



# Delaware County

Community Input Session | April 10, 2025





Tonight's  
Task =

Think  
**BIG!**

*trans*formed

A Vibrant Delaware  
County  
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

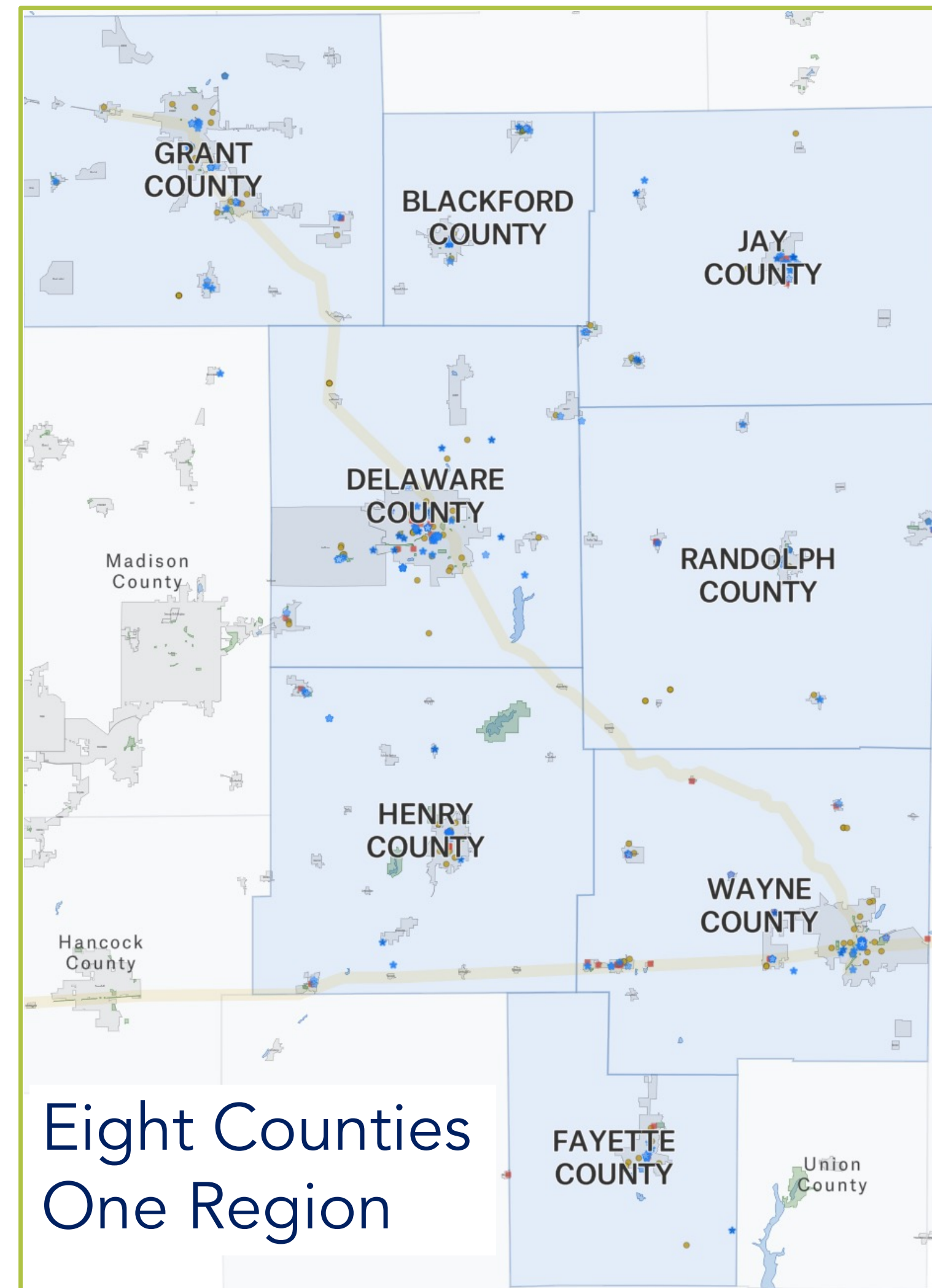
**Elevate READI's quality of place impact** on Indiana's cities and towns.

**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

## DELAWARE COUNTY

Who and what  
are distinctively  
Delaware 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**

131	Arts & Culture
71	Creative Industry / Artists
8	History & Heritage
29	Art in Non-Arts Spaces
21	Arts Organizations
2	Informal Groups
30	Events & Traditions
20	Parks & Trails
171	Pieces of Public Art
Plus	Civic & Misc...





YART, Muncie

# Artists & Events

Performing  
Writers  
Visual/Craft  
Photog/Film  
Retail/Venue  
Ceramicists  
Designers

Annual  
Series  
Markets

And more...



East Central Indiana Chamber Orchestra Performance



Christmas in Selma





Extess, Project One Studio

# Public Art

Iconic  
Historic  
Celebratory  
even cute...



On the Mark, For the City, JoAnna Darda, Braydee Euliss, Faith Kellermeyer



Under the Same Sun, Carolyn Frost



... but most in  
Muncie



Tiger Drive, Yorktown Council for the Arts and Ball State College of Architecture & Planning



# Anchors & Attractions

MuncieArts  
Yorktown Council  
Cornerstone  
Muncie Artists Guild

Orchestras  
Masterworks  
Madjax  
Muncie Civic

Minnetrista and  
Museums

Bob Ross

Lakes, Rivers, Parks,  
& Trails...



Yorktown Civic Green Amphitheatre



National Model Aviation Museum, Muncie



Bob Ross Experience at Minnetrista, Muncie



Albany Glass Museum





Ball Corporation, Muncie



Shaffer Chapel AME Church, Muncie



Gas Boom, Eaton

# History & Notables

Glass & Steel  
National Road  
Underground RR

Hoosier &  
Richmond Group  
Artists

Jim Davis  
Bob Ross  
David Letterman

Selma Tornado  
"Middletown"



Jim Davis, Muncie/Albany



# Authentically

What, where, who...

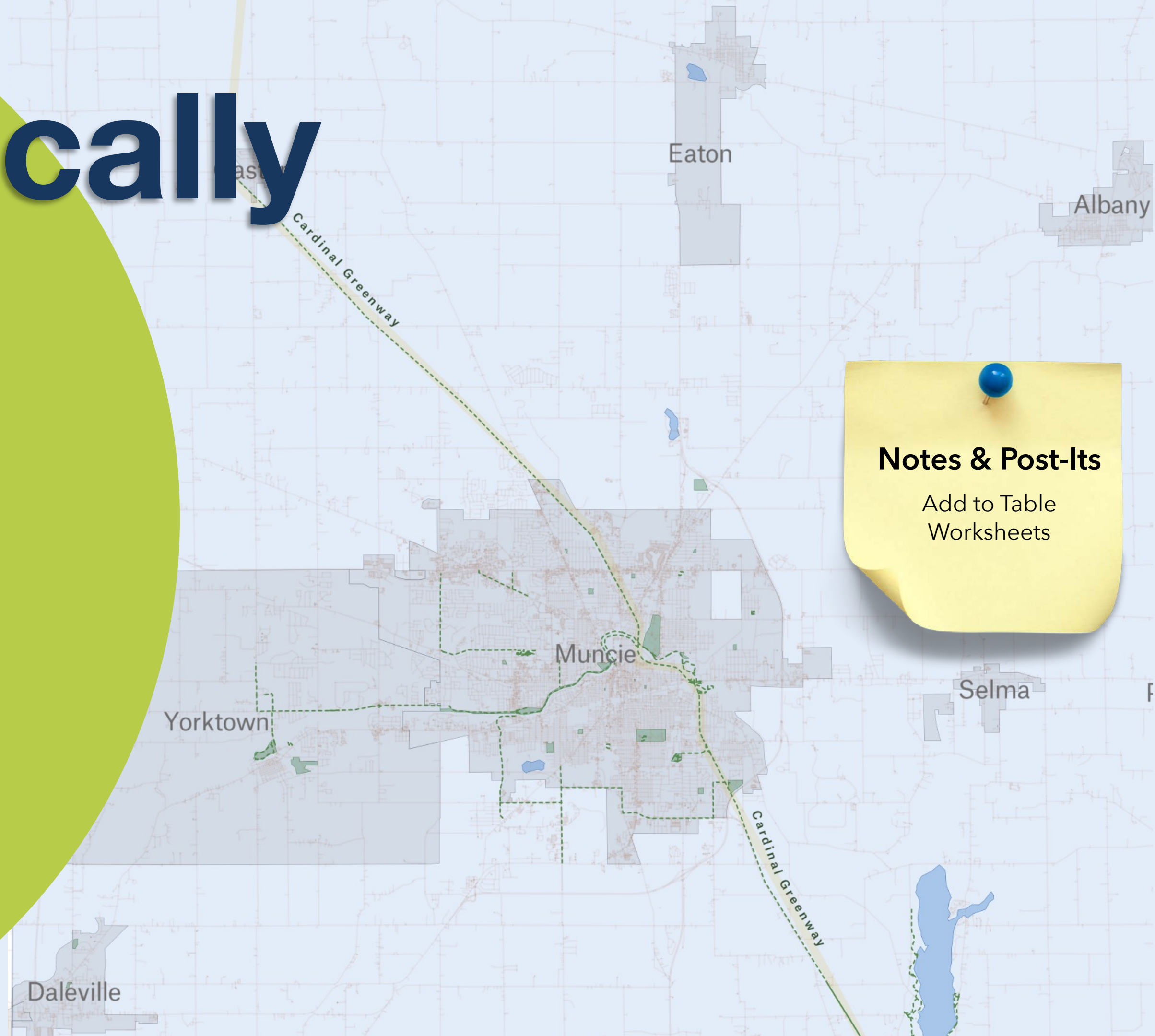
- Are we known for?
- Community gathering?
- Do we value most?

All of it...

	2020 Pop
Albany	2,099
Chesterfield	6
Daleville	1,651
Eaton	1,595
Muncie	65,194
Gaston	796
Selma	747
Yorktown	11,548
Rest of County	28,267

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

# Step 3

## Building From...

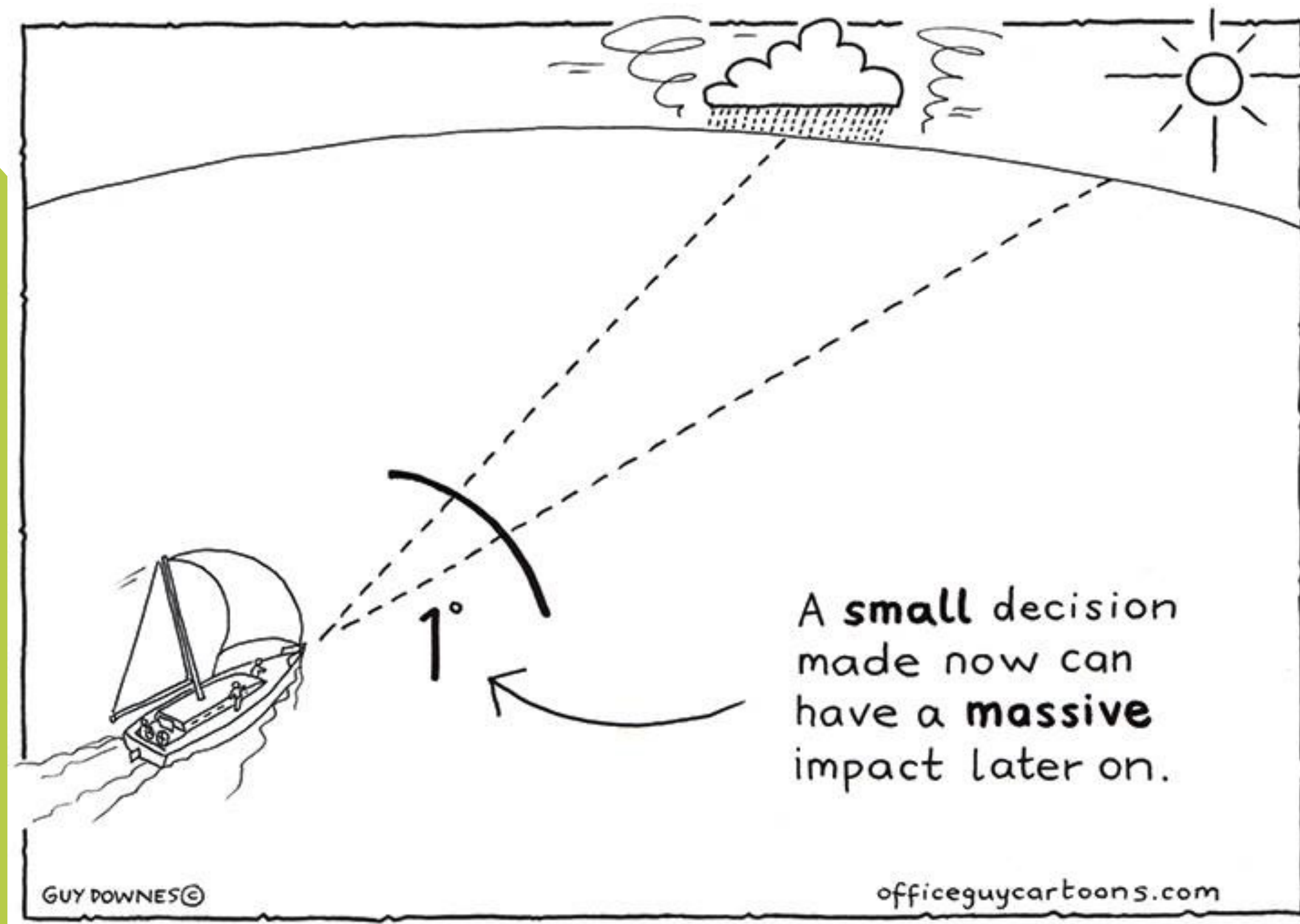
- Things in the works
- Energy and interest
- New to support
- Old to reinvigorate
- Partners to help
- Hinders to overcome

A large, 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!



Trevor Friedeberg  
[TFriedeberg@ECIRP.org](mailto:TFriedeberg@ECIRP.org)



Caitlin Hancock  
[CHancock@ECIRP.org](mailto:CHancock@ECIRP.org)



Sara A. Peterson  
[Peterson@SaraPetersonConsulting.com](mailto:Peterson@SaraPetersonConsulting.com)



Paige Sharp  
[Paige@SharpVisionarts.com](mailto:Paige@SharpVisionarts.com)

**TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES**  **ART**

*celebrating the power of arts and culture in community*

