

Better Places - COVID-19 Recovery and Mitigation

Create Better Places Grant Program to Spark Economic Recovery and Rebuild Community Life

WHAT: Establishes a flexible community grant program that strategically coordinates the efforts of several funders who support place-based economic development projects to adapt and reclaim streets and spaces for people, whether that's a new walking or cycling path, turning pavements into plazas or asphalt into art, providing pop-up parklets, expanding outdoor dining opportunities, or testing a street closure to make more room for pedestrians and retailers or farmers markets to meet social distancing requirements.

WHY: The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated our economy through business closures and job loss, while also impacting our communities through physical distancing requirements that furthers social isolation and loss of community life. The pandemic impels us to reexamine how we use streets, parking areas, and public spaces in downtowns and villages to help rebuild the economy and revive community life.

WHO: Communities and local business owners need tools to adapt if they are to survive in an ongoing state of uncertainty during the pandemic. Small businesses, retail stores, and restaurants in downtowns and villages are one of the most impacted sectors and they need help to adapt, re-open, and thrive in the 'new normal'. Better Places will provide communities the necessary tools and resources to adapt and reconfigure their streets, parking areas, and public spaces as places for stores, markets, restaurants, schools, libraries, and civic buildings to continue safe operations during the pandemic.

HOW: Through a partnership between state, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations, Better Places will provide a nimble, flexible source to quickly fund, and launch local placemaking projects that help communities adapt and meet social distancing requirements while advancing economic recovery efforts that:

- Support physical distancing and public safety requirements
- Provide tools to local businesses and communities to adapt their operations in times of uncertainty
- Contribute to Vermont's economic recovery in downtowns and villages by creating vibrant streets and additional safe public spaces
- Support our community's wellbeing, public health, and ability to recreate and exercise
- Empower local leaders to play an active role in rebuilding their communities, strengthening the economy, instilling local and consumer confidence, and advancing local recovery efforts.

FUNDING: TBD

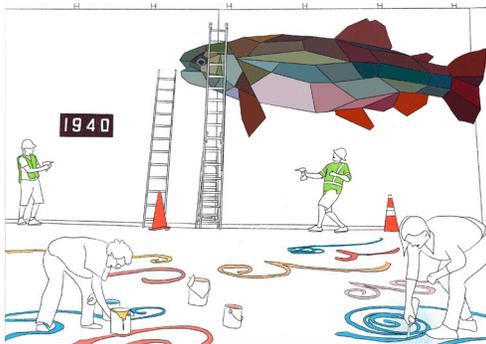


For more information, please contact:

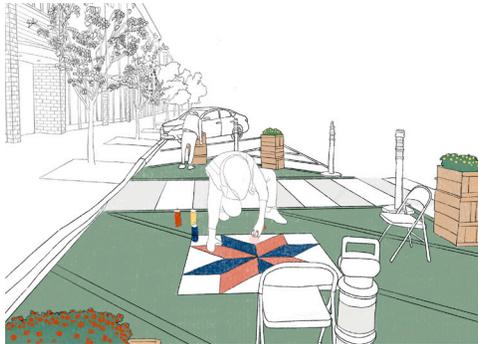
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Locally-Driven Placemaking Projects to Rebuild Community Life and Support Economic Recovery



Public Art



Demonstration Projects



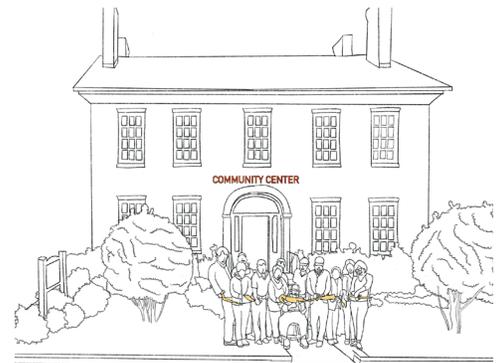
Pop-Up Galleries



Farmers Markets



Pocket Parks



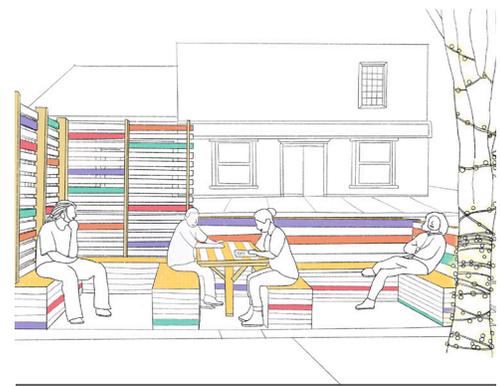
Community Centers



Walking and Biking Trails



Downtown and Village Events



Parklets

