

ArtPlace America Selects 21 Finalists for \$18 Million Grant Program

PolicyLink Selected as National Research and Documentation Partner

May 4, 2015--ArtPlace America (ArtPlace) today announced 21 finalist organizations that have been selected from a pool of 261 applications to participate in its new Community Development Investments program. Six organizations will be chosen from the finalists in August 2015 to receive funds.

The Community Development Investments (CDI) is a one-time program that will support place-based organizations with a primary mission of community planning and development to incorporate arts and cultural strategies into their work. The program will provide each organization up to \$3 million in grant funding over three years, as well as access to national creative placemaking experts, a team that will look at the deployment of debt capital, and a team to advise on federal grant opportunities.

The CDI program is designed as a learning opportunity for both the grantee organizations and for the broader fields of arts and community development. ArtPlace has selected the national research and action institute PolicyLink to serve as its Research and Documentation partner for the duration of the three-year grant program. PolicyLink was identified through a national competition that drew fourteen applications from research teams.

"Too often, arts and culture has been missing from comprehensive community development conversations. ArtPlace has been a leader among those working to change this," said Rip Rapson, President and CEO of The Kresge Foundation and chair of ArtPlace's Funders Council. "Through this newest grant program, ArtPlace will help six place-based organizations incorporate creative placemaking strategies into their standard operating procedures."

"The 261 applications we received are evidence of the growing interest in recognizing that arts and culture is among the core sectors of any thriving community," said ArtPlace Executive Director Jamie Bennett. "We are thrilled that PolicyLink, with their deep experience working both in communities and with national policy makers, will partner in embedding what we learn through this program in the broader place-based strategy conversation across the United States."

"PolicyLink is dedicated to Lifting Up What Works to drive national research, policy, and action," said Angela Glover Blackwell, founder and CEO of PolicyLink. "In places all across this country, arts and culture are essential to the development and implementation of strategies to secure sustainable communities of opportunity and prosperity. We look forward to partnering with ArtPlace to capture those lessons and share them broadly."

The finalist organizations for the CDI program represent a wide range of contexts and focuses, from community development corporations to public health organizations to universities working on challenges from housing development to food systems to commercial corridors. Finalists were selected from six defined geographic regions across the country through a review process that included experts in the fields of community development and creative placemaking.

One organization from each of the six regions will be chosen to participate in the program, which will begin in September 2015. The 21 finalist organizations and regions include:

A community of any size in Alaska:

- Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Anchorage, AK
- NeighborWorks Anchorage, Anchorage, AK
- The Association of Village Council Presidents, Bethel, AK

A community of any size in California

- Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League, San Leandro, CA
- Fresno Metro Ministry, Fresno, CA
- Latino Health Access, Santa Ana, CA
- Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation, Los Angeles, CA

A nonmetropolitan area community in Arizona, New Mexico, or Texas

- Nogales Community Development Corporation, Nogales, AZ
- Siete del Norte, Embudo, NM
- Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, Zuni, NM

A nonmetropolitan area community in Minnesota

- North Central Economic Development Association, Staples, MN
- Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, Statewide, MN
- Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, Slayton, MN

One or more neighborhoods of Philadelphia, PA

- Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
- Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia, PA
- People's Emergency Center Community Development Corporation, Philadelphia, PA
- Women's Community Revitalization Project, Philadelphia, PA

A metropolitan community in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia

- Charleston Area Alliance, Charleston, WV
- Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, Jackson, MS
- Rocky Mount Edgecombe Community Development Corporation, Rocky Mount, NC
- S.G. Atkins Community Development Corporation, Winston-Salem, NC

Representatives from each of the CDI finalist organizations and PolicyLink will join ArtPlace grantees and partners at the annual ArtPlace Grantee Summit in Philadelphia this week (May 4-6, 2015). The Grantee Summit will be livestreamed via www.artplaceamerica.org.

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.

About PolicyLink

PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works®. PolicyLink connects the work of people on the ground to the policy changes needed to build an equitable economy—one in which everyone, including low-income people and people of color, can participate and prosper. Visit www.policylink.org for more information.

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