



Switzerland County

Community Input Session | June 17, 2025

Fred the Goat
Switzerland County Wine Festival

© 2025 Sara Peterson Consulting
in collaboration with Sharp VisionArts



Tonight's
Task =

Think
BIG!

A Vibrant
Switzerland 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

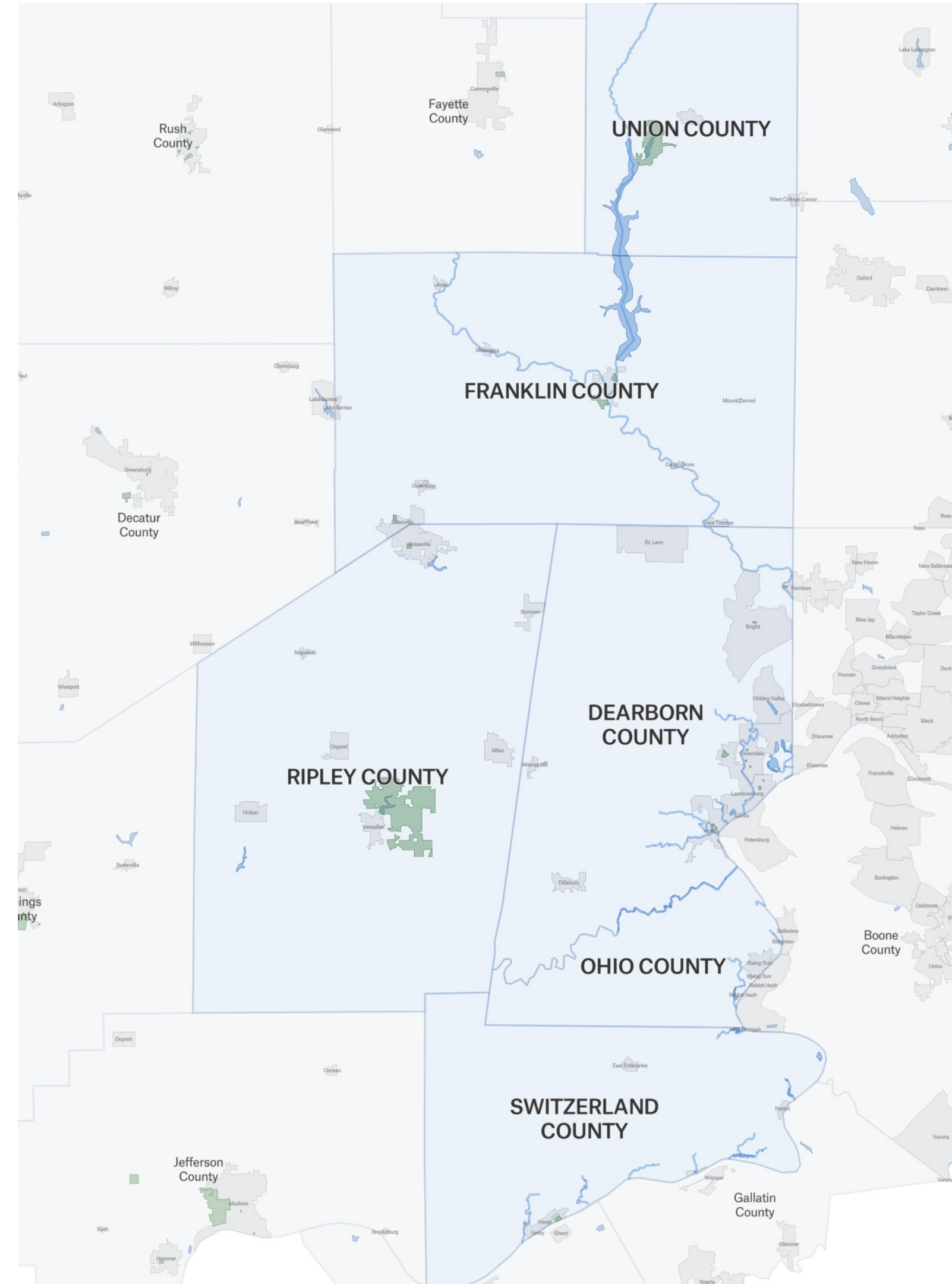
READI Arts Initiative Goals

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

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Switzerland 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

48 Arts & Culture

- 31 Creative Industry / Artists
- 9 History & Heritage
- 3 Arts Organizations
- 3 Art in Non-Arts Spaces
- 2 Informal Groups

8 Pieces of Public Art
+ all the Feds

7 Events & Traditions

4 Parks & Trails

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...



Donna Weaver,
Indiana Bicentennial Medal



The fAxytory
Music Co



Bev's Pottery



Kip Meyerhoff



Swiss Wine Festival

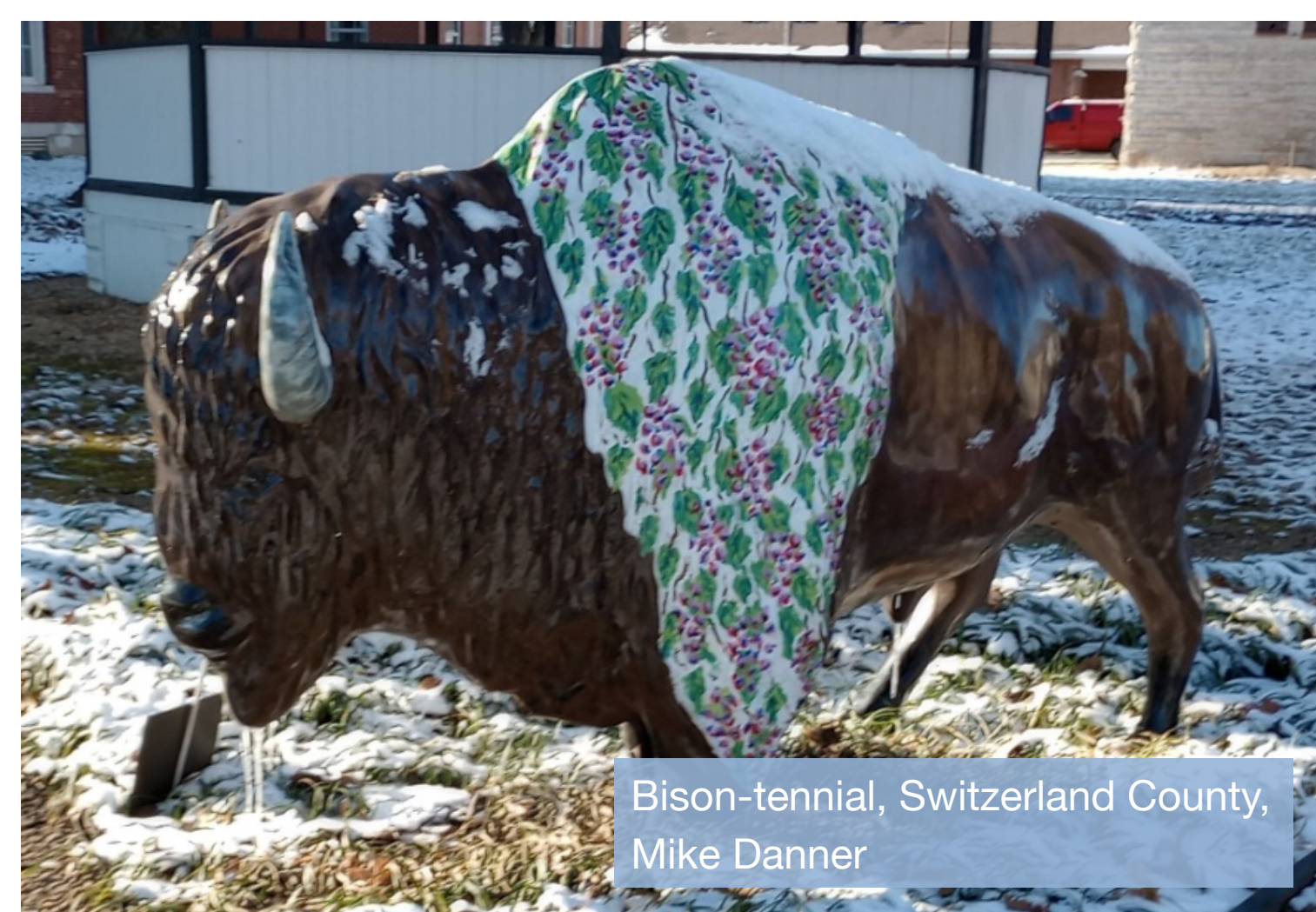


Goataqua Community Art Fair

Public Art

Celebratory
County-wide
Land Art

Impressive
county-wide
effort, little
variety



Bison-ennial, Switzerland County,
Mike Danner



Fred & more Fred...



Kat Von D 10,000 Black Tulip Garden



Miguel Lasala Mural



Center Stage Showroom, Belterra Casino



Musee de Vonage

Anchors & Attractions

Vevay Hist. District
300 historic buildings
Schenck Mansions
9 on National Register

Historic
Organizations

Arts & Culture
Organizations

Casino
Center Stage

Hist. Walking Trail
Ohio River Way
Parks...



Community Art Center of Switzerland County



Historic Hoosier Theater



Thiebaud Farm

History & Notables

Rhineland of America
Heathcoat Picket
1st (Swiss) settler

Vineyards
Mormon Hay Press

Ohio River
trade, growth, Schencks,
entrepreneurship

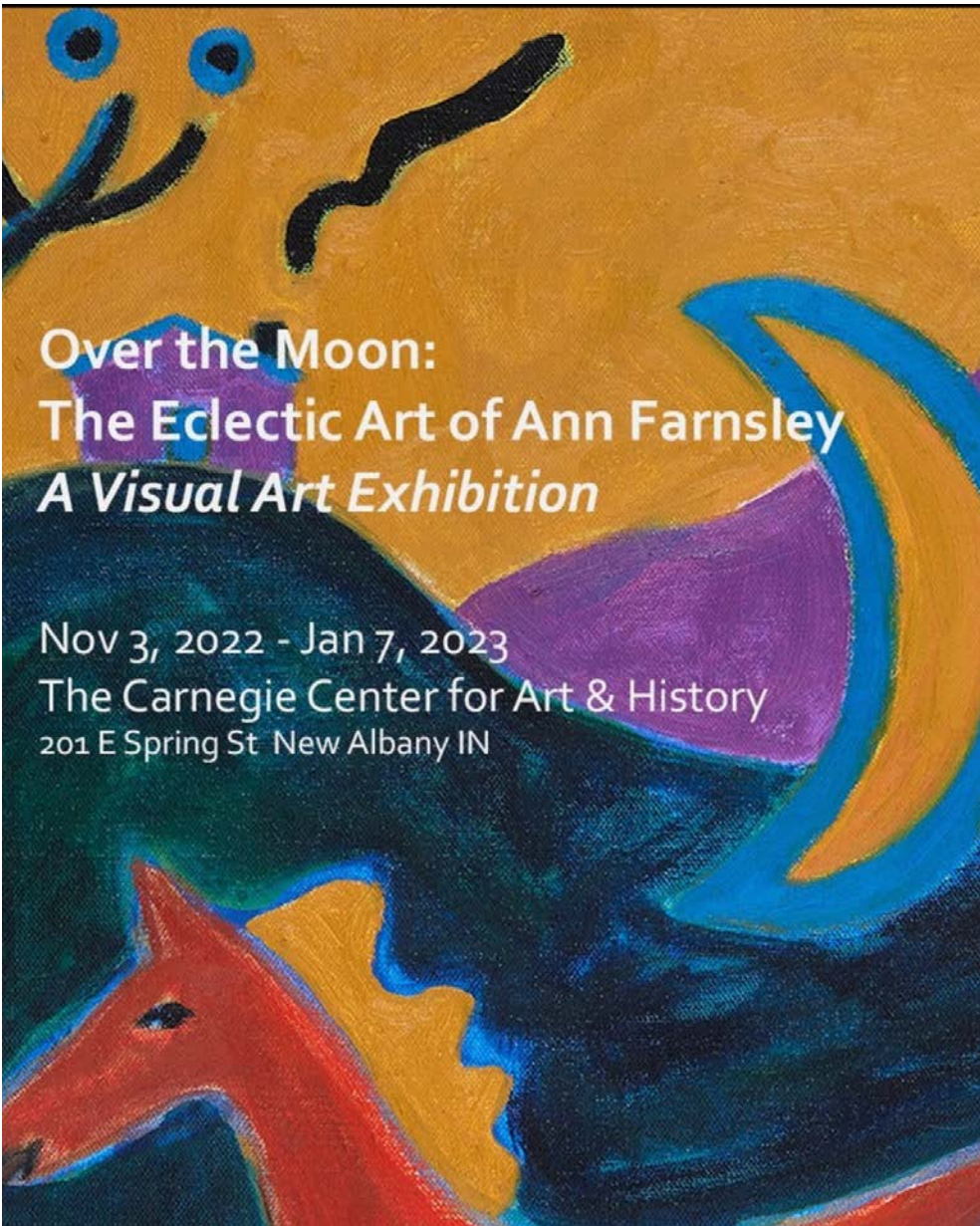
Will Henry Stevens
Modernist painter

Kat Von D
Artist, entertainer,
entrepreneur

Paul Ogle
Philanthropist



River-based commerce – 1811 first steamboat passage



Vineyards



Kat Von D & Vevay's Giant Rubber Ducky

Authentically

What, where, who...

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

All of it...

- 2 towns + 18 uninc. in 6 townships

- 2020 Population: 10,019

Vevay	17%	1,741
Patriot	2%	201
Everywhere else	81%	8,077

Notes & Post-Its

Add to Table
Worksheets



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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



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

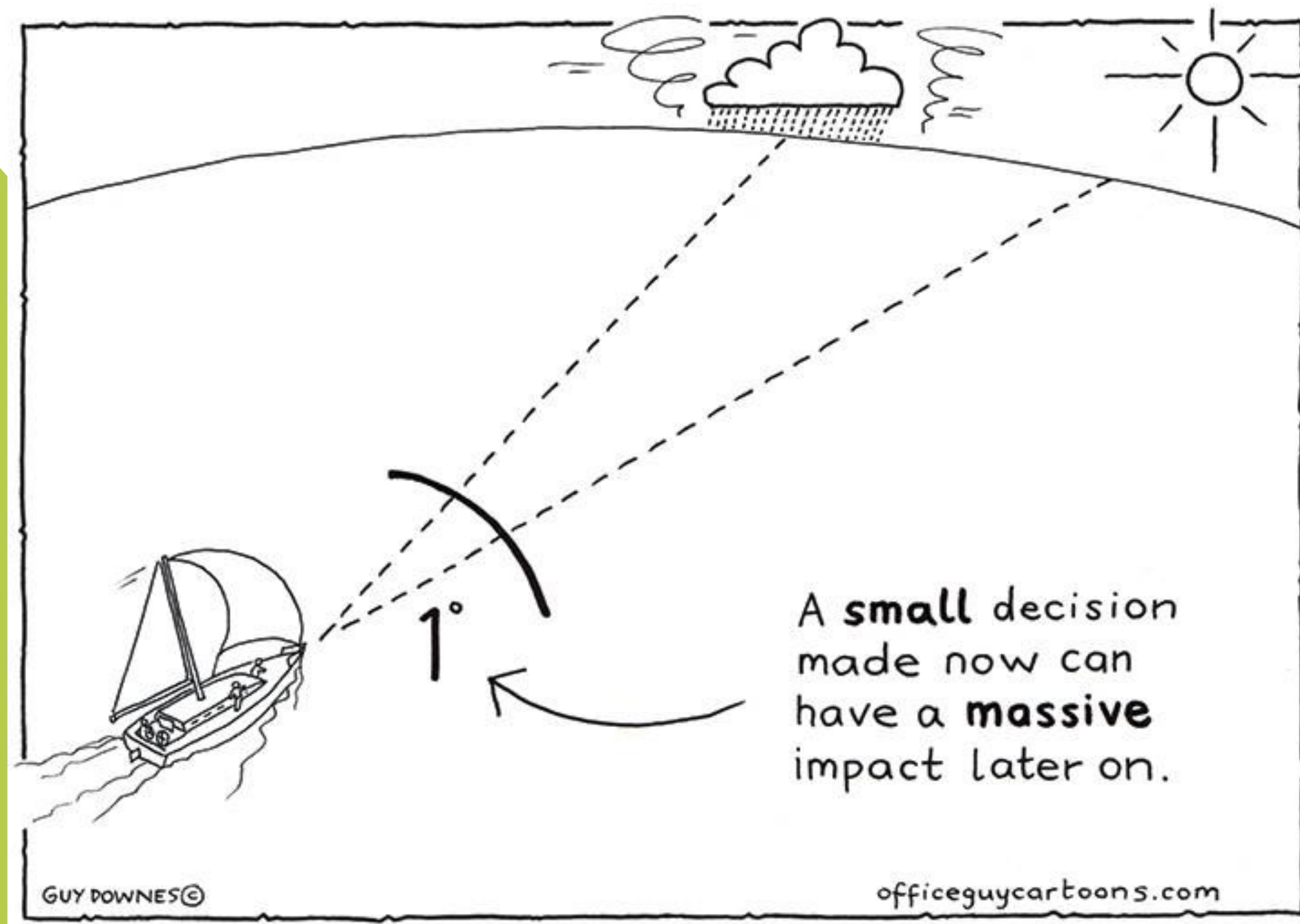
Building From...

- 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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