



# Randolph County

Community Input Session | April 30, 2025

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Tonight's  
Task =

Think  
**BIG!**

A Vibrant  
Randolph 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

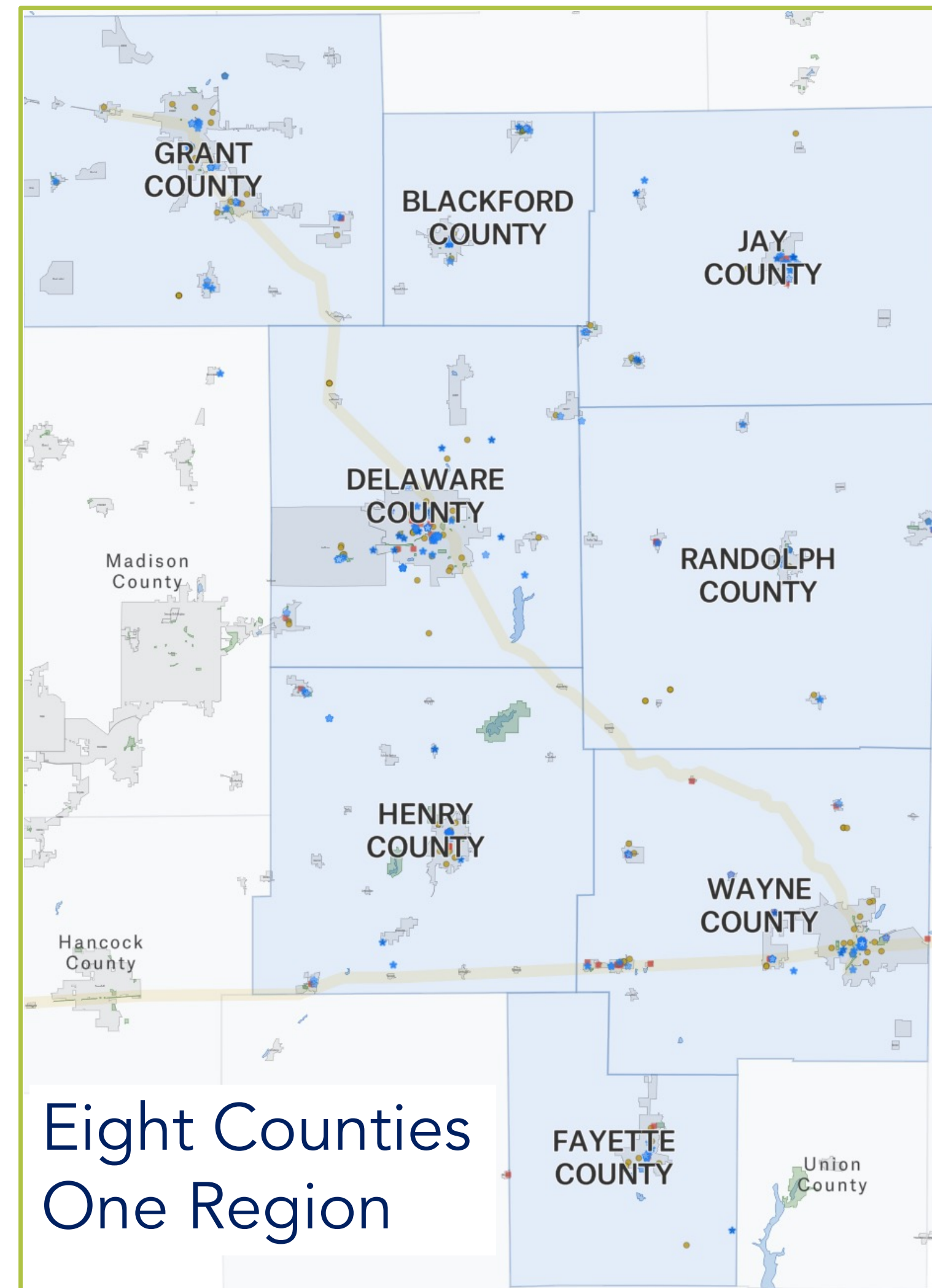
**Elevate READI's quality of place impact** on Indiana's cities and towns.

**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.





# About Us

- Who we are
- Why we're here

# Your Turn

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







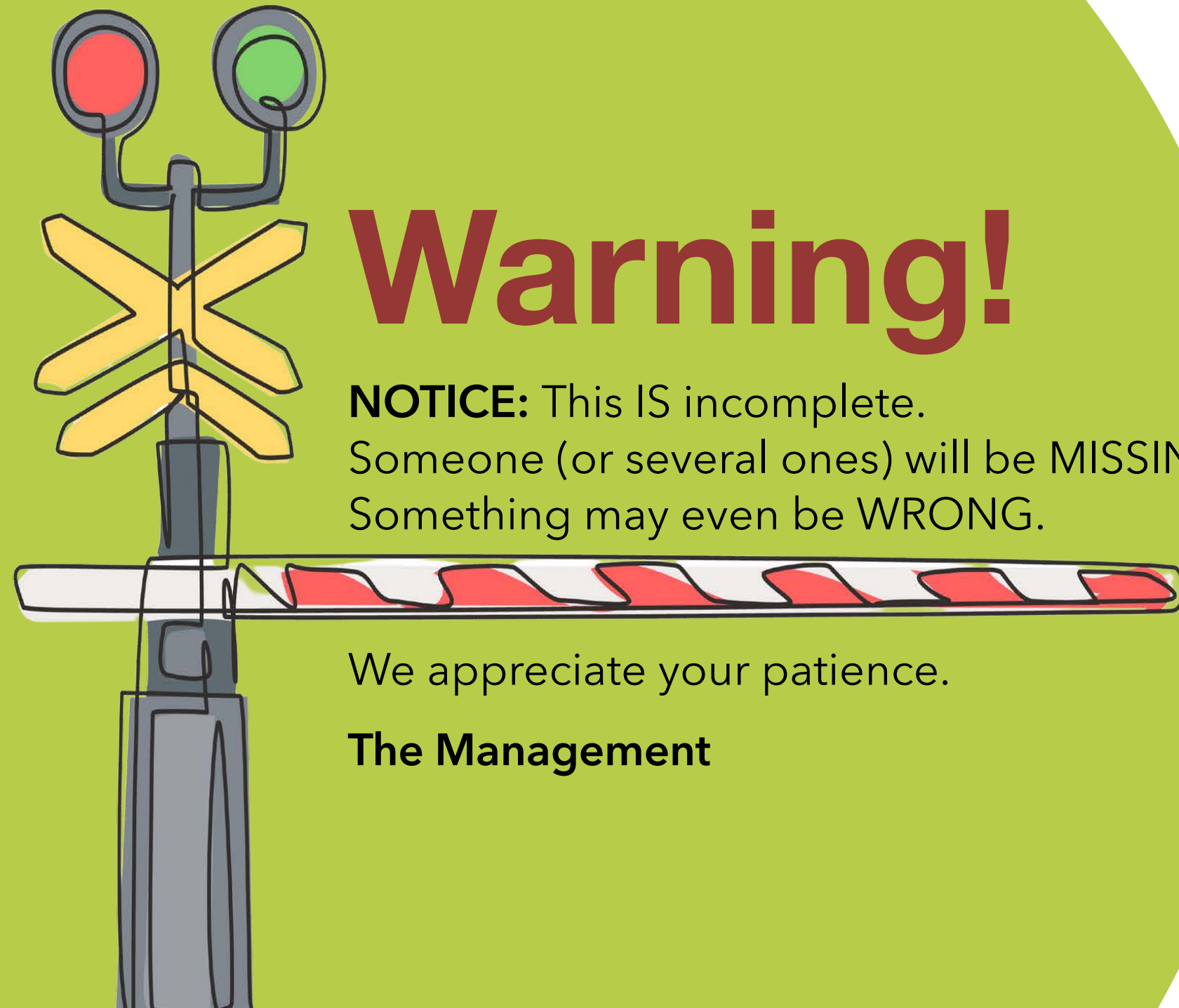
# Step 1

## RANDOLPH COUNTY

Who and what  
are distinctively  
Randolph 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**

45	Arts & Culture
22	Creative Industry / Artists
3	History & Heritage
8	Art in Non-Arts Spaces
8	Arts Organizations
1	Informal Groups
12	Events & Traditions
20	Parks & Trails
67	Public Art & Barn Quilts
<b>Plus</b>	Civic & Misc...





Blue Steel Blues Society, Union Mills



The Randy Players, Little Theatre, Union City

# Artists & Events

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

Annual  
Series  
Markets

And more...  
Like the Steel Guitar  
Festival



Boettger Pottery, Union City



To be Honest, Inc, Mongo





Historic Cars Mural, Burk & Wood

# Public Art

New Deal

Historic

Celebratory

Ghost Signs

Barn Quilts

...spread across  
the county



Our Small Town Mural, Parker City



New Deal Mural, Union City post office





Ghyslaine Chocolatiers



Towne Square Cinema, Winchester

# Anchors & Attractions

The Arts Depot  
Towne Sq. Cinema

IN Artisan  
Woodworkers

Winchester  
Speedway

Gourmet Chocolate

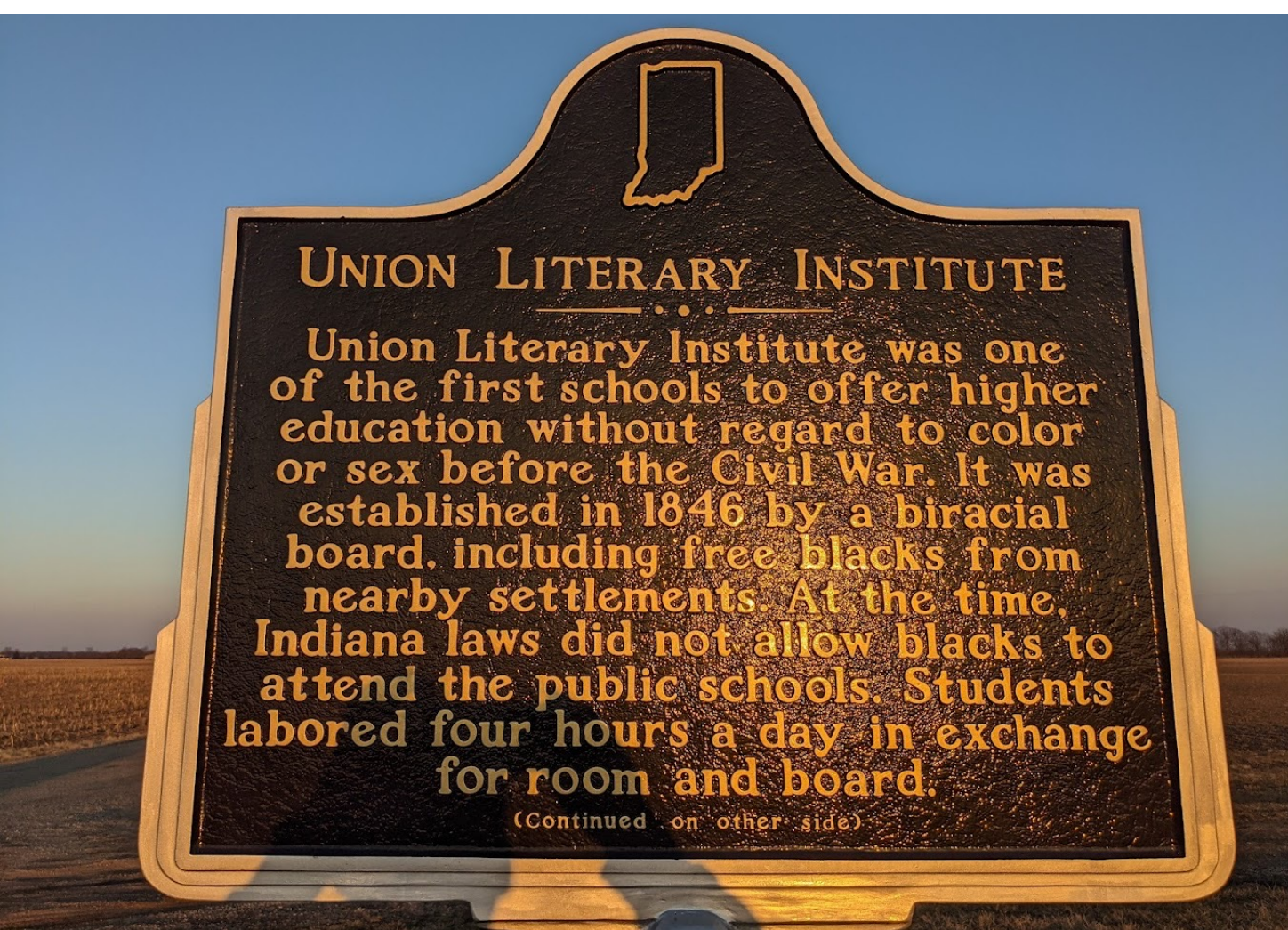
Ohio River National  
Freedom Corridor

McVey Memorial  
Forest



Winchester Speedway & Mural, Osting





# History & Notables

Quakers

Haunted Randolph

Underground RR

Union Literary Institute

Greenville Settlement

The Brady Gang

Country Life Mvmt

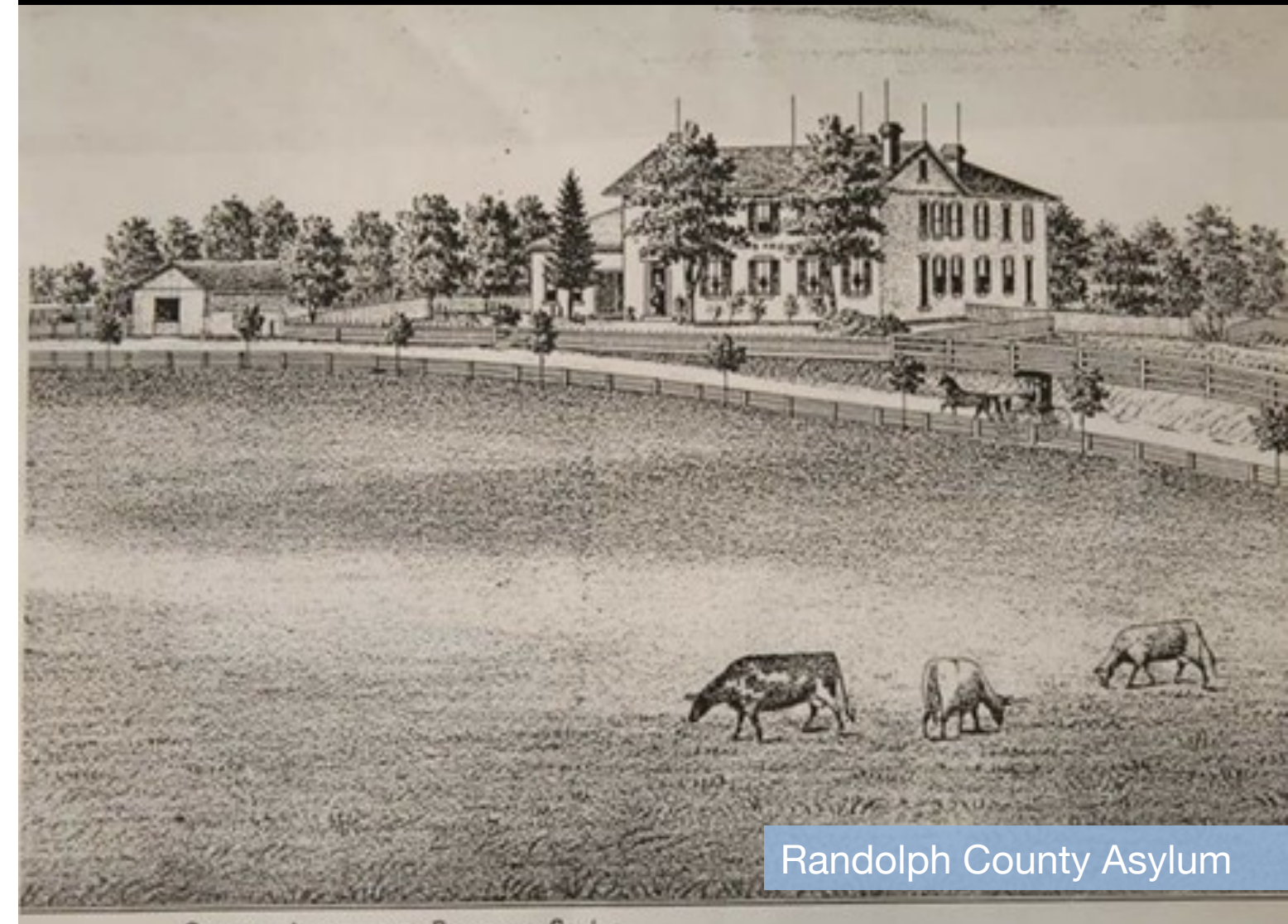
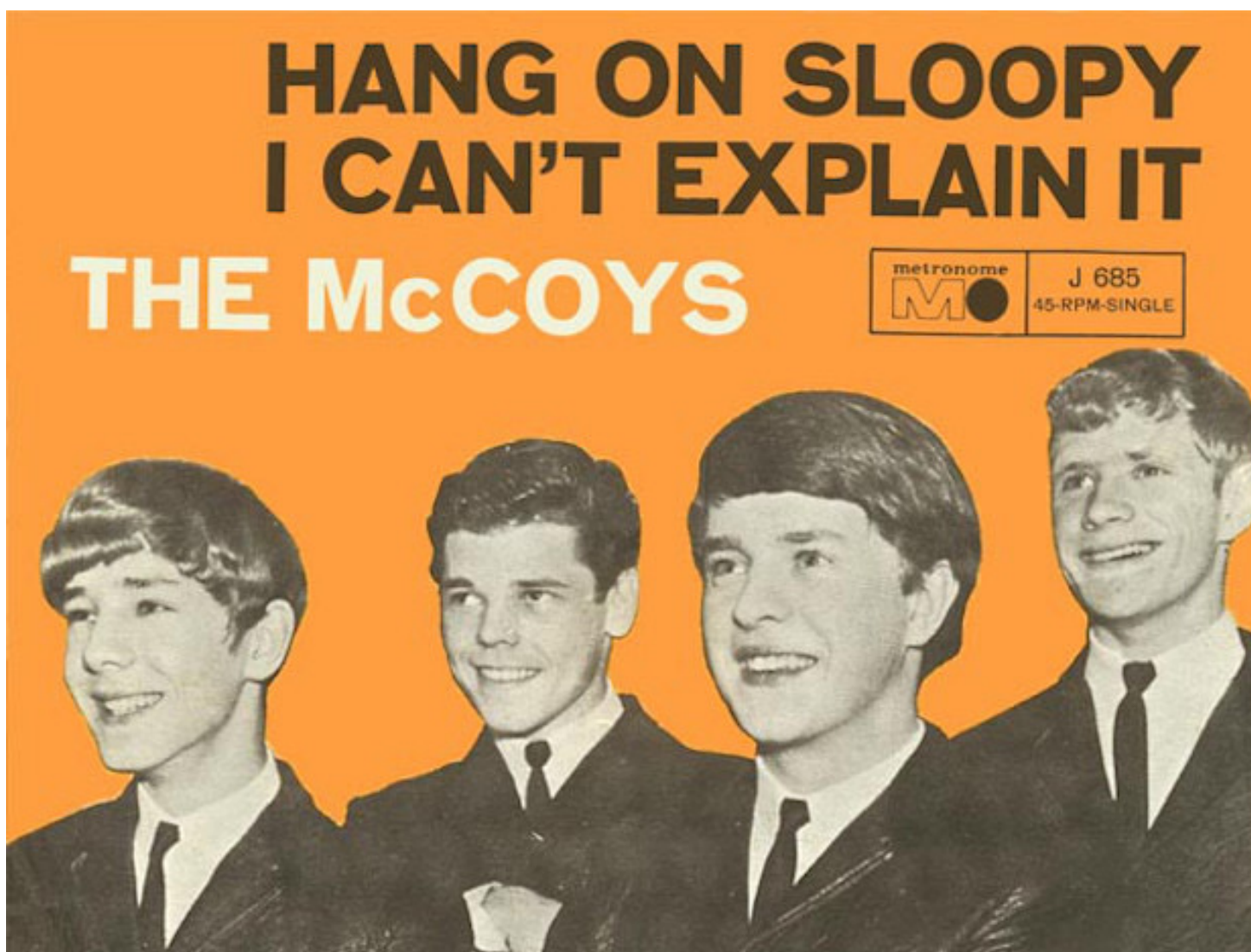
"Hub City"

Roller Skates

Gas, Glass, & RRs

Robert Wise (film)

The McCoys 50%  
(music)





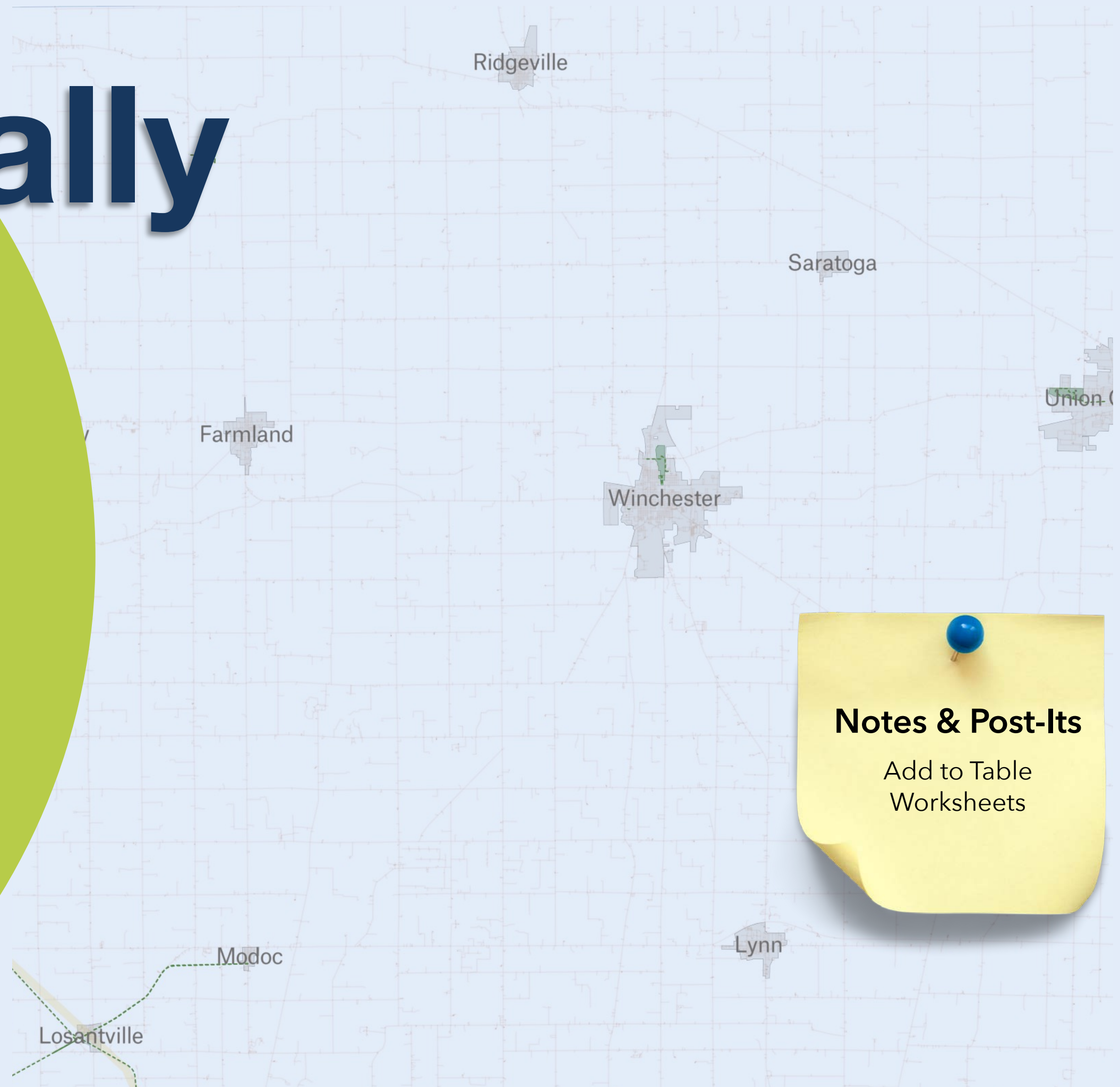
# Authentically

What, where, who...

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

All of it...

- 2 Cities + 7 Towns
- 2020 Population: 24,502
  - Winchester: 4,843
  - Union City: 3,454
  - All 7 Towns: 4,799
  - Rest of County: 11,223



## 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







## 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





**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...

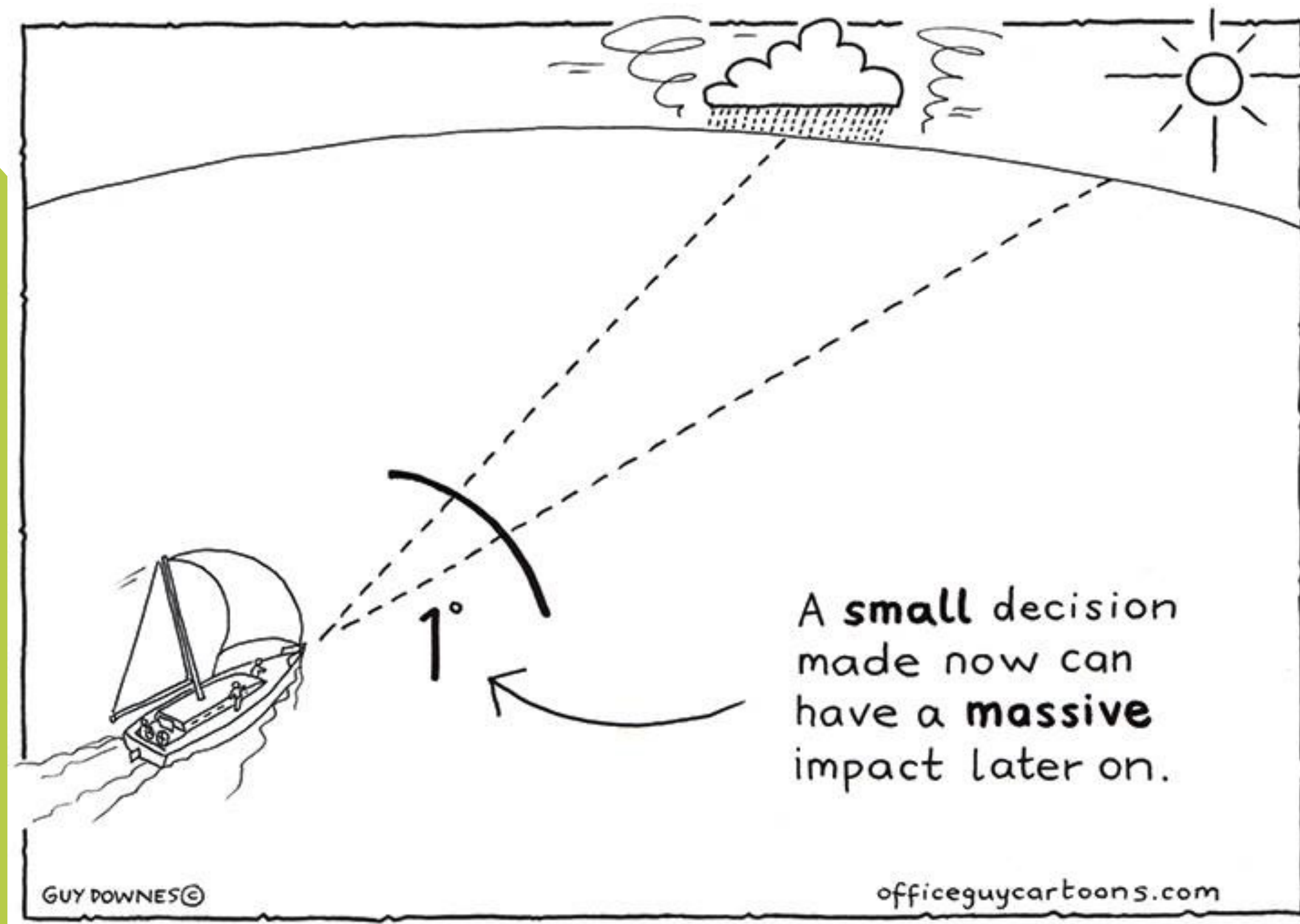
- Things in the works
- Energy and interest
- New to support
- Old to reinvigorate
- Partners to help
- Hinders to overcome

A solid green circular graphic located in the bottom right corner of the slide. Inside the circle, the text 'Momentum & Opportunity' is written 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*

