

Funding Sources for Placemaking Initiatives

A Guide Prepared by MassDevelopment for Local Communities
(June 2016)

ArtPlace America

<http://www.artplaceamerica.org/our-work>

1. National Creative Placemaking Fund

The National Creative Placemaking Fund invests in planning and development projects where arts and culture play a central role. ArtPlace actively seeks to build a portfolio of funded projects that is a microcosm of the varied creative placemaking strategies used across the United States through this program. Since 2011, the National Creative Placemaking Fund has invested in 227 projects across 152 communities of all sizes in 43 states and the District of Columbia. 2016 application process is closed.

2. Community Development Investments (CDI)

In January, 2015, ArtPlace America announced a new, one-time grant program – the Community Development Investments (CDI) – for place-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a primary mission of community planning and development that have not previously incorporated arts and culture strategies into their core work. The program provides up to \$3M of flexible funding to each of six organizations over three years along with technical assistance on creative placemaking and collaboration around debt financing opportunities, federal grants, and research and documentation.

Boston Cultural Council

<https://bostonculturalcouncil.com/application-and-requirements/>

1. Program Grant

Under the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Boston Cultural Council annually distributes funds allocated by the City of Boston and the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support innovative arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences programming that enhances the quality of life in our city. The Program Grant is sought to enhance the quality of life, the economy, and the design of the city through the arts by investing in cultural organizations and cultural programs. The grant will help to increase access to the arts in areas of the City not already well served by cultural opportunities, to foster access to the arts to populations who don't typically have ready access to the arts, to elevate the work of Boston's creatives, to inspire the creation of new works, and to support the achievement and provision of excellent, high quality arts and culture in the City of Boston. Funding must be utilized to support cultural programs occurring in and serving Boston. Grants of up to \$5,000 may be requested.

Ford Foundation

<http://www.fordfoundation.org/work/our-grants/idea-submission/>

Ford Foundation is a New York headquartered, globally oriented private foundation with the mission of advancing human welfare. Across eight decades, the Ford Foundation has sought to reduce poverty and injustice, strengthen

democratic values, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. The foundation's grant making has taken the form of thirty (30) initiatives. Grants have supported diverse arts spaces, advanced public service media, and more.

ioby

<https://www.ioby.org/about/howwework>

1. Online Crowd-resourcing Platform

ioby helps neighbors grow and implement great ideas one block at a time. Their "crowd-resourcing" (crowdfunding + resource organizing) platform connects leaders with funding and support to make neighborhoods safer, greener, more livable and more fun. ioby believes that it should be easy to make meaningful change "in our backyards" – the positive opposite of NIMBY. ioby's platform gives everyone the ability to organize all kinds of capital—cash, social networks, in-kind donations, volunteer time, advocacy—from within the neighborhood to make the neighborhood a better place to live.

Kresge Foundation

<http://kresge.org/programs/arts-culture>

1. Place-based Initiatives: Trailblazers

Kresge Foundation is a \$3.6 billion private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, and community development in Detroit. Kresge Foundation's Place-based initiatives support Creative Placemaking practitioners that work in disinvested communities and seek to improve the bedrock conditions of low-income people. Proposals are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

2. Local Systems: Infiltrating New Sectors

By supporting and documenting cross-sector approaches, Kresge Foundation expects to cross silos and gain a deeper understanding of the multi-faceted nature of Creative Placemaking, including the systems at play, the barriers to adoption, and the diversity of creative interventions that can be widely employed. Kresge Foundation supports cross-sector/cross disciplinary projects that embed arts and culture into local systems such as, but not limited to, municipal departments, community financial networks such as community development financial institutions, community banks, credits unions, comprehensive planning efforts, human services networks, and regional food hubs. Proposals are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Levitt Foundation

http://www.levitt.org/how_we_do_it

1. Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards

Levitt is passionate about reinvigorating America's public spaces through creative placemaking and creating opportunities for everyone to experience the performing arts. They believe the world needs more third places,

guiding their community-driven efforts. Levitt Pavilions offers grants, resources and support to build and sustain signature Levitt music venues and to present the Levitt AMP series. The Levitt Foundation provides \$25K annual matching grants to 15 nonprofits operating in small to mid-sized towns and cities to activate neglected public spaces through the Levitt AMP Music Series of 10 free concerts per year. Reflecting the Foundation's ethos that all Levitt projects are community-driven, each year finalists are selected through an online public voting process. Applications for 2017 grant will be open July 18, 2016.

Massachusetts Cultural Council

<http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/programs/adamsarts.asp>

1. Adams Arts Program

The Adams Arts Program supports projects that revitalize communities, create jobs, grow creative industries, and increase engagement in cultural activities by Massachusetts residents and visitors. MCC has supported creative economy initiatives throughout Massachusetts for more than a decade. Since its launch in 2005, the Adams Arts Program has invested \$9.4 million in more than 100 projects statewide, from Pittsfield to Provincetown, involving more than 950 nonprofit organizations, businesses, and local governments. Adams-funded projects have raised more than \$27 million in matching funds, making for a combined investment in the Massachusetts creative economy of nearly \$38 million.

Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund

http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/facilities/facilities_about.htm

The Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) is an initiative of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Fund was created as part of a major economic stimulus bill that was approved by the Massachusetts Legislature in July 2006. The goal of the Cultural Facilities Fund is to increase investments from both the public sector and the private sector to support the sound planning and development of cultural facilities in Massachusetts. The Fund provides Capital Grants to promote the acquisition, design, repair, rehabilitation renovation, expansion, or construction of nonprofit cultural facilities in Massachusetts. All grants from the Fund must be matched with cash contributions from the private or public sector.

Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance and LISC Boston

<http://ma-smartgrowth.org/news/placemaking-fund-request-for-interest-rfi/>

1. Placemaking Fund

In April 2016, the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance and LISC Boston launched their pilot Placemaking Fund, supporting placemaking projects in underserved communities statewide. The Alliance supports placemaking around Massachusetts that helps: 1) Create public spaces that draw people together; 2) Build walkable neighborhoods that provide transportation choices; 3) Make strong, healthy communities with housing options for all residents, and 4) Craft vibrant commercial areas that spur healthy local economies. Mini-grants of up to \$5,000 (with most in the \$2,500-\$5,000 range) will be made with a required local in-kind match. A total of \$45K in available funding will be awarded in 2016.

MassDevelopment

<http://www.massdevelopment.com/what-we-offer/>

1. Commonwealth Places

Commonwealth Places is a creative funding mechanism to advance community placemaking projects statewide. Through this program, MassDevelopment will provide a 50-50 match, up to \$50,000, for crowdfunded donations to support placemaking projects statewide. Projects can be proposed by local or non-profit sponsors, and Patronicity (MassDevelopment's consultant) will assist the fundraising efforts of project sponsors. This creative funding mechanism will mobilize community members to make individual contributions with the incentive of a funding match from MassDevelopment.

2. TDI Places

As a part of the technical assistance program, MassDevelopment will undertake a TDI Places Placemaking Grant process. All Gateway Cities can apply for a Placemaking Grant that will enhance activities in the TDI District and help support further community engagement and activity. These will be \$1,000-\$10,000 grants supporting particular small-scale projects proposed for and taking place in visible public areas of the TDI District that provide community engagement and help build community identity while supporting public realm improvement. Examples of Placemaking projects include but are not limited to pocket parks, pop-up stores, community gardens, and farmers markets.

3. TDI CoWork

The TDI Cowork Program was created to support Gateway Cities in the Commonwealth as part of the Transformative Development Fund within MassDevelopment. The program provides funds to foster accelerated clustering of innovation and creative economy participants to spur business growth and economic activity in Gateway Cities.

National Association of Realtors (NAR)

<http://www.realtoractioncenter.com/for-associations/smartgrowth/placemaking/placemaking-micro-grant.html>

1. Placemaking Micro-Grant

NAR's Placemaking Initiative encourages REALTOR® associations and their members, to engage in Placemaking in their communities. The Placemaking Micro-Grant is available to REALTOR® associations to help them plan, organize, implement and maintain Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper Placemaking activities in their communities. REALTORS® are uniquely positioned to help communities build better public spaces, with their vested interest in making sure people can purchase homes in areas with a strong sense of place. There are two levels of funding: Level 1 awards up to \$1,500 for projects that renew and revitalize exiting public spaces; Level 2 awards up to \$3,000 for projects that create new public spaces.

National Endowment for the Arts

<https://www.arts.gov/grants/>

1. Art Works

Art Works supports the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. Matching grants generally range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount is required.

2. Creative Connects

Creativity Connects is an initiative that will show how the arts are central to the country's creativity ecosystem, investigate how support systems for the arts have changed, explore how the arts connect with other industries, and invest in innovative projects to spark new ideas for the arts field. A key component to the Creativity Connects initiative is a pilot grant opportunity in the Art Works category to support partnerships between arts organizations and organizations from non-arts sectors that include, but are not limited to, business, education, environment, faith, finance, food, health, law, science, and technology

*Check back in January 2017 for next round of funding.

Applicant **must be an arts organization. Not qualified applicants include: (1) Federal, state, local, and tribal government entities, with the exception of institutions of higher education. (2) The designated fifty state and six jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) and their regional arts organizations (RAOs)*

3. Challenge America

Challenge America supports projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations. Matching grants are for \$10,000. A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount is required.

4. Our Town

Organizations may apply for creative placemaking projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core. Our Town offers support for projects in two areas:

- *Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design.*

Projects that represent the distinct character and quality of their communities. These projects require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000.

- *Projects that Build Knowledge About Creative Placemaking.*

These projects are available to arts and design service organizations, and industry, policy, or university organizations that provide technical assistance to those doing place-based work. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000

New England Foundation for the Arts

http://www.nefa.org/grants_programs

1. Fund for the Arts

Funds for the Arts supports community-based organizations within Route 495 in Massachusetts to select and commission artists to create new, site-specific, contemporary public art. There are three types of public art that Funds for the Arts supports:

- *Planning and Development for Permanent Public Art*

Fund for the Arts supports comprehensive planning and development that will lead to successful partnerships between the applicant organization, artist and community and to implementation of permanent public art projects. Grant supported activities include but are not limited to: artist selection process, artist fees, community engagement activities, site-specific planning, and acquisition of permits and approvals. Awards for the planning and development phase of public art projects generally range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and should be completed within 18 months of the grant award announcements.

- *Implementation for Permanent Public Art*

Fund for the Arts also awards implementation funding provided that the applicant has completed a planning and development process and reflects the process in the application. Prior to seeking implementation funds, a project should complete the following: artist selection, conceptual design development, community engagement activities, site-specific planning, acquisition of permits and approvals, and a draft maintenance plan agreement. Implementation grants awards are generally up to \$30,000 and should be completed within 18 months of the grant award announcements.

- *Temporary Public Art*

Temporary public art projects that strongly align with Fund for the Arts criteria (move to funding criteria) will also be considered. Grants for temporary public art projects generally range from \$5,000-\$10,000 and should be completed within 12 months.

*Next deadline will be in Spring 2017.

2. Creative City Community Partner

Creative City Community Partner grants are available for Boston-based community partners assisting with the implementation, artistic process, and/or presentation of a Creative City grantee's project. Depending on the nature of the project, the lead artist may nominate a community partner for this grant based on needs of the project. Community partners support the artist and project implementation and may be business owners, community development organizations, City Hall agencies, nonprofits, schools, among many other possibilities.

*Grants are currently open to community partners that are **nominated by** Creative City grantees. Community partners should support the artist and project with the implementation, artistic process, and/or presentation.

3. Creative City

Creative City grants enable artists to create projects for all disciplines that take place in the public realm, in the City of Boston, and that integrate public participation into artistic process and/or presentation. Lead applicants must live within Route 495 in Massachusetts and preferences will be given to those residing in the City of Boston. Award announcements will follow within 8 to 12 weeks. Projects must be complete within 12 months of award announcement.

*Deadline is September 12, 2016.

Patronicity

<https://www.patronicity.com/>

Patronicity is a civic crowdfunding platform that brings together local citizens and sponsors to support great initiatives in their communities. Patronicity will work with organizations, with grant dollars, to create the next level in community crowdfunding, a term Patronicity has coined as "crowdgranting". But, if cities or organizations do not qualify for matching grant opportunities, they are still invited to work with Patronicity to raise awareness, donations, capacity, and sustainability for their projects. Patronicity gives direct service by being available to talk by phone, email or in-person to develop the best campaign possible and helping project creators through the entire crowdfunding process.

Southwest Airlines and Project for Public Spaces

<http://www.pps.org/heart-of-the-community/>

1. Heart of the Community

The Southwest Airlines Heart of the Community program was developed to support and activate public spaces in the heart of cities. Launched in April 2014, the program aims to support Placemaking – a movement that reimagines public spaces as the heart of every community. Through a multi-year partnership with Project for Public Spaces (PPS), the pioneering organization behind Placemaking, Southwest Airlines is committed to leveraging the power of Placemaking to strengthen connections between people and the places they share and to spark social, economic, and environmental benefits in communities across the U.S. and abroad. Information about applying for 2017 projects will be available in the summer of 2016.

University of Massachusetts

<https://www.umassp.edu/funding-opportunities/creative-economy-fund>

1. Creative Economy Fund

The Creative Economy Initiatives Fund was established in 2007 to support faculty initiatives in the arts, humanities and social sciences that benefit the State's economy and improve quality of life. During its first eight years, the Fund has made a total of 73 awards. The University of Massachusetts encourages community partnerships and will not fund any project that benefits only the college campus. Funding is available on a yearly-basis.

Note: There are likely funding sources we missed! If you are aware of others, please do let us know and we'll include in our resource guide.

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