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Contact: Dawn Espe,
Regional Development Planner
PH: 218-894-3233, despe@regionfive.org
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Region Five Development Commission will receive funding from ArtPlace America’s 2016 National Creative Placemaking Fund

29 projects were chosen to receive \$11 million in funding

(December 6, 2016) [ArtPlace America](#) announced that Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) is one of 29 projects chosen, from almost 1400 applications, to receive funding through its National Creative Placemaking Fund in 2016.

ArtPlace America’s National Creative Placemaking Fund is a highly competitive national program – funding 2% of initial applications – that invests money in communities across the country in which artists, arts organizations, and arts and culture activity will help drive community development change in the sectors of agriculture and food; economic development; education and youth; environment and energy; health, housing; immigration; public safety; transportation; or workforce development.

“Creative Placemaking seeks the full and robust integration of arts, culture, and community-engaged design into the decisions that define the ebb and flow of community life. These grant recipients embody what this looks like at its most effective best,” said Rip Rapson, president and CEO of The Kresge Foundation and Chair of the ArtPlace President’s Council. “The sheer volume of applications for these grants suggests the growing updraft of creative placemaking efforts throughout the nation.”

“We are absolutely thrilled to be adding this dynamic set of projects to our portfolio this year,” says F. Javier Torres, Director of National Grantmaking. “The thoughtful and innovative strategies in this year’s projects are truly indicative of the vital role that artists and arts and culture organizations play in strengthening local policy, and the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities.”

The complete list of the 2016 projects for ArtPlace’s National Creative Placemaking Fund may be found [here](#).

ArtPlace America awards \$440,000.00 to R5DC to support an economic development opportunity that utilizes culinary, functional & nonfunctional art installations and experiences intended to make [Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace](#) in Little Falls a destination as well as representing the unique cultural diversity of central Minnesota.

Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace is a newly constructed 20,000 sf local food processing facility, cooking demonstration kitchen and indoor winter marketplace for growers and makers, established by a cadre of thinkers over the last 6 years who hosted its grand opening April 1, 2016. Sprout Marketplace offers a unique community engagement setting that creatively engages residents to design projects &

intrinsic/social programming at a one of a kind regional space where art/culture/food increase cultural appreciation & offer positive economic impacts.

Arlene Jones, manager and founder of **Sprout** shares, “Our opportunities include cultural appreciation and alignment of arts and food sectors that can be enjoyed by all residents as well as increased economic prosperity through access and awareness of underserved growers & makers of the region”.

Cheryl Hills, Executive Director of R5DC, expresses, “The project involves committed culinary and culturally diverse artists in many areas - visual/dance/film/folk & music- showing that addressing economic prosperity can be done in ways that improve social cohesion, and this regional opportunity does just that.”

Local artist, Heidi Jeub, conveys “A variety of works funded through the ArtPlace support including traditional, contemporary, sculptural, interactive or collaborative art will be utilized to share stories, deepen experiences and to enhance additional purchases of food and art at the Sprout Marketplace”.

What will this effort deliver?.....

Commissioned ART. Project Core Team members from Sprout, R5DC, The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa, 3 Cheers Hospitality, The Latino Economic Development Corporation and local grower artists with trusted relationships within grower, Amish and Somali communities, continue to meet with culturally diverse communities to prioritize commissioned art that will reside at the Sprout Marketplace to allow for ongoing conversation & appreciation of diverse cultural heritage.

Art demonstrations. In addition to commissioned art from culturally diverse artist, grant funds will support performing artists and artist demonstrations coordinated for general public on open Marketplace dates.

Multi-cultural culinary art demonstration and cooking classes. Core team members engage regional culinary artists/chefs to set cooking demonstrations and cooking classes of heritage recipes, alongside community members.

Business classes. Growers and artists will set forth a schedule of learning opportunities, such as succession planning that increase economic prosperity.

Deployment of a variety of art forms selected to address economic development offer mutually beneficial impacts. Artists partner with local growers at Sprout Marketplace to increase economic benefits and livable wages for both. All activities improve our region’s way of doing business, create an improved ecosystem that collectively provides new experiences for residents to financially prosper, and welcome all resident to participate and learn from each other in ways that inspire future initiatives.

About Region Five Development Commission

The mission of Region Five Development Commission is to enhance the vitality and quality of life in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties. Visit us online at www.regionfive.org.

About ArtPlace America

[ArtPlace America](#) (ArtPlace) is a ten-year collaboration among 16 partner foundations, along with 8 federal agencies and 6 financial institutions, that works to position arts and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities.

ArtPlace focuses its work on creative placemaking, projects in which art plays an intentional and integrated role in place-based community planning and development. This brings artists, arts organizations, and artistic activity into the suite of placemaking strategies pioneered by Jane Jacobs and her colleagues, who believed that community development must be locally informed, human-centric, and holistic.

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