



Union County

Community Input Session | June 4, 2025

Star in a Star, Barn Quilt
Brownsville Township

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in collaboration with Sharp VisionArts



Tonight's
Task =

Think
BIG!

trans **formed**
A Vibrant
Union County
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

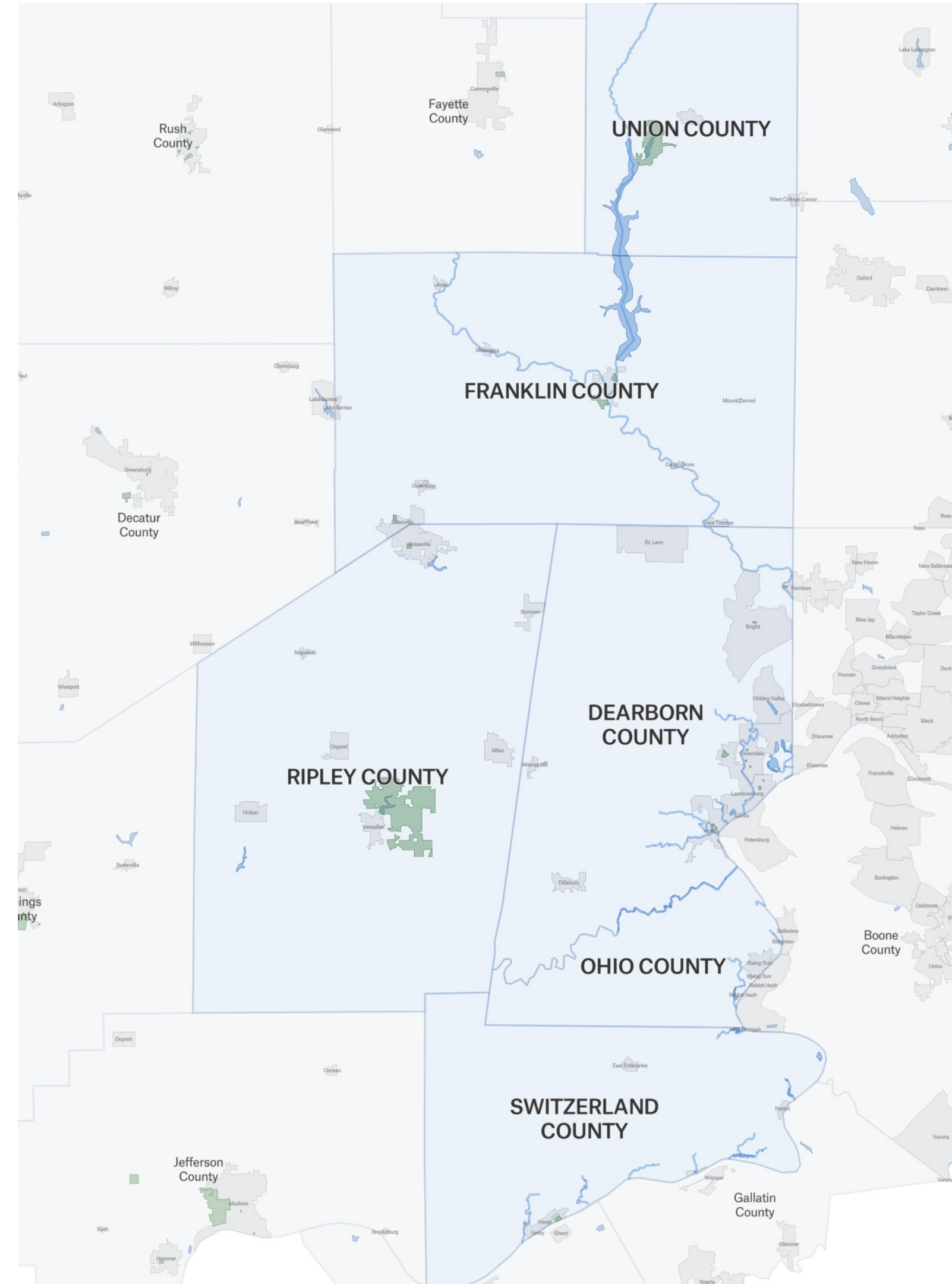
READI Arts Initiative Goals

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

UNION COUNTY

Who and what
are distinctively
Union 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

34 Arts & Culture

- 22 Creative Industry / Artists
- 4 Art in Non-Arts Spaces
- 4 History & Heritage
- 4 Informal Groups
- 0 Arts Organizations

7 Events & Traditions

7 Pieces of Public Art

3 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...



Live in Liberty Concert Series



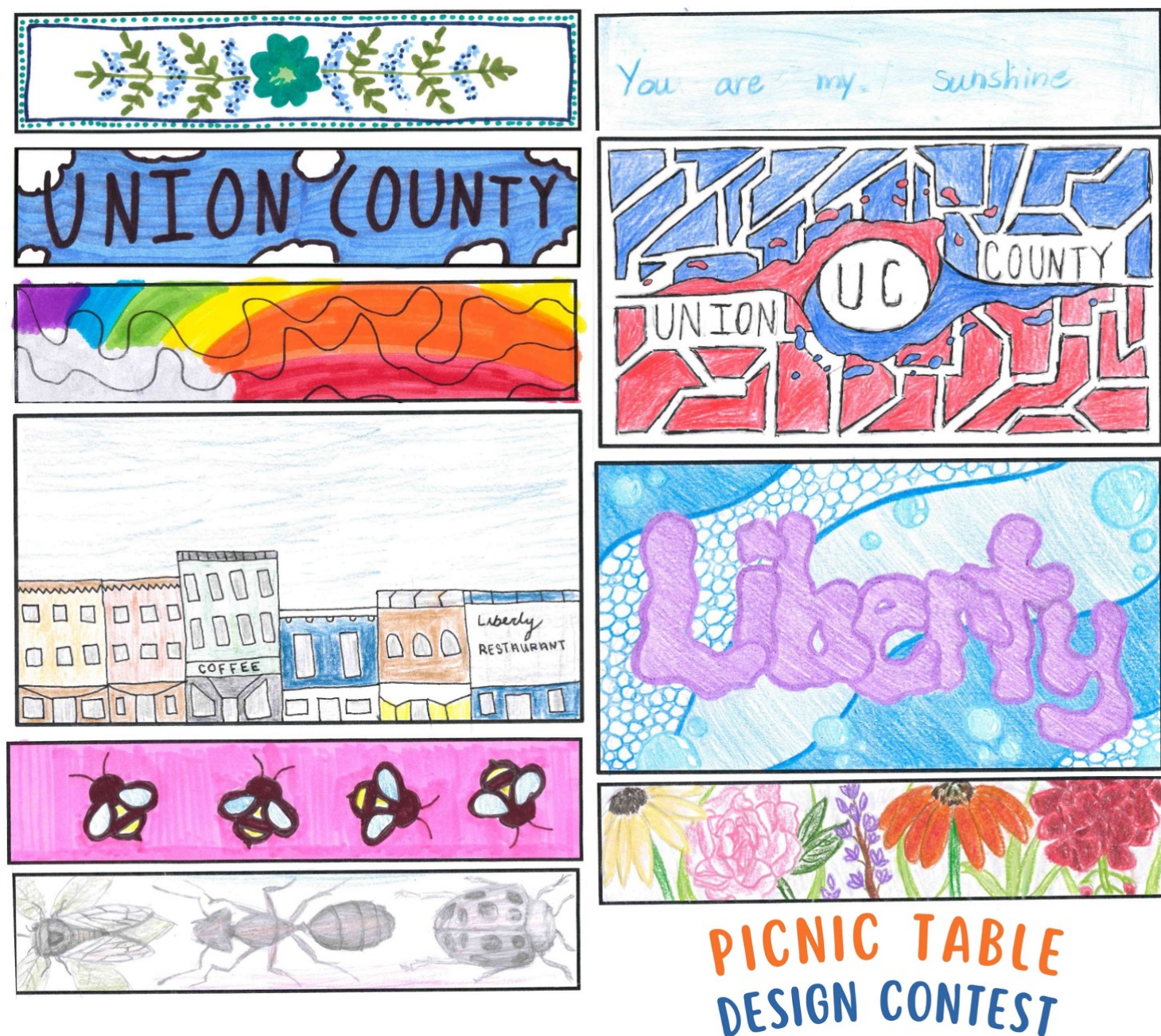
Pohlar Fabrics, Liberty



Framemaker Gallery, West College Corner



Water Works Market



Public Art

Historic
New Deal
Celebratory
Barn Quilt

Mostly in Liberty,
but lots of room
for growth



Autum Fields, Avery Johnson



Bob Jenkins Mural
(Voice of the Indianapolis 500), Pam Bliss



Plant Your Roots Here,
Leah Pinney

Anchors & Attractions

Liberty National
Historic Districts (2)

Quakertown State
Recreation Area

Whitewater Memorial
State Park

Depot Museum

Waterworks Market

1805 Templeton
Cabin

Other Trails, Parks...



Templeton Log Cabin; Courthouse Square Historic District



Whitewater Memorial State Park



Depot Museum, Liberty



Union County Public Library

History & Notables

Overlapping Tribal Nations

Quakers
South Carolinians

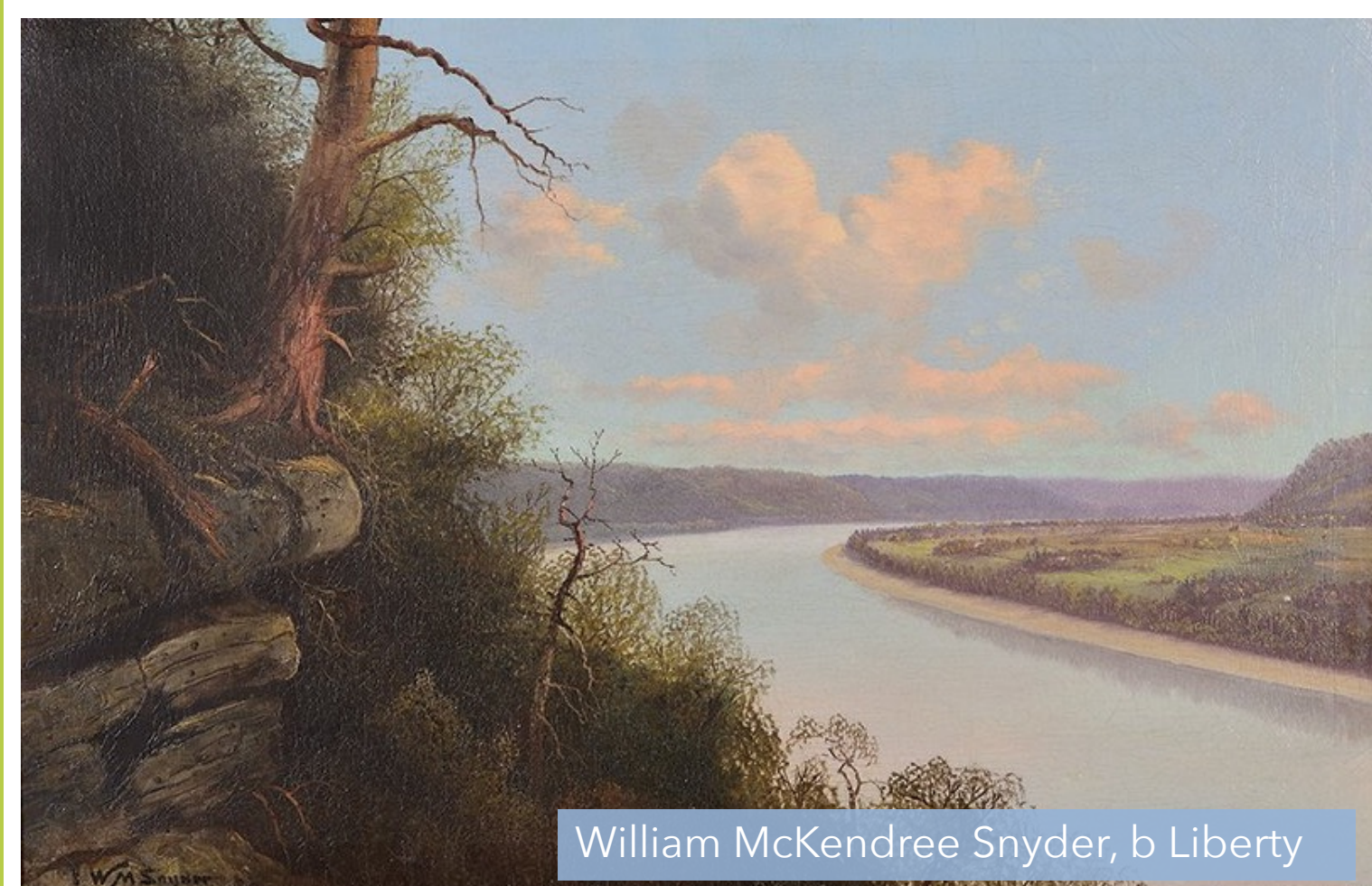
Underground RR

Cockefair Woolen Mill

Post Office since 1824

Mary Alice Smith Gray
(Little Orphan Annie)

Bob Jenkins
William Snyder



William McKendree Snyder, b Liberty



Union County Courthouse



Post Office, Liberty 1824



Little Orphant Annie - inspiration for poem
James Whitcomb Riley

Authentically

What, where, who...

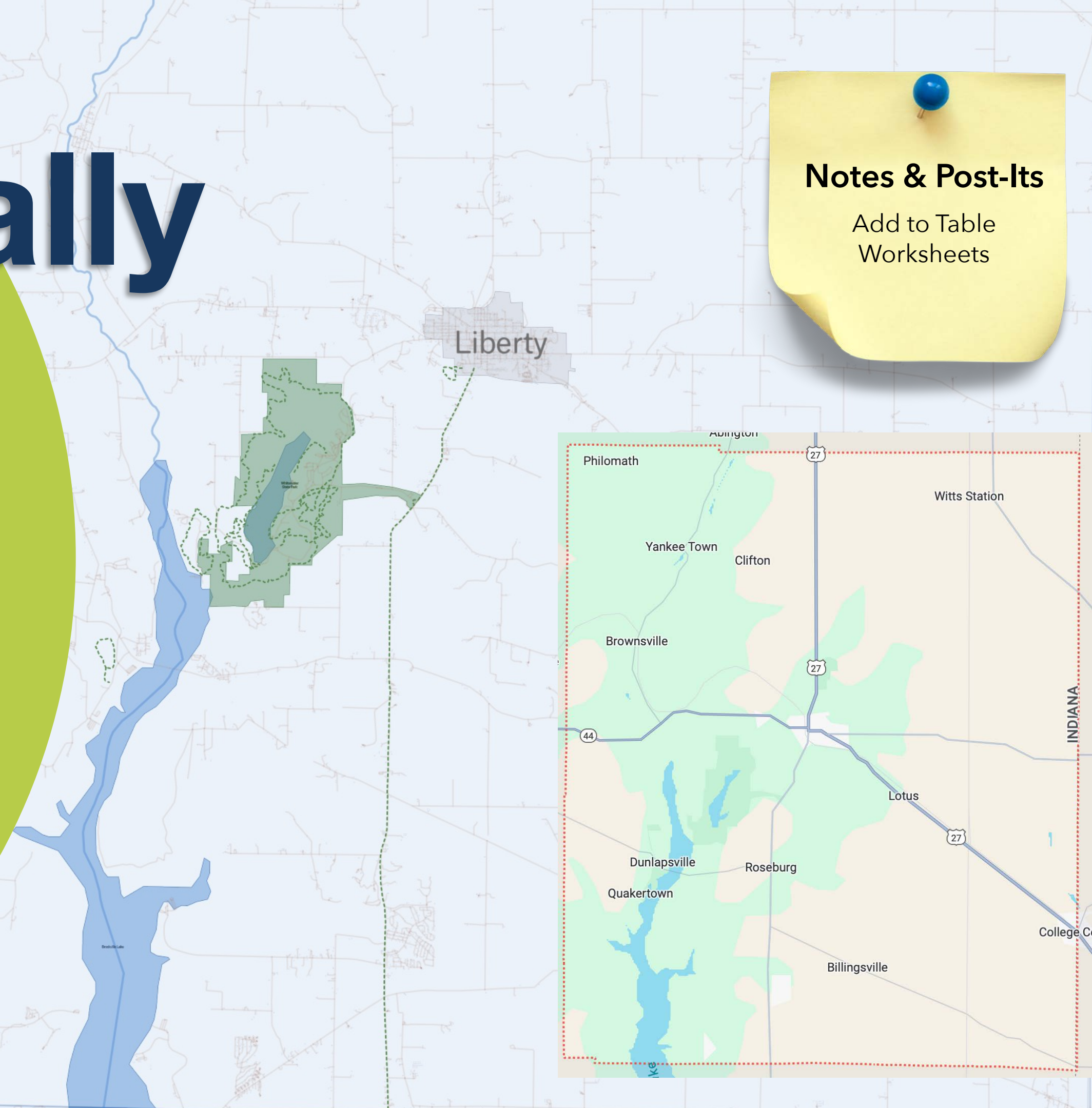
- Are we known for?
- Community gathering?
- Do we value most?

All of it...

- 2 Towns + 12 unincorporated
- 2020 Population: 7,087
 - Liberty 1,981
 - West College Corner 512
 - Everywhere Else 4,594

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





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



Gas City



Columbus



Fort Wayne

Wayfinding & Functional Public Art



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



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

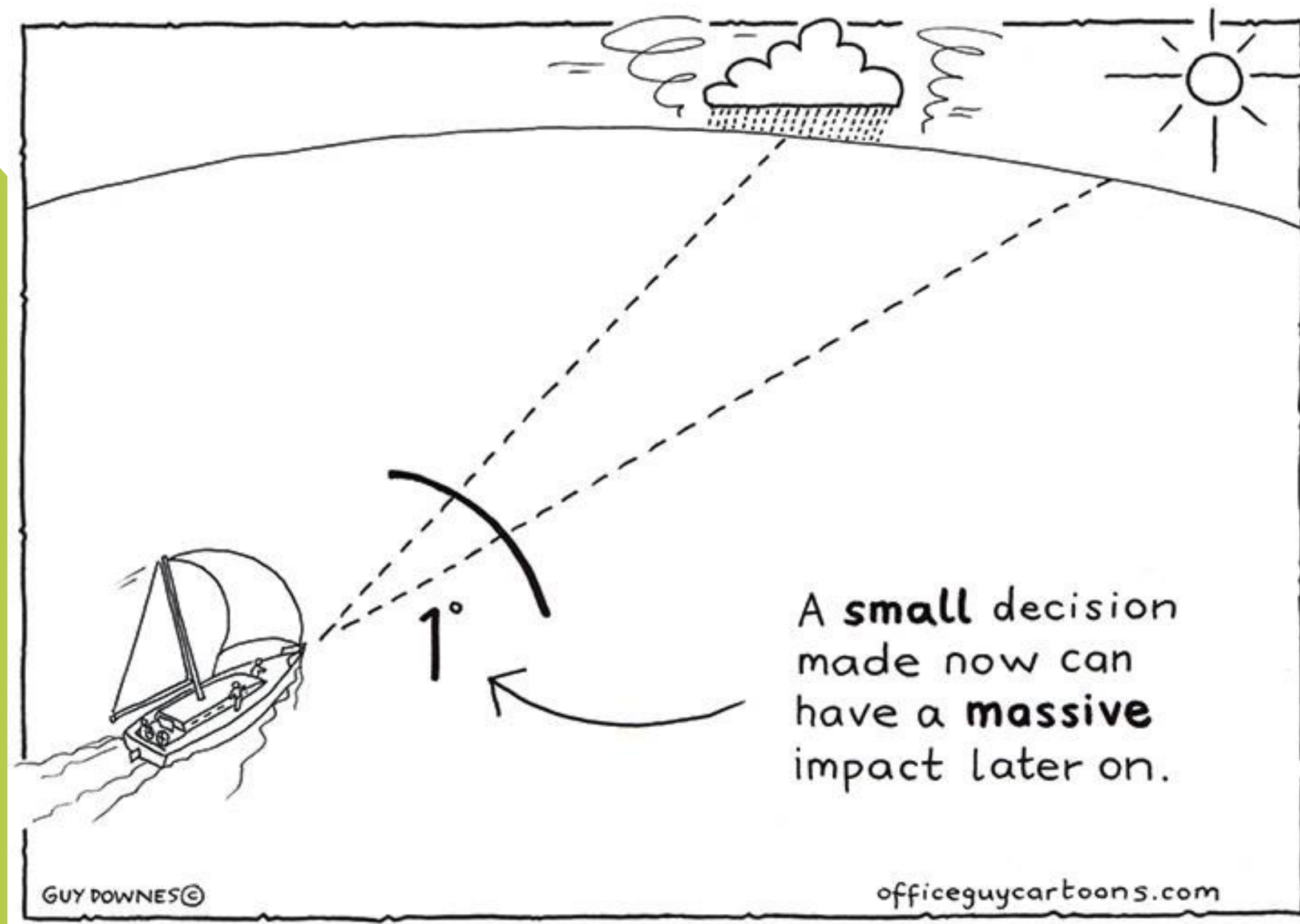
Building From...

- 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, 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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