to fresh fruit in this neighborhood, resources available through these public assistance programs that are designated for fresh fruits and vegetables often go unused. Through a community informed planning process, increasing access to fruit arose as a priority to both make use of federal dollars and increase health outcomes for residents. A local artist's resident has built the necessary relationships with the city and local urban agricultural networks and will organize residents to plant an orchard in the center of this community that will both bear fruit and create a small set of local jobs for residents.
MI	Escanaba	Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development	The Upper Peninsula of Michigan boasts some of the most treasured wilderness destinations in the country, yet it experiences disinvestment and a declining population. To promote economic development, various artistic interventions will activate 12 parks throughout the area, and in turn, foster new jobs and investment in and around the parks, and the region.
MN	Little Falls	North Central Economic Development Association	Little Falls is a rural town with an emerging population of Latino and Somalian families alongside Tribal, Amish and predominately white communities. Sprout Growers and Makers Marketplace is a local food hub that provides economic development opportunities and a path to decrease racial disparities among these groups.

MN	Maplewood	City of Maplewood	Maplewood is a suburb of St. Paul, MN, with one third of its residents being people of color, including a fast growing group of immigrants. Because of its rapid growth, Maplewood has a widening gap between its new residents and City services that has resulted in racial disparities and some of the most at-risk youth in the region. To address these challenges, the City in partnership with participatory arts group Z Puppets Rosenschnoz, has developed Kid City, which teaches young citizens creative skills and places them in government think-tanks that are helping shape Maplewood's future.
MN	Minneapolis	Mixed Blood Theatre	The Cedar Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis, MN boasts 42% foreign born residents, and a majority of the newcomers are East African hailing from Somalia. Among the many adjustments that immigrants make, one that is particularly difficult to navigate is the American health care system. Because of economic hardship, or fear that cultural norms will be misunderstood, or even Islamophobia, many newcomers are left in the dark when it comes to making decisions about their health. Mixed Blood Theatre artists will engage community residents using documentary theater, non-traditional health fairs, and intergenerational storytelling to become advocates for their health.
MN	Minneapolis	West Bank Community Development Corporation	Cedar East Commons is a six-block residential neighborhood near downtown Minneapolis, and nearly half of the population are new arrivals. Local organizing and advocacy has strong roots in Cedar East, and it was through resident-led movements in the 1970s and 80s that led to the redevelopment of the area to renovate housing, construct open green space on each block, and privatize the interior streets. Now years later, residents are organizing yet again to promote public safety in their open spaces, which have become hotbeds for illegal activity. Through performances and creative workshops that showcase the varied cultural heritages of the community, neighbors will get to know each other more intimately while also creating a vision for shared safety in their public spaces.
MN	Richfield	The Cornerstone Group	Richfield, MN is a rapidly diversifying seven square mile suburb. Recent studies from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranks the county 46/87 in negative trends, including income inequality, child poverty, low graduation rates, physical inactivity, insufficient housing, and obesity. The Cornerstone Group alongside community members envisioned Lyndale Gardens Healthy Town Center as a public gathering place with cultural offerings, art making, and access to sustainable healthy living. To provide a holistic approach to healthy lifestyles, Lyndale Gardens will expand its artist residency program to engage more residents through the arts, develop a community garden so residents to the area can have access to healthy foods, and create a stage, amphitheater, and lake trail connection to get community members active.

MN	St. Paul	Penumbra Theatre	The Ward 1 Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul, Minnesota, MN once nurtured a thriving black community during the era of Jim Crow and segregation, but by the 1960s the neighborhood was economically shattered by the construction of the I-94 freeway and following decades of disinvestment prevailed. In an effort to reverse the trends of economic disadvantage experienced by this community, Penumbra Theatre will restore its role in the community as an anchor institution with a role to play in rebuilding commercial activity. By adjusting Penumbra's facilities to meet the shifting needs of its community members, residents and visitors alike will regain pride and increase investment that can circulate within the neighborhood.
MS	Utica	Turner World Around	Utica, MS is a rural town in Hinds County bordering Claiborne County and Copiah County. Originally part of the Choctaw nation, it is the smallest town in the county with a population of approximately 820 residents. Utica, like most rural communities across the US, has lost its rich history of producing lumber products, garments, food, and a highly functional education system known for producing great teachers due to decades of disinvestment. This project will work to engage the community in a process of developing the Mississippi Center for Cultural Production. A physical space to facilitate the research and development of cultural products – through film, photography, audio stories, theater, dance, and culinary arts – that speaks to the history and future of our community.
MT	Bozeman	Future West	The Gallatin Watershed spans urban and rural communities in Montana, including the large urban center of Bozeman, and the three smaller towns of Three Forks, Manhattan, and Belgrade. Projections of rapid population growth and environmental shifts over the next 25 years threaten drought and water security for the region. To address the region's future around water use and management systems, the Missouri river headwaters will be transformed by temporal site-specific projects by artists, ranchers, naturalists, historians, and scientists, bringing urban and rural residents and town and county leaders together to imagine a shared vision for their community that is understood and accepted by all.
MT	Browning	Blackfeet Community College	Browning is the hub of the Blackfeet Reservation in rural Montana. While there are few jobs and little economic opportunity in the area, the Glacier National Park adjacent to the town sees tremendous tourism with 2.4 million visitors last year. Blackfeet Community College will support local native artists through training programs and opportunities to re-brand Browning's presence through the creation of a town plaza that will ignite the local tourism market and attract passersby and residents alike.

MT	East Helena	Myrna Loy Center	East Helena, MT is nearing the end of an EPA superfund clean-up at the site of what was once one of the largest lead smelters in the country. Through a community visioning process, oral histories, and performative and public art, the Myrna Loy Center will engage East Helena residents in imagining a new future for their community while honoring their past.
NC	Charlotte	McColl Center for Art + Innovation	Charlotte, NC - The McColl Center (located on N. Tryon St. in uptown Charlotte) is a partner – with Charlotte Center City Partners, City of Charlotte, Foundation for the Carolinas and at least 18 other public and private entities working on the N. Tryon corridor as a focus area for further planning and development. Many of these partners control land and/or real estate holdings along the corridor. Weed-choked vacant lots, the light rail line extension, and non-profit organizations that serve Charlotte’s homeless population also line the 2-mile corridor. As a N. Tryon anchor institution, McColl Center will leverage its reputation as the leading contemporary art center in Charlotte to drive a consensus vision process for N. Tryon that ensures the integration of the needs of the homeless population and local businesses within the central business district.
NC	Charlotte	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Charlotte, NC - The City of Charlotte is in the process of developing a city master plan and traditional engagement tactics are leaving large tracts of the community out of the process. UNC-Charlotte is partnering with Arts & Democracy and QC Family Treet to deploy broad participatory strategies to generate locally sourced solutions to neighborhood challenges.
ND	Dickinson	Western Wellness Foundation, Inc.	Dickinson, ND doubled its population in five years with families moving to the area from across the country during the rise of the Bakken oil boom. While economic opportunity in this rapidly growing town has stagnated, residents are optimistic about the future of the area and the quality of life for community members. The Western Wellness Foundation, Inc. will build upon relationships and projects that emerged during a year-long community engagement process, and they will employ the visual arts, an interactive sculpture garden that harvests multigenerational exchange, and the creation of an artist-designed mini-golf course to foster community pride and sustain investment from residents, newcomers, and visitors alike.
NE	Norfolk	Elkhorn Valley Museum	The city of Norfolk, NE is a regional hub with numerous large factories, small businesses, and institutions surrounded by corn fields and farms. Being that this urban center is isolated from bountiful natural habitats, there is no opportunity for direct connection between the residents of Norfolk and the plants and animals of the wild environment. In response, the Elkhorn Valley Museum will rehabilitate Verges Park and gardens to create an artful and educational space that is rich in wildlife-friendly and native plants and local wildlife habitats.

NH	Littleton	Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce	Littleton, NH is situated at the edge of the White Mountains and bound on the north by the Connecticut River. Littleton is a popular tourist destination with a strong community comprised of working class families, recent retirees, and seniors who've lived there all their lives. Littleton's river district is just behind (and downhill from) main street and the local community wants to preserve its river access while remediating regular flooding of the district. Landscape architects will work with local engineers and residents to design and install a series of permaculture landscapes to slow storm water and provide a natural filter for water return into the local aquifer.
NM	Las Cruces	Pata Viva Partnership / Bryce Richard	The rural farming community of Las Cruces, NM uses agricultural practices that are profitable but incompatible with the area's environment. Improper water use has contributed to plummeting groundwater levels, saline soil, and many other challenges to both humans and wildlife. The Pata Viva farm will employ visual and culinary arts to host free community meals that will demonstrate best practices for sustainable farming methods and encourage farmers to implement needed changes to their farms. Through interest-free agricultural loans, community members will be further incentivized to practice sustainable farming methods.
OH	Cleveland	Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development	The Clark-Fulton neighborhood of Cleveland is home to the highest density of Hispanic residents in the state of Ohio. With unemployment at 17% and a poverty rate of 41.8%, this neighborhood has a high concentration of dilapidated buildings and homes and has been designated as a food desert. Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development will partner with local artists and business owners to create a food hub, El Mercado, and provide unique neighborhood branding and streetscaping that will attract outside businesses, investors, families and professionals in addition to addressing food access concerns.
OK	Oklahoma City	The University of Oklahoma	Classen Ten Penn is sandwiched between Oklahoma City's business district and the Plaza District commercial area with over half of the residents identifying as Hispanic and a majority of people of color. New developments in the neighborhood could dramatically reshape its composition in the coming years, especially considering that 13% of lots are undeveloped and 22% of lots have vacant buildings. To encourage democratic participation in the planning and development of the neighborhood, The University of Oklahoma will create the Placemaking Toolset, which is an interactive website with a cultural asset map, discussion page, and reference materials, entirely integrated with community-sourced information in both Spanish and English.

OK	Tahlequah	City of Tahlequah	Oklahoma's oldest municipality, Tahlequah is the historic and modern day capital of Cherokee Nation, and is home to nearly 16,500 residents, 30% of which are Cherokee. Given the community's high obesity levels, Downtown Tahlequah will work with local native artists to create pedestrian walkways that will beautify the downtown core, highlight the cultural significance and history of the community, and improve community health by encouraging residents and visitors to include physical activity in their daily routines.
OR	Milton-Freewater	Milton Freewater Downtown Alliance	Milton-Freewater is a small rural community in Oregon. Recovering from agricultural businesses that left the area, the town is now home to a burgeoning wine industry and a 43% Hispanic population. The Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance has engaged residents in a community discovery process to imagine the future of the town while building social cohesion between racial groups. Building upon those efforts, trails and gathering spaces will be created to strengthen the community's identity and investment in its future.
OR	Ontario	Elijah Luna	Ontario, OR, is a rural town plagued by high crime rates and poverty, and yet, there is a high concentration of artists that live there. With no outlet for aspiring artists to show or sell their work, artist Elijah Luna has proposed to develop a recreational artist center that will promote a new economic model for the community.
OR	Portland	Verde	The Cully neighborhood in the city of Portland, OR lacks places for residents to play and experience nature. Moreover, the community is isolated from Cully's few open spaces because 65% of streets are substandard. Building upon a community asset design process led by Verde, a 25 acre brownfield will be transformed into a public park, and a former strip club will find new use as a cultural community center.
PA	Philadelphia	People's Emergency Center CDC	The predominately African-American neighborhoods of Saunders Park, West Powelton, Mantua, and Mill Creek in West Philadelphia, PA are experiencing rapid changes in their populations, physical landscapes, and real-estate markets. To address decades of neglect and issues of public safety, the People's Emergency Center CDC (PECCDC), partnering arts organizations, and the 16th Police District will host a series of pop-up events, such as play structure builds, large-scale puppetry projects, and digital street art, that will that engage neighbors in dialogue and creative exchange to make a safer neighborhood.

PR	Las Piedras	Sololá	Las Piedras, PR is one of island's 78 municipalities and is situated in the east -- just south of El Yunque National Rain Forest. Barrio Boqueron is a historically exploited agricultural community that is home to 1,800 of the municipalities almost 40,000 residents. Sololá is establishing a Fiber and Natural Dye Experimental & Educational Center in Barrio Boquerón as a means of cultural preservation and economic development. The school will simultaneously teach ancient fiber arts and the complimentary agricultural practices to grow the crops needed for sustained fiber and dye production This dual workforce and economic development project will develop two reinforcing local industries while building relationships with international fiber and dye markets to attract broad investment to a scalable local industry.
PR	San Juan	Casa Taft 169	San Juan, PR is home to the neighborhood of Machuchal. Well-known for its buoyant commercial activity, hard-working people from all backgrounds have historically lined Machuchal's main street with a myriad of shops. A common trend of rising real-estate and displacement has arrived to Machuchal in the context of a debt-ridden state, translating into the closing of the only public school and public green space. Local artists are working with residents to renovate the Casa Taft Civic Center as a replicable model of local community planning and strategy development in a territory facing more than 70 billion dollars in debt and 3 times the national poverty rate.
SC	Bluffton	A CALL TO ACTION	Bluffton, SC sits between Charleston and Beaufort to the north, Hilton Head and Savannah to the south. Construction, commerce and tourism are booming in this historic and cultural district. Currently, most of the downtown revitalization is driven by outside investors with money, vision, and connections to capitalize on the historic significance or architectural charm of a few neglected, undervalued blocks. Existing residents tend to benefit primarily from selling their properties to outsiders who then convert them into viable, profitable venues. A Call to Action, a local artist-led community-based organization, will implement a pilot initiative at the local AME church transforming it into a neighborhood clearing-house connecting residents with agencies, businesses, artists, and peers. This hub will support local homeowners in gaining access to the resources necessary to benefit from downtown revitalization.

SC	Charleston	conNECKted	Charleston SC, has been praised for its preservation of buildings and its quality of life in travel and business magazines. Simultaneously, this city has seen an increase in economic and education disparity for its residents. For the first time in 40 years, Charleston has elected a new mayor interested in closing the gap of opportunity for the City. conNECKted will implement a pilot project in east Charleston from Romney St, crossing Hampton Park to Huger St, the Harmon Field Park, parts of Gadsden Green, Peninsula West and Radcliffe neighborhoods, to reach East Calhoun St, the Maritime Center area and back north. After the closing of most of the local schools in this predominantly low-income community, conNECKted will design temporary "Public Squares" with "Imagination Tables" in order to capture and elevate at residents priorities to ensure access to quality education in their neighborhood and present creative concepts to the administration and local school board.
SD	Eagle Butte	Cheyenne River Youth Project	The youth of Cheyenne River Lakota Sioux Reservation in rural South Dakota resort to vandalism, drug/alcohol abuse, bullying, and suicide. The Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP) will expand workforce opportunities for Native youth by linking them to CRYP programming.
SD	Porcupine	Thunder VDC	The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in rural southwest South Dakota is home to the Oglala Lakota people. With 70% unemployment and 51% of minors falling below the poverty line, Thunder Valley CDC will promote economic development in the region by working with local Native artists and residents to plan and design necessary wealth and community building assets from powwow grounds, to a farmers market, skate park, retail spaces, and a daycare.
TN	Memphis	Community L.I.F.T. Corp	The predominately African American neighborhood of Soulsville USA is the 3rd poorest zip code in Memphis, TN although it is just 1.8 miles from downtown. New cultural developments around the neighborhood's strong musical heritage have attracted an influx of musicians, students, and tourists, but the neighborhood struggles from high capital leakage and wants to see resident and tourist dollars circulate within the community. Community LIFT will transform a vacant property on McLemore Avenue, the main commercial corridor, into a multi-use space that will house a music performance venue, artist studios, and an affordable restaurant that will spur sustained investment in the neighborhood by residents and visitors alike.

TN	Nashville	Transportation for America	Cutting through Southeast Nashville, TN is Nolensville Pike, the community's main arterial with wide, high speed roads littered with crumbling sidewalks, no safe bicycle pathways, few crosswalks, and other poor street designs that prioritize the movement of traffic over people. Increasingly recognized as Nashville's "International District", there is a growing presence of small immigrant-run businesses along the corridor, along with new housing developments and the Casa Azafran community center. To capitalize on the growth of the area and incoming "bus rapid transit" (BRT) service, Transportation for America will work together with artists, residents, and business owners to reimagine the Nolensville Pike as a safer, calmer, more inviting place and a source of community pride.
UT	Bluff	Utah Diné Bikéyah	San Juan County, UT is a rural area with ancestral ties to the Navaho Nation, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute and Ute Indian Tribe. Currently, the federal government is considering a request of the five Tribes to designate 2 million acres of land in the county as the Bears Ears cultural preserve. Tensions are high as non-Native residents advocate to open public lands to mineral development, motorized recreation, logging, and cattle grazing, posing a threat to the local indigenous people and heritage of region. To conserve the land, preserve the living Native American cultures, and bridge a common future for all residents of the region, Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) will facilitate community dialogues that elevate traditional arts and the intimate ties to the Bears Ears landscape.
UT	Green River	Epicenter	Green River in Southeastern Utah was once a bustling rural community with uranium mining and other industry booms. It now suffers from a stagnant economy with insufficient housing, such as overcrowded mobile homes. To increase sustainable affordable housing for the community, so elderly residents can age-in-place or young adults can live outside their parents' homes, Epicenter has proposed the Riverside Common, which will double the available multi-family rental units in town and provide currently unavailable options (e.g. studio, multi-bedroom, and fully-accessible units). Epicenter will co-facilitate community design charrettes and design outdoor shared spaces to improve the standard of living, decrease substandard housing, and demand more of negligent landlords.
UT	Salt Lake City	Sugar Space	Salt Lake City's west side is rich in racial and ethnic diversity, but lacks place-based institutions that promote arts and culture. Sugar Space will provide an anchor cultural center, residency program, and kitchen to address the lack of educational opportunities that exist for the youth of the west side neighborhood.

VI	Frederiksted	CHANT (Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism, Inc.)	Frederiksted, VI is a small grid-planned city on the western edge of the island of St. Croix. Known as the <i>Freedom City</i> by the town's 1,000 year-round residents. Local leaders have developed plans to drive economic investment in the region focusing on upgrades to aesthetics and public safety. CHANT sees these city plans as an opportunity to build a local workforce pipeline in advance of the millions of dollars of public investments planned for housing facade and community arcade improvements. Currently artisans are imported from other Caribbean islands and from various countries in Africa and Europe when preservation and rehabilitation of local historical structures is conducted. CHANT has identified a collective of local Mater Artisans that will develop a local school to provide the education and certification necessary for locals to be eligible for the preservation investments planned in the years to come.
VT	Middlebury	Community Workshop	Middlebury, VT is a small village of 8,000 people, but it is also a regional hub and a social and civic center. The town's industrial district has grown tremendously with new local manufacturers drawing on more employees as well as more visitors. Businesses and customers see that the main corridor, Exchange Street, is ripe for more social gathering spaces, but improved infrastructure is necessary to accommodate retail storefronts and walkability along the street. Community Workshop LLC will work alongside community members to create streetscaping and pocket parks to transform a dangerous industrial road into a celebrated and safe route for walking, cycling, and attracting and retaining visitors.
WA	Tacoma	Framework	The Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma, WA, has struggled with drug related violence and repeatedly been a flashpoint for law enforcement and the federal war on drugs. To address public safety concerns in a rapidly changing neighborhood, Framework will create a community yearbook that uses a traveling "artmobile" as a workspace, meeting place, live bulletin board, and photo booth that will travel to five locations of "public safety concern" and will be hosted by various artists. Each month will culminate with a Photo Day celebration, artist reception, yearbook photos, music and food.
WI	Milwaukee	ReciproCity	The Harambee neighborhood of Milwaukee, WI is a hub of African American culture and heritage with a longstanding history of community organizing and advocacy. The exodus of manufacturing jobs since the 1970s has had a lasting effect on the residents of the community, and the loss of economic mobility has led to food insecurity. Through various creative interventions, ReciproCity will continue to expand its agricultural programs to feed neighborhood residents while also providing workforce opportunities for formerly incarcerated citizens.

WY	Lovell	Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area	Bighorn Canyon spans north central Wyoming and south central Montana and is surrounded by the Crow Reservation. The Ewing/Snell Ranch was once the site of an anchor science and cultural center, but was lost to a fire in 2015. The National Park Service hopes to re-build the facility so it can resume its cultural programming, artist residency, among other offerings for community residents and visitors alike.
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