



Wayne County

Community Input Session | April 24, 2025

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Tonight's
Task =

Think
BIG!

A Vibrant
Wayne 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

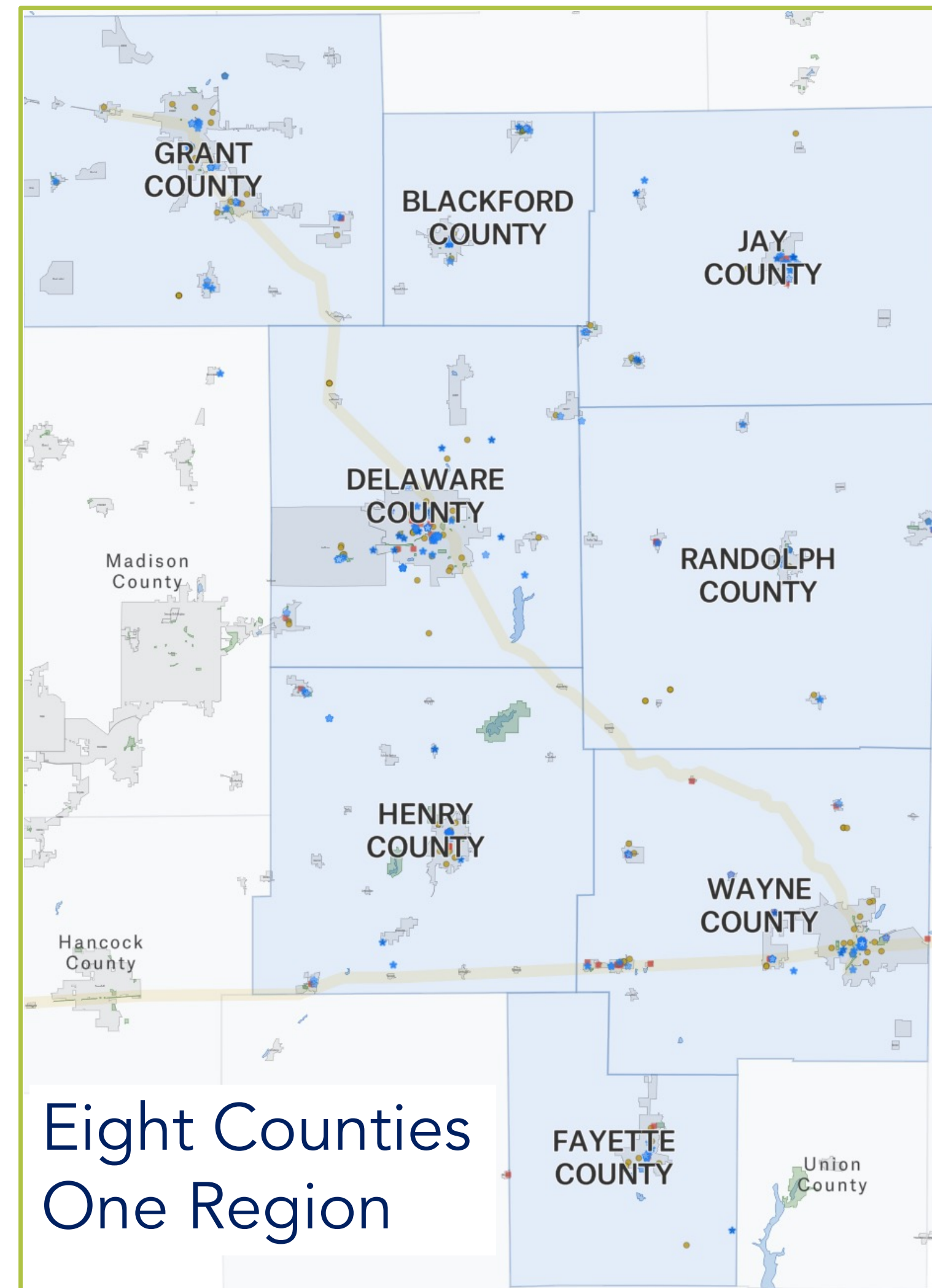
Elevate READI's quality of place impact on Indiana's cities and towns.

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.



Eight Counties
One Region

About Us

- Who we are
- Why we're here

Your Turn

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





Step 1

WAYNE COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Wayne County?

Arts & Culture Assets, so far



117 Arts & Culture

33 Creative Industry / Artists

51 History & Heritage

18 Art in Non-Arts Spaces

9 Arts Organizations

3 Informal Groups

16 Events & Traditions

23 Parks & Trails

100+ Pieces of Public Art

Plus Civic & Misc...



Ply Creative, Richmond

Artists & Events

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

Annual
Series
Markets

And more...



Elmtree Pottery at Warm Glow Candle, Centerville



Cambridge City Summer Concerts



Richmond Shakespeare Festival



Zoom Zoom, Joy Hernandez, Dublin



Meltdown Winter Ice Festival,
Richmond

Public Art

Iconic

Historic
Celebratory

Large-scale

Sculpture Park
Mural Trail

... mostly in
Richmond, but
growing



Mt. Auburn Mural, Holly Sims



Veterans Memorial Park, Richmond



Historic Districts and Antique Trail, Centerville



Levi Coffin House – Grand Central Station

Anchors & Attractions

RAM & RSO
Richmond Civic

The Reid Center
Levi Coffin House
Hagerstown Mus.

Cope Env. Center

9 Historic Districts in
4 cities/towns

Historic National
Rd/Scenic Byway

Hayes Arboretum
Whitewater Gorge
Cardinal Greenway
Trails, River, Parks...



Richmond Art Museum



Whitewater Valley Gorge Park



History & Notables

The Miami People
Quakers

Overbeck Sisters
Richmond Group

Underground RR
"Grand Central Station"

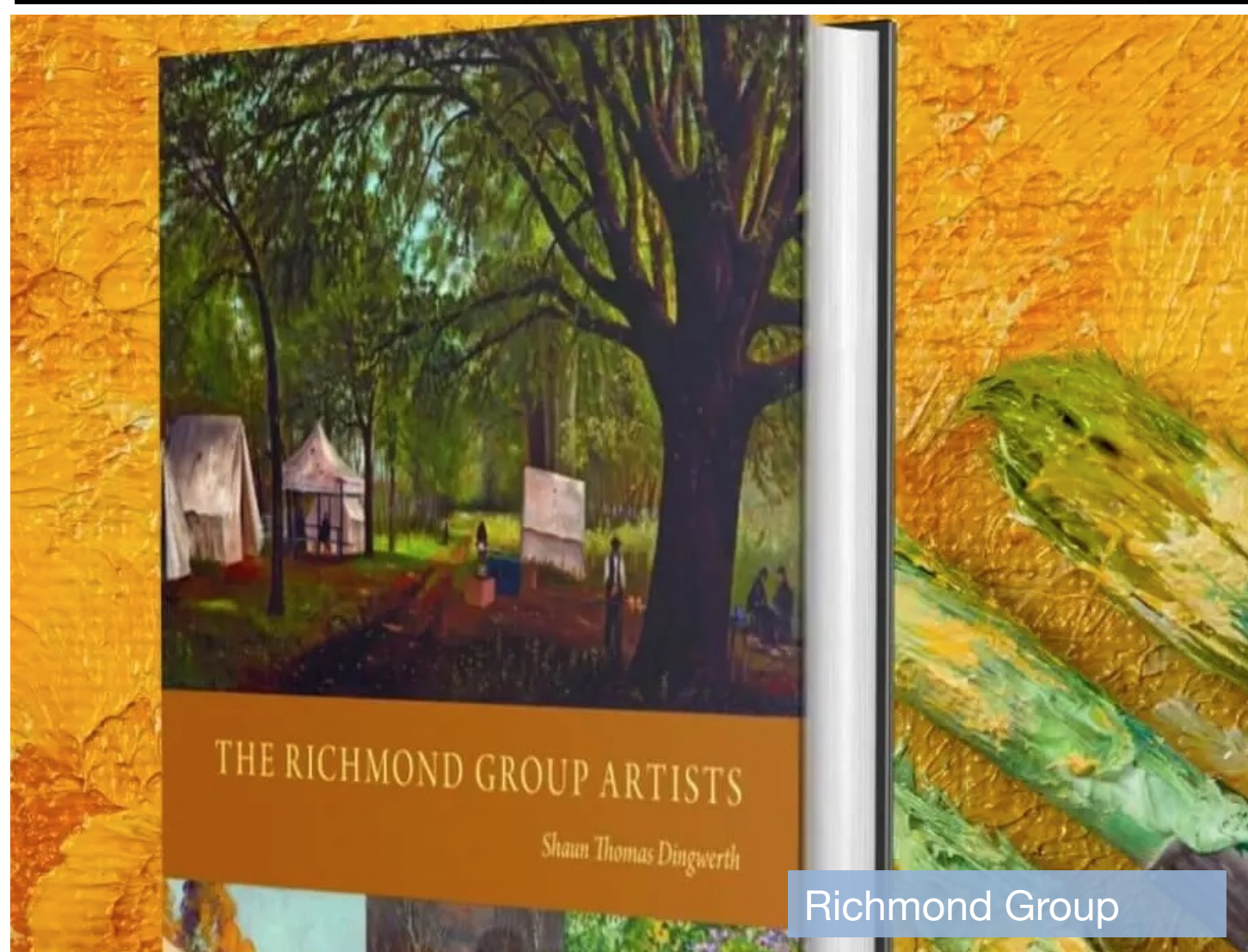
Music Industry

- Gennett
- Starr

Ralph Teeter
(Inventor/Cruise Control)
Gaar Williams
(Cartoonist)



1873 "Courthouse Fight" between Richmond and Centerville depiction by Cliff Cox



Richmond Group



Overbeck Sisters

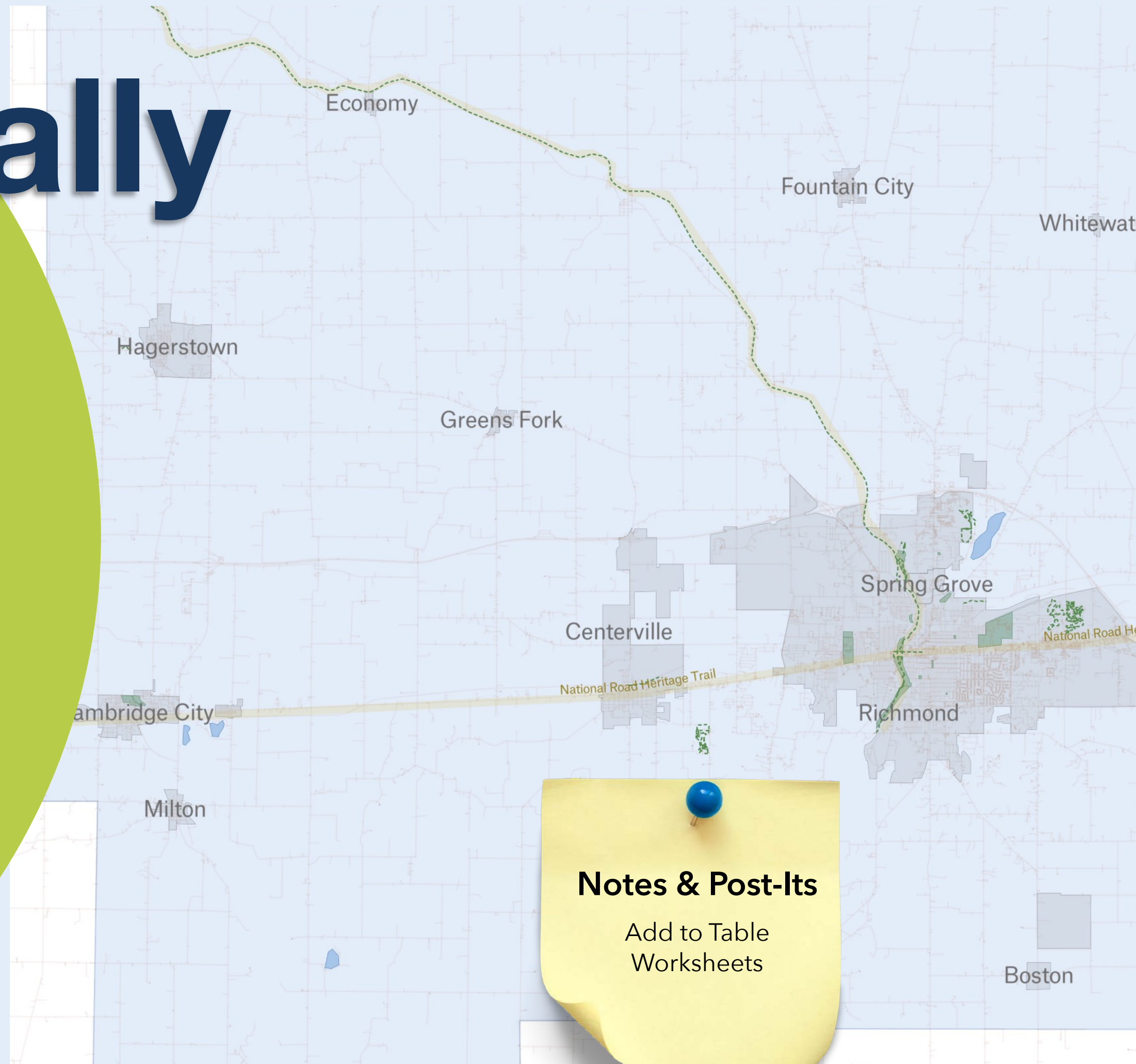
Authentically

What, where, who...

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

All of it...

- 1 City + 13 Towns
- 2020 Population: 66,553
 - Richmond: 35,720
 - Total for 13 Towns: 9,451
 - Rest of County: 21,382





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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 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. Overlaid on this background is the text 'Step 3' in a large, dark blue, serif font.

Step 3

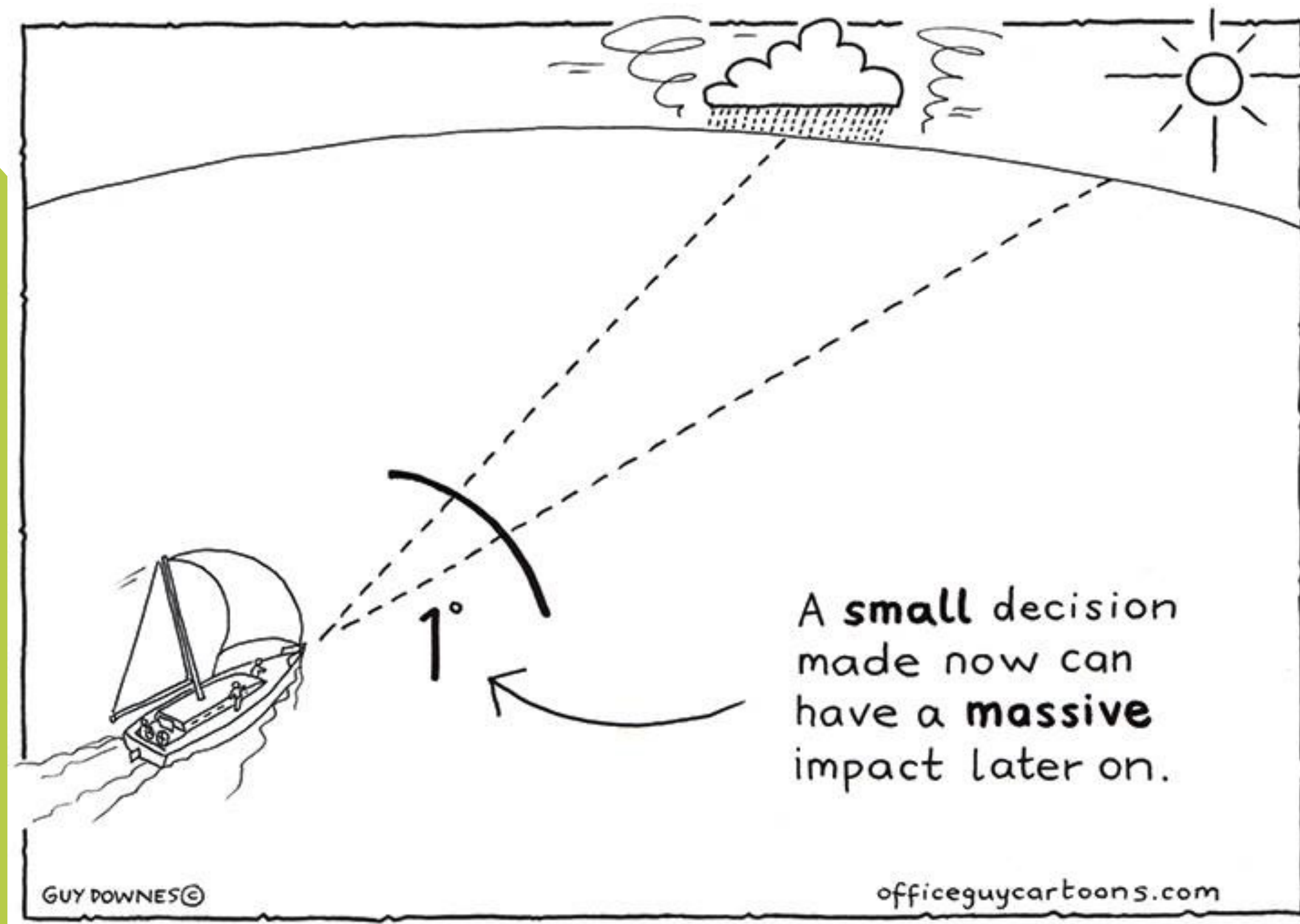
Building From...

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

A large, solid green circle 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

