



Grant County

Community Input Session | April 22, 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

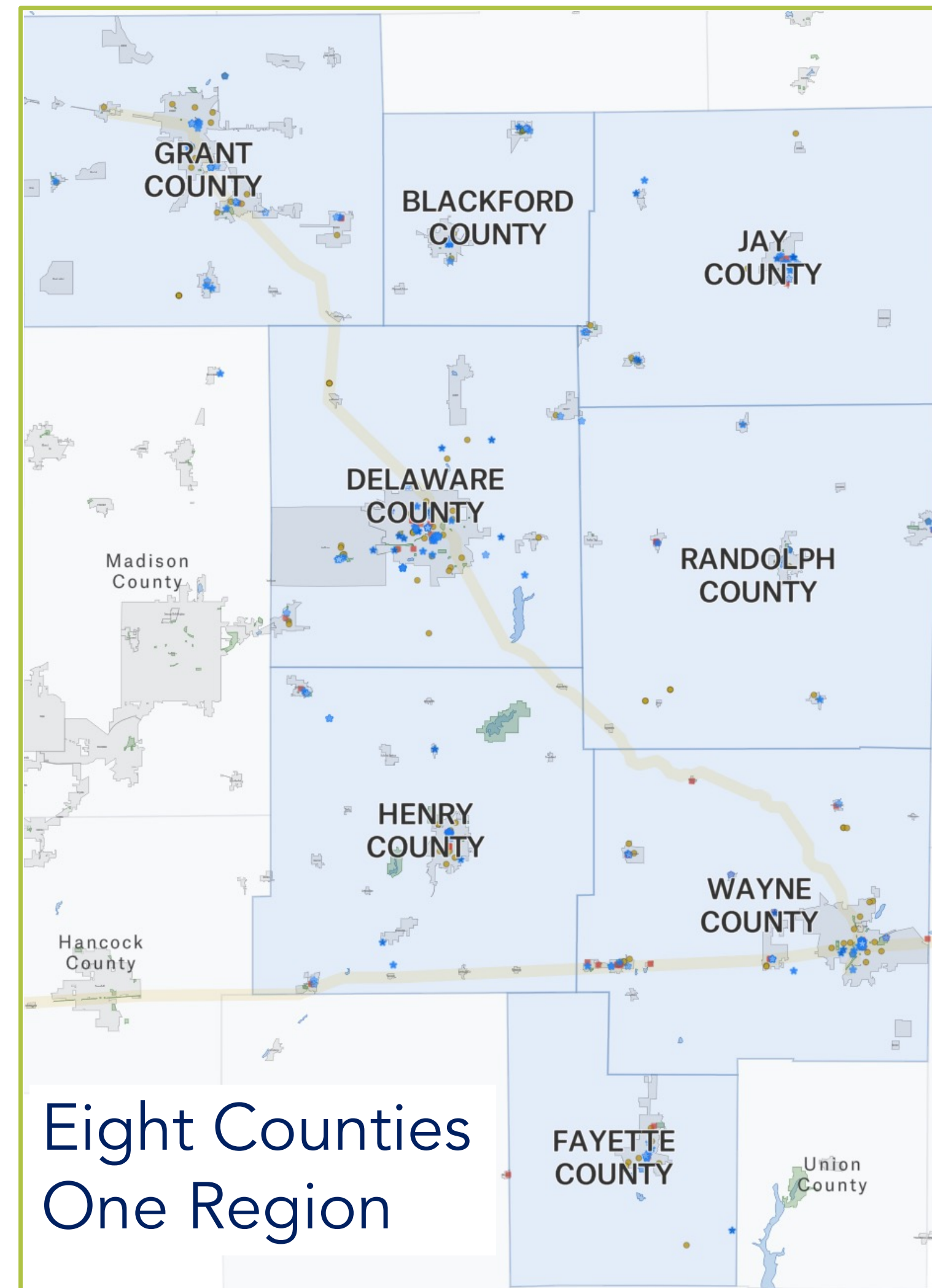
Elevate READI's quality of place impact on Indiana's cities and towns.

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

GRANT COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Grant 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

- 111 Arts & Culture
 - 47 Creative Industry / Artists
 - 25 Art in Non-Arts Spaces
 - 17 History & Heritage
 - 13 Informal Groups
 - 9 Arts Organizations
- 22 Events & Traditions
- 27 Parks & Trails
- 18 Pieces of Public Art
+ 2 Art Trails
- Plus** Civic & Misc...



Artists & Events

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

Annual Festivals
Series
Markets

And more...



Public Art

Iconic

Historic
New Deal

Celebratory

but mostly murals
mostly in Marion

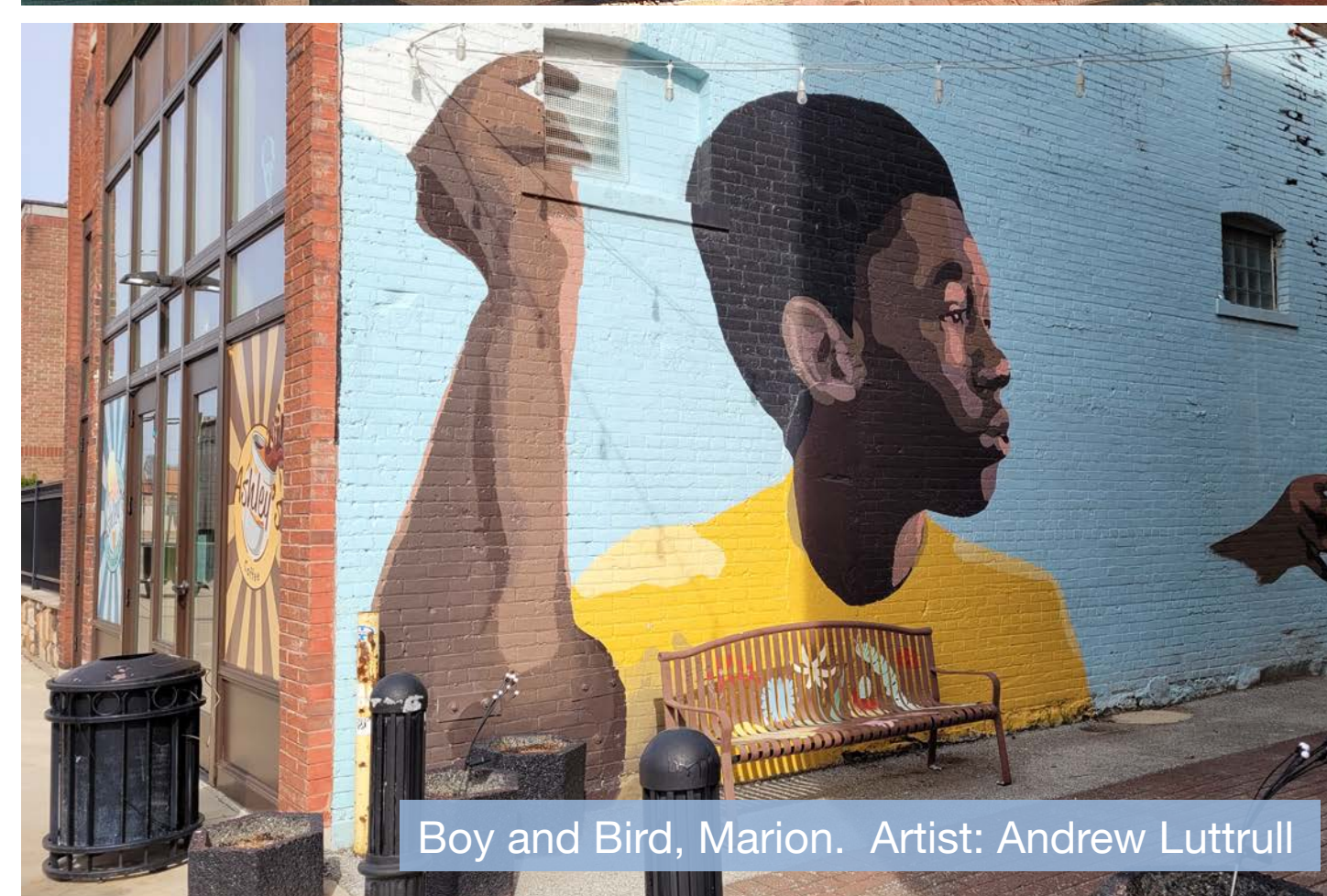
Trails for
James Dean &
Garfield



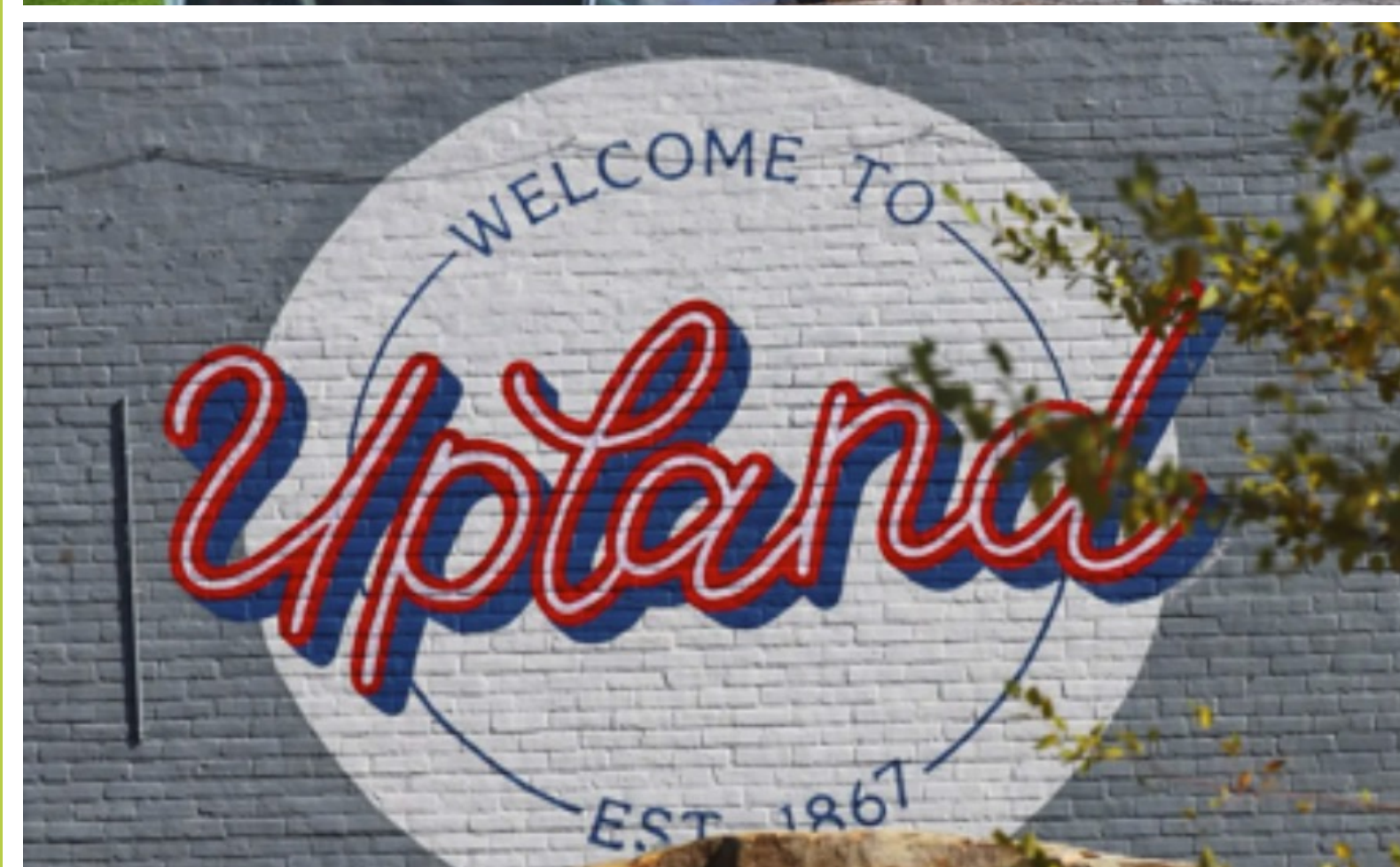
Detail - Gas City in Boom Days, Gas City Post Office. Artist: William Adelbert Dolwick



James Dean Cutouts



Boy and Bird, Marion. Artist: Andrew Luttrull





James Dean Gallery Museum



Cumberland Covered Bridge, Upland/Matthews

Anchors & Attractions

Kennedy Art Center
Marion Sch of the Arts
Quilters Hall of Fame
Gas City PAC

Taylor and IWU Arts

James Dean &
Historic Museums

Obadiah Jones
Cabin

Mississinewa River
Cardinal Greenway

Other Trails, Parks...



Marion Community School of the Arts



Gas City Performing Arts Center

History & Notables

The Miami People
Mississinewa Battle

Gas Boom
Automotive &
Glass Industry

Jim Davis
James Dean
Mary Jane Ward
(Novelist)

Weaver Settlement
(One of Earliest African
American settlements in IN)

Lynching



Ole Miss Singers at Obadiah Jones Cabin, Jonesboro
Obadiah Jones founded Jonesboro in 1834



Crosley Motors Compact Car, Marion



Garfield creator, Jim Davis
born in Marion, grew up in
Fairmount.



Frank Lloyd Wright home (Davis
House), Marion; 1955

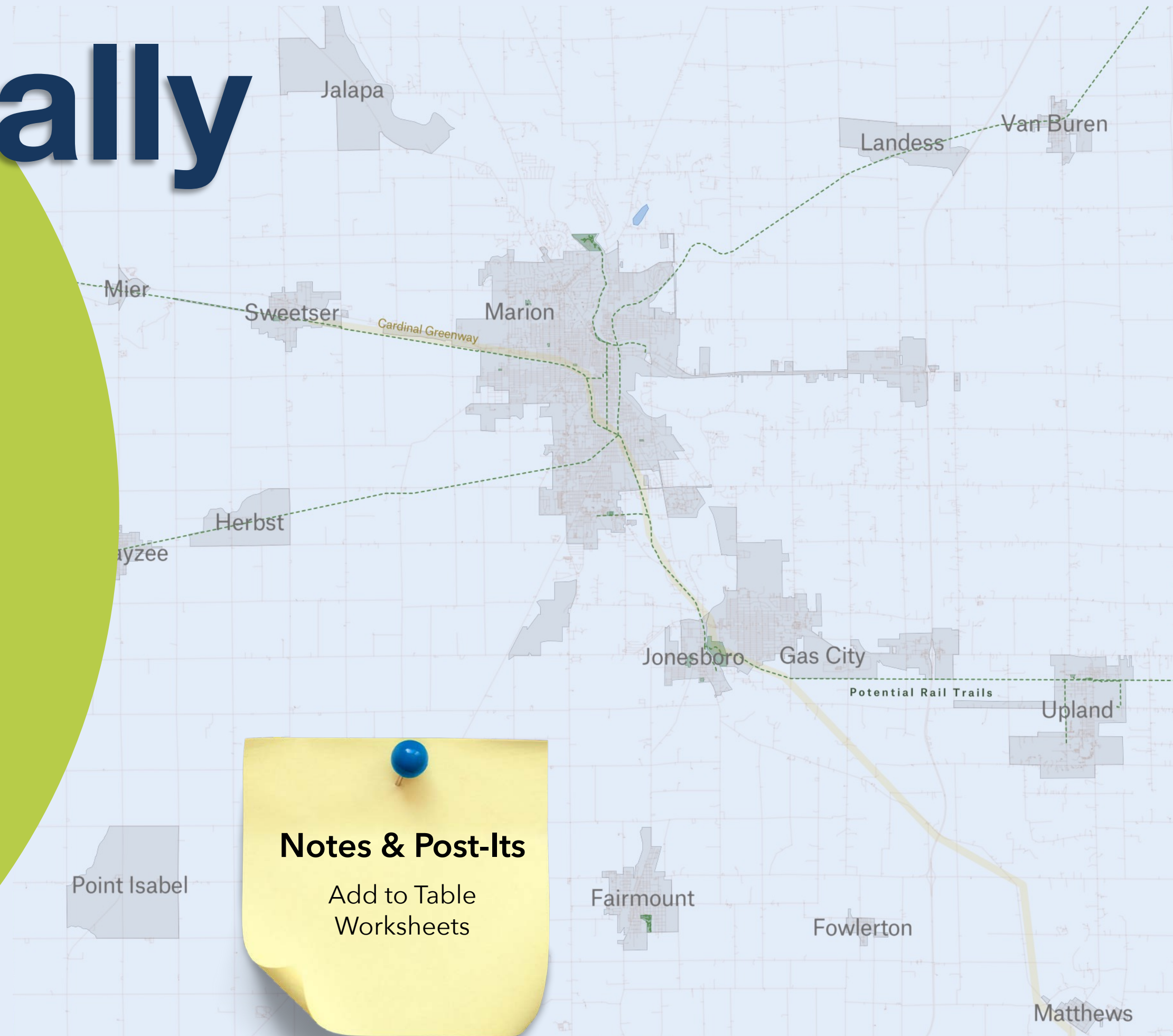
Authentically

What, where, who...

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

All of it...

- 3 Cities, 7 Towns
- 2020 Population: 66,674
- Incorporated Population 46,276
 - Marion: 28,310
 - Gas City: 6,157
 - Upland: 3,821
 - Jonesboro: 1,516
 - Swayzee: 918
 - Mathews: 494
 - Fairmount: 2,682
 - Sweetser: 1,075
 - Van Buren: 790
 - Fowlerton: 268
- Unincorporated Pop 20,398





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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





Celebrate Heritage

Gathering of Great Lakes Nations
National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Portland



Dunkirk

eedcot

MOON SUGAR
WHEEL

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

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



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...



Step 3

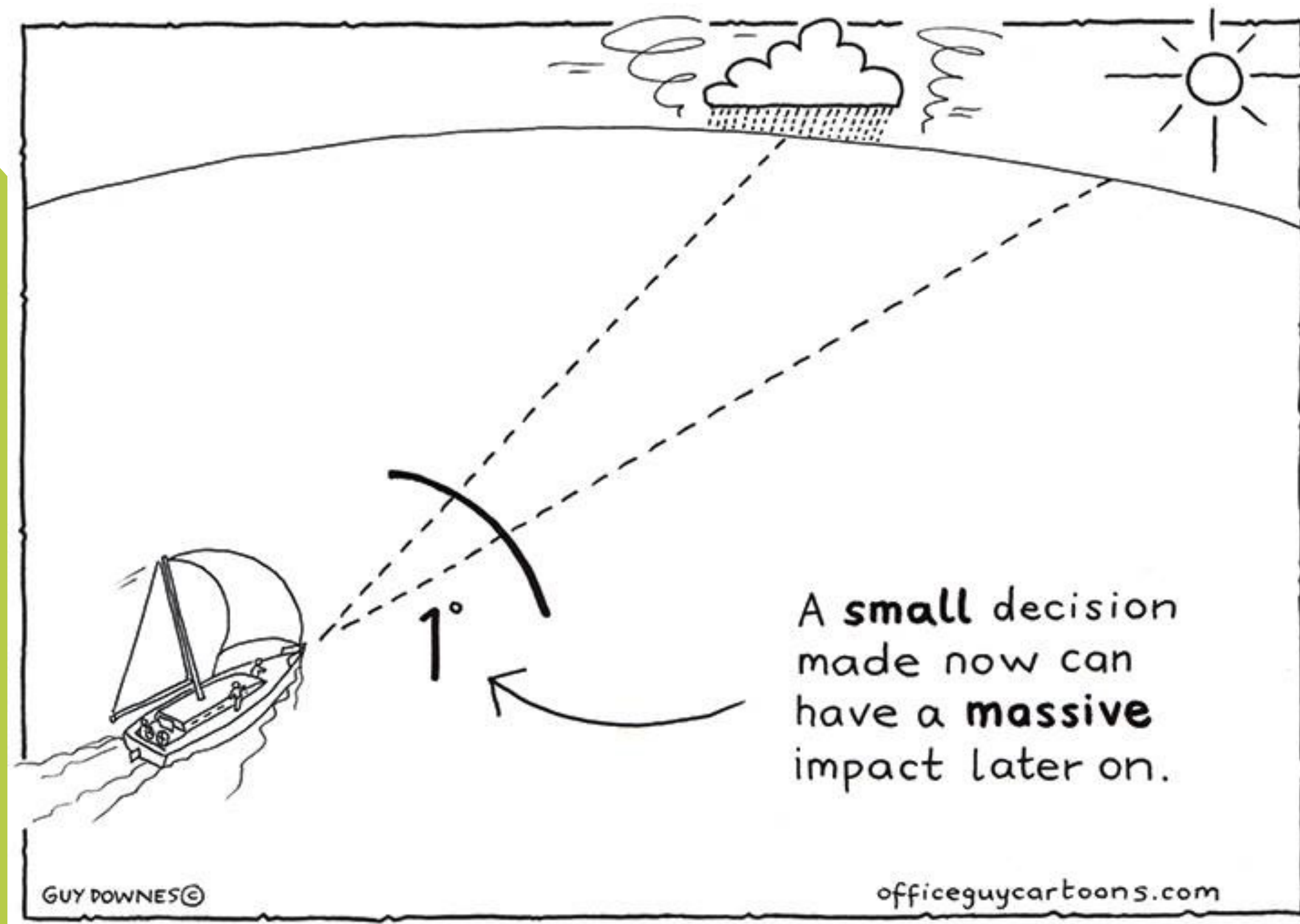
Building From...

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



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

