

FY16 Promise Zone Benefits from Partnering Agencies

Agency: National Endowment for the Arts

Programs with PZ Benefits:

Our Town Grant Program

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Website: <http://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/introduction>

Benefit Type: Grant

Eligible Communities: Urban, Rural, and Tribal

Eligible applicants: All applications require partnerships that involve at least two primary partners: a nonprofit 501c3 organization (with 3 years of programming history) and a local or tribal governmental entity. One of the two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. Additional partners are encouraged.

Application Guidance: Applications for the FY 2016 grant cycle were due September 21, 2015 and applicants will be updated no later than April 2016. For the FY2017 grant cycle, application guidelines will be available in May 2016 on www.arts.gov with an anticipated deadline in September 2016. Earliest project start date is August 1, 2017 with a project period of up to 2 years.

Program Description: The Our Town grant program supports creative place-making projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core. Creative place-making is when artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners deliberately integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work - placing arts at the table with land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies. This funding supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for existing residents, increase creative activity, and create a distinct sense of place. Our Town supports a wide range of project activities, including innovative arts programming, cultural district planning, and design projects.

Benefits to Promise Zone: Priority Consideration

Our Town is a program that supports arts-driven community revitalization with a focus on projects that incorporate:

- A vision for enhancing the social and/or economic livability of the community
- The needs of existing residents and institutions in the community
- Support for artists, design professionals, and arts organizations that integrate the arts and design into the fabric of civic life and/or community plans.

Our Town encourages creative programming and artist-led approaches that seek to address a range of community priorities, including vacancy, youth engagement, economic development, public health, public safety, housing, transportation. Projects that are intended to serve designed Promise Zones will receive preference in the application review process.

Funding Amount: \$25,000 to \$200,000, all awards require a one to one match of cash/in-kind donations.

Background: The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) plays a critical role in fostering regional economic development efforts in communities across the nation. Through strategic investments that foster job creation and attract private investment, EDA supports development in economically distressed areas of the United States. Guided by the basic principle that communities must be empowered to develop and implement their own economic development and revitalization strategies, EDA works directly with local economic development officials to make grant investments that are well-defined, timely, and linked to a long-term, sustainable economic development strategy.

Additional Information: To browse 75+ projects that have been supported by Our Town in the past, visit Exploring Our Town and browse the Project Showcase at www.arts.gov/exploring-our-town/