

Better Places

photo credit: Jason Duquette-Hoffman, Town of Middlebury



February 8, 2021

Richard Amore, Department of Housing and Community Development
Chris Cochran, Department of Housing and Community Development

House Committee on Commerce
and Economic Development

Community Planning + Revitalization

**Providing tools, training, grants,
and incentives for local leaders
to plan and implement projects
that support thriving, walkable
communities.**



Place-based Economic Development



Downtowns

photo credit: Ian Albinson, Bristol Core



Better Places



Bristol, VT

photo credit: NPS National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Funding, Tools, and Incentives



Municipal Planning
Grants
\$450K

Better Connections
Grants
\$200K

Downtown
Transportation Fund
\$450K
[\$5M]

Downtown/Village
Center Tax Credits
\$3M
[\$1.75M]

Electric Vehicle Supply
Equipment Grants
\$2.6M
[\$1M]

Regional Planning
Commissions
\$2.9M

Regulatory Incentives
Act 250
[exemptions]

Special Initiatives
Better Places
[\$5M]

Better Places

photo credit: Ben Carpenter, Montpelier Alive

VT Department of Housing and Community Development | Vermont Community Foundation | Vermont Arts Council
AARP-VT | VT Agency of Agriculture, Farm and Markets | Local Motion | VTrans
Preservation Trust of Vermont | VT Department of Health | National Life Foundation | + many more...

Partnerships



Place-based Economic Development



Burlington



St. Johnsbury



Northfield



Rutland



Montpelier



Better Places Receives Robust Interest

101 Expressed Interest

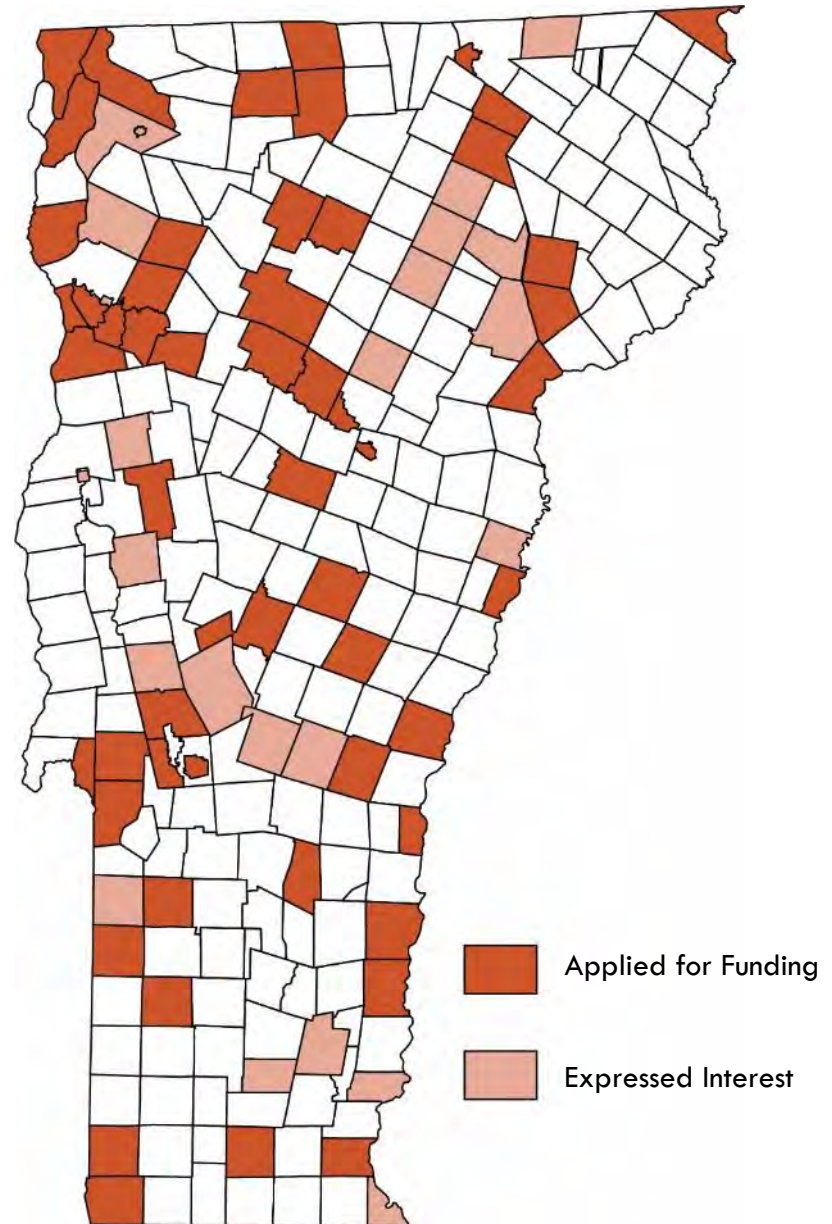
63 Projects Applied

54 Communities

\$1M in Grant Request

\$90K Available Funds

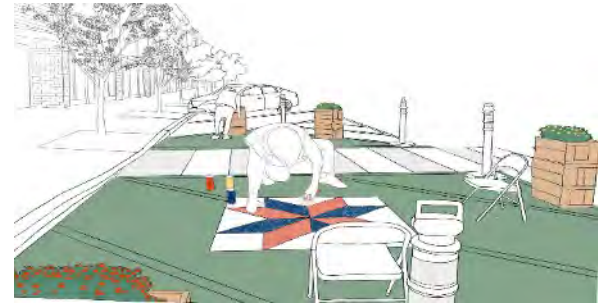
5-10 Awarded Grants





Creative Projects

Create a sense of place, pride, and ownership through community art projects. Artwork, wayfinding and beautification encourage people to visit and linger.



Demonstration Projects

Experiment with ideas to test their feasibility and community acceptance prior to making a large capital investment.



New Uses for Under-utilized Spaces

Give underused local space a second life with a new use or amenity, like a pop-up gallery, playground, or gathering place.



Streetscape Improvements and Beautification

Reclaim local spaces to improve the village, or for gardeners to grow food, bring cultures together, and create a beautiful street.



Food and Markets

Bring the community together around a community dinner on the village green or showcase local art and produce with a market.



Downtown and Village Events

Build stronger community connections and pride, make places livelier, and provide more buzz and energy downtown.

Newport

New Downtown Park and Connection to Lake



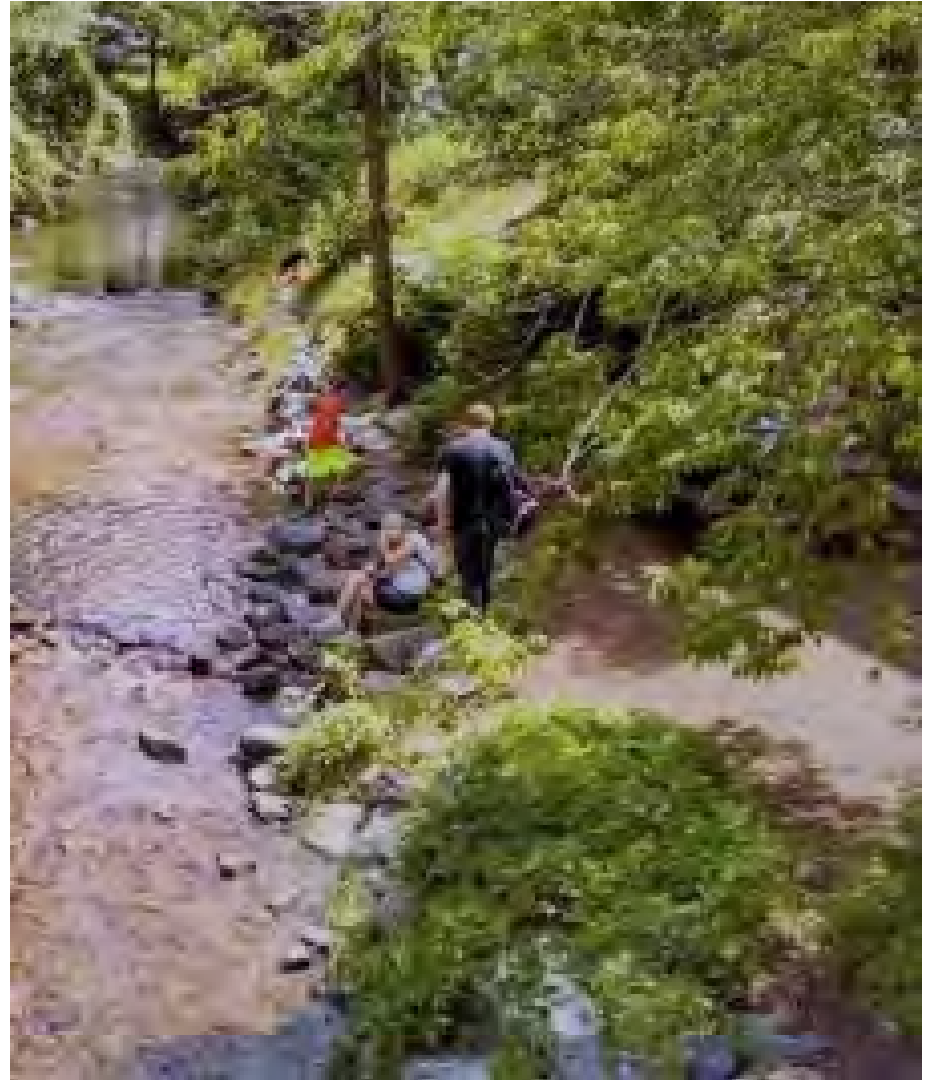
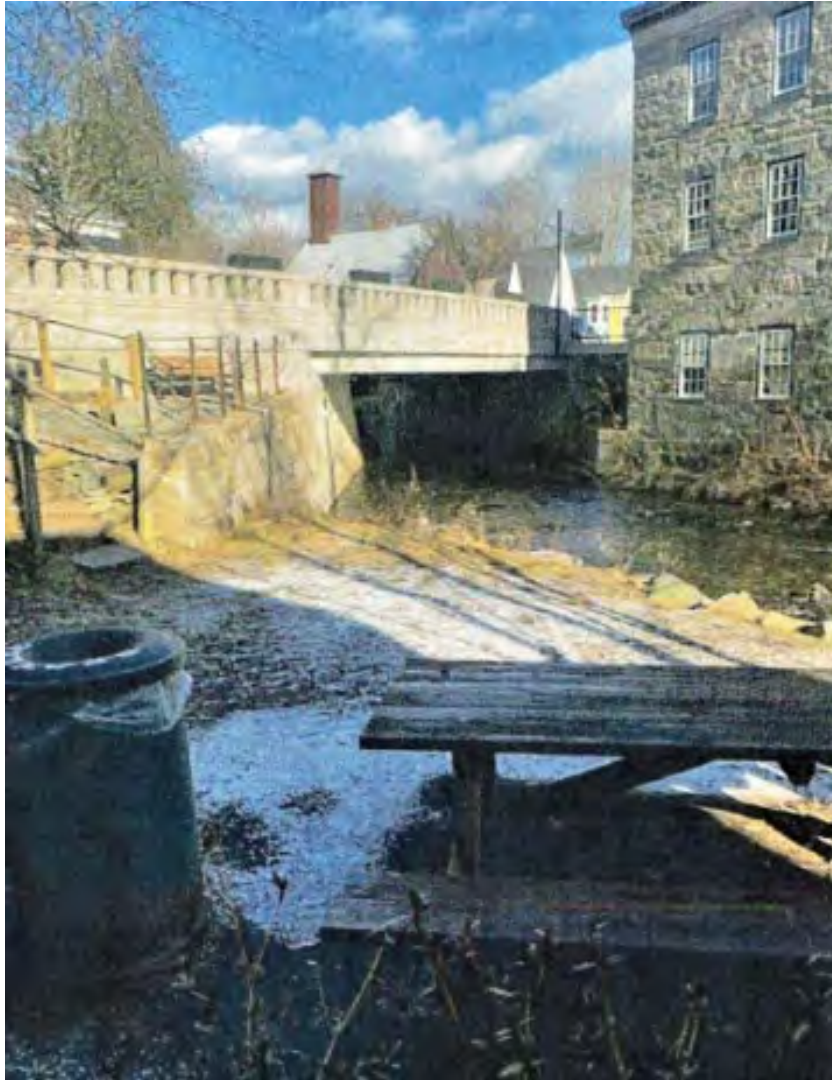
Rupert – Sheldon Store

Outdoor Seating and Dining Area



Woodstock – Teagle’s Landing Renovation

Improving and Expanding Access to the Park and River



Pittsford – Village Farm

Creating a Community Gathering Space at the Farm



Montpelier – Main Street Pocket Park

Creating a new Community Gathering Space Downtown



Existing



Proposed

Burlington – Placemaking Tool Kit

Creating parklets, market stalls, and heaters for outdoor spaces



Renderings by: Elliott Katz, Generator Makerspace

Vendor Booth



Photo Credit: Captain Tom's Tiki Bar

Photo Credit: Archives

Photo Credit: El Cortijo

Street Seats Program
2020



Photo Credit: Mike Schultz/Clarkcountytoday.com

Photo Credit: Brittany Gervais/Terrace Standard

Photo Credit: architecturalrecord.com

Parklet Kit
Inspiration

Bennington – Shine Your Light

Community Art Project to Add Light and Poetry Downtown



Lyndonville – Gallery Green Space

Create a new gathering space downtown to host local artist



Community Paint by Number Mural
2020 Fall
Satellite Gallery Proposed
Green Space



Fenced area near corner and
sidewalks with Gallery bay window



Highly visible corner
Depot and Church Street

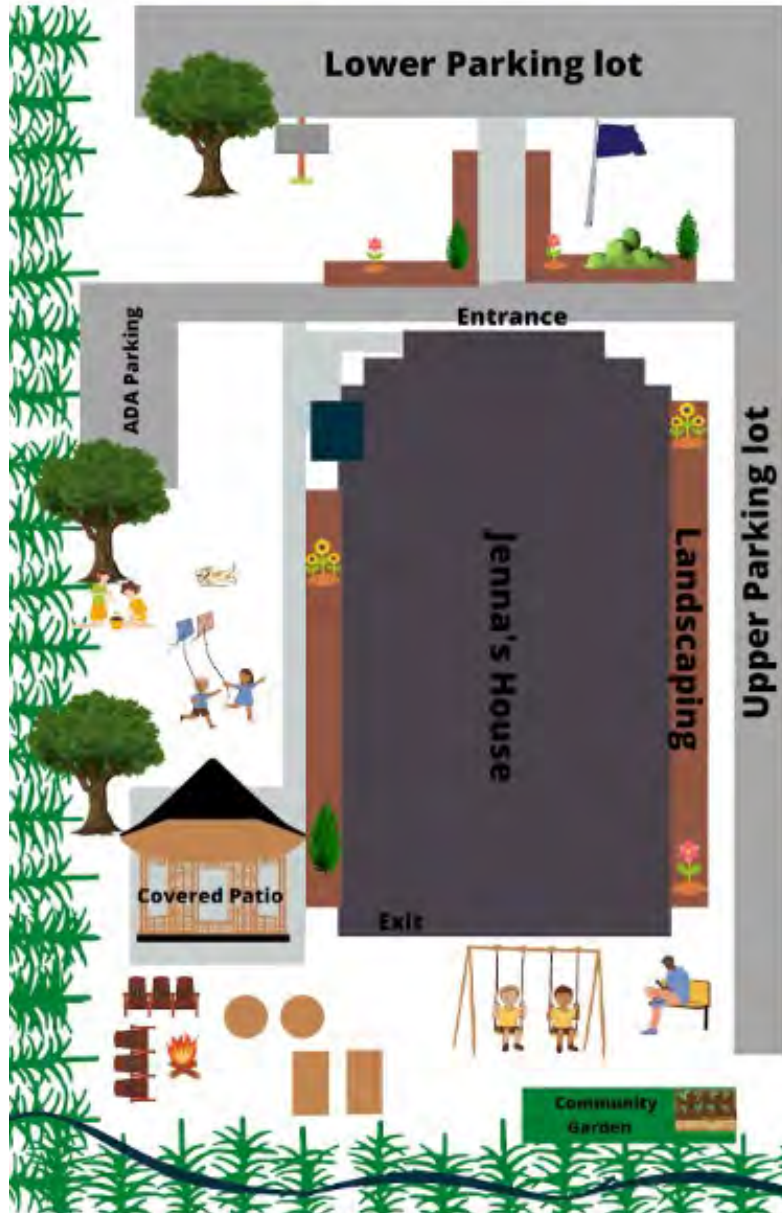
Ludlow – Gathering Spots

Outdoor Seating and Dining Areas



Johnson – Jenna's Promise

Creating Safe Spaces for Recovery



Rutland – Center Street Improvements

Outdoor Seating and Dining Areas



Before



After

Richford – Outdoor Ice Rink

Creating Winter Park and Ice Rink



Fairlee – Village Green Improvements

Electrifying the Village Green



St. Johnsbury – Bringing Live Art Downtown

Bringing Music and Art Downtown



A photograph of a community event in a park. In the background, several white pop-up tents are set up on a grassy area, with people walking around. Large, leafy green trees are scattered throughout the scene. On the left, a black lamppost holds a green banner that reads "SAINT ALBANS" and "MEET". A paved sidewalk runs along the bottom left. The overall atmosphere is bright and community-oriented.

**A new grant program
that's about **building
community,** not just
implementing projects.**



Better Places



Photo Credit: Bill Truex

Church Street in Burlington, Vermont in 1979. . .



**KEN'S
PIZZA
AND
PUB**

**KEN'S
PIZZA
AND
PUB**

• Famous Since 1973 •

**PIZZA BY
THE SLICE**

Soup - Salad - Sandwiches
Pub Fare - Appetizers
Italian Dinners
Full Bar & Craft Beers

**Vermont
ICE CREAM**

Try something new for **one day...**



Try something new for **one week...**



Try something new for **four blocks...**





Bethel, VT



Porter
VILLAGE
SANDWICH
Shop

The
Café
at 269 Main

THIRD
BRANCH
WINES

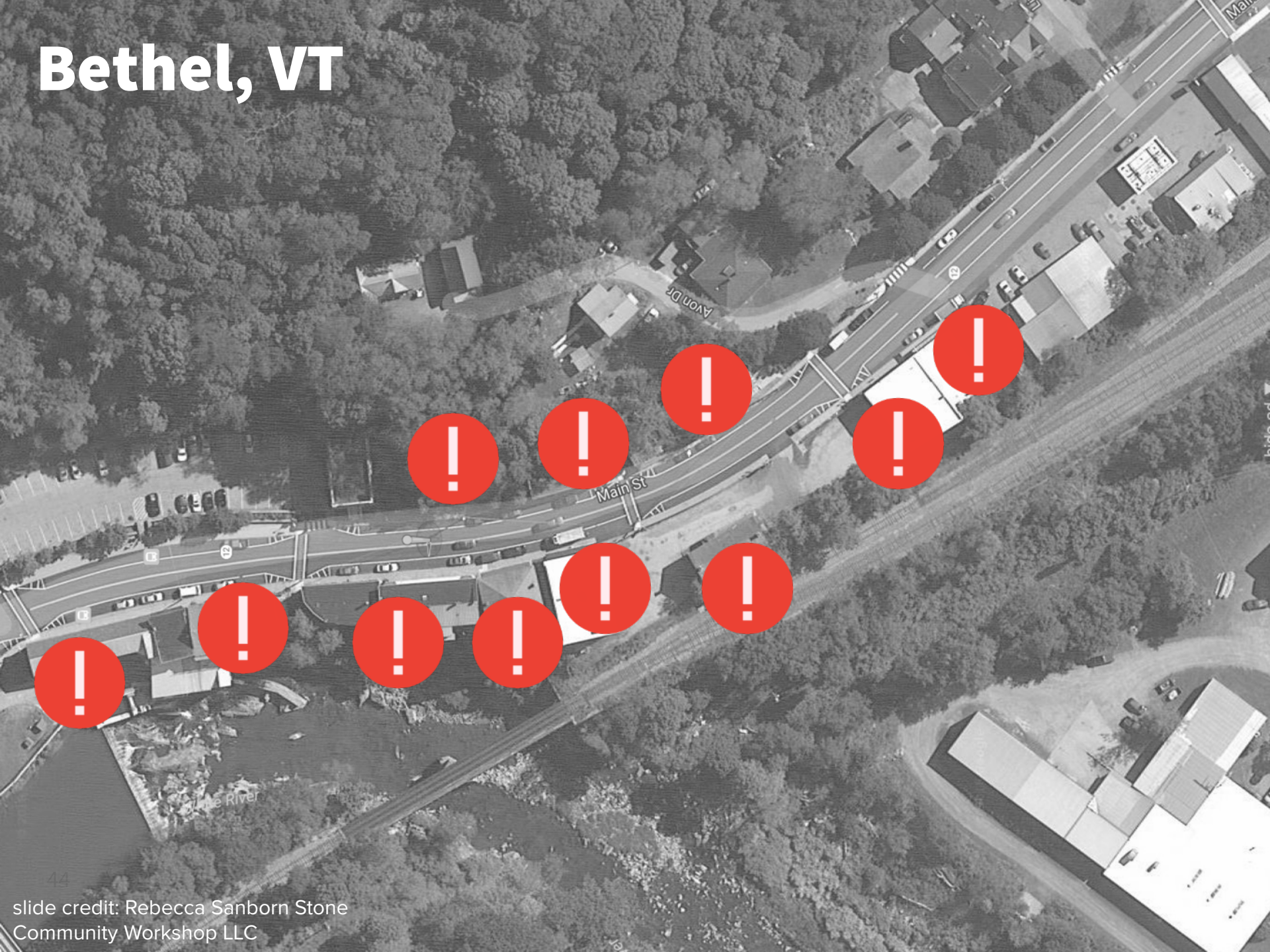




Photo credit: Bethel Revitalization Initiative



Bethel, VT



Bethel, VT



slide credit: Rebecca Sanborn Stone
Community Workshop LLC



Photo Credit: Joshua Schwartz



STOP

WEIGHT
LIMIT
3
TONS

Photo Credit: Joshua Schwartz



Photo Credit: Joshua Schwartz



Photo Credit: Zac Freeman



CAMBRIDGE
Arts
COUNCIL

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
MAIN STREET IN JEFFERSONVILLE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11
10AM - 4PM

photo credits: Jessica Frost





photo credit: Downtown Brattleboro Alliance



Why invest in Placemaking?

Placemaking is...



Placemaking can....



Placemaking can....



Placemaking can....



Builds Social Capital



photo credit: Downtown Brattleboro Alliance

Spurs

Entrepreneurship



Empowers Residents



Supports Active Lifestyles



Celebrates the Arts



Increases Food Access



Test Ideas



Builds Neighborhoods



Creates Connections



photo credit: Ward Joyce

Endure Winter



Endure Winter



Cultivates Leadership

Town of Bethel, Vermont

Meet Our Selectboard



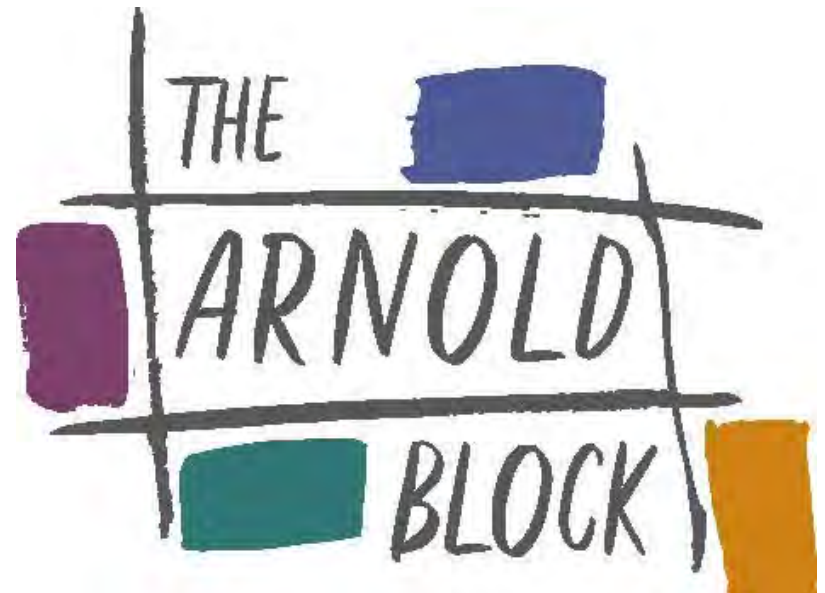
Lindley, Paul, Chris, Dave, Moe

The Selectboard meets at 6 PM on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Town Hall 318 Main Street.

Meetings are recorded and are available for viewing through [Orca Media, Inc.](#)

Lindley Brainard

Selectboard, 2-Year Term, Expires 2020



Embraces Vermonters



photo credit: Strolling of the Heifers

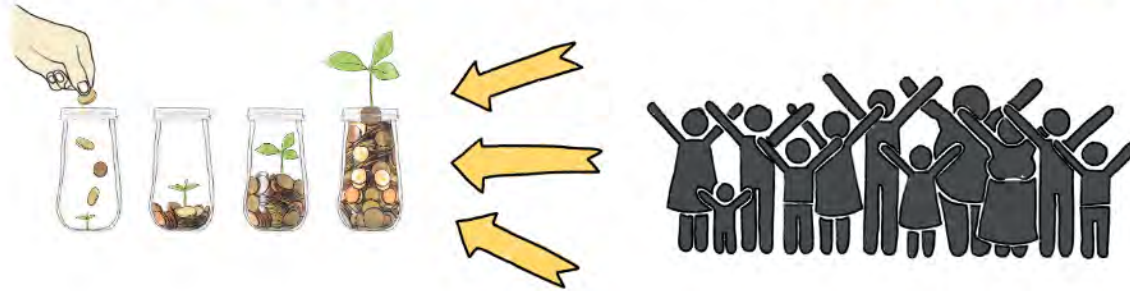
Place-based, People-focused Investment



CROWDFUNDING



RAISE **FUNDS** FROM MANY **PEOPLE**



GOAL

IDEA

CAMPAIGN

SHARING

DONATIONS





SALEM, MA

Revitalize Congress Street

Making Congress Street beautiful, walkable, and thriving with activity

\$42,150

of \$40,000

Project Closed

★ Matching Grant: **MassDevelopment**

[VIEW](#)

⚡ SUCCESS!



NORTH ADAMS, MA

The Ashland Street Initiative

Creating a corridor of community vibrance.

\$15,250

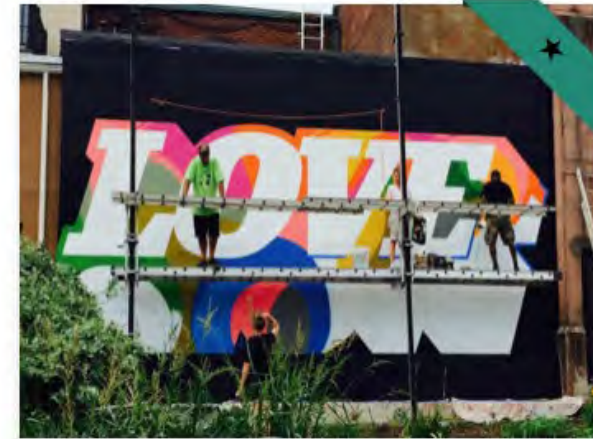
of \$12,500

Project Closed

★ Matching Grant: **MassDevelopment**

[VIEW](#)

⚡ SUCCESS!



NEW BEDFORD, MA

Superflat New Bedford 2019 Mural Program

Superflat NB is a creative placemaking, mural art project dedicated to beautifying New Bedford while flattening barriers to the arts.

\$71,280

of \$50,000

Project Closed

★ Matching Grant: **MassDevelopment**

[VIEW](#)

⚡ SUCCESS!



Valley News COVID-19 support fund

The Valley News needs financial support from the Upper Valley community to sustain local journalism threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

West Lebanon, NH

Community Funded

\$155,949 Raised	1,539 Donors	Ended May 28, 2020
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Environment



Closing the Food Waste Loop

With your Help We Can Close the Loop and Build Healthy Soil!

White River Junction, VT

Community Funded

\$4,080 Raised	58 Donors	Ended Dec 29, 2019
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Agriculture



Close the Loop with Compost at Sunrise Farm!

Sunrise Farm is working to build the physical infrastructure needed to compost food scraps from the community to build healthy soil on the farm, divert...

White River Junction, VT

Community Funded

\$4,555 Raised	55 Donors	Ended Dec 29, 2019
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Arts & Culture



Help us Feed Friends by Feeding Foodie!

We work to decrease food insecurity and increase food access to residents of the MVRSD. We can't do this without our beloved van Foodie!

Canaan, NH

Health & Wellness



Food For Thought: The Growing Peace Project

Raising \$5000 for our food insecurity and youth activism programs, so we can buy equipment, hire a garden manager, add more workshops, and partner with...

Topsham, VT

Clubs & Organizations



Base Lodge Energy Efficiency Updates

Nonprofit ski area improving energy efficiency to become better stewards of the environment and reduce operational costs.

Enfield, NH



iobly

10

years of doing good in our backyards



FLO's Green Neighbor Family Day
A family event centered around crafting with natural materials to celebrate Frederick Law Olmsted's vision of the need for nature in all of our lives.

NEEDS: \$570 of 2,350



Red Hook & Gowanus Youth Ambassador Leadership in Brooklyn

Young mariners are the voice of our environmental future; help us teach the skills to be effective leaders. Boaters need to be responsive, quick thinkers, because our seas and weather are constantly changing.

NEEDS: \$0 of 5,107 + VOLUNTEERS



Get fit Autism Family Fun day

Get fit Autism Family fun day will be a fulfilled day for all to enjoy.

NEEDS: \$5,112 of 5,112+ VOLUNTEERS



The love of tropical gardening

Why Tropical gardening in a community garden? Because you can visit it for free and learn about different types of plants that you don't see in the south Bronx!



TimberWolf

"TimberWolf" is a metaphor of how waste can be repurposed into a beautiful and practical asset to the community that produces it.



Bulletrun

The pandemic's impact has made Bulletrun's free parkour program more popular with students of all ages; and challenged our black teachers like never before.



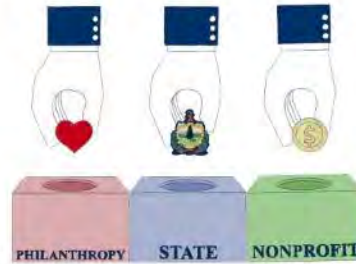
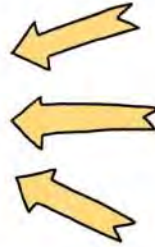
Crowdgranting is the power of the crowd **plus** the power of the grant.



CROWDGRANTING

WHAT

GET **GRANTS** FROM MANY **PARTNERS**



SUCCESS

HOW IT WORKS



START CROWDFUNDING



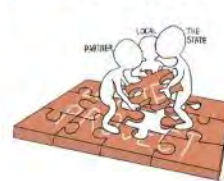
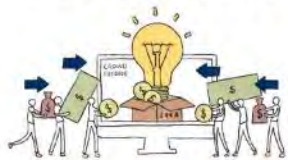
MEET THE GOAL



GET REWARDS



SUPPORT THE PROJECT



HOW IT WORKS

IDEA



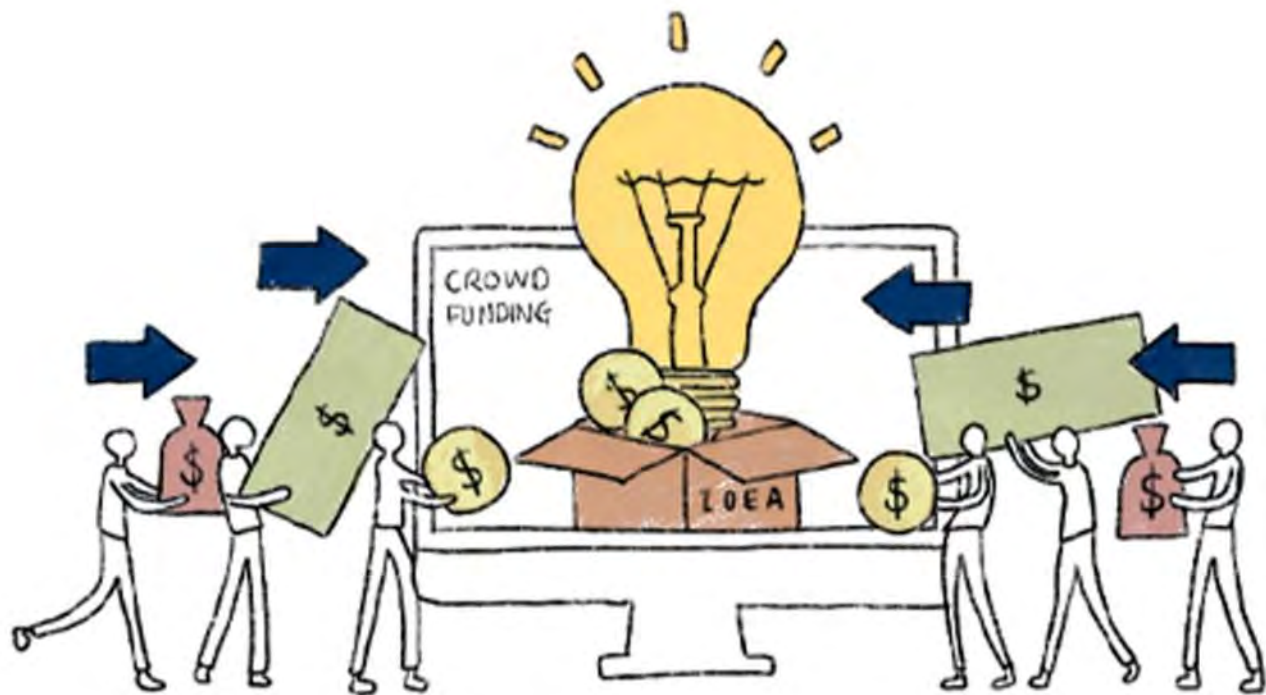
HOW IT WORKS

APPROVED
PROJECT



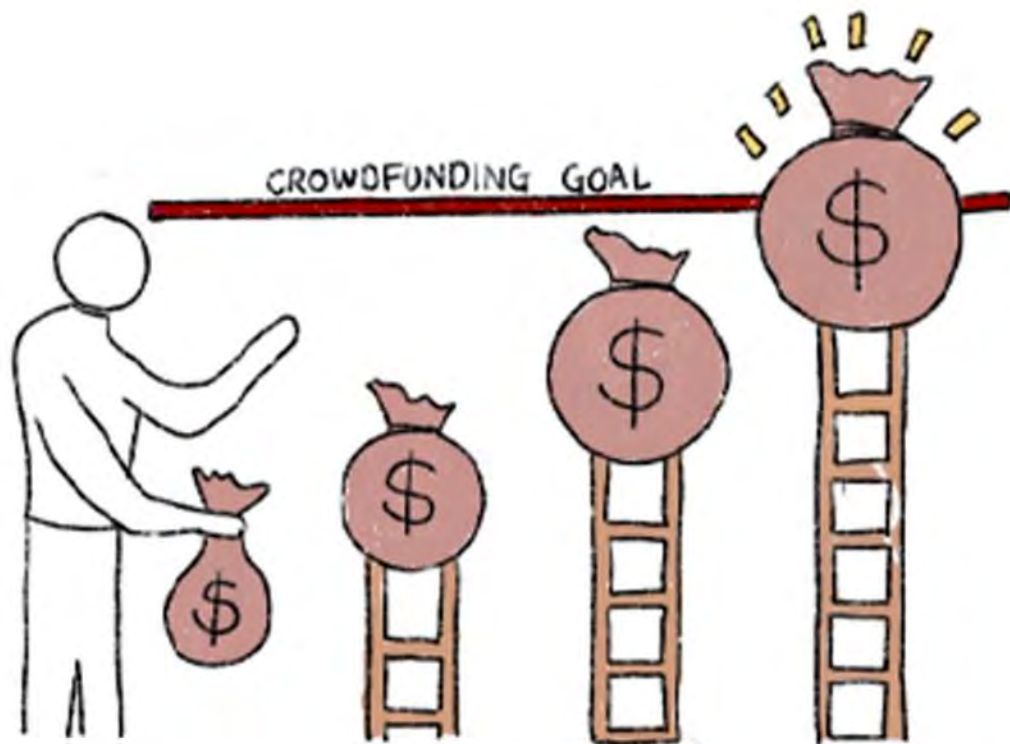
HOW IT WORKS

START CROWDFUNDING



HOW IT WORKS

MEET THE GOAL



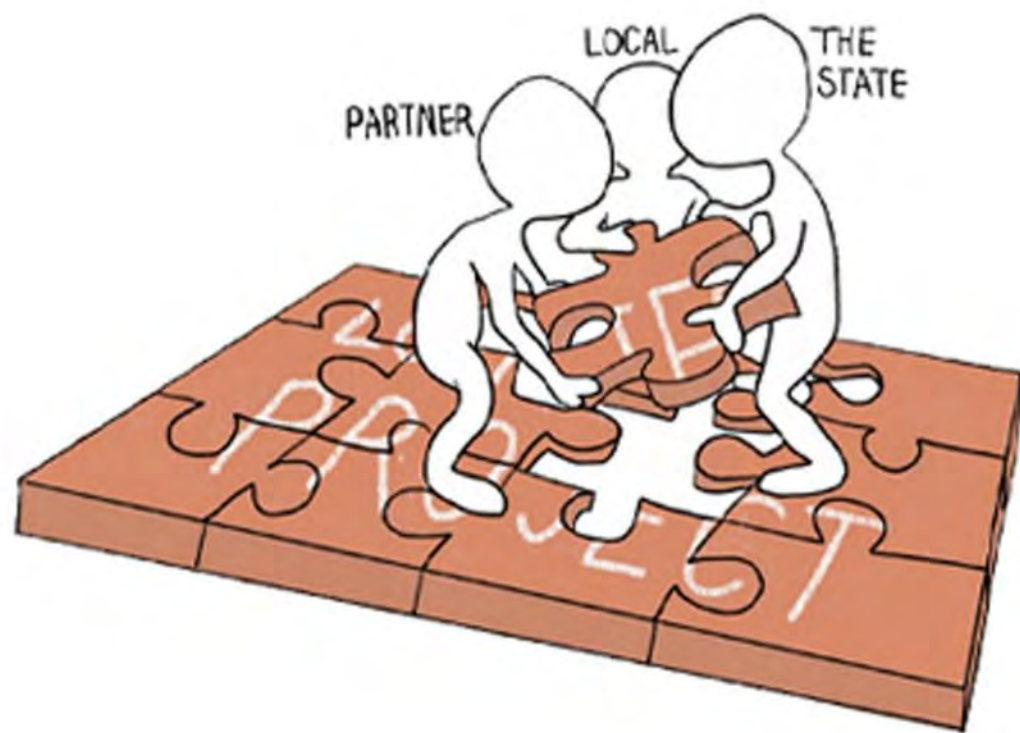
HOW IT WORKS

GET REWARDS



HOW IT WORKS

SUPPORT THE PROJECT



HOW IT WORKS





Better Places



Connects

Builds Social Capital



People to

Creates Community



Place

Adds Vitality

Better Places

Creating Places
People Love

photo credit: Mary Alice Proffitt



Thank You.



Richard Amore, PLA/AICP

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VT Department of Housing and Community Development

Contacts

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Thank You!

