



Rising Sun Liberty Mural, Christian Dallas Art

Ohio County

Community Input Session | June 11, 2025

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Tonight's
Task =

Think
BIG!

A Vibrant
Ohio 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

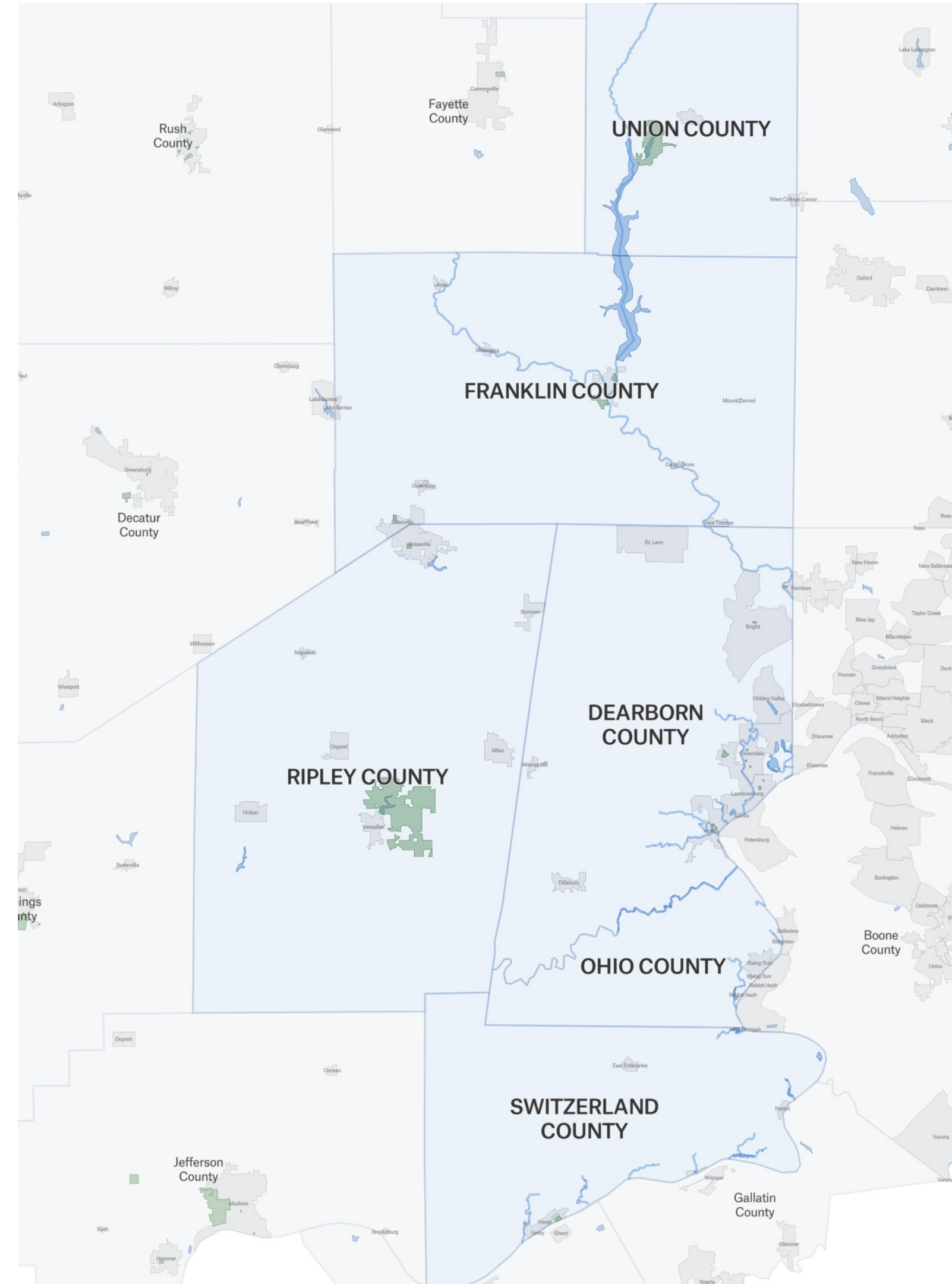
READI Arts Initiative Goals

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...





Step 1

OHIO COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Ohio County?

Arts & Culture Assets, so far



30 Arts & Culture

- 19 Creative Industry / Artists
- 6 Art in Non-Arts Spaces
- 5 History & Heritage
 - Arts Organizations
 - Informal Groups

24 Pieces of Public Art

11 Events & Traditions

6 Parks & Trails

Plus Civic & Misc...

Artists & Events

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

Annual Festivals
Markets

And more...



Rees Harps (Harpsicle Harps)



Heather's Art



Mark Lindsey



Ohio Valley River Cats – Catfish Tournament



Navy Bean Fall Festival

Public Art

Iconic

Celebrate
Heritage

Community
Murals

Beautification

Personal
Homes

Mostly murals



Senior Center, Andrea Grimsley



Hibiscus mural, JJ Wolfe



Lilian Akin & Allison Givan, Artists
Guided by art teacher Amberly King



Spirit of Rising Sun Showboat Mural, artist group



Main Street and National Historic District

Anchors & Attractions

Rising Sun...

Historic District
Main Street
Riverwalk

Museums...

SE IN Veterans
Ohio Co. Historical

Out & About...

Red Wolf Sanctuary
Heritage Farms at
Willow Creek

Parks...



Red Wolf Sanctuary



Rising Star Casino



Ohio County Historical Museum

History & Notables

German Immigrants

Flatboats and
thriving commerce

Clore Plows

Berkshire Family -
Underground
Railroad

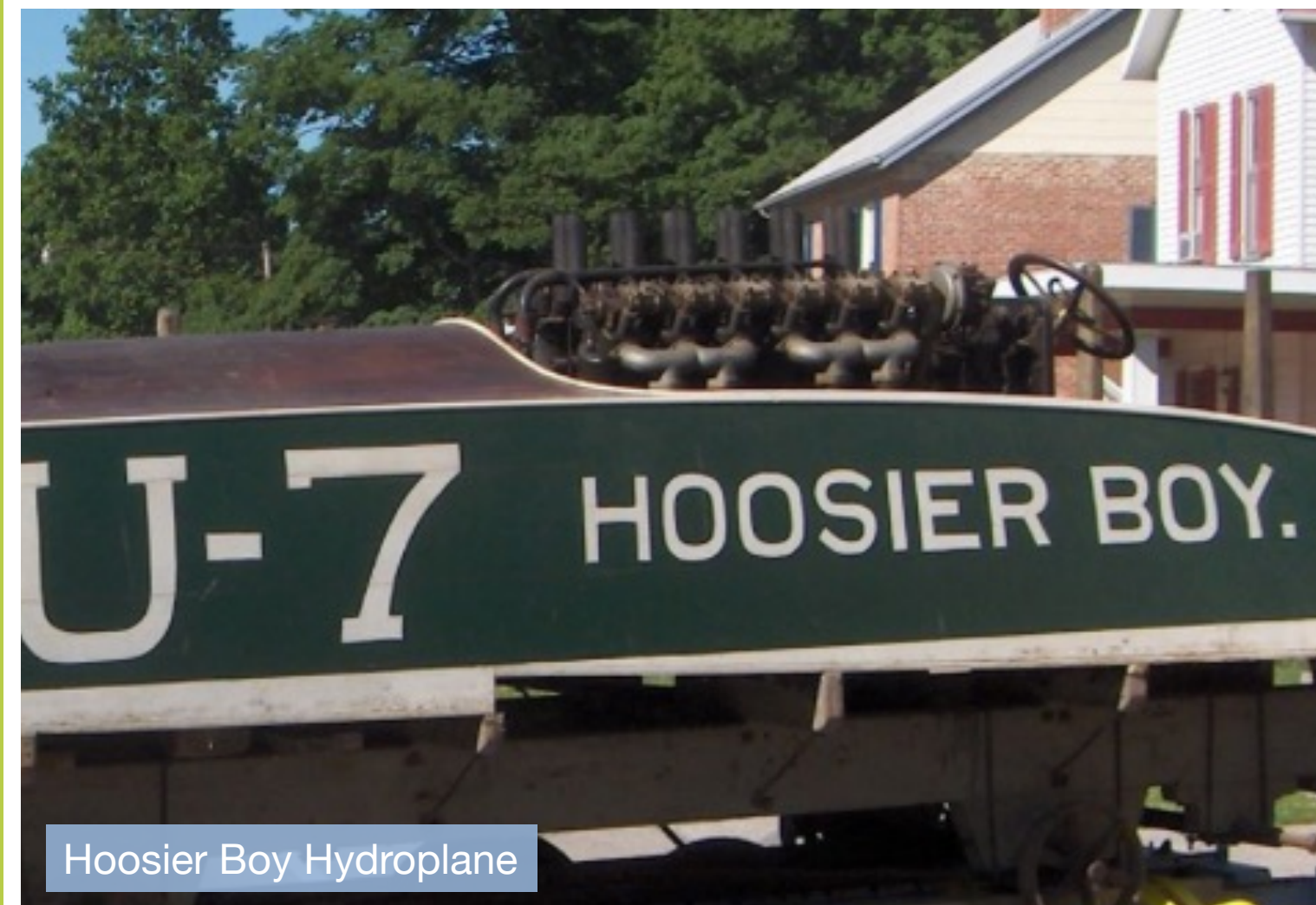
Oldest continuously
running Courthouse
in state

JW Whitlock
Thomas Victor Hall
Clarence Woods

Ohio River Boats at Rising Sun, Ind.



Flourishing Commerce



Hoosier Boy Hydroplane

Ohio County Courthouse

BARKSHIRE FAMILY

African American Samuel Barkshire was freed from slavery in Boone County, Kentucky in 1833. He and his family moved here in 1836. The Barkshires defied fugitive slave laws to provide aid and comfort to those escaping bondage in the South. Their Rising Sun home, just north of the Ohio River, became an important hub for connecting freedom seekers to routes of escape.

(Continued on other side)

Authentically

What, where, who...

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

All of it...

- 1 incorporated, 8 unincorporated
- 2020 Population: 6,004
 - Rising Sun 2,248
 - Everywhere Else 3,756

63% of pop live outside Rising Sun

Notes & Post-Its

Add to Table
Worksheets





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, 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

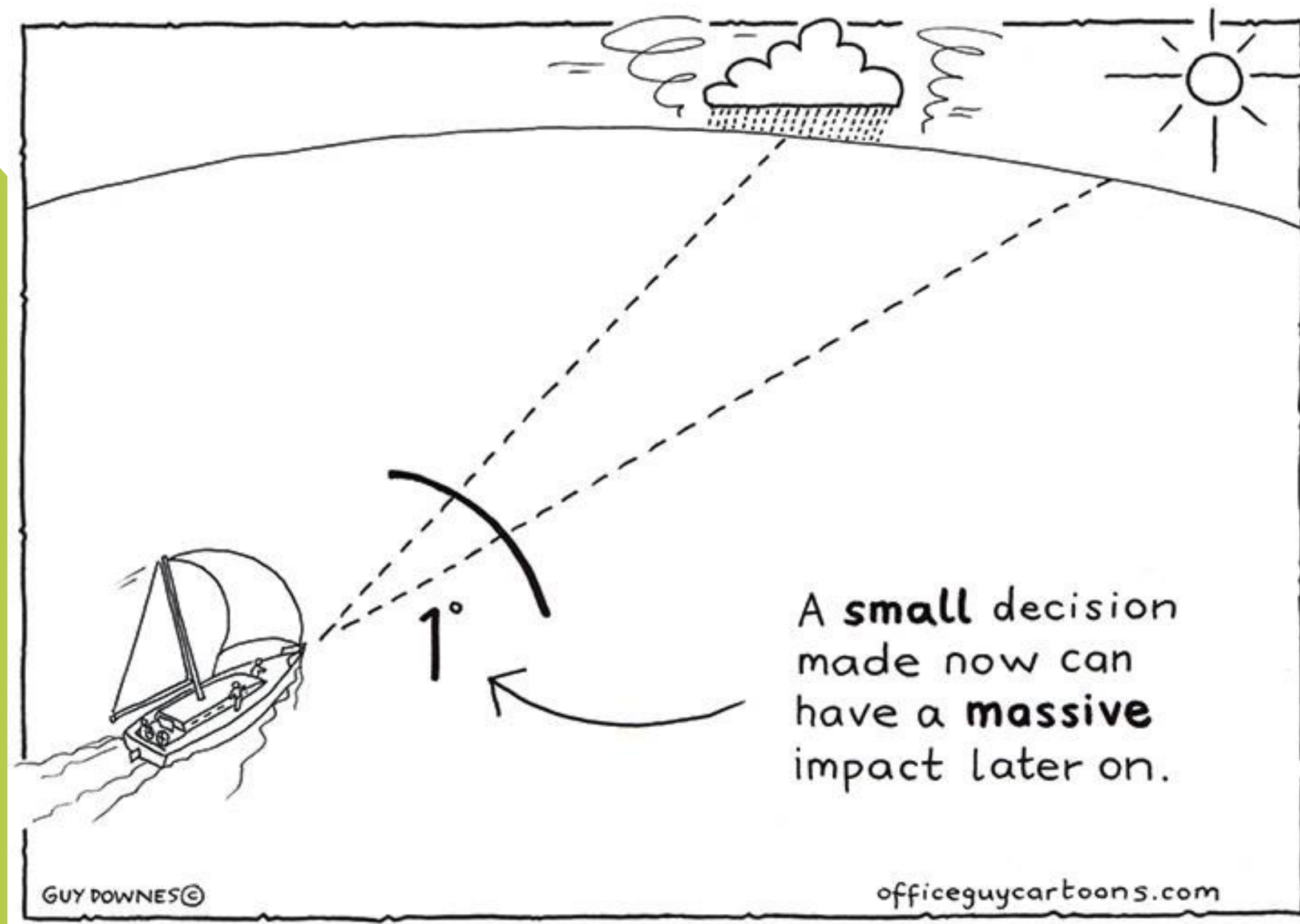
Building From...

- 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, 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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