



Fayette County

Community Input Session | April 16, 2025



Tonight's
Task =

Think
BIG!

A Vibrant
Fayette County
TRANSformed
through
Arts & Culture

Timeline

Lay of the Land

Dec: Project Meetings

Jan: Baseline Interviews & Plan Collection

Feb: Desk Research for Kickoff

Gather Input

Mar: Crowd Source Inventory

Mar: Site Visits

Apr: **County-Level Visioning**

May: Follow Up

Jun: Region-Level Focus Groups

Flesh Out & Roll Up to Region

July - September

* Variations for Blackford and Jay

AGENDA

WELCOME

Overview & Introductions

STEP 1

Understand What You Already Have

INSPIRATION

Cultivating Community through Arts & Culture

STEP 2

Ideas & Aspirations for Future: **DREAM BIG!**

STEP 3

Momentum, Opportunities & Next Steps

THANK YOU

Now go enjoy a beautiful evening!





EAST CENTRAL Indiana REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

READI Arts Initiative Goals

Engage residents and communities across boundaries of creative disciplines, geography and demographics

Unleash regional creative transformation through investment in public art and cultural amenities that are accessible to the entire community

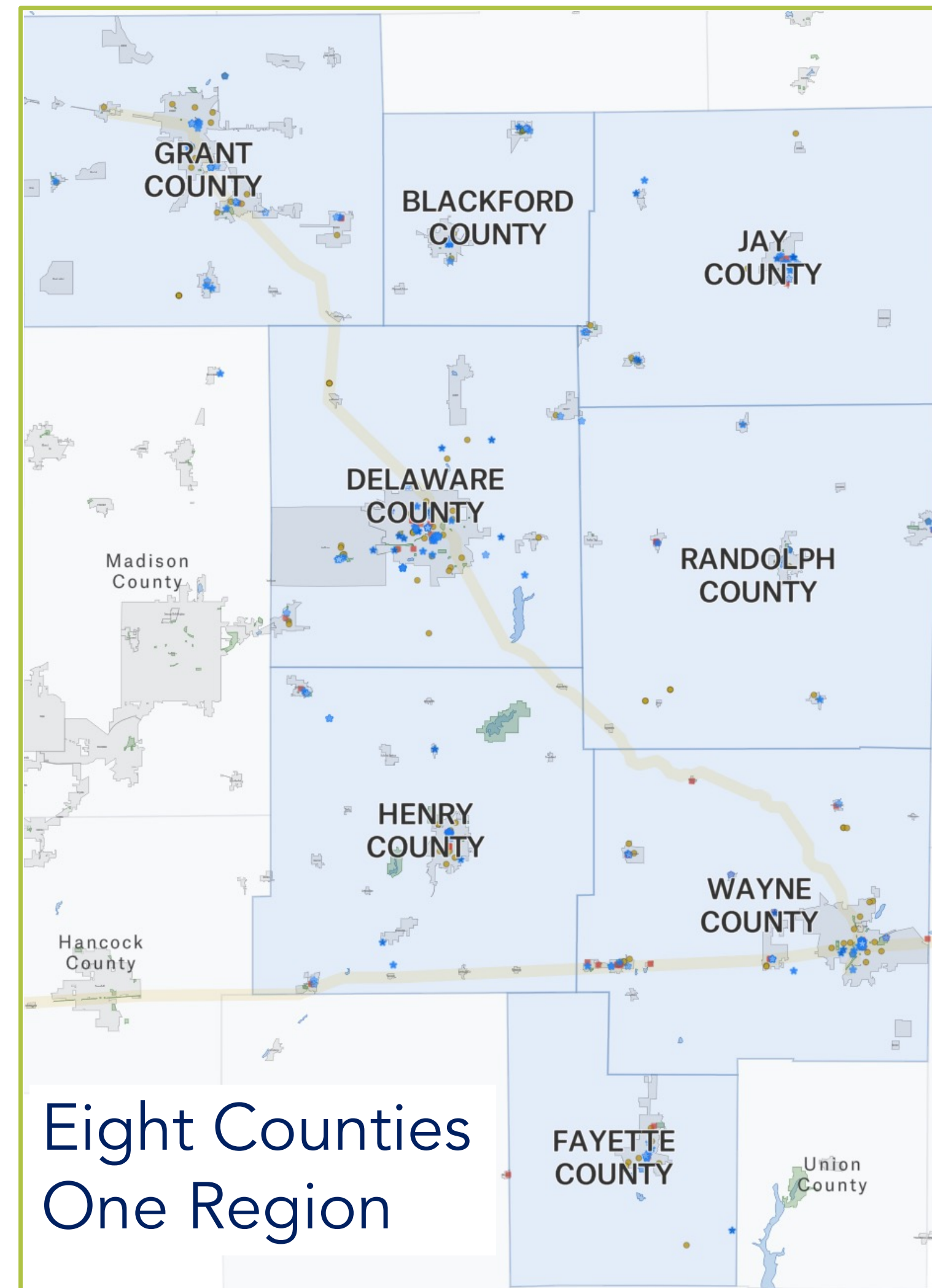
Elevate READI's quality of place impact on Indiana's cities and towns.

Build a critical mass of authentic, yet bold, artistic and cultural assets with a long-term plan for their maintenance and expansion



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A private foundation since 1937

**INDIANA
FOR THE BOLD**
Economic Development Corp.



About Us

- Who we are
- Why we're here

Your Turn

- Name
- Who/What You Represent
- Favorite Arts & Culture...





Step 1

FAYETTE COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Fayette County?

Arts & Culture Assets, so far



- 30 Arts & Culture
 - 17 Creative Industry / Artists
 - 6 History & Heritage
 - 3 Art in Non-Arts Spaces
 - 2 Arts Organizations
 - 2 Informal Groups
- 7 Events & Traditions
- 11 Parks & Trails
- 11 Public Art + Quilt Trail
- Plus Civic & Misc...



Artist demonstrations and markets

Artists & Events

Performing
Writers
Visual/Craft
Photog/Film
Retail/Venue
Ceramicists
Designers

Annual
Series
Markets

And more...



Lynette Ecklund



Imagine Performing Arts annual summer camp

Mystery Mural



Public Art

Iconic

Historic

Celebratory

Barn Quilt Trail

... but mostly murals



Barn Quilt Trail



Robert E Wise



Whitewater Valley Railroad

Anchors & Attractions

WVAA
Imagine Performing Arts

Historical Museum
Canal House
WV Railroad
Historic Elmhurst

Amtrack
Mettel Field Airport

Mary Gray Bird
Sanctuary
Nature Preserves
Trails, River, Parks...



Imagine Performing Arts



Whiteriver Valley Arts Association



Historic Downtown

History & Notables

Railroad
Auto Industry
Canal

"Little Detroit"
"Furniture &
Buggy Town"

Howard Garns
(Sudoku)

Robert Wise
(Filmmaker)

1st HS Band in US

Whitewater Canal



Car Manufacturing



Historic Elmhurst



First High School Band



Whitewater Canal

Authentically

What, where, who...

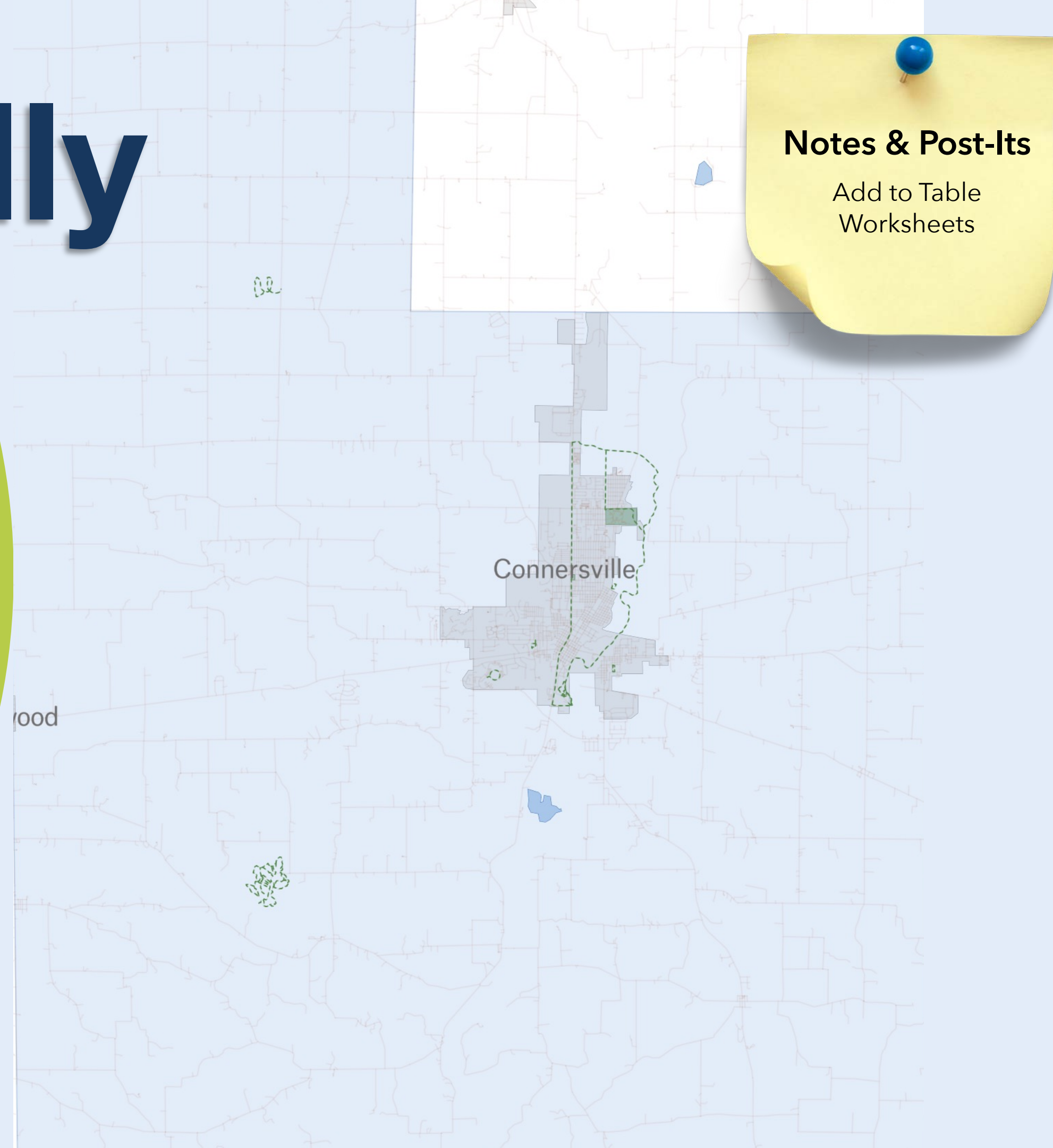
- Are we known for?
- Community gathering?
- Do we value most?

All of it...

- 1 City, 9 Townships
- 2020 Population:
 - Total: 23,398
 - Connersville: 13,324
 - Rest of County: 10,074

Notes & Post-Its

Add to Table
Worksheets





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inspo....

CULTIVATING
COMMUNITY

Through Arts
& Culture

Why Arts & Culture Matter

CONTRIBUTE TO

ATTRACT/RETAIN

IMPROVE

GENERATE

IMPROVE

CREATIVITY

Quality of Life

Population

Health & Wellbeing

Economic Benefits

Student Outcomes &
Career Readiness

Sought by Employers





Celebrate Heritage

Gathering of Great Lakes Nations
National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Portland



Dunkirk

eedcot

MOON SUGAR
HICKMILL

Dunkirk Glass Days, Dunkirk



**Celebrate Community Identity and
Foster Community Pride**

Putnam County Mural Project



**Revitalize Places through
Placemaking**

South Madison Community Foundation —
Pendleton Crosswalks



**Foster Quality of Life & Community
Connections**

Front Porch Music Festival, Noblesville

Front Porch
MUSIC FESTIVAL
on Logan Street

AUG 27 2-6:30



It doesn't have to cost a lot to be high impact

Fairy, Gnome & Troll Homes, Noble County



Involve and Activate Youth

Noble County's Fairy, Gnome and Troll Homes

Peru Visual Arts Festival



Step 2

ENVISION
2035

A Vibrant County
Transformed

East Central Indiana

A welcoming region, backed by community resources, where all are empowered to be their authentic selves, create a life that matters, and forge a path to success.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISION & INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

1. Quality of Life

Stabilize the region's population and encourage growth through investments that directly benefit the health and well-being of residents, promote tourism, and support vibrant downtowns.

2. Housing & Infrastructure

3. Childcare & Support for Families

4. Education & Opportunity



2035

BIG!

Everything Decided Has Been Successful

Arts & Culture Have Been Transformed With:

- Resident engagement across discipline, geography...
- Amenities that are accessible to the entire community
- Critical mass of authentic, yet bold, sustainable assets

And Have Transformed the County in Return

- Elevating quality of place across cities and towns.

What Has Changed?

In other words, if you were king, queen, benevolent overlord...

An abstract, colorful background featuring a circular shape filled with vibrant, textured brushstrokes in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and pink. The text 'Step 3' is overlaid on this background in a large, dark blue, serif font.

Step 3

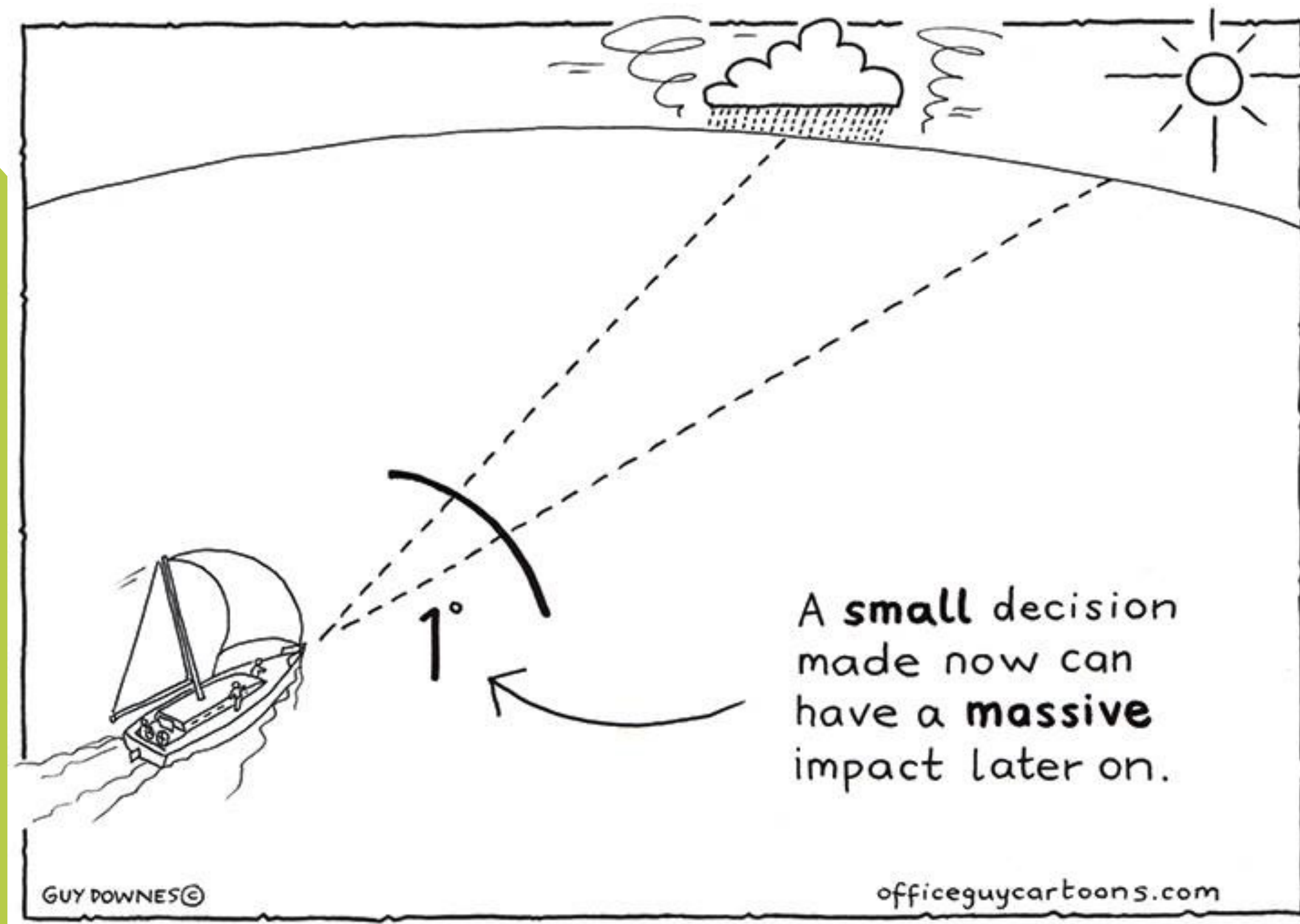
Building From...

- Things in the works
- Energy and interest
- New to support
- Old to reinvigorate
- Partners to help
- Hinders to overcome

A solid green circular shape containing the text 'Momentum & Opportunity' in a black, serif font.

Momentum &
Opportunity

Next Steps: OURS & YOURS



Before we go...
What is your one small thing?

Thank You!



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TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES  **ART**

celebrating the power of arts and culture in community

