



Franklin County

Community Input Session | June 24, 2025

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in collaboration with Sharp VisionArts



Tonight's
Task =

Think

BIG!

A Vibrant
Franklin 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

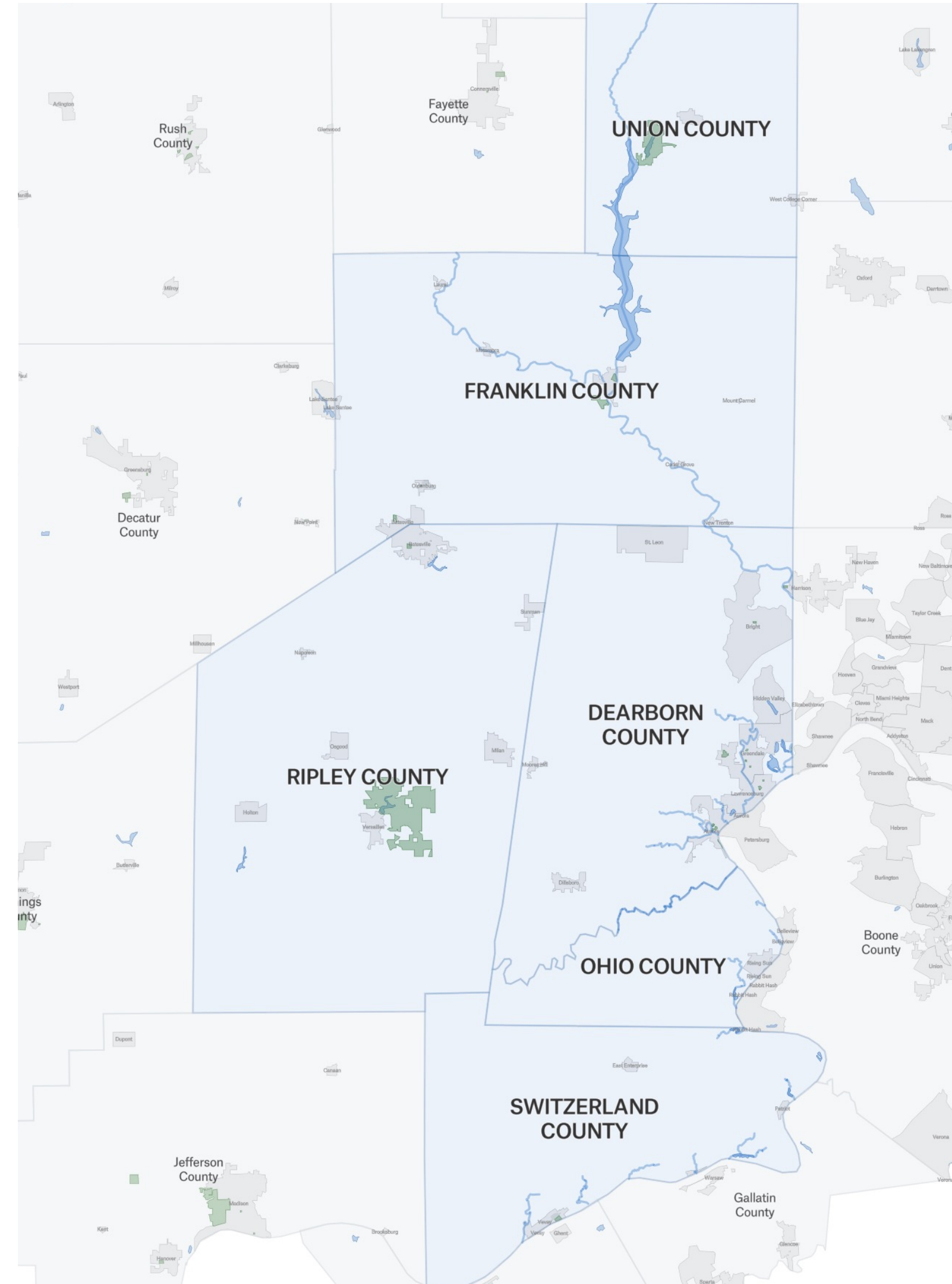
READI Arts Initiative Goals

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...

Thanks for
attending!





Step 1

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Franklin 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

54 Arts & Culture

- 22 Creative Industry / Artists
- 13 Art in Non-Arts Spaces
- 13 History & Heritage
- 4 Informal Groups
- 2 Arts Organizations

42 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...



Quilt Batts of Franklin County



Happy Valley Bluegrass Festival, Batesville



Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths,
Cedar Grove



Freudenfest, Oldenburg

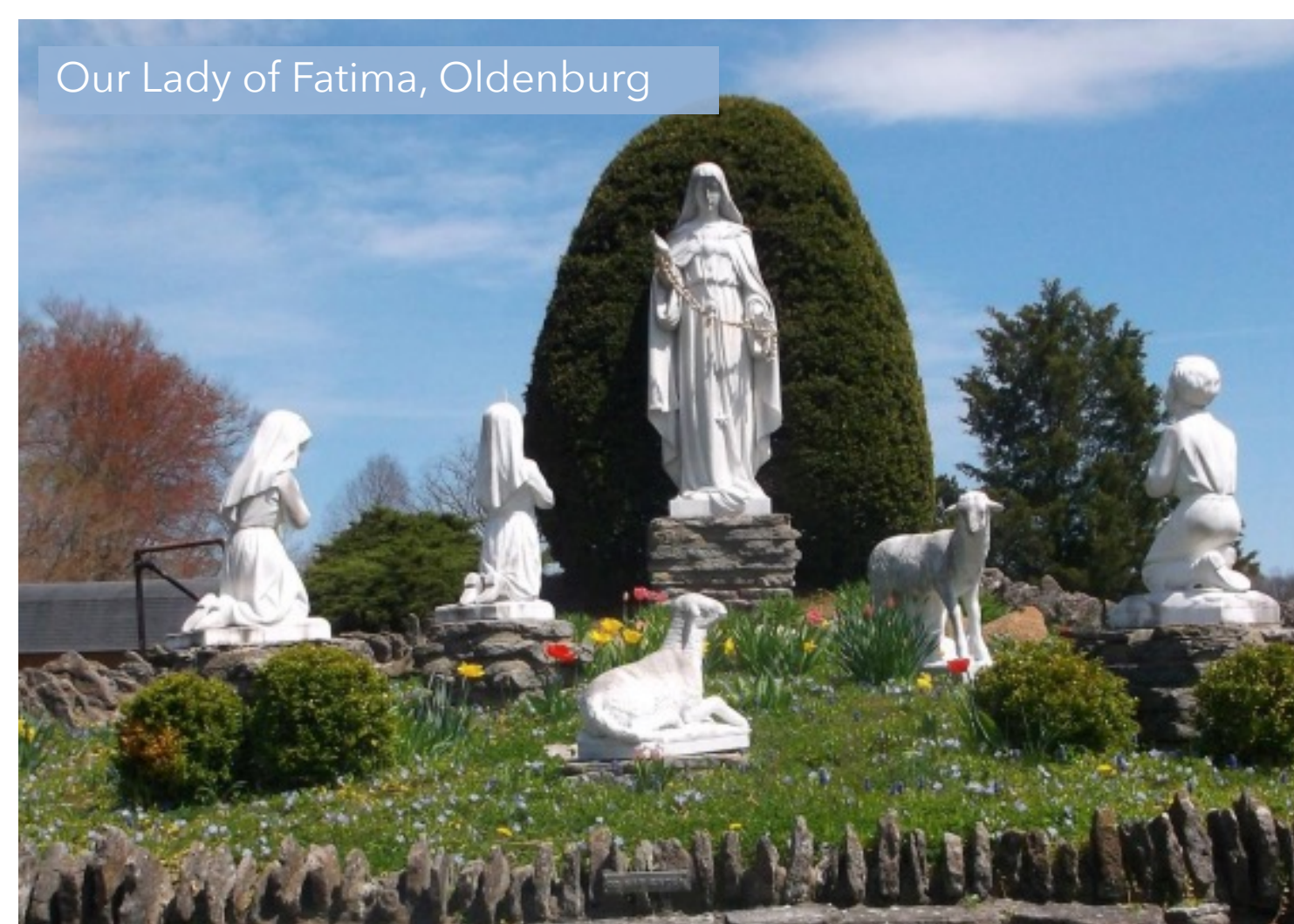
Public Art

Religious
Celebratory
Iconic
Land Art

Community
Event-based
Youth involvement

Variety but
limited

Our Lady of Fatima, Oldenburg



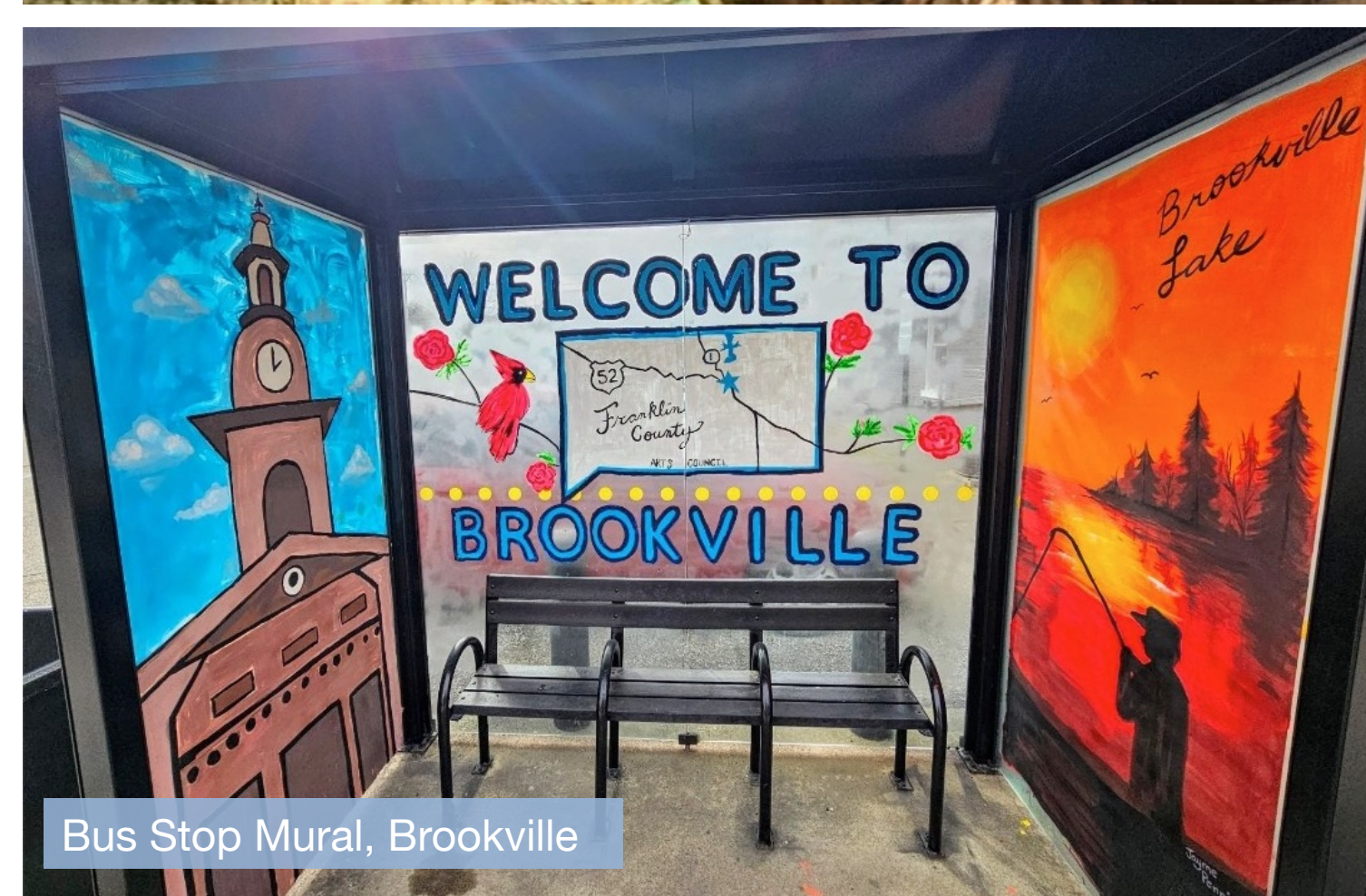
Whitewater Canal Trail Garden Mural (forms org logo)



Chain Saw Invitational, Metamora



Bus Stop Mural, Brookville





Oldenburg Historic District,
Schwestern Local Art

Anchors & Attractions

Arts & Culture...

Organizations

Music Venues

History...

National Districts (4),
Organizations & Sites

Out & About...

Brookville Lake - Rec.
Mounds State Rec. Area
National Scenic Byway
Whitewater Canal Trail
History Tours

Other Trails, Parks...



Metamora Opry Barn & Performing Arts



Salt Creek Horse Ranch, Laurel



Franklin County Arts Council

History & Notables

Miami, Illinois, and
Delaware People

VA Primitive Baptists
German Catholics

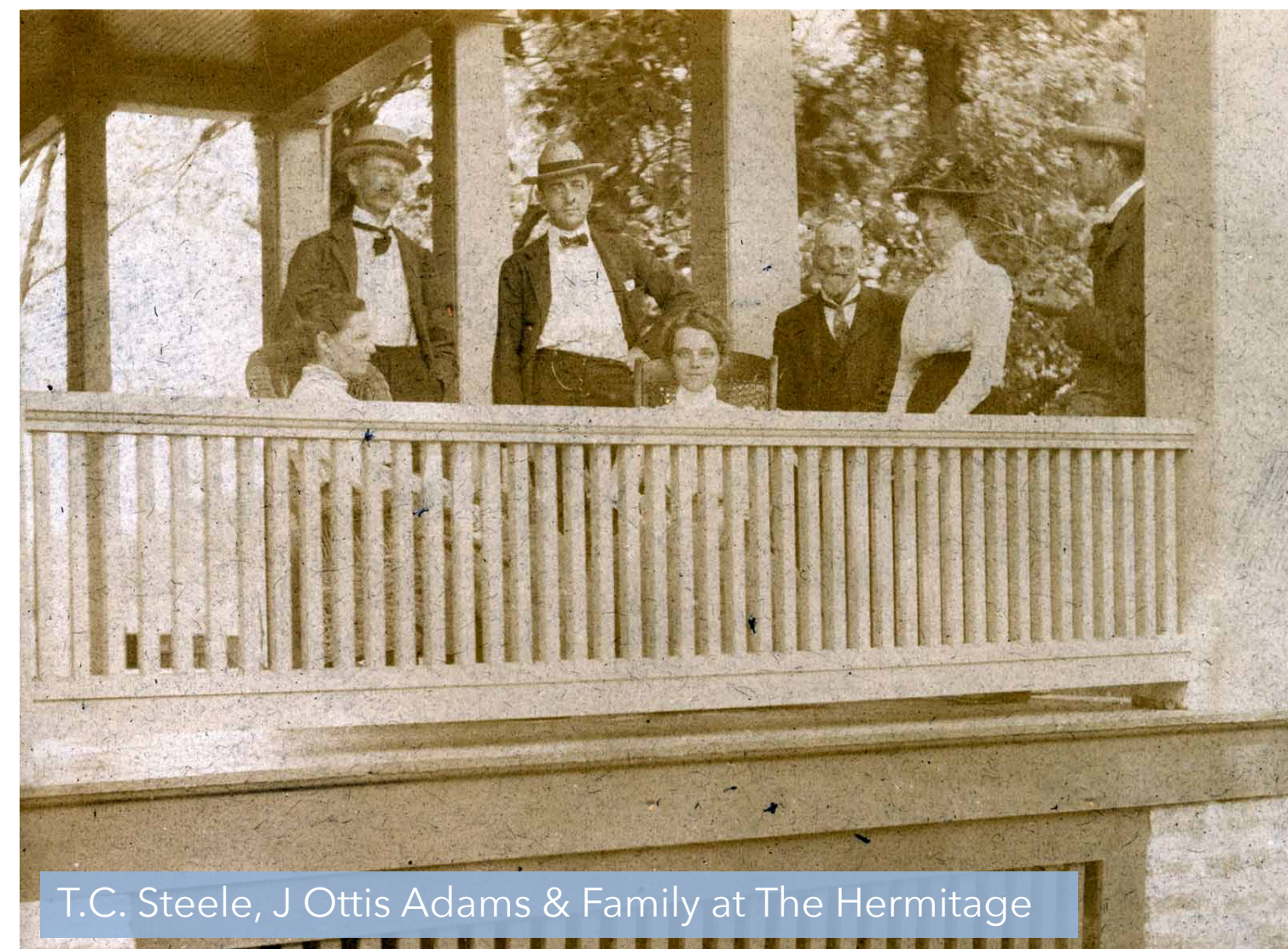
"Village of Spires"

Whitewater Canal
I&C Railroad

3 Successive IN Gov.

Hoosier Group Artists
T.C. Steele, J Ottis Adams

General Lew Wallace
"Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ"



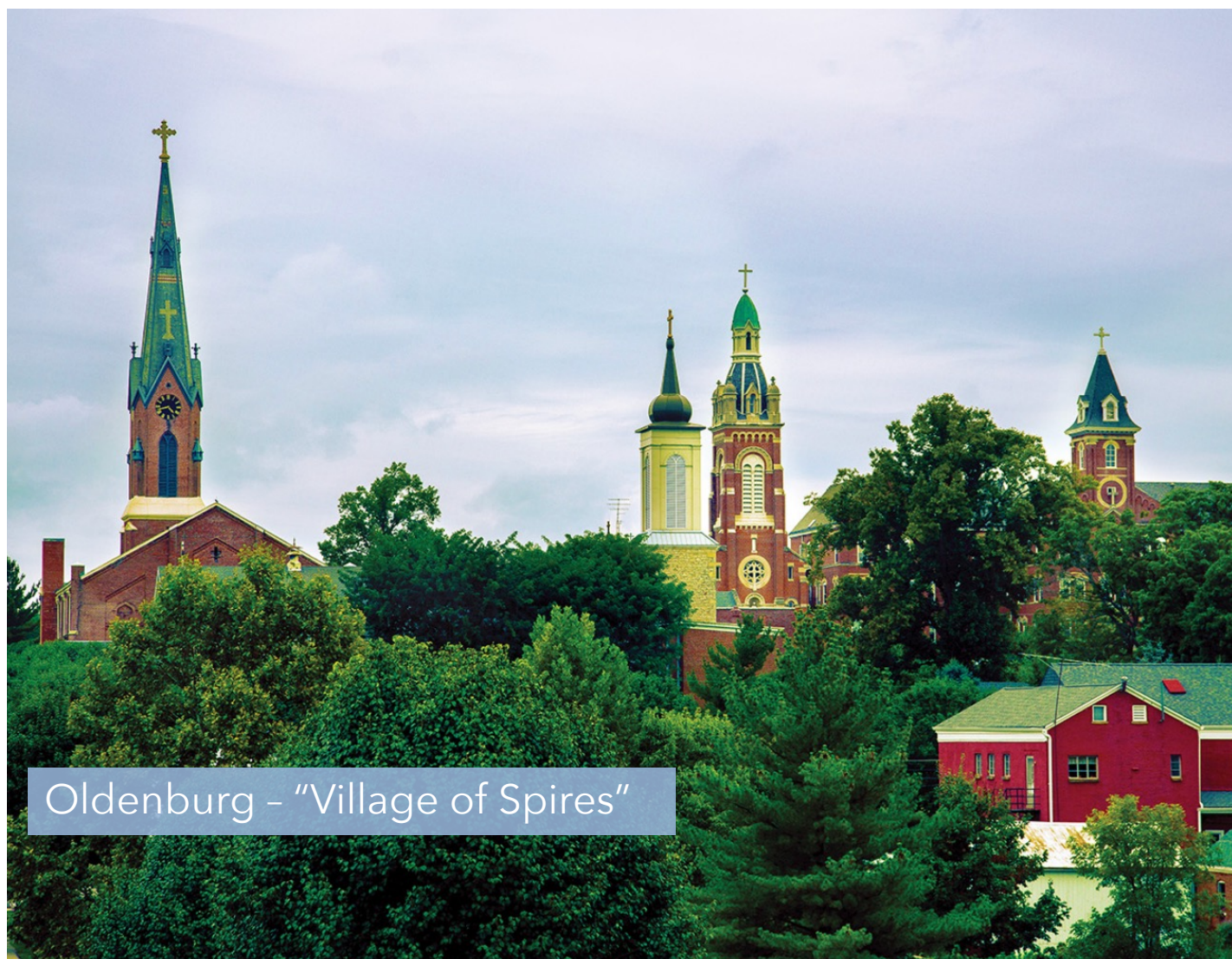
T.C. Steele, J Ottis Adams & Family at The Hermitage



Lew Wallace, b. Brookville



Duck Creek Aqueduct, Whitewater Canal



Oldenburg - "Village of Spires"

Authentically

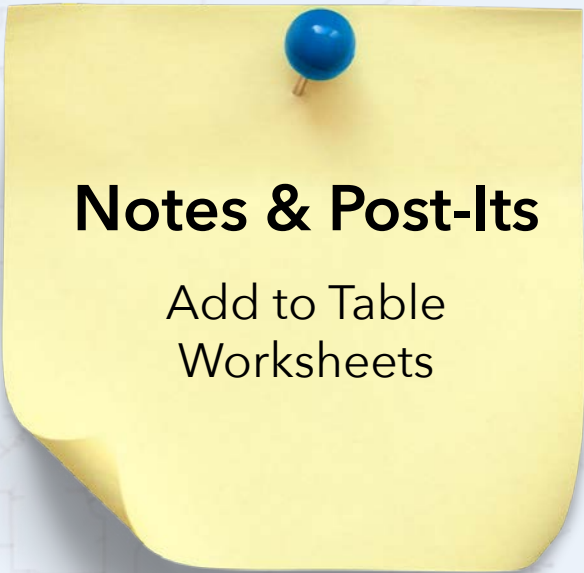
What, where, who...

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

All of it...

- 1 city (part) + 6 towns, 3 CDP & 33 uninc.

• 2020 Population:		23,096
Brookville	11%	2,622
Batesville (part)	8%	1,937
Oldenburg		647
Laurel		406
Metamora		207
Remaining Towns/CDPs		1,710
Everywhere Else	67%	15,557





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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



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



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

Step 3

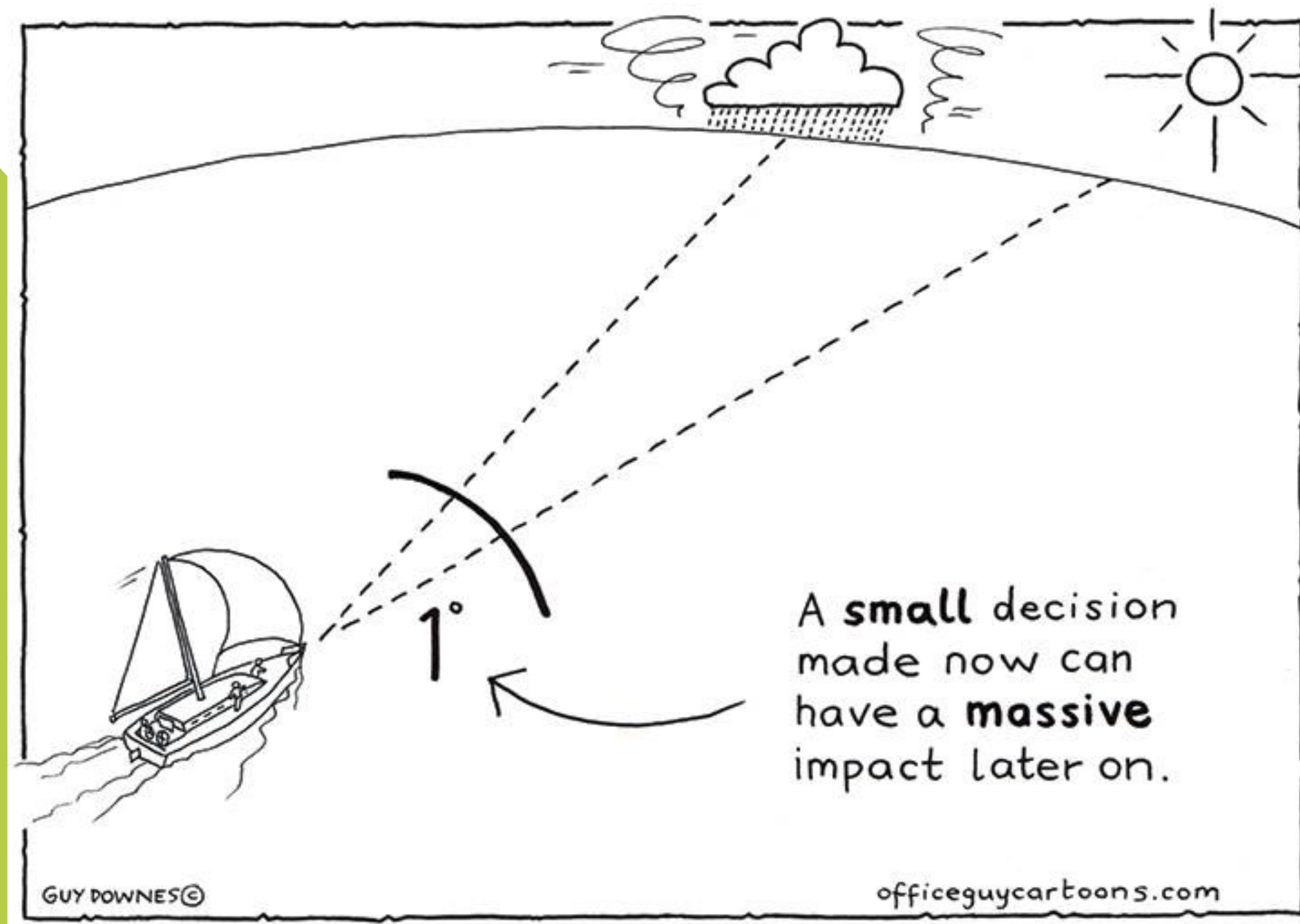
Building From...

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

A large, solid green circle containing the text 'Momentum & Opportunity' in a black, sans-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



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