

ArtPlace America Invests \$18 Million in Six Place-Based Organizations Around the Country to Incorporate Arts & Culture into Their Community Development Work

President Obama highlights a new program to aid local organizations in building and implementing creative placemaking strategies to shape the social, physical, and economic fabric of their communities

ANCHORAGE, AK – Aug. 31, 2015 – Today, President Obama announced that [ArtPlace America](#) – a national collaboration among private foundations, federal agencies, and financial institutions – will invest \$18 million in six place-based organizations, including the Anchorage, AK-based Cook Inlet Housing Authority. Each organization will receive \$3 million over the next three years through these Community Development Investments (CDI) to incorporate arts and cultural strategies into their core work.

“Arts and culture are too often left out of community planning conversations,” said Jamie Bennett, ArtPlace’s Executive Director. “These six organizations will demonstrate the unique value that artists and arts organizations can bring to the full spectrum of community development priorities, including community resiliency, economic development, housing, open space, public health, and youth opportunity.”

Since 2011, ArtPlace America has invested \$67 million in 227 creative placemaking projects in 152 communities of all sizes across 43 states and the District of Columbia. ArtPlace will draw from these projects, as well as its philanthropic, federal, and financial institution partners to support the six CDI participants along their organizational change journey.

“Our fundamental proposition is that arts and culture must be at the core of every conversation we have about community development in this country,” said Rip Rapson, President and CEO of the Kresge Foundation and chairman of the ArtPlace collaboration. “When this happens the dialogue is richer and more inclusive for the long-term visioning a community needs to remain vital and healthy.”

ArtPlace will work with the national research and action institute PolicyLink to identify, organize, and share the best practices, processes, and insights for any community looking to work in this more comprehensive and inclusive way.

The organizations selected as part of the CDI program represent a diverse range of place-based organizations working across a broad spectrum of community contexts:

- [Cook Inlet Housing Authority](#) (Anchorage, AK), a tribal housing authority that focuses on affordable housing development and broad neighborhood revitalization strategies
- [Fairmount Park Conservancy](#) (Philadelphia, PA), a public parks stewardship organization that champions the role parks play in strengthening civic life and economic development
- [Jackson Medical Mall Foundation](#) (Jackson, MS), an anchor health services facility that promotes local economic and community development opportunities with a health-based lens

- [Little Tokyo Service Center](#) (Los Angeles, CA), a neighborhood-based community development organization that focuses on affordable housing development, social services, and community organizing and planning
- [Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership](#) (southwestern Minnesota), a rural community development corporation that engages in comprehensive housing and community development
- [Zuni Youth Enrichment Project](#) (Zuni Pueblo, NM), a youth development organization that promotes healthy lifestyles among Zuni youth and families

Each organization will host a public forum in October to introduce the CDI program to its community. For more information on the organizations, forums, and CDI program, visit www.artplaceamerica.org.

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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.

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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