



## **Arts-based Community Development Investment for the City of Cleveland** **Cleveland is one of 64 National Endowment for the Arts Our Town projects selected nationwide**

Cleveland—The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced 64 awards totaling 4.3 million supporting projects across the nation through the NEAs Our Town program. The City of Cleveland in partnership with the Museum Center at Five Points is one of the recommended organizations for an award of \$25,000 to support the commissioning of four new pieces of public art including three sculptures and a mural. The additional pieces of art will be utilized to create an art trail and act as a continuation of the existing series of public art throughout the area. The project will connect the Cleveland/Bradley Greenway, Lee University and downtown Cleveland with the Old Woolen Mill which will serve as the hub for the arts.

The Our Town grant program supports creative placemaking projects that help transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core. The NEA received 240 applicants for Our Town this year and will making awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000. “For six years, Our Town has made a difference for people and places where they live, work, and play,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Project such as the one led by the City of Cleveland help residents engage the arts to spark vitality in their communities.”

The goal of this project is to increase the visibility of the arts by installing four large pieces of artwork in Cleveland’s downtown vicinity, focusing on the areas around downtown. This project improves livability by uniting disparate parts of the community along a public art corridor, encouraging engagement and interaction by using the Cleveland/Bradley Greenway as multi-modal connector unifying north Cleveland, downtown, and south Cleveland. This is the first step in the process of establishing downtown Cleveland as a hub for arts. Completion of the project will raise awareness of the artists in our community as well as improve the quality of life in Cleveland by increasing foot traffic. The proposed corridor currently possesses several pieces of existing pieces of public part.

“This is an extraordinary step towards Cleveland becoming an art center,” said Cleveland Mayor, Tow Rowland. “A great example of what our community is doing to encourage all types of growth and development.”

Artists for the project will be limited to those living within a 50-mile radius of Cleveland. The final 4 artists selected will receive \$10,000 each to create their piece of art totaling \$40,000. The 4 public art sites include: a City owned building, Museum, and 2 locations at the Old Woolen Mill.

The City of Cleveland earmarked \$25,000 in matching funds as well as in-kind administrative work for this project. The Public Works Departments has also agreed to help assist if needed with in-kind site preparation. For a complete list of projects recommended for Our Town grant support, please visit the NEA website at [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov). The NEA’s online resource, Exploring Our Town, features case studies of more than 70 Our Town projects along with lesson learned and other resources.