



Auglaize County

Arts & Culture Master Plan

2025 - 2035



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About

This plan is one-third of a regional arts and cultural planning project that includes Blackford and Jay Counties in Indiana and Auglaize County in Ohio.

Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through their “Our Town” grant and fiscally managed by Arts Place, Inc., the consultant team facilitated a community-driven planning process for each county providing opportunity to coordinate strategic efforts beyond individual boundaries.

Blackford and Jay County plans will also feed into a larger, East Central Indiana regional Arts & Cultural plan to be completed fall 2025. That work is part of Indiana’s READI Arts Initiative as funded by the Lilly Endowment.

Our Town — National Endowment for the Arts

Our Town project seeks to:

“Provide opportunities for the arts to be integrated into the fabric of community life — **Strengthening Communities.**”

Our Town project outcomes may include:

Economic Change:

Economic improvements of individuals, institutions, or the community including local business growth, job creation/labor force participation, professional development/training, prevention of displacement, in-migration, and tourism.

Physical Change:

Physical improvements that occur to the built and natural environment including beautification and/or enhancement of physical environment, new construction, and redevelopment (including arts, culture, and public space).

Social Change:

Improvements to social relationships, civic engagement and community empowerment, and/or amplifying community identity including civic engagement, collective efficacy, social capital, social cohesion, and community attachment.

System Change:

Improvements to community capacity to sustain the integration of arts, culture, and design into strategies for advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes including, for example: establishment of new and lasting cross-sector partnerships; shifts in institutional structure, practices or policies; replication or scaling of innovative project models; establishment of training programs; or dissemination of informational resources to support the creative placemaking field.



<https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town/strengthening-communities>

READI Arts Initiative Goals (Indiana)

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.



<https://indianareadi.com/resources>

Welcome

Why Have an Arts Plan

The purpose of this plan is to enhance quality of life, strengthen the local economy, and provide an important — often missing — piece to community planning in Auglaize County. It provides a long-term, strategic roadmap of goals, strategies, and resources to guide action throughout the county.

How to Use the Arts Plan



Start with Priorities.

Readers should view goals and strategies as a matrix in which many things can be happening at once as opposed to a linear plan of attack (Goal 1, then 2, etc.). That said, the document “stars” goals and strategies prioritized by county residents.

- Start with priorities and small, visible projects to capture attention.
- Follow the momentum to gain more support and identify next steps.

Follow the Timeline AND Opportunities.

Funding is much easier to secure when tied to a plan, and opportunities come in a variety of forms, from newly formed partnerships to an enthusiastic community member.

- Focus on prioritized areas within the first 2 years to maximize community interest and engagement.
- Early success will be crucial to drive early buy-in, build momentum, enthusiasm, and demonstrate the plan’s potential.
- Take advantage of opportunities as they arise, even if they are out of sync with action plans. Opportunities missed may not return.

Use the Resources.

Use the resources included in the appendix to work smarter not harder. The asset inventory is also a helpful way to find potential partners and opportunities.

Implement Collaboratively & Thoughtfully.

Successful implementation will require a thoughtful leadership structure, including:


- An Arts Plan Implementation Team of key stakeholders (beginning with planning participants) not to execute every aspect of the plan, but instead to foster awareness, build partnerships, inspire, and maintain steady forward motion;
- A designated individual or entity to coordinate the team’s efforts and track implementation; and
- Funding to support the process.

“Arts bind people to place and each other.”

Alberto Ibarguen, President | The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, 2018



Concepts We Use

This process brought together arts organizations and professionals, civic and elected leaders, economic development, and community. This was a new combination for most participants – one that lead each to share new concepts with the others. We carried the following into this plan: 

Placemaking is a collaborative process that strengthens the bond between people and shared spaces. It goes beyond urban design by fostering creative uses of public spaces and honoring their physical and cultural identities.

Creative Placemaking focuses on strengthening communities with arts at the core.

Creative Economy is the crossroads of creativity, culture, and commerce – workers in arts occupations, creative industries, and places. Creative economies thrive when a wide array of industries and workers are treated as active participants in it.

Philanthropy is the voluntary giving by individuals or groups to promote the common good, often through financial donations or time, with the aim of benefiting others and fostering a more civil and just society.

Quality of Place the characteristics of a community or region that make it attractive and desirable to live, work, and visit, including both tangible and intangible factors like environment, culture, and social connections.

Stakeholders are those who may benefit or be affected by a project. They may or may not take part directly in the decision-making process of that project.



Definitions adapted from:

<https://www.pps.org>

<https://www.creativeplacemaking.us>

<https://patternindy.com>

<https://rural.indiana.edu/>

<https://artsandplanning.mapc.org/glossary-of-terms/>



Placemaking Tool: Portable Art Studios

The NEA Our Town grant that funded this plan, also funded creation of portable “art studios.” Why? County wide rural geography demands that organizations and artist facilitators practice creative placemaking by bringing the arts directly into the neighborhoods and communities they serve.

Over time, these colorful, adaptable (kid height or adult height) studios will become recognizable visual cues for events and organizations throughout the county that ART IS HAPPENING HERE! Available for organizations and organizers to “check out” they will support public engagement in the arts as a:

- Portable art installation and place to create
- Landing spot for information and recognizable brand for plan activities



For More Information Contact

St. Marys Grand Opera House Live (419) 953-6731



Executive Summary

Rural communities thrive when they celebrate their unique character, build strong connections, and create opportunities for people to live, work, and engage. Placemaking — **using arts and culture to shape public spaces and community life** — is a powerful tool for strengthening local identity, fostering economic growth, and attracting and retaining residents.

This plan provides a roadmap for integrating creativity into broader community development efforts, ensuring that arts and culture are —not just valued, but — essential to long-term success. By aligning cultural initiatives with economic, social, and infrastructure goals, communities can revitalize downtowns, create engaging public spaces, and preserve their heritage — making them more vibrant, welcoming, and resilient.

With a foundation of successful initiatives and a shared vision for the future, Auglaize County is wellpositioned to harness the power of arts and culture to drive community growth and connection.

When it comes to rural arts access and creative development, economic growth and sustainability are not only about recruiting businesses to establish and bring jobs.

Rural economic resiliency is aided by strong local leadership combined with community vision and branding.

Rural economies succeed when communities understand themselves—who they are and what they have to offer.

Not only does a strong creative identity engender local community pride, it creates a brand that attracts visitors and future residents.

Cross Sector Strategies for Creative Rural Development

National Association of State Arts Agencies, 2025

What We Learned

Auglaize County is home to local and regional arts and cultural assets including St. Marys Theater & Grand Opera House; Riverside Arts Center in Wapakoneta and Gateway Arts serving the region, Crescent Players in Minster, active local and county history organizations, signature festivals, public art, trails, and fairgrounds. Saint Marys, Wapakoneta, Buckland, Cridersville, Minster, New Bremen, New Knoxville, and Waynesfield are dedicated to community revitalization, have a groundswell of successful efforts to build upon (public art, placemaking, beautification projects, façade improvement, historic restoration), and others in the works that align well with goals and strategies within this plan.

Plan goals and strategies directly support Auglaize County's solid foundation in arts and culture by advancing placemaking, community engagement, and sustainability:

Creative Placemaking Downtown builds on existing revitalization efforts through public art, beautification, and programming.

Youth Engagement In & Through the Arts ensures the next generation engages in and benefits from the arts.

Community Connections strengthens local traditions, history, and festivals.



Sustained Commitment & Implementation secures long-term investment, leadership, and collaboration to keep arts initiatives thriving.

Together, these efforts enhance Auglaize County's vibrancy, economic growth, and community pride.

Goals & Strategies

1 CREATIVE PLACEMAKING DOWNTOWN

Auglaize County's downtowns are thriving — revitalized through arts initiatives, beautification, and programming.

STRATEGY 1.1 — Beautify all the “small” stuff for civic pride and engagement.

STRATEGY 1.2 — Activate with public art, partnerships, events, and opportunities to create.

STRATEGY 1.3 — Connect activities, places, and people.

2 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN & THROUGH THE ARTS

Auglaize County's youth are thriving through the arts and civic participation.

STRATEGY 2.1 — Increase opportunities for youth arts engagement.

STRATEGY 2.2 — Increase youth access to arts.

STRATEGY 2.3 — Increase youth stake in the arts.

3 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN & THROUGH THE ARTS

Auglaize County's identity has been strengthened through the arts, history, and community engagement.

STRATEGY 3.1 — Cultivate leadership and cross-county collaboration for arts and culture.

STRATEGY 3.2 — Lean into Auglaize County's history and heritage.

4 SUSTAINED COMMITMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

Arts initiatives and programming are sustained through collaboration, leadership, and long-term funding.

STRATEGY 4.1 — Increase support for arts and culture.

STRATEGY 4.2 — Solidify long-term investment pathways for arts and culture.

STRATEGY 4.3 — Include arts elements and arts stakeholders when implementing related existing plan strategies.



Kommink Legacy Park Sculpture, New Bremen



Belle of St. Marys Canal Boat, St. Marys

The Plan: A Vibrant Arts & Culture Future for Auglaize

The purpose of this plan is to enhance quality of life, strengthen the local economy, and provide an important — often missing — piece to community planning.

It provides a long-term, strategic roadmap of goals, strategies, and appendices with details and resources to strengthen local identity, foster economic growth, and attract and retain residents.

As leaders implement the plan, there are some basic placemaking principles to serve as a guide.

- 1 **Start with Petunias.** In other words, keep it small, simple, and visible through a “Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper” approach for early, obvious wins.
- 2 **They Always Say, “It Can’t Be Done.”**
- 3 **Community Engagement.** Involve residents in planning and decision-making to ensure that projects reflect local values and needs. This participation fosters a sense of ownership and strengthens community bonds.
- 4 **Cross-Sector Collaboration.** Partner with various sectors—such as local businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits—to pool resources and expertise, amplifying the impact of placemaking efforts.
- 5 **Asset-Based Development.** Identify and utilize local talents, traditions, and resources. This approach builds on what the community already has, leading to sustainable development.
- 6 **Flexibility and Adaptability.** Be open to evolving ideas and feedback. This adaptability allows projects to remain relevant and responsive to changing community dynamics.
- 7 **Focus on Quality of Place.** Enhance public spaces to make them more inviting and functional. Improvements like parks, community centers, and public art can boost residents’ pride and attract newcomers.

Sources:

[Eleven Principles for Creating Great Community Places](#)

[Rural Placemaking and the Thrive Rural Framework](#)

[Creative Placemaking Resources](#)

[Placemaking, Wikipedia](#)

“Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.”

National Endowment for the Arts. *Creative Placemaking*. 2010



Arts in the Parks | Theater Camp with the Crescent Players at the St. Marys Grand Opera House Live

Auglaize County Arts & Culture

The process identified key strengths, needs, and opportunities.

Community Assets & Strengths

Auglaize County is replete with *cultural assets* county-wide from which to draw upon.

- **Arts and Cultural Organizations** (Friends of St. Marys Theater & Grand Opera House, Lock One Community Arts, Wapakoneta Theatre Guild, Riverside Arts Center, St. Marys Art Center, Crescent Players)
- **Festivals** (Renaissance, Grand Lake Area Literature Festival, Summer Moon Festival, Riverside Blues Fest)
- **Museums & History** (Armstrong Air Space Museum, Bicycle Museum of America, Uniopolis Historical Museum, 7 societies, 24 National Historic Places, over 200 markers and war memorials inc. the Temple of Tolerance)
- **Places & Spaces** (Moon City Event Center, Miami Erie Canal Trail, James F. Dicke Auditorium, 9 libraries in 7 communities across the county)
- **Creative Industry, Groups, and People** (Art Source Ohio, Boyd Dance Studios, Shakespeare Club, Art Adventures Club, painters, musicians, fiber artists, actors, jewelers)

Auglaize County has a *strong heritage* from which to draw upon.

- **Foundational History** (The Shawnee People, German immigrants, bicycles, astronauts, agriculture, canal)
- **Key Assets** (JH Manchester Round Barn, Fountain Hotel, Daniel F Mooney Museum, Wapakoneta Historic Commercial Historic District)

Auglaize County has *strong leadership* from public, nonprofit, and community sectors.

- **Government** (County Commissioners, City Councils, Mayors)
- **Civic** (Grand Lake Visitor's Bureau, Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce, County Economic Development Coalition)
- **Funders and Friends** (New Bremen & Wapakoneta Area Community Foundations; Friends of the Stallo Memorial Library; New Bremen School District; United Way)

Auglaize County values *working together*.

“We work together countywide”

emerged early in the engagement process as a guiding principle, reflecting a commitment to unity and the belief that a rising tide lifts all ships. Driven by dedicated leaders at all levels and community, there is a shared determination to create lasting, cultural, community, and economic impact – recognizing that collaboration is the key to success.



Muralists Sarah and Alli Hess from Studio Cera Marie | Collaborative project with Arts Place and the City of St. Marys
Funded by the Ohio Arts Council | <https://www.studioceramarie.com/public-art>

Capacity & Sustainability Needs

Auglaize needs more human resources and support.

There is both an overall need for volunteers, and a need for arts educators to provide opportunities as demand exceeds resources and hinders growth.

Auglaize needs to foster a unified county.

- Leaders and residents from all community sizes described a clear “east/west” county divide, and the need for “collaboration over competition”.
- County-wide efforts are needed for resource pooling, effective planning, and a broader approach to address region-wide challenges (aka “Regionalism”).

Auglaize needs to attract and retain population, particularly families.

- While the population is relatively stable by census reports, [*the Ohio Department of Development reports*](#) an anticipated 10% decline in Auglaize County population from 2020–2050.
- 40% of the county population is age 45+.
- Decline can be combatted by increasing cultural opportunities, beautification efforts, walkable downtowns, affordable housing, and support for entrepreneurs and new business to increase attachment and attract new families.

Current Opportunities

Auglaize County has a solid foundation of arts & cultural assets.

- Auglaize has an impressive array of assets in all areas of the county from which to link, build, and leverage for economic, community, and tourism development efforts.
- Assets currently draw both national (e.g., Waynesville Renaissance Festival) and international audiences (e.g., Temple of Tolerance) providing a glimpse of what intentional, county-wide planning can achieve.

Auglaize County has Committed leaders.

- Leaders are committed and driven to get results and recognize the mutual benefit of collaboration.

Auglaize County also has

- **Natural amenities** like the Grand Lake, trails, preserves, and parks that provide a natural, regional draw.
- **Centrally located** and within two hours of multiple urban centers, and between Cincinnati and Detroit via Interstate 75 which provides potential to draw major and emerging performing artists traveling between urban centers



Temple of Tolerance, Wapakoneta



Goals & Strategies

GOAL 1 CREATIVE PLACEMAKING DOWNTOWN

Auglaize County's downtowns are thriving — revitalized through arts initiatives, beautification, and programming.

STRATEGY 1.1 — Beautify all the “small” stuff for civic pride and engagement.

1a Façades

Restore and activate downtown facades (including windows).

- Provide façade grants (and help applicants throughout process).
- Partner with youth and artists to activate storefronts and vacant business with murals, seasonal art, illuminated displays, or rotating exhibits.
- Develop design guidelines to ensure an enhanced, cohesive, and attractive downtown while preserving its character *(example).*

1b Streets

Develop sidewalk, streetscape, and beautification programs that create a safe, inviting, and walkable environment for pedestrians and cars alike.

- Maintain planters, and greenspace enhancements.
- Develop alley gathering places with stringed lights, benches, murals *(example).*

STRATEGY 1.2 — Activate with public art, partnerships, events, and opportunities to create.

2a Public Art **Restore and expand murals and sculptures downtown and in parks.**

- Develop public art guidelines (i.e., policies/procedures for selecting, installing, maintenance).
- Install community murals that reflect the community and for which the community participates in design and creation.
- Include murals in crosswalks (known as “asphalt art”) and alleys.
- Include fun add-ons such as selfie spots, art trails, scavenger hunt competitions.
- Cultivate project sponsors and matching grants in addition to percent for art policies to support this work.

2b Events **Develop community events in partnership with business, youth, and artists.**

- Explore and expand monthly and seasonal events (e.g., concerts, outdoor movies).
- Deepen value of events – encourage businesses to stay open late, create specials, etc.
- Bring events and markets back downtown from fairgrounds.
- Develop program sponsorships (identify sponsors, create sponsor packages with benefits e.g., visibility, VIP access).

2c Programs **Expand spaces and opportunities for the community to create (programming).**

- Identify local partners to inform “Arts in the Parks” activities and increase participation.
- Develop programs through parks and recreation (e.g., arts activities alongside Tee Ball).
- Structure “open mic” ideas (music or poetry slams, writer rounds, vinyl nights).
- Ensure a place to create exists for every community, in every community.
- Increase and better leverage existing physical spaces for visual and music activities (e.g., renovated and new stage and concert lawn at The Grand).
- Explore partnerships with nearby college students, clubs, faculty, etc.

STRATEGY 1.3 — Connect activities, places, and people.

3a Activities **Collaborate in order to leverage and cross promote activities, events, and programs.**

- Encourage businesses and nonprofits to add programming during community events.
- Coordinate marketing and promotional efforts with key stakeholders (e.g., parks, arts, recreation, libraries) to cross promote, identify new strategies.

3b People **Develop messaging strategies to amplify and connect opportunities with local and regional audiences.**

- Include target audience in planning efforts, community calendars.
- Partner efforts with existing county marketing and branding efforts.

3c Engage **Extend trails, create walking tours, and similar place-based initiatives that increase community engagement and tourism**

- Tie local history themes, leverage youth input and involvement, and communicate county-wide to identify opportunities for broader, intentional impact.

GOAL 2 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN & THROUGH THE ARTS

Auglaize County's youth are thriving through the arts and civic participation.

STRATEGY 2.1 — Increase opportunities for youth arts engagement.

1a Invite In

Actively and intentionally include youth in arts projects, especially downtown.



- Embed youth opportunities in public art, community events, beautification, parks/trails, and history activities.
- Work with schools to develop strategies to incentivize student participation in arts opportunities that benefits both schools and youth.
- Make it easy and meaningful for youth to participate, whatever the project.

1b Planning

Plan activities/events at least a year out for schools/partners to meaningfully integrate them (e.g., curriculum).

- Focus efforts so that one event has multiple reinforcing components rather than multiple separate events.

1c Partners

Develop new, diverse partnerships that expand arts capacity, programming, and collaboration opportunities

STRATEGY 2.2 — Increase youth access to arts.

2a Info

Develop key resources to increase access to arts instruction.

- Create an educator inventory of local and regional arts educators who provide private and/or group instruction for youth of all ages in multiple disciplines (focusing on visual and performing arts).

2b Outreach

Coordinate marketing effort to increase awareness of available opportunities.

- Strengthen communications by evaluating current practices and testing new ones.
- Leverage existing and identify potential marketing opportunities (e.g., library newsletter, city event calendars, platforms such as [Yodel](#)).
- Leverage Portable Art Studios to both increase and promote opportunities.

STRATEGY 2.3 — Increase youth stake in the arts.

3a Empower

Create formal avenues for youth to inform and engage in civic and arts planning.

- Develop youth councils (e.g., Mayor's Youth Council); appoint them to committees and invite them to public meetings.
- Actively gather and use youth feedback when looking for strategies to engage them or they are the intended audience (e.g., focus group, surveys).

Goal 3 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN & THROUGH THE ARTS

Auglaize County is more connected through arts and culture.

STRATEGY 3.1 — Cultivate leadership and cross-county collaboration for arts and culture.

1a Leverage Establish a regional arts networking council.



- Include arts and cultural stakeholders across the county.
- Focus purpose to advance arts and cultural efforts county-wide.
- Ensure participation is mutually beneficial to both the group and individual stakeholders.

1b Sustain Forge intentional cross-county partnerships to increase communication and collaboration to address shared needs (e.g., cross promotion, event scheduling, educator identification etc.)

- Begin with local standard bearers and expand through the libraries, schools, etc.
- Find early wins focusing on low hanging fruit to build momentum.
- Start with cited needs which include marketing (e.g., cross-promotion), event scheduling, educator identification, etc.

STRATEGY 3.2 — Lean into Auglaize County's history and heritage.

2a Tie-Ins Tie local history themes and content into Downtown and youth projects.

- Preserve/renovate architectural details.
- Use banners, wayfinding, murals to reinforce history.
- Look ahead to America 250 opportunities, identify curriculum tie ins.

2b Specific Develop specific history programming and amenities (e.g., downtown historic walking tours).

- Gamify activities to increase involvement and tourism opportunities (Scavenger hunts, “passports”, etc.)

2c Sustain Strengthen signature festival traditions – leveraging them to bolster creative economy and tourism.

- Add arts to existing opportunities (e.g., artist booths, demonstrations, workshops, performances) – ARTify them!
- Work with artists and arts organizations to focus and increase the mutual benefits of festivals – for the arts and from the arts.



“Tribute to Apollo 11”, Wapakoneta

Opportunity in Minster - Connect Choirs

With a base of interest and talent in music and choirs in Minster and a new statewide community chorus network, there is opportunity for the community to build from its strength, connect with larger initiatives and make a big bang. While this particular opportunity is already well underway this provides an example of how Goals 2 and 3 could come to life for Auglaize County.

St. Augustine Church Choir Traditions

Could connect with others in the county and across the state as in the project on page 23

- Mixed Choir – 75 voices, a product of the Men’s Choir joining with the Women’s Choir.
 - Men’s Choir – 40 voices, cross-generational, formed in 1907 is one of oldest such choirs in nation and is the oldest continuously-functioning organization in Minster. It has even presented Gilbert & Sullivan musicals.
 - Women’s Choir – 35 voices, cross-generational
- Children’s Choir – 50 voices, third to eighth grade
- Folk Group – 15 voices accompanied by piano, guitars, flute, and various percussion instruments
- Brass Ensemble – two trumpets, a French Horn, a trombone, and a tuba.
- Bell Choir using three-octave Schulmerich handbell set
- High School Choir – currently inactive but with potential restart

<https://www.staugie.com>



NEA Arts, Health, & Well-being Demonstration Projects

Harmony Project Productions Inc. <https://harmonyproject.com> **Columbus, OH)**

To support a series of rehearsals, public performances, and community service activities by a new statewide community chorus network designed to strengthen social connection and belonging. Harmony Project Productions and the Ohio Arts Council will recruit up to 1,000 individuals from musical groups across Ohio that have demonstrated a commitment to community health and engage those individuals in rehearsals, public performances, and community. Following, a public concert in May, Harmony Project Productions will work with participating musical groups to design and implement programs within their local communities with an aim to develop a statewide network of health-focused arts organizations. Through participation in the statewide chorus network and associated activities, members are expected to build a stronger sense of belonging and social connection. As a project partner, the Ohio State University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health will perform a program evaluation that documents the role of community choir in individual and community well-being. The Human Service Chamber of Franklin County will facilitate connections with human service agencies and support coordination of community service projects undertaken by choir members. Project partners will focus on recruiting people for the choir from populations that are at risk for social isolation, such as Alzheimer's patients, incarcerated people, and students.



Post Office Mural Detail, Wapakoneta | Joseph Linarzi, 1937

GOAL 4 SUSTAINED COMMITMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

Arts initiatives and programming are sustained through collaboration, leadership, and long-term funding.

STRATEGY 4.1 — Increase support for arts and culture.

1a Councils

Develop and host an annual “State of the Arts” for Auglaize County.

- Use as a celebration, advocacy and fundraising event highlighting the value and impact of arts to arts and non-arts stakeholders (schools, businesses, public sector leadership).
- Leverage as a platform for networking and collaboration for arts and culture organizations as well as share upcoming events and activities.
- Celebrate accomplishments by including an awards component.

1b New

Integrate arts and culture into county/community promotional efforts, adapting to changing interests and styles.

- Leverage Portable Art Studios to both increase and promote opportunities.

1c Unify

Cultivate leadership and intentional cross-county collaboration to address shared needs (e.g., cross promotion, event scheduling).

- Begin with the mayors as standard bearers, then expand through the libraries, schools, 4H, etc.
- Engage new business owners and individuals outside traditional networks (e.g., feature creative businesses in community promotional video).
- Encourage local businesses to incorporate arts like hanging local artwork and hosting live performances.

1d Leverage

Expand the pool of community champions, leaders, and volunteers.

- Engage local and county government leaders as advocates to publicly endorse, present, or co-present the plan to constituents.
- Use the momentum of visible progress to engage a new cohort of business and community leaders.



STRATEGY 4.2 — Solidify long-term investment pathways for arts and culture.

2a Affordable Make them affordable to both the providers and participants, embedding “lighter, quicker, cheaper” strategies and mindset throughout.

2b Public Adopt public funding strategies that demonstrate local government commitment to arts and culture while leveraging private in the same.

- Specifically, develop “Percent for Art” policies, designate public funds (e.g., portion of energy revenues), and pursue public grants for arts initiatives.

2c Private Cultivate a culture of philanthropy across the county in partnership with the local community foundations.

STRATEGY 4.3 — Include arts elements and arts stakeholders when implementing related existing plan strategies.

Key Plans and Planning Processes Include:

- Economic development, strategic investment, and comprehensive plans for cities and the county
- Downtown development and revitalization plans as well as master plans for parks, trails, and recreation
- Quality of life and quality of place plans
- County and regional plans for OSU Extension as well as plans for public libraries, community and senior centers
- Community foundation, Main Street, Chamber of Commerce, and tourism plans

Example Below: Dayton Region Economic Strategy 2022–2026

Vibrant Communities

Bolster investment in placemaking



Tactics:

- Increase resources to support the creation and revitalization of downtowns and town centers that are walkable, safe, and accessible.
- Advocate for resources to support locally owned small businesses that influence the character of communities.
- Maximize opportunities to capitalize on the natural landscape, including integrated waterfront development spanning the Region, to create unique recreational destinations for outdoor adventurers and families.
- Leverage the cultural, artistic, recreational, and historical assets of our communities.

Recommended: Action Planning

First Steps for Sustained Commitment & Implementation

1 IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

- Reconvene participants from the January focus group as agreed to form the base of a new regional arts council and leadership network 
- Invite in leaders from other arts and culture assets who participated in this planning process 
- Use this group to identify an individual or lead entity to coordinate its meetings and plan implementation.

2 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS


- Present the plan to arts and culture boards of directors (beginning with boards connected to the individuals who helped to develop this plan) for input and endorsements.
- Present the plan with endorsements to the Auglaize County Board of Commissioners for endorsement.
- Then publicize it as endorsed. This should include presentations to civic organizations (e.g., Rotary) and relevant convenings that build awareness, support, and participation for plan implementation.


3 ACTION PLANNING

- Use regional group to convert this document and supporting materials into an action plan.
- Focus first on plans to implement:
 - i. Develop an inaugural State of the Arts event.
 - ii. Propose local Percent for Art ordinances.
 - iii. Small, attention-getting starter projects in each of the county's cities and villages.

4 SUPPORT FOR EARLY ACTION

- Secure start-up funding for early coordination and small starter projects
- Use the endorsed plan and actions as a basis to pursue financial support from the Auglaize County Board of Commissioners, the cities and villages of Auglaize County, and your local community foundations for initial implementation and coordination.

 This included representatives from Auglaize County Board of Commissioners, Auglaize County Historical Society, Gateway Arts, The Grand, Riverside Art Center, St. Marys Community Public Library, Great Lake Region CVB, Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce, New Knoxville Village Council, and a local music teacher.

 **For Example:** Crescent Players, United Way of Auglaize County, Workforce Development / Auglaize County, Grand Lake Area Literature Festival, St. Marys Art Center



St. Marys Theater & Grand Opera House, St. Marys

Next Steps Across All Goals

	2026-28 NEAR TERM	2028-30 MID-TERM	2030-35 LONG-TERM
Creative Placemaking Downtown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small, attention-getting starter projects in each city and town • Annual big splash initiative 	Begin Plan with CVB / related	Repeat, bigger Begin	Sustain, bigger Repeat
Youth Engagement In & Through The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educator inventory of local and regional arts educators • TBD from action planning 	Complete	Revise, recruit new	
Community Connections In & Through The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Arts Council • Local arts and culture assets to develop plans aligned with this one. 	Build from 2025 Encourage, begin	Revise this plan Expand in number	Plans revised
Sustained Commitment & Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual State of the Arts • Local government financial commitments to arts and culture • Percent for Art ordinances 	Inaugural Events Pursue, confirm Pursue, adopt	Sustain, grow Repeat, grow Fund use	Sustain, grow Sustain, grow Fund use



Appendix 1: Methodology

Engagement Summary

Guided by a Steering Committee representing each county, the consultant team led a broad, countywide, public input process that included:

- A comprehensive review of existing plans from each community as available (e.g., county, city, park),
- Desk-researched and crowd-sourced compilation of a county cultural asset inventory,
- An in-person community input session for envisioning 2035 supplemented with follow up focus groups and 1:1 interviews coverings, and
- A public survey to prioritize goals and strategies.

Community Visioning Sessions

Auglaize, OH

December 5, 4:30–6:30
Auglaize County Administration Building
14 attended

Blackford, IN

November 14, 4:30–6:30pm
City Hall, Hartford City
22 attended

Jay, IN

November 13, 4:30–6:30pm
John Jay Learning Center, Portland
21 attended

Focus Groups & Interviews

Groups (8)

- **Arts Place Staff (Jay & Blackford)**
21-Jan | virtual | 7 attended
- **Creative Industry & Entrepreneurs (Jay)**
21-Jan | virtual | 7 attended
- **Activating Youth (Blackford)**
22-Jan | virtual | 4 attended
- **Activating Downtown (Blackford)**
23-Jan | Hartford City Public Library | 8 attended
- **Expanded Dialogue (Auglaize)**
24-Jan | The Grand | 14 attended
- **Leaders (One per county)**
10-Feb - Blackford - (6 attended)
12-Feb - Jay - (3 attended)
14-Feb - Auglaize (2 attended)

1:1 Interviews (3) with representatives from

- Community foundations
- Local economic development
- Civic leadership (mayors and county commissioners)
- Downtown revitalization efforts
- Creative and community development

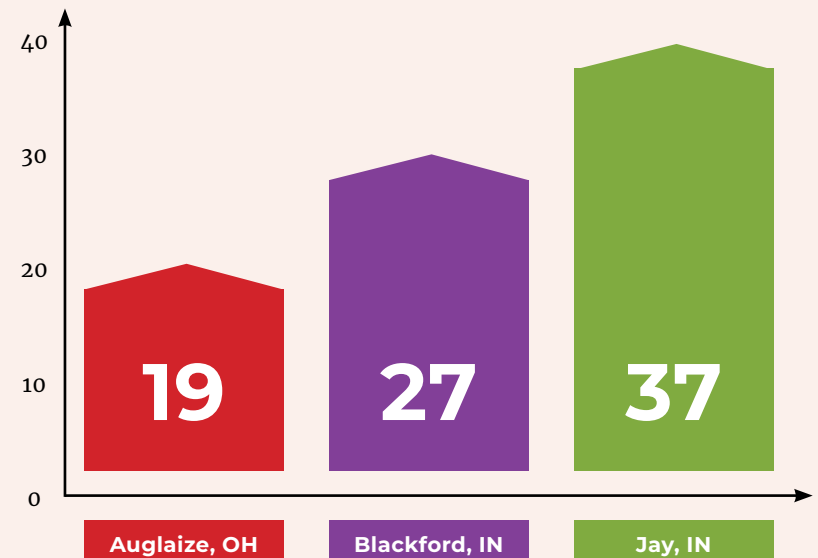
Plans Reviewed

In addition to asset mapping and public engagement, existing plans in the community informed goals and strategies, including:

- Comprehensive Plan, City of Wapakoneta – 2007
(Update is currently underway)
- Dayton Region Economic Strategy 2022–2026

Prioritization Survey

Residents from each county completed surveys (83)



Goal Prioritization Survey Results

Please arrange each set in priority order, top = most important to you.

OVERALL GOALS	1st	2nd	3rd	TOTAL	SCORE
SUSTAINED COMMITMENT & IMPLEMENTATION	7 37%	10 53%	2 11%	19	2.26
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN & THROUGH THE ARTS	7 37%	7 37%	5 26%	19	2.11
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN & THROUGH THE ARTS	5 26%	2 11%	12 63%	19	1.63
				19	= N

STRATEGIES — SUSTAINED COMMITMENT & IMPLEMENTATION	1st	2nd	3rd	TOTAL	SCORE
Increase SUPPORT for arts and culture	10 56%	6 33%	2 11%	18	2.44
Solidify long-term investment pathways for arts & culture	6 33%	8 44%	4 22%	18	2.11
Include arts elements and arts stakeholders in civic planning and when implementing existing strategies	2 11%	4 22%	12 67%	18	1.44
				18	= N

STRATEGIES — COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	1st	2nd	TOTAL	SCORE
Cultivate leadership and cross-county collaboration for arts and culture	6 67%	3 33%	9	1.67
Lean into Auglaize County's history and identity	3 33%	6 67%	9	1.33
			9	= N

STRATEGIES — YOUTH ENGAGEMENT	1st	2nd	3rd	TOTAL	SCORE
Increase OPPORTUNITIES for youth arts engagement	9 53%	8 47%	0 0%	17	2.53
Increase youth ACCESS to arts	5 29%	6 35%	6 35%	17	1.94
Increase youth STAKE in arts and culture	3 18%	3 18%	11 65%	17	1.53
				17	= N

SHOULD THE PLAN INCLUDE: CREATIVE PLACEMAKING DOWNTOWN

Downtowns are thriving — revitalized through arts initiatives, beautification, and programming

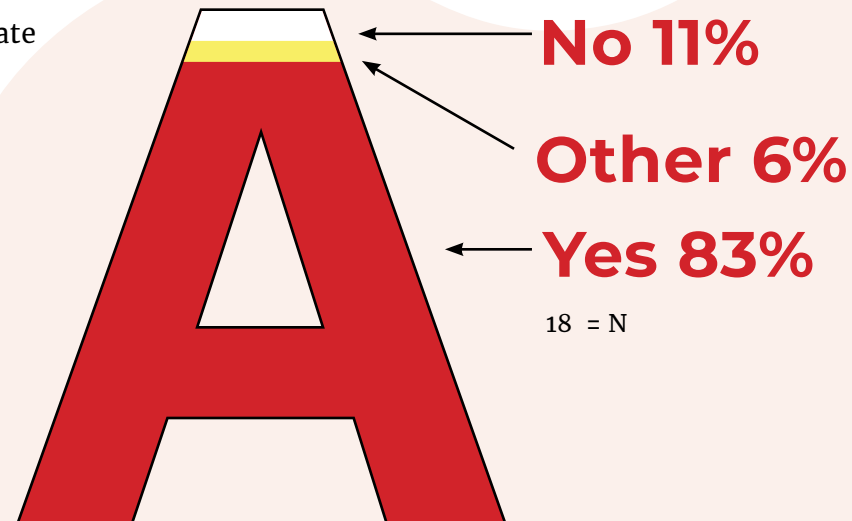
- Activate with public art, partnerships, events, and opportunities to create
- Beautify all of the “small” stuff for civic pride and engagement
- Connect activities, places, and people

Other Comments

Although I think many of these things are good ideas, I think dividing our focus too much will negatively impact what we are working towards. These could be back burner ideas, but I think our focus should be on what was listed above for now.

General Comments

As long as this wasn't just an exercise in hearing ourselves speak, and the county commissioners give serious consideration to the implementation, financial support of and creation of a leadership group that has real teeth and commitment, this wasn't a waste of my time and the grant money. Serious people took time to consider this process. There needs to be a serious plan put in place to make sure action is taken and progress is made.



Items were randomized in the survey to increase the quality of response.

Appendix 2: Cultural Asset Inventory

Name	Type	2nd Type / Discipline	City	Notes
Auglaize Antique Mall	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Heritage	Wapakoneta	
Cridersville Public Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	Cridersville	
FJ Stallo Memorial Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	Minster	
Minster Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	Minster	
New Bremen Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	New Bremen	
New Knoxville Community Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	New Knoxville	
St. Marys Community Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	St. Marys	
Auglaize County Public Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	Wapakoneta	
Wapakoneta-Central Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	Wapakoneta	
White Memorial Library	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Library	Waynesfield	
VFW Post 8445	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Music	Wapakoneta	
James F. Dicke Auditorium	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Performance Venue	New Bremen	New Bremen Jr/Sr High School
New Bremen Crown Pavilion	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Performance Venue	New Bremen	Village of New Bremen
St. Marys City Schools PAC	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Performance Venue	St. Marys	
Moon City Event Center	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Performance Venue	Wapakoneta	
Renaissance Park Event Center	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Performance Venue	Waynesfield	
Otterbein SeniorLife Community	Art in Non-Art Spaces	Programming	St. Marys	
St. Marys Art Center	Arts Organization	Art Center	St. Marys	
Temple of Tolerance & Memorial to Ohio War Dead	Arts Organization	Arts Attraction	Wapakoneta	
Riverside Arts Center	Arts Organization	Arts Center	Wapakoneta	
Collage Community Arts Council	Arts Organization	Council	St. Marys	Sponsors Irish step dancing, jazz trio, silver cornet band, the Dayton Philharmonic String Quartet, etc.
AC Swing Band	Arts Organization	Music, Band	New Bremen	
SM Area Community Band	Arts Organization	Music, Community	St. Marys	

Name	Type	2nd Type / Discipline	City	Notes
St. Marys Theater & Grand Opera House	Arts Organization	Performance Venue	St. Marys	
Wapakoneta Performing Arts Center	Arts Organization	Performance Venue	Wapakoneta	
Lock One Community Arts	Arts Organization	Performing, Youth	New Bremen	Volunteer AO focus on music and theatre
Wapakoneta Theater Guild	Arts Organization	Theater Guild	Wapakoneta	
Crescent Players	Arts Organization	Theater, Community	Minster	
Heritage Trails Park District	Civic Asset	Government	Wapakoneta	
New Bremen Schools	Civic Asset	School, K12	New Bremen	
New Knoxville Local School	Civic Asset	School, K12	New Knoxville	
Wapakoneta High School	Civic Asset	School, K12	Wapakoneta	
Ranly Ad and Tech Art Studios	Creative Industry / Artist	Architect	Minster	
Heather Moeller	Creative Industry / Artist	Art Teacher	New Bremen	New Bremen Jr/Sr High School
Lori Baker	Creative Industry / Artist	Art Teacher	New Bremen	New Bremen Elementary
Gongoozlers	Creative Industry / Artist	Craft Product	New Bremen	
Gr8t Vines	Creative Industry / Artist	Craft Product	St. Marys	
Five Vines	Creative Industry / Artist	Craft Product	Wapakoneta	Auglaize county libraries
Krave Creamery	Creative Industry / Artist	Craft Product	Wapakoneta	
Sara Paper LLC	Creative Industry / Artist	Craft, Paper	Minster	
Boyd Dance Studios	Creative Industry / Artist	Dance Studio	New Bremen	
Kristine's Dance Escape	Creative Industry / Artist	Dance Studio	St. Marys	
L&L Dance Company	Creative Industry / Artist	Dance Studio	Wapakoneta	
The Dance Center	Creative Industry / Artist	Dance Studio	Wapakoneta	
Lock One Theater	Creative Industry / Artist	Film, Digital	New Bremen	Movie theatre located in historic crown theatre
Interior Creations	Creative Industry / Artist	Interior Design	St. Marys	Billie Kay Marsee (visual artist)
Patricia Ruckman	Creative Industry / Artist	Music & Choir Teacher	New Bremen	New Bremen Jr/Sr High School
Nancy Fiegel	Creative Industry / Artist	Music and Art Teacher	New Knoxville	New Knoxville Local Schools

Name	Type	2nd Type / Discipline	City	Notes
Nicole Kirkpatrick	Creative Industry / Artist	Music and Art Teacher	New Knoxville	New Knoxville Local Schools
Holly Smith	Creative Industry / Artist	Music Teacher	New Bremen	New Bremen Elementary
John Anderson	Creative Industry / Artist	Music, Guitar Lessons	Wapakoneta	
Abby Brigadoi	Creative Industry / Artist	Performing	Minster	
Elizabeth Baker	Creative Industry / Artist	Performing	Minster	
Tea Kettles and Paperbacks	Creative Industry / Artist	Retail	Wapakoneta	Inside Casa Chic
Art Source Ohio	Creative Industry / Artist	Retail, Gallery	New Bremen	
CW Jewelry	Creative Industry / Artist	Retail, Jewelry	Wapakoneta	
L.A. Portraits	Creative Industry / Artist	Retail, Photography	Wapakoneta	Theodore James (Artist/Owner)
L Smith Arts	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	Minster	L Smith
Kitti (V) Tolles	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	New Bremen	
Rachel Fark	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	New Bremen	
Corinne Craft	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	St. Marys	
Deborah Gregory	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	St. Marys	
Jessica Hoel	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	St. Marys	
Rachel Parker	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	St. Marys	
Carol Millisor	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	Wapakoneta	Riverside Art Center (Represents)
Jodi Knock	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	Wapakoneta	Riverside Art Center (Represents)
Pat Weitholter	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist	Wapakoneta	Riverside Art Center (Represents)
Terri Lynne Blosser	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist, Watercolor	Wapakoneta	Riverside Art Center (Represents)
Tom Lehman	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual Artist, Watercolor	Wapakoneta	Riverside Art Center (Represents)
Intricate Designs	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual, Design	Minster	
The Flower Bucket	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual, Floral Design	New Knoxville	
Haehn Florist and Greenhouses	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual, Floral Design	Wapakoneta	
DP Design	Creative Industry / Artist	Visual, Photographer	New Bremen	David Pence

Name	Type	2nd Type / Discipline	City	Notes
Grand Lake Area Literature Festival	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Celina	
Minster Oktoberfest	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Minster	
Independence Day Celebration (New Knoxville)	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	New Knoxville	New Knoxville Community Park Association
Chamber Connections Mini Business Expo	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	St. Marys	St. Marys Chamber of Commerce
Miracle on Spring Street	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	St. Marys	St. Marys Chamber of Commerce
Puck-i-huddle Fall Craft Show	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	St. Marys	Heritage Trails Park District, St. Marys Chamber of Commerce at HS
Riverside Bluesfest	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	St. Marys	
St. Marys Summerfest	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	St. Marys	SMART (St. Marys Area Resource Team)
Walk With Nature Fall Festival	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	St. Marys	
Waynestock	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	St. Marys	
Winter Dreams - A Holiday Tour of Homes	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	St. Marys	St. Marys Chamber of Commerce
Auglaize County Fair	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Wapakoneta	Auglaize County Fairgrounds
Harvest Fest	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Wapakoneta	Chamber of Commerce
Holiday Open House	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Wapakoneta	Chamber of Commerce
Jingle Hop Sip & Shop	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Wapakoneta	Chamber of Commerce
Summer Moon Festival	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Wapakoneta	Apollo 11 Mission to the Moon Celebration
Taste of Wapakoneta	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Wapakoneta	Chamber of Commerce
Wapakoneta Craft Beer & Wine Festival	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Wapakoneta	Chamber of Commerce
Wapakoneta Summer Moon Festival	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Wapakoneta	Chamber of Commerce
Brimstone Haunt	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Waynesfield	Renaissance Park Event Center
Celtic Fest Ohio	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Waynesfield	Renaissance Park Event Center
Ohio Renaissance Festival	Events & Traditions	Annual (festival, fair)	Waynesfield	Renaissance Park Event Center
Arts in the Parks, Minster	Events & Traditions	Recurring Series	Minster	Arts Place (Provider)
Arts in the Parks, New Bremen	Events & Traditions	Recurring Series	New Bremen	Arts Place (Provider)
New Bremen Summer Concert Series	Events & Traditions	Recurring Series	New Bremen	Spons: New Bremen, Minster, SW Aug Co Chamber

Name	Type	2nd Type / Discipline	City	Notes
Arts in the Parks, St. Marys	Events & Traditions	Recurring Series	St. Marys	
Theater Second Saturdays	Events & Traditions	Recurring Series	St. Marys	St. Marys Chamber of Commerce
Art in the Park	Events & Traditions	Recurring Series	Wapakoneta	Riverside Art Center (Host)
Party in the Park Concert Series	Events & Traditions	Recurring Series	Wapakoneta	Chamber of Commerce
First Fridays, St. Marys	Events & Traditions	Regular (1st F, market)	St. Marys	Arts Place (Provider)
First Fridays, Wapakoneta	Events & Traditions	Regular (1st F, market)	Wapakoneta	
Wapak Farmers Market	Events & Traditions	Regular (1st F, market)	Wapakoneta	
Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce	Funders & Friends	Chamber	Wapakoneta	
Knights of Columbus	Funders & Friends	Civic	St. Marys	
St. Marys Rotary Club	Funders & Friends	Civic	St. Marys	
New Bremen Foundation	Funders & Friends	Community Foundation	New Bremen	
St. Marys Community Foundation	Funders & Friends	Community Foundation	St. Marys	St. Marys Community Public Library
The Wapakoneta Area Community Foundation	Funders & Friends	Community Foundation	Wapakoneta	
Wayne-Goshen Community Foundation	Funders & Friends	Community Foundation	Waynesfield	
Friends of the Francis J. Stallo Memorial Library	Funders & Friends	Friends	Minster	
Friends of St. Marys Theatre & Grand Opera House	Funders & Friends	Friends	St. Marys	
St. Marys Develops	Funders & Friends	Improvement / Economic	St. Marys	
Grand Lake Region Visitor's Bureau	Funders & Friends	Tourism	Wapakoneta	
Elm Grove Cemetery	History & Heritage	Cemetery	St. Marys	
The Shannon Stock Company	History & Heritage	Historic Marker	Wapakoneta	
Egypt Catholic Church and Rectory	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Egypt	
St. John Catholic Church and Parish Hall	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Fryburg	
Glynnwood Catholic Church	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Glynnwood	
Minster Elementary School	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Minster	
St. Augustine Catholic Church	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Minster	Expansive music programming

Name	Type	2nd Type / Discipline	City	Notes
Adolph Boesel House	History & Heritage	Historic Site	New Bremen	
Julius Boesel House	History & Heritage	Historic Site	New Bremen	
The Luelleman House	History & Heritage	Historic Site	New Bremen	New Bremen Historical Association
J.H. Manchester Round Barn	History & Heritage	Historic Site	New Hampshire	
H.E. Fledderjohann (House, Office, Summer Kitchen)	History & Heritage	Historic Site	New Knoxville	
Dr. Issac Elmer Williams (House and Office)	History & Heritage	Historic Site	St. Marys	
Fountain Hotel, The	History & Heritage	Historic Site	St. Marys	Auglaize County Historical Society
Holy Rosary Catholic Church	History & Heritage	Historic Site	St. Marys	
The “Belle of St. Marys” Canal Boat	History & Heritage	Historic Site	St. Marys	St. Marys recreated, placed in park as memorial
The Reservoir Mill	History & Heritage	Historic Site	St. Marys	
Hugh T. Rinehart House	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Uniopolis	
Uniopolis Town Hall	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Uniopolis	
1874 Casper Rhine Boots and Shoe Store	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
Apollo 11 Mission and First Moon Walk	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
Auglaize County Courthouse	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
Blume High School	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
Catahecassa Blackhoof Memorial	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	Auglaize County Historical Society
Charles Wintzer Building	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
First Presbyterian Church of Wapakoneta	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
Fort Amanda Site	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
Fort Amanda State Memorial	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	Ohio History Connection, memorial to Fort Amanda
John H. Nichols House	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
Olive Branch Church	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	Auglaize County Historical Society
St. Joseph Catholic Church and School	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	
Wapakoneta Commercial Historic District	History & Heritage	Historic Site	Wapakoneta	

Name	Type	2nd Type / Discipline	City	Notes
Apollo Command Module Mockup	History & Heritage	Historical Marker	Wapakoneta	
Neil Armstrong's Childhood Home	History & Heritage	Historical Marker	Wapakoneta	
Herbst Chair Monument @ Greenlawn	History & Heritage	Monument	Wapakoneta	Polished granite, largest when installed 1913
Uniopolis Historical Museum	History & Heritage	Museum, History	Cridersville	First Presbyterian Church
Bicycle Museum of America	History & Heritage	Museum, History	New Bremen	
Lock One Lockkeepers House	History & Heritage	Museum, History	New Bremen	New Bremen Historical Sites & Museums
The Pape House	History & Heritage	Museum, History	New Bremen	New Bremen Historical Association
Daniel F. Mooney Museum	History & Heritage	Museum, History	St. Marys	
Armstrong Air and Space Museum	History & Heritage	Museum, History	Wapakoneta	
Wapakoneta Local History Museum, The	History & Heritage	Museum, History	Wapakoneta	Auglaize County Historical Society
Cridersville Historical Society	History & Heritage	Society	Cridersville	
Minster Historical Society and Museum	History & Heritage	Society	Minster	
Miami & Erie Canal Corridor Association	History & Heritage	Society	New Bremen	
New Bremen Historical Association	History & Heritage	Society	New Bremen	
New Knoxville Historical Society	History & Heritage	Society	New Knoxville	
Uniopolis Historical Society	History & Heritage	Society	Uniopolis	Auglaize County Historical Society
Auglaize County Historical Society	History & Heritage	Society	Wapakoneta	
Waynefield Area Historical Society	History & Heritage	Society	Waynesfield	
Shakespeare Club	Informal Group	Club/Group	St. Marys	Chamber of Commerce
Randy Boesche	Notable	Hometown	New Knoxville	
Tony Bukowski	Notable	Hometown	Wapakoneta	
Auglaize County Fairgrounds	Park / Trail	Fairground	Wapakoneta	
Heritage Park	Park / Trail	Park	St. Marys	Local heritage, relationships with Germany & Japan
Lock 14 Park	Park / Trail	Park	St. Marys	
Dr. Elizabeth Yahl Kuffner Nature Preserve	Park / Trail	Park, Nature Reserve	St. Marys	

Name	Type	2nd Type / Discipline	City	Notes
The Miami Erie Canal Trail (Towpath)	Park / Trail	Trail	Multiple	
Bloody Bridge Trail Head	Park / Trail	Trail	St. Marys	
Trinity Lutheran Moulton Mural	Public Art	Mural	Moulton	
“Auglaize County Neil Armstrong” Mural	Public Art	Mural	New Knoxville	
“Boom Town” Mural	Public Art	Mural	St. Marys	Dan Keyes, artist (deceased); completed 2006
“Butterfly” Mural	Public Art	Mural	St. Marys	Libby Slye and Skylar Yanochko (Artist), 2020
“Canal Town” Mural	Public Art	Mural	St. Marys	Dan Keyes, artist; completed 2006
“Girty’s Town” Mural	Public Art	Mural	St. Marys	Dan Keyes, artist; completed 2006
“Miami & Erie Trading Company” Mural	Public Art	Mural	St. Marys	
Belle of St. Marys Mural	Public Art	Mural	St. Marys	
Memorial Park Mural	Public Art	Mural	St. Marys	Sarah & Alli Hess, artists; completed 2022
“Auglaize County” Mural	Public Art	Mural	Wapakoneta	
“Beauty of Diversity” Mural	Public Art	Mural	Wapakoneta	Riverside Art Center
“Picket’s Charge” Mural	Public Art	Mural	Wapakoneta	
“Tribute to Apollo 11” Mural	Public Art	Mural	Wapakoneta	Donated by artist John Cerney of CA.
“Wapakoneta and American History” Mural	Public Art	Mural	Wapakoneta	Joseph Limarzi, 1937
Kuening/Komminsk Park	Public Art	Sculpture	New Bremen	
Civil War Soldier Monument	Public Art	Sculpture	St. Marys	Elm Grove Cemetery
“First on the Moon” The Helmet	Public Art	Sculpture	Wapakoneta	
“The Copper Lady”	Public Art	Sculpture	Wapakoneta	
Downtown Armstrong Statue	Public Art	Sculpture	Wapakoneta	
Metal Utility Box Murals	Public Art	Utility Wraps	Wapakoneta	Riverside Art Center

Appendix 3: Resources

Implementation Guides & Ideas

Arts Impact Data Sources

- Americans for the Arts: [Arts & Economic Prosperity](#), [Impact Explorer](#)
- US Bureau of Economic Analysis: [Arts & Culture Data](#)
- A [treasure trove of resources](#) from the National Endowment for the Arts
- [Why the arts matter in Ohio](#) – Americans for the Arts
- [Creative Economy State Profiles](#) –NASAA
- SMU DataArts: [Arts Vibrancy 2024](#) (includes county-level detail)

Grant Programs

- Bloomberg Philanthropies [Asphalt Art Grant Program](#)
- National Endowment for the Arts [Our Town](#)
- Ohio Arts Council [Grants](#)
- Ohio Humanities [Grant Programs](#)

Public Art Guides, Templates & Networks

- Putnam County Mural Project: [Strategies for Public Art: A Guide to Creating Engaging Public Art with your Indiana Community](#)
- [Asphalt Art Guide & Safety Study](#) (Bloomberg) and [Baltimore Toolkit](#)
- Sample Guidelines from [Madison](#) and [Fort Wayne](#)
- Sample Plans from [Bloomington](#) and [Plainfield](#)
- [Templates](#) from the Public Art Archive
- ABA: [1st Amendment Limitations on Government Regulation of Artwork](#)
- Online collections and artist connections: [CODAworx](#), [PublicArtArchive](#)
- Americans for the Arts [Public Art Network](#): professional development, tools resources, and listserv

Creative Placemaking Guides & Ideas

- Project for Public Spaces [definition](#) and [deeper resources](#)
- Creative placemaking is [strengthening communities with arts as the core](#)
- USDA: [“Rural America Placemaking Toolkit”](#)
- NACo: [Creative County Placemaking Initiative](#) with resources
- Where can I find implementation ideas?
 - Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper [explained and explore examples](#)
 - Better Blocks [free open-source designs](#)
 - Our Town [treasure trove](#) from past NEA projects
 - Americans for the Arts [database of projects](#) from across the country
- Attend [Arts Impact Ohio Conference](#) for more ideas every two years

Case Study Samples

Rushville, IN; Population, 6,187

Sample Percent for Art Ordinance

Excerpted from the City of Rushville Zoning Ordinance (edited for space) *ARTICLE IV OVERLAY DISTRICTS A. CORRIDOR OVERLAY 9. Site Design Standards.*

d. Public spaces and community art

- i. For the purposes on this section construction costs are expenses incurred by a contractor for labor, material, equipment, financing, services, utilities, etc., plus overhead and contractor profit. Construction costs do not include cost of land, architectural design, consultant, and engineering fees.
- ii. This section is not applicable to façade renovations, or interior remodel/renovations confined to the existing building footprint.
- iii. **New Construction.** (1) Proposed developments or projects where the lot area is greater than 40,000 sf shall contribute to the enhancement of the community and its public spaces by providing enhancements that are aesthetically consistent with the development standards set out in the corridor overlay district.
- iv. Each proposed development or project shall contribute to the establishment or enhancement of the community and public spaces by providing at a minimum two (2) of the following: (1) Landscaped patio/seating area; or, (2) Pedestrian plaza with benches; or, (3) Window shopping walkway; or, (4) Outdoor playground area; or, (5) Water feature, not related to required detention or retention ponds; or, (6) Architectural elements as part of the primary entrance; or, (7) Another deliberating shaped area or focal feature or amenity that, in the Planning Office Staff, or Rushville Board of Public Works adequately enhances the environment, public spaces or aesthetic quality of the development.
- v. If the developer of the proposed project wishes in lieu of providing any item listed in (iv) above, may choose to contribute to the City of Rushville's Art Commission as follows: (1) Based on $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the total construction cost of the project, but not less or greater than (A) or (B): A. If $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of total construction cost is less than \$1,000 the total contribution shall not be less than \$1,000 B. If $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of total construction is greater than 10,000, total contribution shall not exceed \$10,000.
- vi. **Additions to existing buildings.** (1) Proposed addition(s) equal to or greater than 5,000 sf shall contribute to the enhancement of the community and its public spaces by providing enhancements that are aesthetically consistent with the development standards set out in the corridor overlay and are useable by the public. (2) Each proposed development or project shall contribute to the establishment or enhancement of the community and public spaces by providing at a minimum one (1) of the following
[repeat of language from section iv. Above]
- vii. If a developer of a proposed projects wishes in lieu of providing any item listed in (vi) above, may choose to contribute the City of Rushville's Art Commission as follows: (1) Based on $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the total construction cost of the project, but not less or greater than (A) or (B): A. If $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of total construction cost is less than \$500 the total contribution shall not be less than \$500; B. If $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of total construction is greater than \$1,000, total contribution shall not exceed \$5,000.
- viii. In lieu of (iv) or (vi) above the proposed development or project for new construction or additions may wish to contribute to the purchase of art on behalf of the City of Rushville's Art Commission. (1) The estimated value of proposed art to be purchased is to have an estimated value of: A. New Construction: lot area equal to or greater than 40,000 sf: \$10,000. B. Addition(s): equal to or greater than 5,000 sf: \$5,000. (2) Proposed art to be purchased shall be as follows: A. Develop a design; B. Present proposed design, including estimated value to the City of Rushville's Art Commission; C. Present City of Rushville's Art Commission approved design and estimated value to the Planning Office Staff.
- ix. A plaque will be affixed to the art purchased by the developer or designated person(s) in recognition of their contribution. (1) Public art shall be displayed in a location that is visible from U.S. Highway 52, State Road 3 or State Road 44 or other crossing streets or a public plaza.

Sample Design Standards

Excerpted from Winchester's (Randolph County) Comprehensive & Strategic Investment Plan
Originated from City of Rushville Zoning Ordinance, *ARTICLE IV OVERLAY DISTRICTS A. CORRIDOR OVERLAY*

Some cities, like Rushville, incorporate design guidelines directly in their zoning ordinances. Rushville's design guidelines appear in their section regarding its Corridor Overlay District, which consists of land visible and accessible from several high traffic roads (State Road 3, State Road 44, and U.S. 52). This is done to encourage "efficient land use, promote coordinated development, permit innovative site designs, establish development standards and preserve the integrity of the roadways within the corridors," (Rushville, IN., Municipal Code § K(2)(a)). The code includes general design standards some including:

v.

Architectural design standards. (b) Entry features. Entryway features shall be required at the primary entrance to the structure and shall include at least three (3) of the following design elements:

- i.) Raised corniced parapets over the door, peaked roof forms having an average slope greater than or equal to a minimum 5:12 pitch, arches, or architectural details such as tile work and moldings that are integrated into the building structure and design;
- ii.) Integral planters or wing walls that incorporate landscaped areas and/or places for sitting;
- iii.) Enhanced exterior lighting such as wall sconces, building mounted accent lights, or decorative pedestal lights. (1)
Pedestrian facilities.
 - a.) A continuous, delineated pedestrian route network no less than six (6) feet wide, that continues from the perimeter public sidewalk to the primary customer entrance of all primary buildings on the site shall be provided.

Another provision is that of materials used on non-residential front facades in the district. Permissible materials in Rushville's Corridor Overlay District are:

Brick or face tile; Wood; Native stone; Glass, provided that reflective glass is limited to a maximum of 50% of the area of any façade wall on which the glass is used; Tinted and/or textured concrete masonry units such as split face block and burnished block; Tilt-up concrete panels that are adorned or textured; Architectural pre-cast concrete; Architectural metal; Exterior insulation and finishing system; or, Fiber cement board. Rushville's approach to Design Guidelines is one that is metered; affecting no other district but its Mainstreet Overlay. This means that the weight of impact the guidelines carry on quality of place is more so determined by location within the city than on the overall design of the city. Winchester may draw from the specificity of requirements or the broadness of rationale for adoption of guidelines such as Rushville's.

THANK YOU!

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John Bergman

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