



Ripley County

Community Input Session | June 18, 2025



Tonight's
Task =

Think

BIG!

*trans*formed
A Vibrant
Ripley County
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

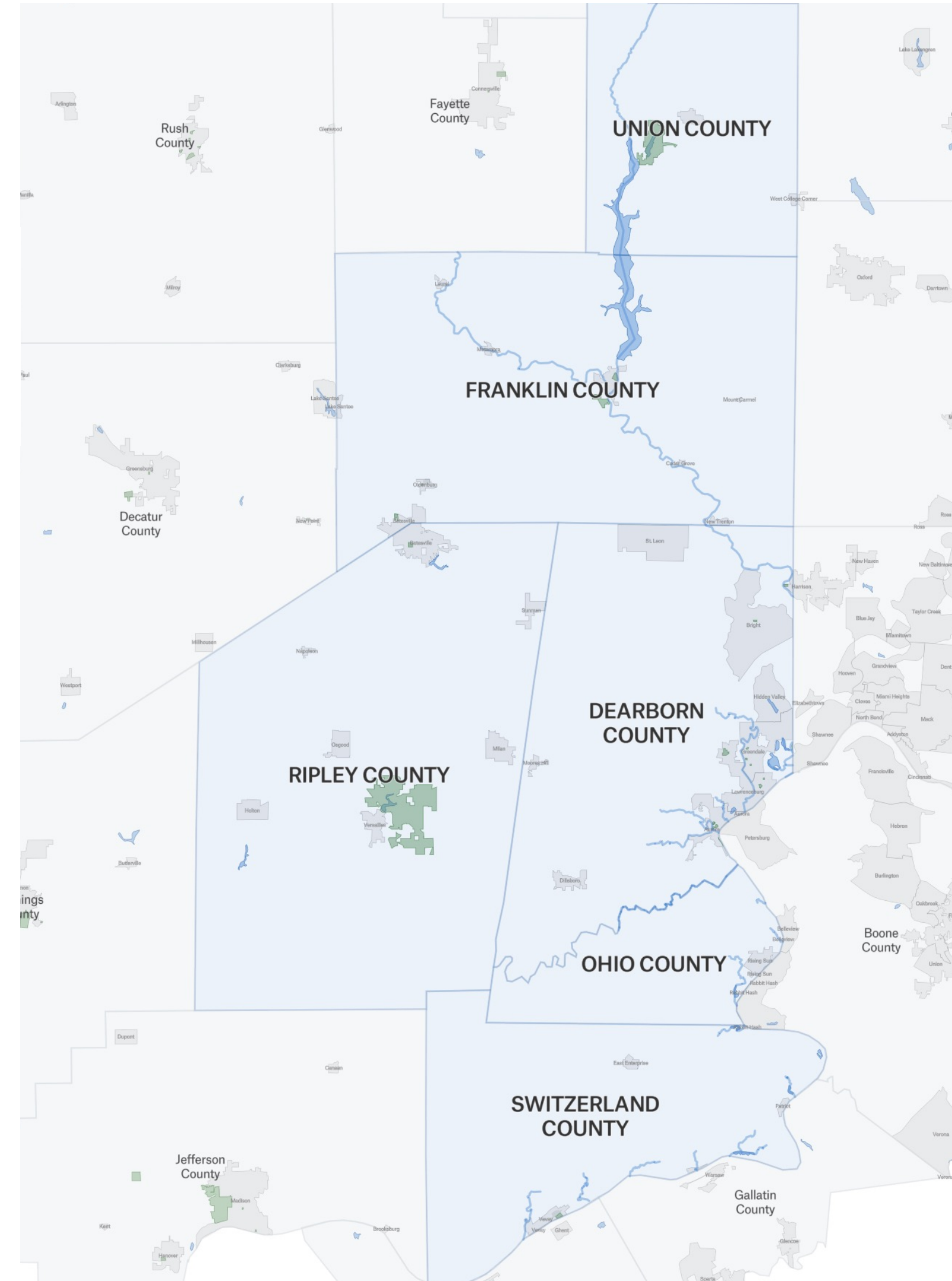
READI Arts Initiative Goals

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...



Southeast Indiana Woodturners
Chuck Kerns work on display



Step 1

RIPLEY COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Ripley County?

Arts & Culture Assets, so far



73 Arts & Culture

- 36 Creative Industry / Artists
- 22 History & Heritage
- 10 Art in Non-Arts Spaces
- 5 Arts Organizations
 - Informal Groups

41 Pieces of Public Art

15 Parks & Trails

11 Events & Traditions

Plus Civic & Misc...

Artists & Events

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

Annual Festivals
Music Series
Clubs
Markets

And more...



Weberding Carving Shop, Batesville



Sandy Pickett, Versailles



Versailles Pumpkin Show (happening since 1899)



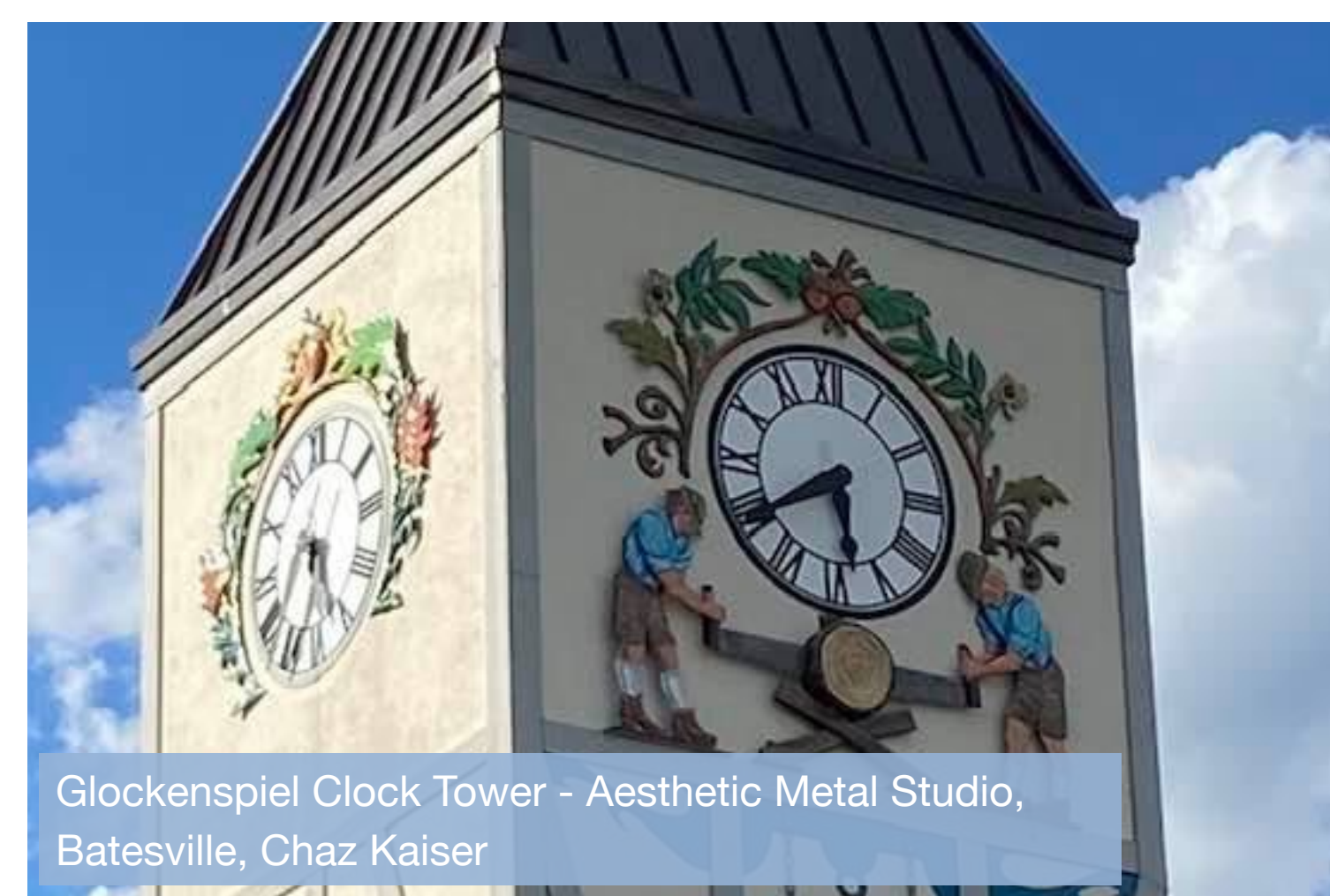
Ripley County Film Fest (Batesville, Osgood)

Public Art

New Deal
Celebratory
Iconic
Community-
based

Downtown
Revitalization –
Walking Trail of 20

Mostly murals
in largest
communities



Glockenspiel Clock Tower - Aesthetic Metal Studio,
Batesville, Chaz Kaiser



Our Hometown, Bicentennial Mural, Versailles
Andrea Grimsley



PaulHenge, Batesville
Paul Morris (architect)



Osgood Sculpture, Iron Timbers

Anchors & Attractions

Arts & Culture...

Local arts council
Gibson & Damn Th.

History...

6 Museums
National District
##s of Sites, Bridges

Out & About...

Versailles State Park
Bradt Preserve
Underground RR
Trails...



Busching Bridge, Versailles State Park



The Damm Theatre, Osgood



Batesville Area Arts Council



Canal House, Napoleon



Kim Steam Car, 1898

History & Notables

Miami, Delaware,
Potawatomi, Shawnee
& French

Morgan's Raid

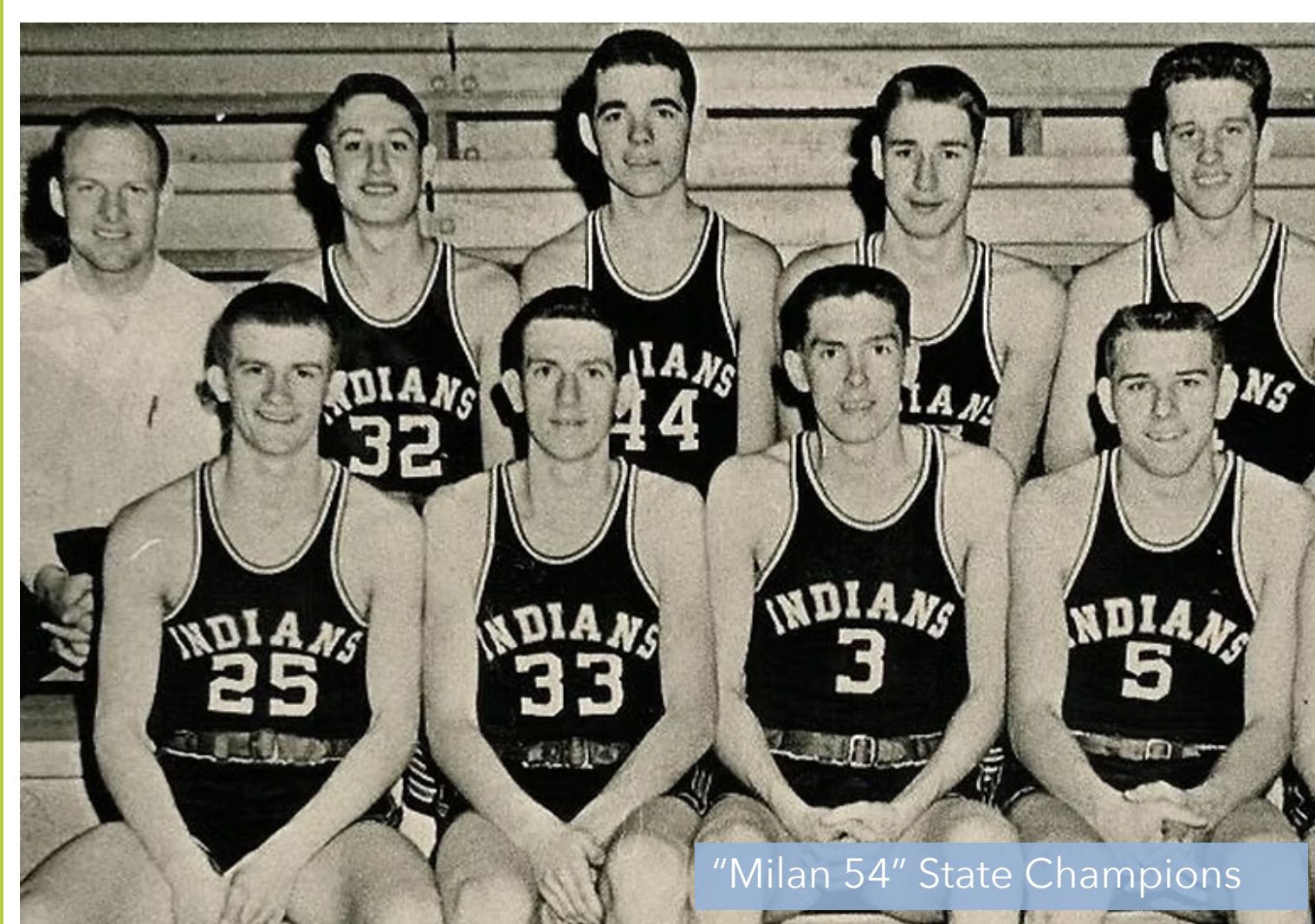
Wilson Dairy Farm
King Steam Car

Milan 1954
Basketball State Champs

Miriam Mason
Author (47 children's books)

Amos Jackson
IN Supreme Court Judge

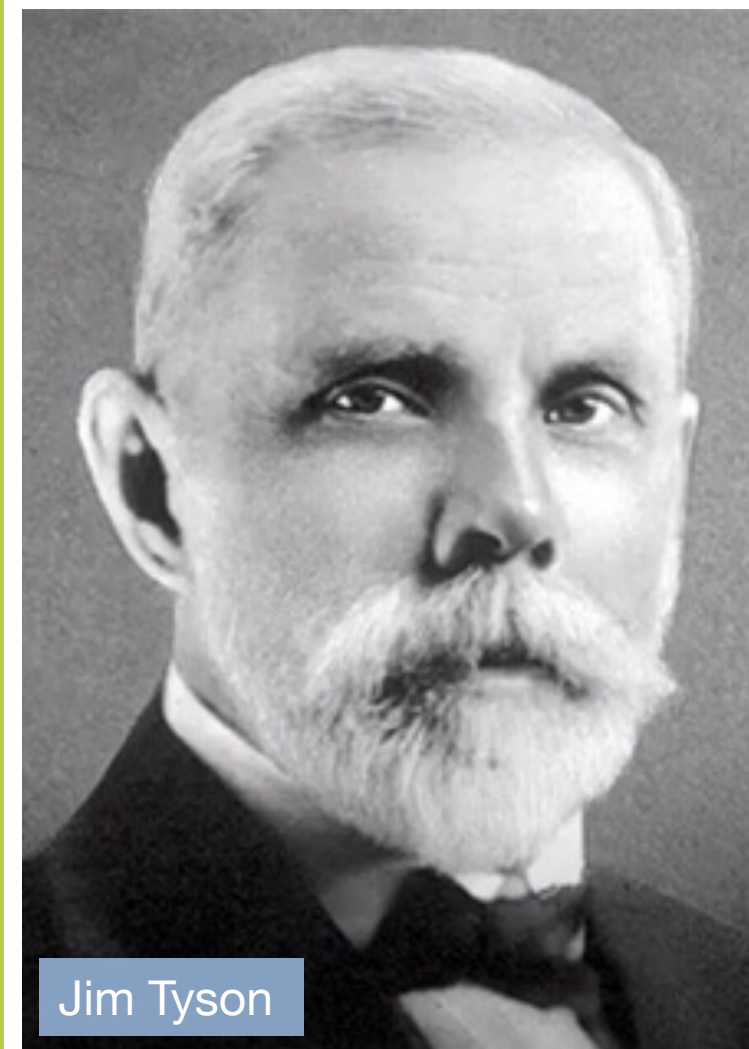
Jim Tyson
Philanthropist (Walgreens)



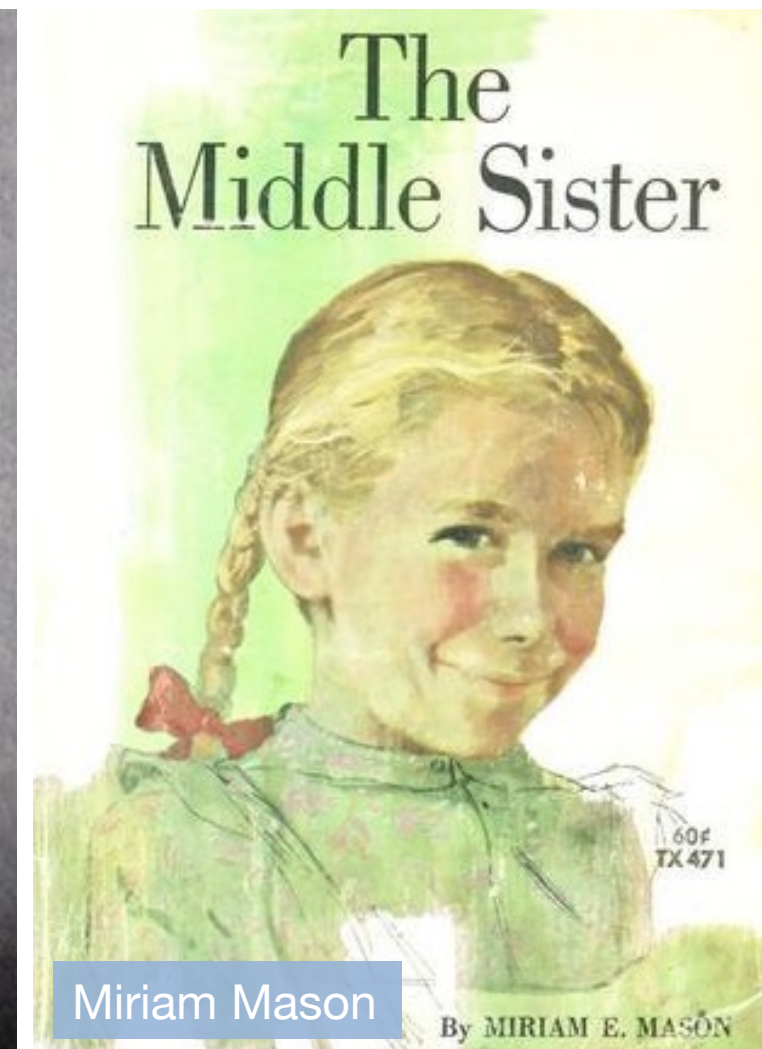
"Milan 54" State Champions



Morgan's Raid, 1863



Jim Tyson



Miriam Mason

By MIRIAM E. MASON

Authentically

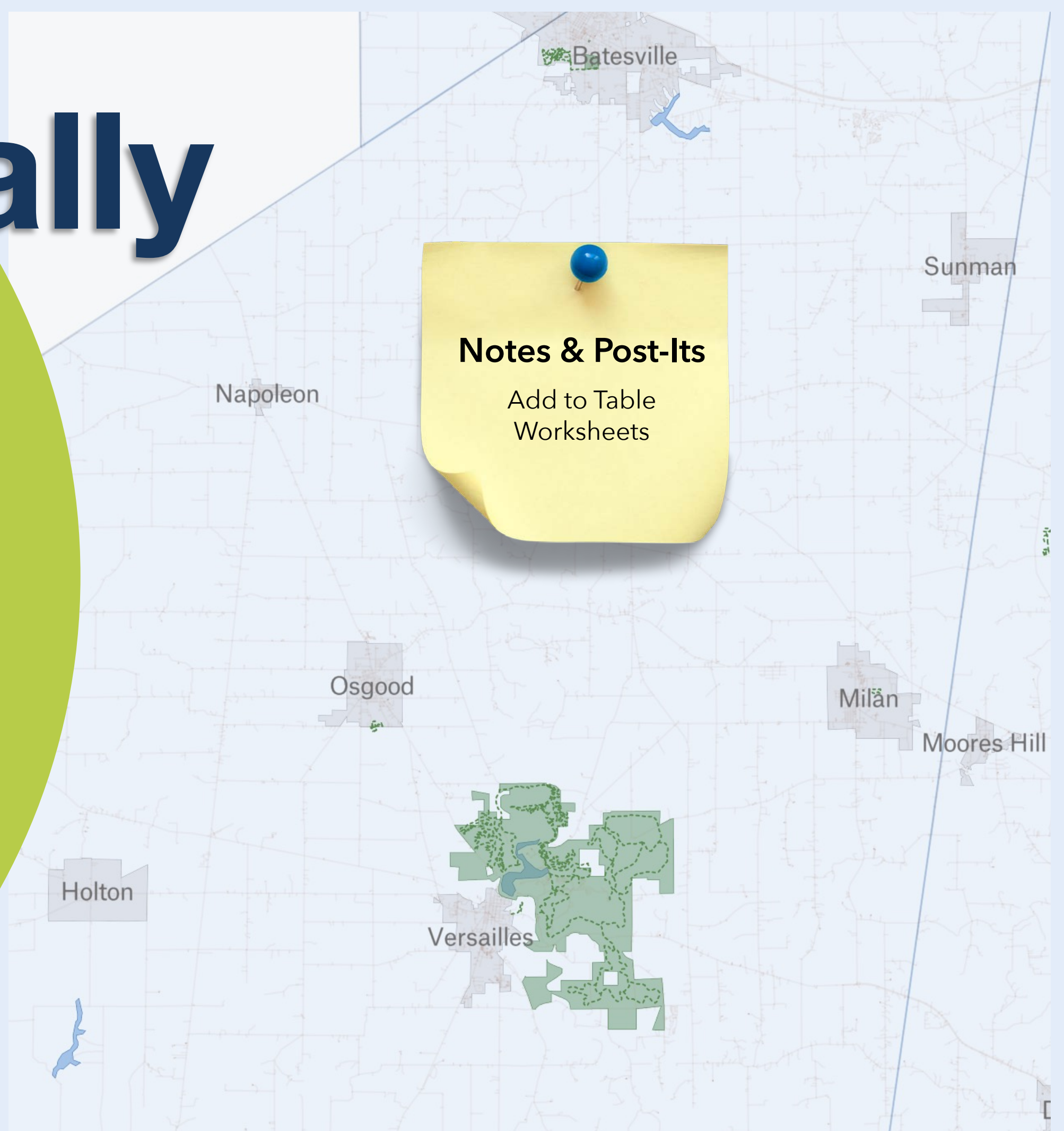
What, where, who...

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

All of it...

- 1 city + 6 towns + 32 uninc.
- 2020 Population: 29,227

Batesville	18%	5,265
Versailles	7%	2,184
Milan	6%	1,823
Osgood	5%	1,587
Sunman	3%	914
Holton	1%	417
Napoleon	1%	236
Everywhere Else	57%	16,801





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

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

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, 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

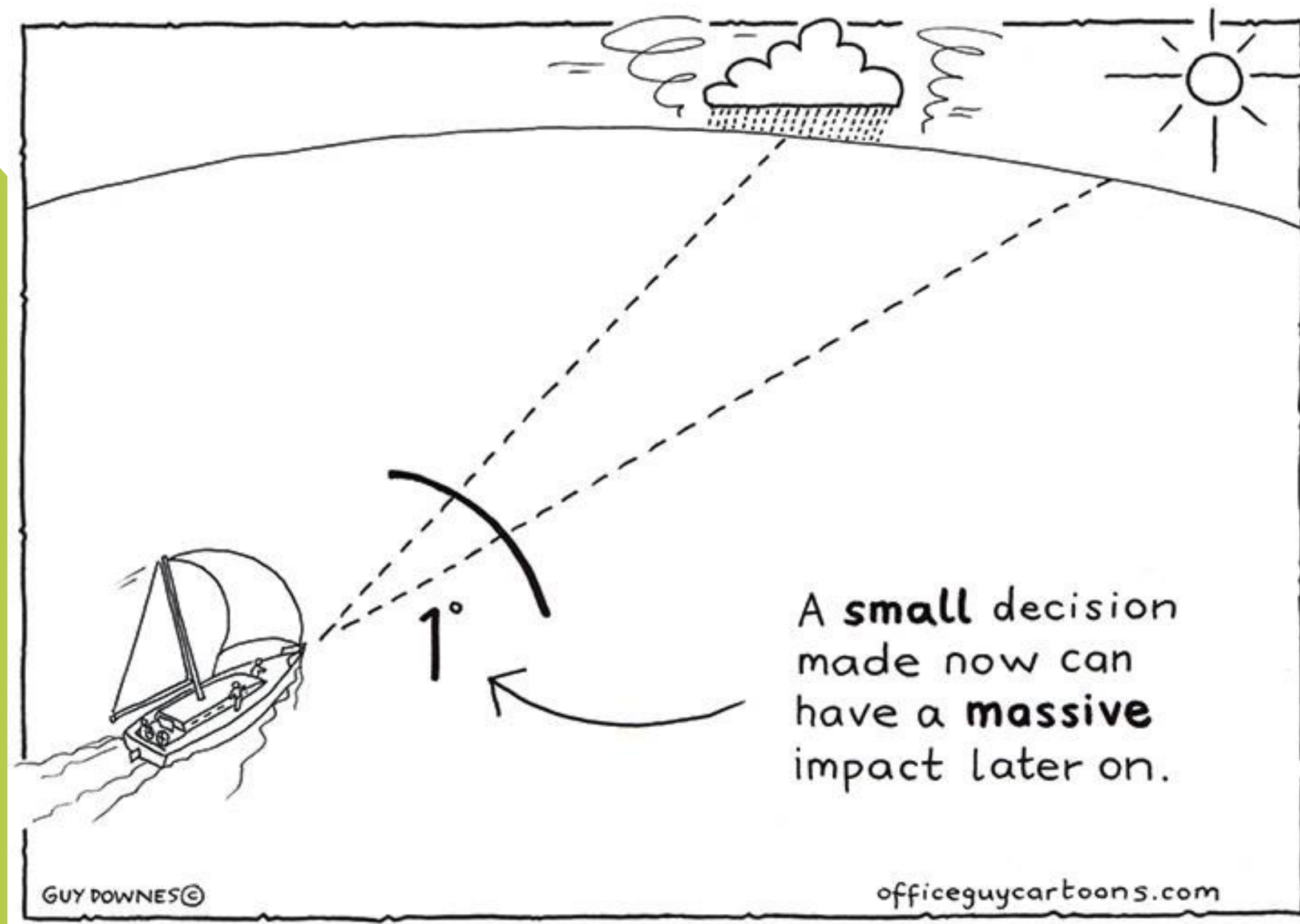
Building From...

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

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

Momentum &
Opportunity

Next Steps: OURS & YOURS



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

Thank You!



Mary McCarty
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TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES  **ART**

celebrating the power of arts and culture in community



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