



"Down to the Ferry" New Deal Post Office
Mural, Henrik Martin Mayer

Dearborn County

Community Input Session | June 12, 2025

© 2025 Sara Peterson Consulting
in collaboration with Sharp VisionArts



Tonight's
Task =

Think

BIG!

A Vibrant
Dearborn County
TRANSformed

through
Arts & Culture

Timeline

Lay of the Land

Mar Initial Meetings

Apr Collect and Review Existing Plans

May Desk Research for Asset Inventories

Gather Input

Ongoing Interviews & Site Visits

May Crowd Source Asset Inventory

Jun **County-Level Visioning**

Jul Follow Up

Aug Region-Level Focus Groups

Flesh Out & Roll Up to Region

September – November

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!



SEI READI

Six Counties One Region

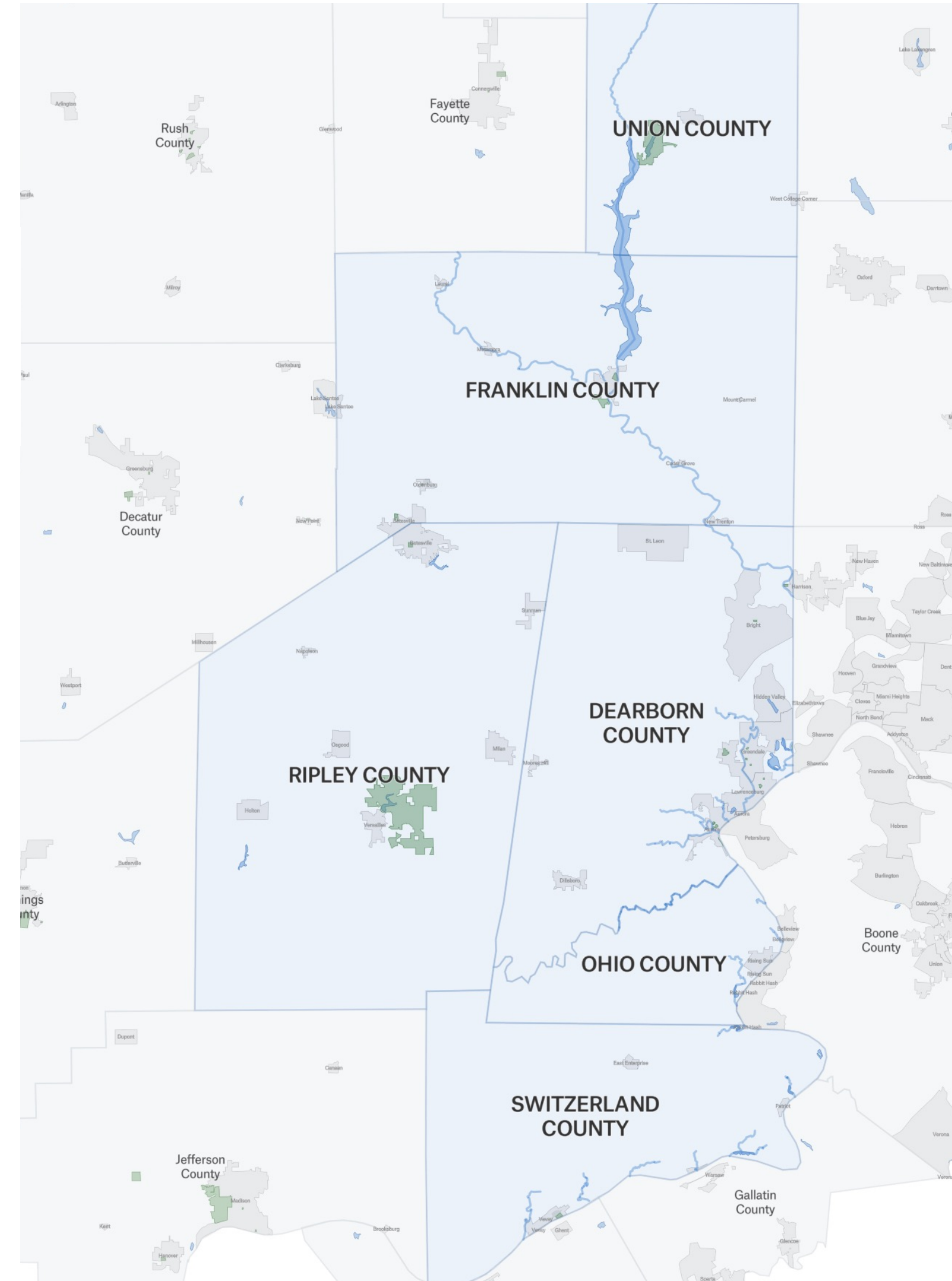
READI Arts Initiative Goals

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



About Us

- Who we are
- Why we're here

Your Turn

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





DEARBORN COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Dearborn County?

Arts & Culture Assets, so far



Warning!

NOTICE: This IS incomplete.
Someone (or several ones) will be MISSING.
Something may even be WRONG.

We appreciate your patience.

The Management

82 Arts & Culture

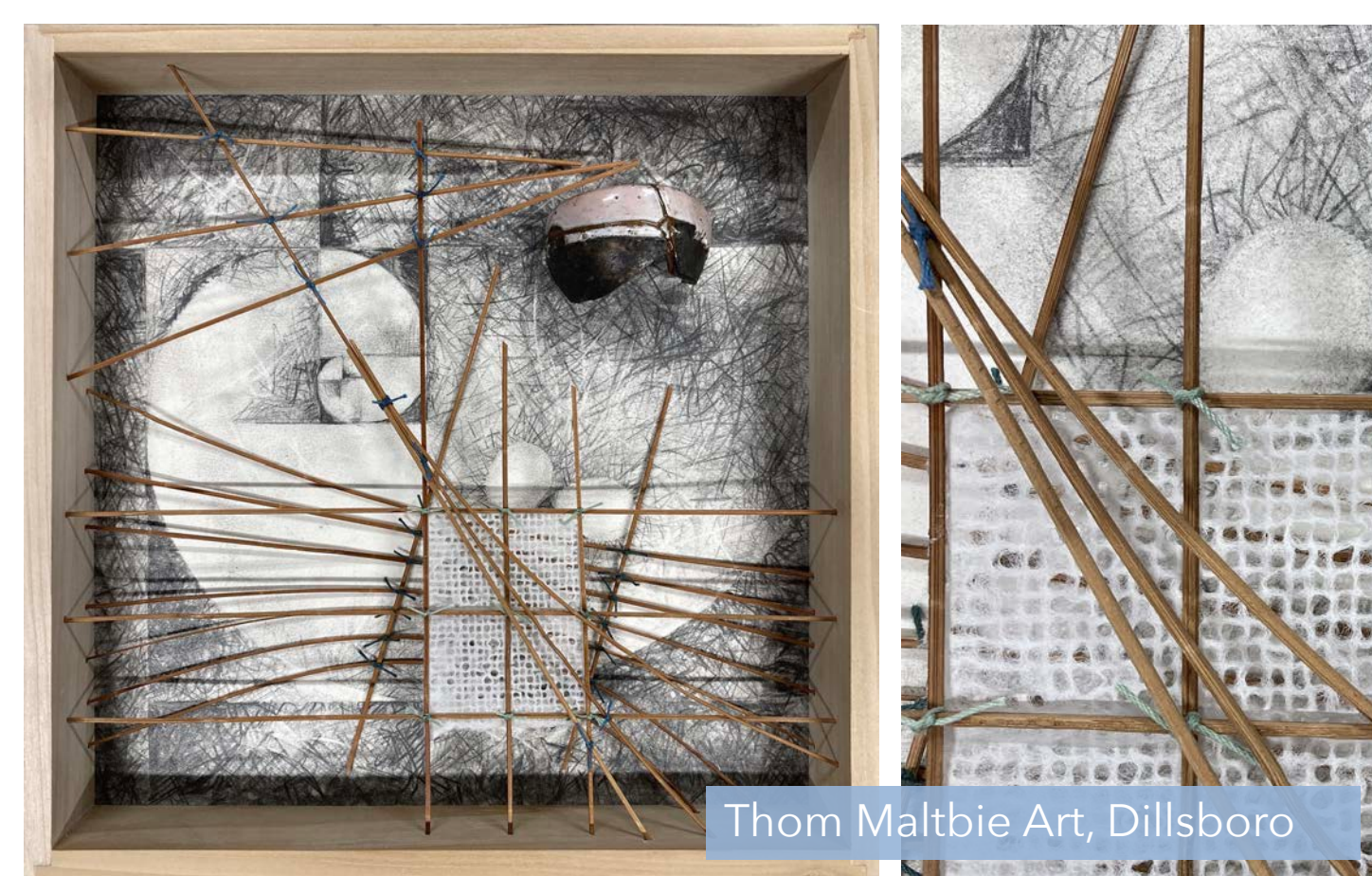
- 41 Creative Industry / Artists
- 16 Art in Non-Arts Spaces
- 12 History & Heritage
- 11 Arts Organizations
- 2 Informal Groups

24 Pieces of Public Art

20 Events & Traditions

11 Parks & Trails

Plus Civic & Misc...



Thom Maltbie Art, Dillsboro



River Dog Music Collective

Artists & Events

Designers
Performing
Writers
Visual/Craft
Photog/Film
Retail/Venue
Ceramicists
Artist/Educators
Traditional

Annual Festivals
Music Series
Clubs
Markets

And more...



Dillsboro Jazz Festival



St. Leon Quadrennial Pole Raising Event

Public Art

New Deal
Celebratory
Community-
based
Iconic

Downtown
Revitalization

Mostly murals
in largest
communities



Four Score and 7&7, Lawrenceburg,
Christian Dallas, 2019



Abandoned Building Murals, Aurora,
Cindy Crofoot, 2018



Porch Mural, Dillsboro



Project Hope Totems, LeAnne Price and
Tisha Linzy - Community Project



Southeast Indiana Youth Orchestra, Aurora

Anchors & Attractions

National Historic Districts (2), Historic Organizations & Sites

Recreation - Perfect Slopes, bike share, Oxbow preserve

Casino

Arts & Cultural Organizations

Theatres and Music Venues

Dearborn Trail
Other Trails, Parks...



Dillsboro Arts Friendship Gallery



Hillforest House Museum, Aurora



Lawrenceburg Civic Park

History & Notables

Miami Nation
German, Irish, Swiss

"Whiskey City USA"

Whitewater Canal
Ohio & Mississippi
Railroad

Aurora Casket Co.
Seagram's Distillery

Lonnie Mack
guitarist

Louis Skidmore
Architect

Nick Goepper
Olympic skier



Carnegie Hall of Moores Hill Male and Female Collegiate Institute



Laughery Creek Bridge, Aurora



Lonnie Mack, b West Harrison



Seagram's Distillery, Lawrenceburg

Authentically

What, where, who...

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

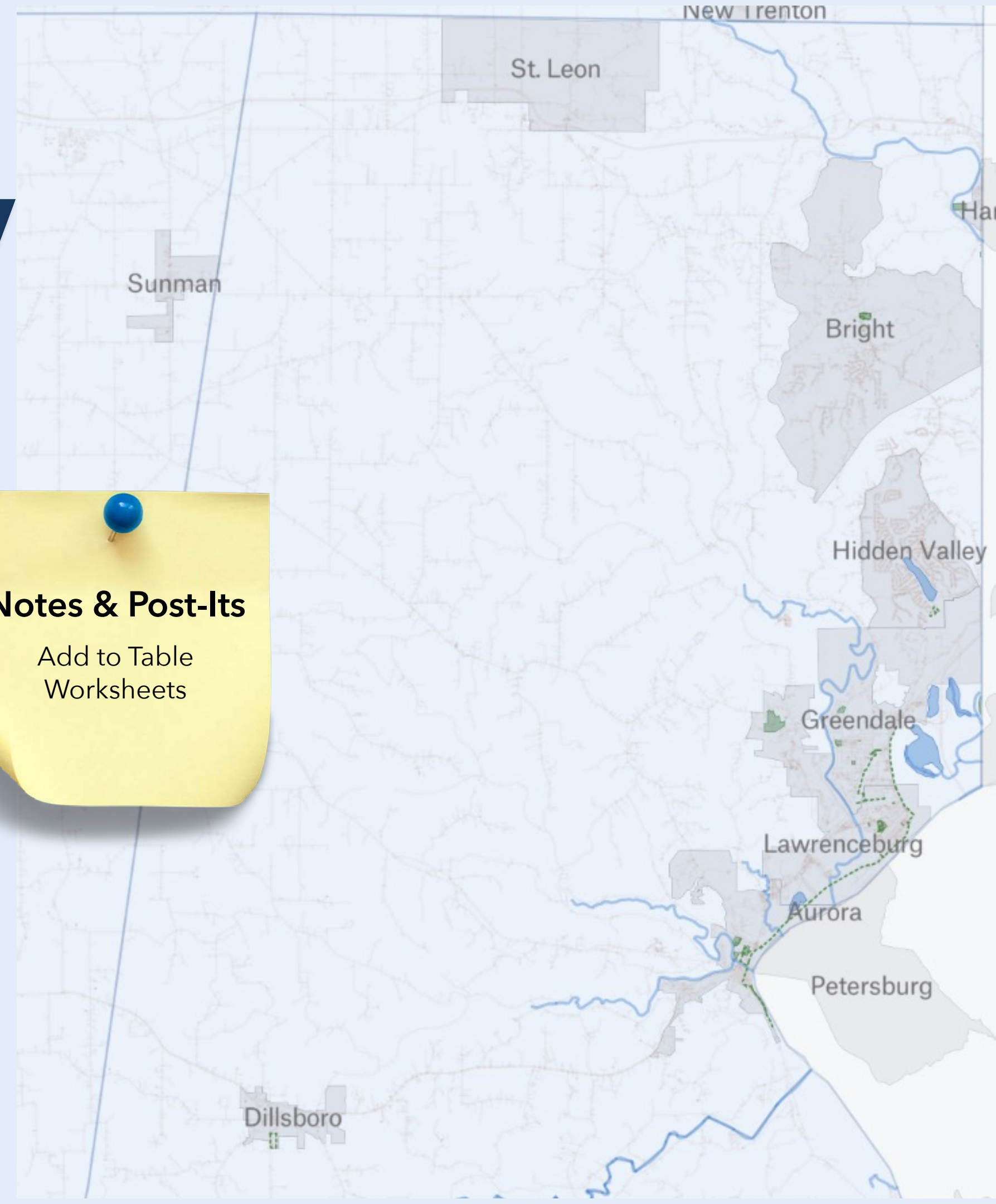
All of it...

- 3 cities + 4 towns + 2 CDP + 21 uninc.

• 2020 Population:		51,215
Lawrenceburg	10%	5,129
Greendale	9%	4,602
Aurora	7%	3,479
Towns/CDP	28%	14,363
Everywhere Else	46%	23,524

Notes & Post-Its

Add to Table
Worksheets





•
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



Strategies can...

Celebrate Heritage

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



**Celebrate Community Identity and
Foster Community Pride**

Putnam County Mural Project



**Revitalize Places through
Placemaking**

South Madison Community Foundation —
Pendleton Crosswalks



Red Key, signs



Gas City, oil derricks



Columbus, bike racks



Fort Wayne, benches

Wayfinding & Functional Public Art



**Foster Quality of Life & Community
Connections**

Front Porch Music Festival, Noblesville



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

Southeast Indiana

A Bolder Southeast Indiana

The natural beauty of our region is one of our vital assets, but we are more than just a scenic stop between IN, OH, & KY.

Together we are crafting a regional vision where:

- Natural beauty meets economic vitality,
- Educational opp. pave the way for generational prosperity,
- And the dream of affordable living becomes a reality.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2. Culture, Tourism, Recreation, and Lifestyle

- Preserve, Enhance & Activate
- Our Communities, Destinations and Recreational Activities
- As a Frontline Resource to
- Grow our Regional Pop. by 5K residents (2030)

1. Housing & Neighborhoods; 3. Infrastructure; 4. Business Retention, Growth, & Attraction; 5. Childcare



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, overlapping 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

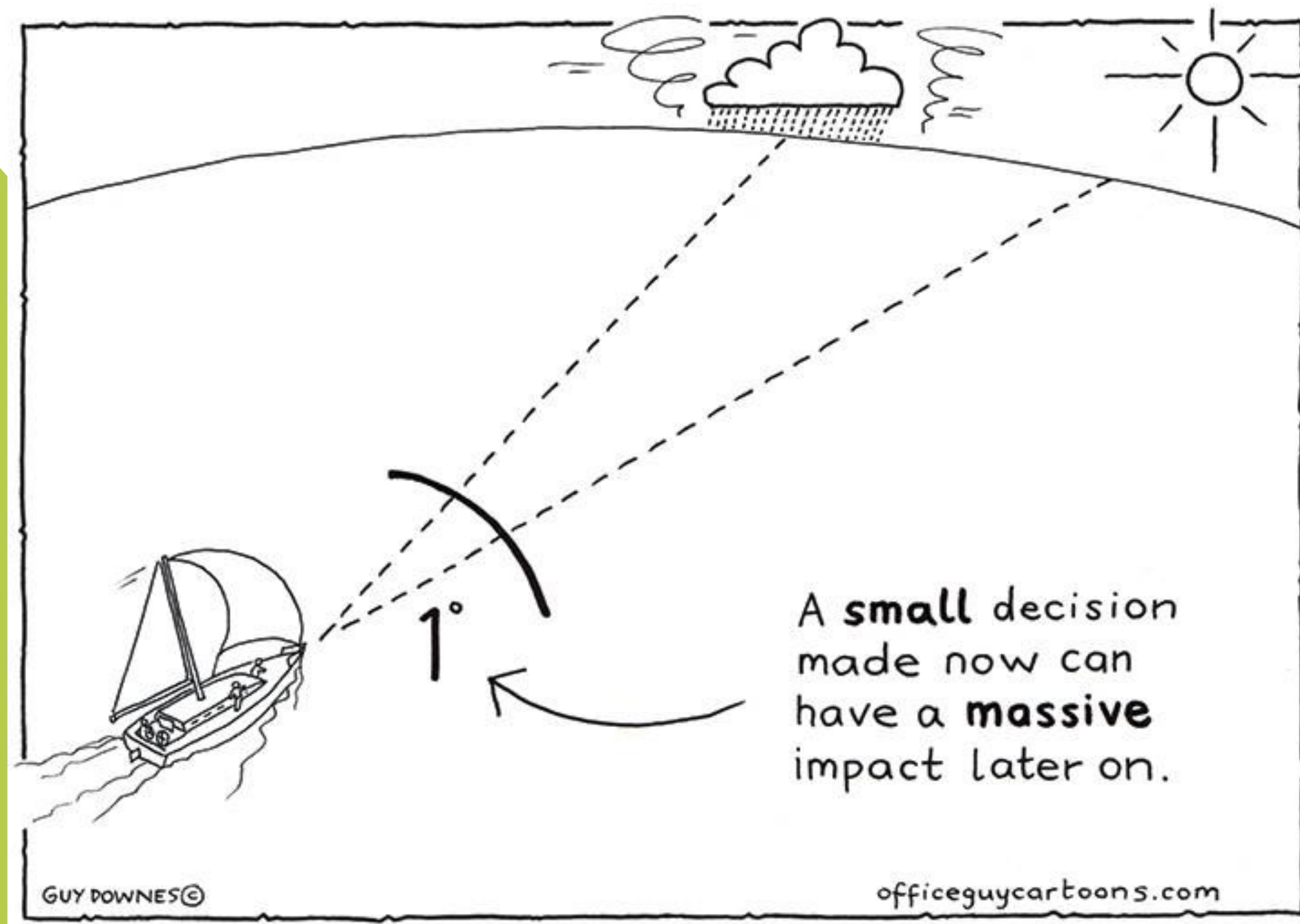
Building From...

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

A large, light green circular graphic that serves as a background for the text 'Momentum & Opportunity'.

Momentum &
Opportunity

Next Steps: OURS & YOURS



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

Thank You!



Mary McCarty
Mary.Mccarty@sirpc.org



Kiley Sparks
Kiley.Sparks@sirpc.org



Sara A. Peterson
Peterson@SaraPetersonConsulting.com



Paige Sharp
Paige@SharpVisionarts.com

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES  **ART**

celebrating the power of arts and culture in community



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A private foundation since 1937

