

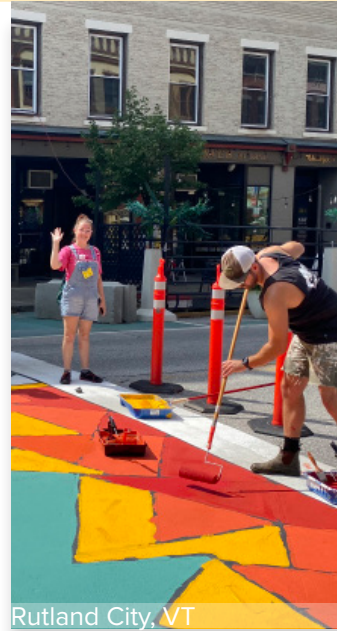
BETTER PLACES

Better Places is a community matching grant program **empowering Vermonters to create inclusive and vibrant public places** serving Vermont's designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas.



PILOT PROJECT SUCCESS 2020-2021

-  **63** application submitted, **Jan. 2021**
-  **\$989K** grant funds requested
-  **54** Vermont communities interested
-  **\$130K** grant funds awarded, **March 2021**
-  **8 pilot projects completed**, **Dec. 2021** →



Inclusion and Equity as a Core Value

The Better Places partners believe that all Vermonters deserve access to vibrant and welcoming public places in their lives and communities. We are committed to lifting up placemaking projects, policies, and practices which contribute to social and racial equity for a more just, inclusive, and equitable Vermont.

NEW BETTER PLACES PROGRAM 2021-2022

-  Better Places legislation and **\$1.5M** funding allocation, **June 2021**
-  Program partnerships formed with Vermont Community Foundation, Vermont Health Department, and Patronicity, **Fall 2021**
-  **Program goes live, 230 webinar participants**, **February 2022** →
-  First project goes live with crowdfunding campaign, **March 2022**
-  **60+ projects** in preflight consultation, **April 2022**

Better Bennington Thursday Night Live!

Bennington, VT

We hope to build and restore our community with free diverse entertainment to bring residents and tourists to Beautiful Downtown Bennington!

\$4,465 of \$5,000 **33** days left

★ Matching Grant: Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development

[VIEW](#) [SUPPORT](#)



Better Places has leveraged an additional **\$500K** from our partnership with the Vermont Department of Health to bring additional support to communities most impacted by health inequities and COVID-19.

PROGRAM INTEREST 2021-2022

- 8 completed pilot projects, \$130K funded, December 2021
- 2 live project campaigns, April 2022
- 5 projects, 150K, in the pipeline, April 2022
- 50+ projects in preflight consultation, since February 2022



Barton, VT



Northfield, Vermont



White River Junction, VT



Rutland City, VT



Wilmington, VT

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH 2021-2022

Program Guide



Placemaking Toolkit



Boosting Local Economies with Community-led Projects

“Democratizing access to capital empowers communities to be champions of their own sustainable development while encouraging local people to become Patrons of their City.”

- Ebrahim Varachia, Patronicity, Better Places Program Partner



PROJECT SUPPORT 2021-2022

Preflight Consult



Project Campaign Coaching



Online Crowdfunding Platform



“We are 3/5 of the way there in just a week and a half [of campaign]. This is beyond exciting! This program... gives all donors ownership of feeling like they made something amazing happen regardless of what they are able to give. And they did. Genius.”

- Jenny Dewar
Executive Director
Better Bennington Corp.

