



Jay County

Community Input Session | November 13, 2024

Welcome

Who we are and
why we're here



Sara A. Peterson
Sara Peterson Consulting
strategy, governance, and effectiveness



Paige Sharp
Sharp Visionarts
community arts development consulting

Agenda



Welcome & Explore!

We'll answer your questions about the project, who's involved, and what it hopes to do. Then we'll take you on a quick tour of strategies used across the state to awaken everyone's imaginations.

- **Introductions & Overview**
- **Cultivating Community through Arts & Culture**

Assets & Opportunities for a Vibrant County

We'll share your county's cultural assets and opportunities that we see. You might be surprised! Next, you'll work with others in your community to develop a countywide vision for the future.

- **Our County**
- **Beginning to Envision What Could Be**

Next Steps

Tonight is the beginning...

Thank You!

Now go enjoy a beautiful fall evening!

**Tell us why
YOU are here**

Your name
&
who you
represent

Cultivating Community

Through
Arts & Culture



Why arts & culture matter

- Contributes to **quality of life**
- Improves Hoosiers' **health and wellbeing**
- Generates **economic benefits**
- Improves student learning outcomes**
and career readiness
- Creativity is a skill **sought-after by employers**



Celebrating Heritage



Columbus Star Quilters



Gathering of Great Lakes Nations
National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture,
Portland

Civic Pride



Rushville



Dunkirk



eedcot

Moon Sugar
HONEY HILL

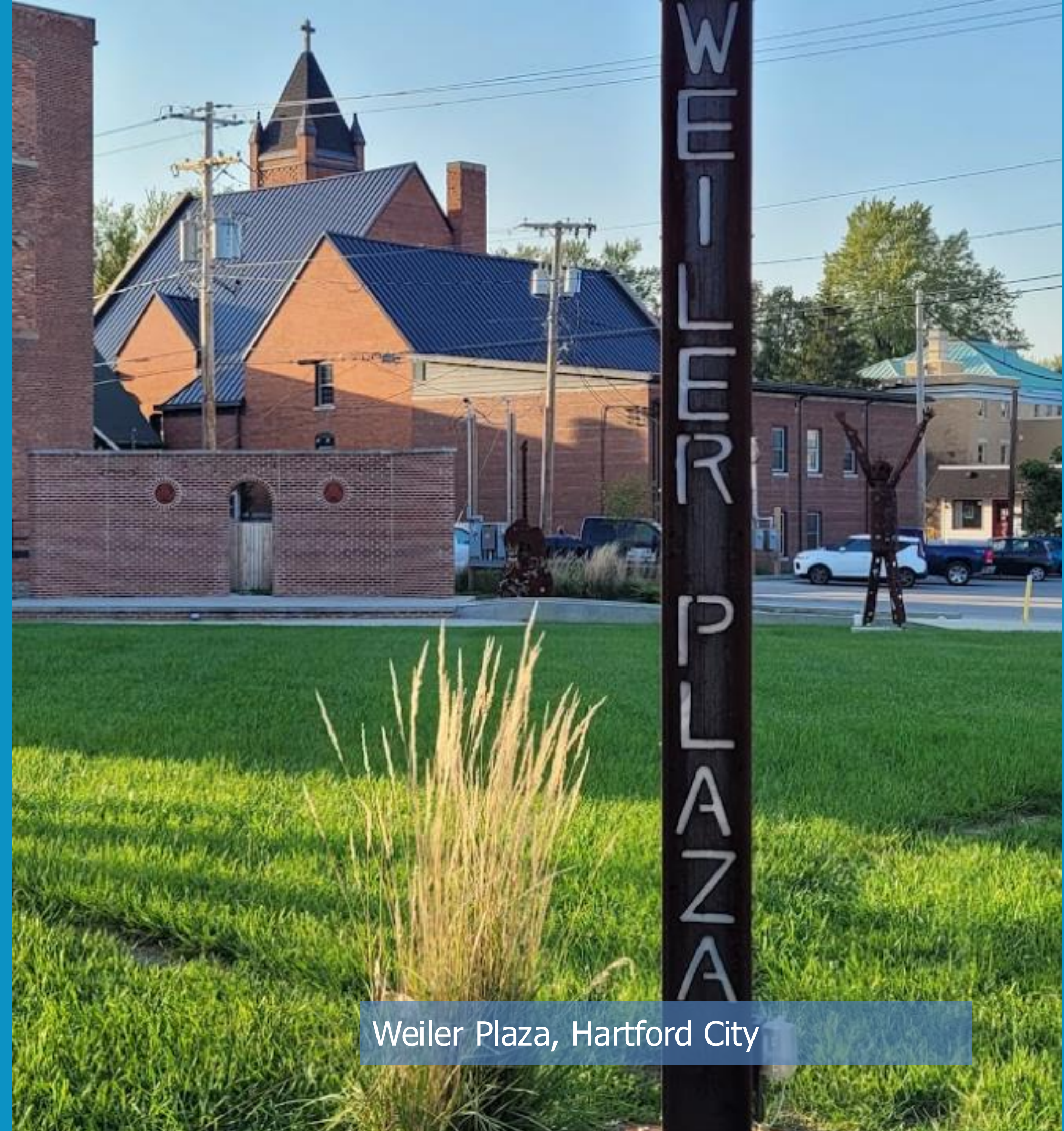
Est. 1874

Est. 1895

Dunkirk Glass Days, Dunkirk

Revitalizing Places

through “placemaking”



Weiler Plaza, Hartford City



South Madison Community Foundation –
Pendleton Crosswalks



Putnam County Mural Festival, Greencastle

Revitalizing Places

through creative businesses and activities



Redkey Blacksmiths, Redkey



Peru Visual Arts Festival

**Quantifiable
Impact**

Quality of Life &
Place



Population Retention & Attraction

Quality of Life matters in people's decision to move or stay

Health & Wellbeing

Art making reduces stress and has shown to bring positive mental health outcomes folks struggling with mental health issues and addiction.

Creative aging programs (sustained group arts engagement) for older adults reduces falls, visits to Dr. office and feelings of isolation.

Arts & Youth

a substantial increase in arts educational experiences for youth reduces discipline issues, improves writing scores, increases empathy, academic engagement, and college aspirations.

Ongoing access means they're 2x likely to graduate college and 5x less likely to drop out.

Sources

Americans for the Arts

Kisida and Bowen, 2019

American Art Therapy Association

Drexel University

Jay County

Rich in history and community pride



History

Jay County is

The Miami

Quaker Settlers

Railroads & Underground RR

Round Barns

Natural Gas

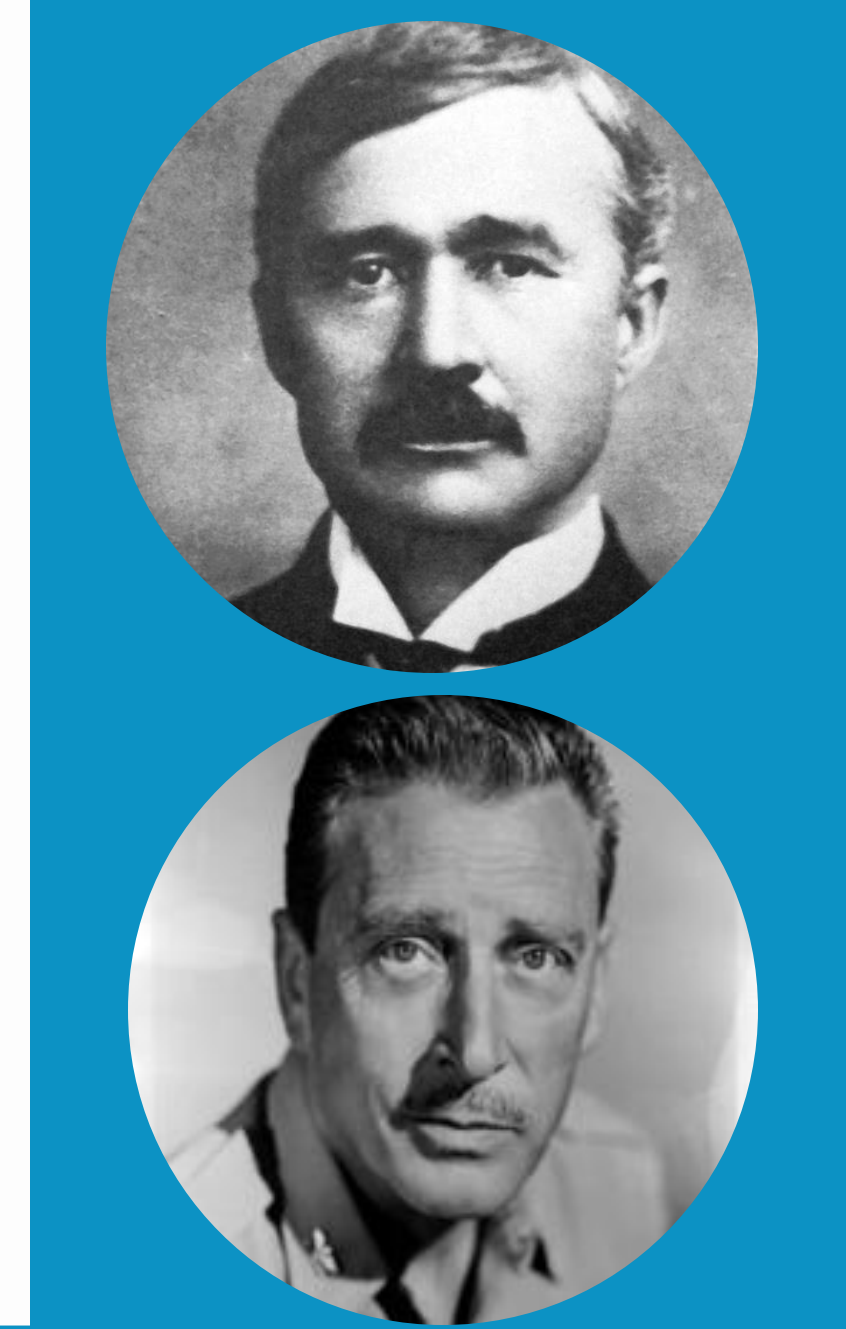
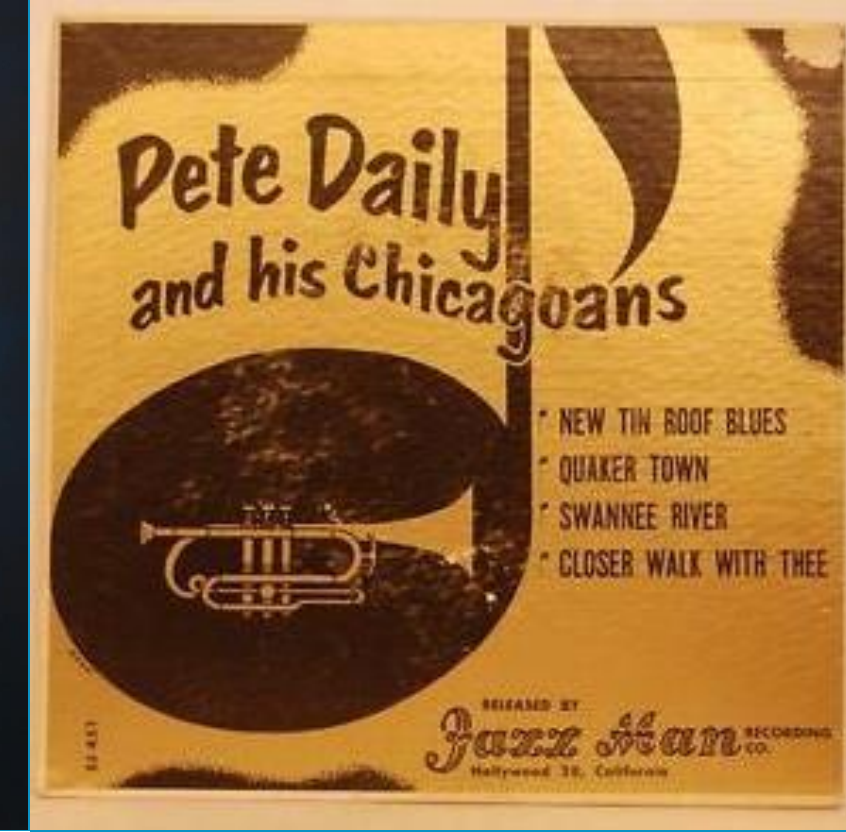
Cars, and

Glass

- 1835 Jay one of 1st 13 in Indiana counties
- 1839 Salamonia (Lancaster)
- 1837 Portland platted
- 1853 Dunkirk (Quincy) platted when RR came
- 1855 Holy Trinity, Portland
- 1867 Redkey platted when RR came
- 1872 Bryant post office established
- 1876 Gas discovered in Indiana
- 1891 Flora Hall (The Round House)
- 1896 Haynes-Apperson started
- 1903 CB&C RR from Bluffton to Pennville
- 1905 Pennville incorporated
- 1907 Indiana Glass Company, Dunkirk
- 1908 Rebecca Rankin Round Barn, Poling
- 1917 CB&C RR abandoned
- 1919 Courthouse completed
- 1965 1st Tri-State Gas Engine & Tractor Assoc.

Notables

- 1857 Automotive pioneer **Elwood Haynes**
- 1901 Movie actor **Kenneth MacDonald**
- 1902 Film and TV actor **Leon Ames**
- 1910 Lieutenant Governor, **Richard T. James**
- 1914 Assistant US Sec. of the Interior **Leslie Glasgow**
- 1911 Swing and Dixieland jazz musician **Pete Daily**
- 1930 Harness horse racer **Jerry Landess**
- 1932 Singer, dancer, musician, and TV producer **Kack Imel**
- 1941 Dancer / choreographer/ author **Twyla Tharp**
- 1947 WABA and WNBA basketball coach **Greg Williams**
- 1948 NFL player and coach **Darrell "Pete" Brewster**
- 1959 Venture cap., 2014 77th power Forbes **Mary Meeker**
- 1960 NASA astronaut **Kevin Ford**
- 1978 Olympic archer **Stephanie White-Arnold**



By the numbers

97% White with a growing Latino/Hispanic community (4.6%)

20K Population today expected to be 19K by 2030

Aging Population: 43.8% of the population is age 45+

\$57,690 Median Household **Income - 78th** in the state

Industry is **Manufacturing** (39.8%) followed by Retail (9.2%)

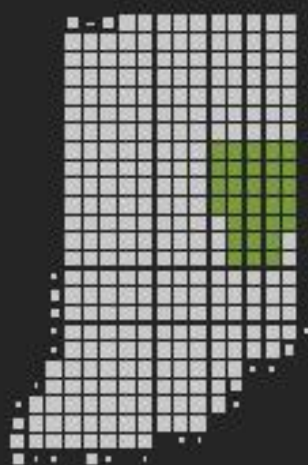
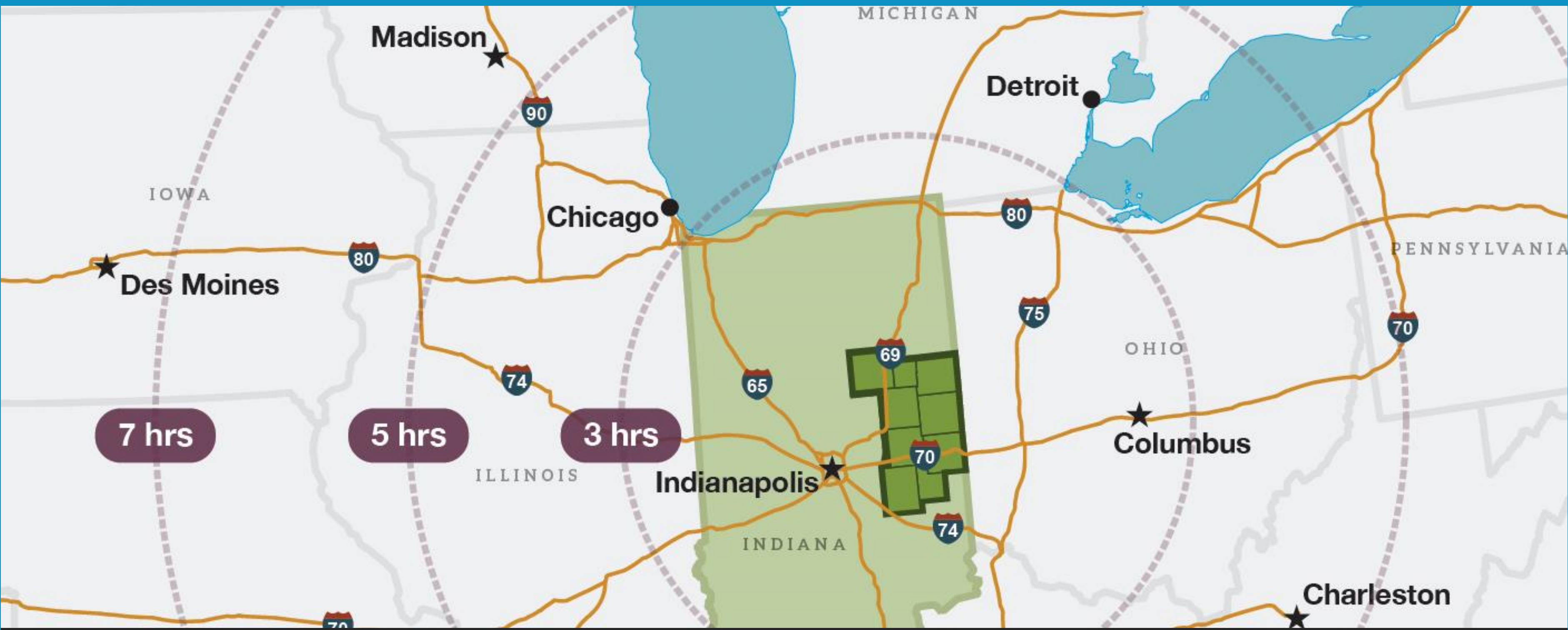
Growing Education Attainment

2016: 16% of the population WITHOUT high school degree, 2022: GAINS now 12%



Ardagh Group, Dunkirk

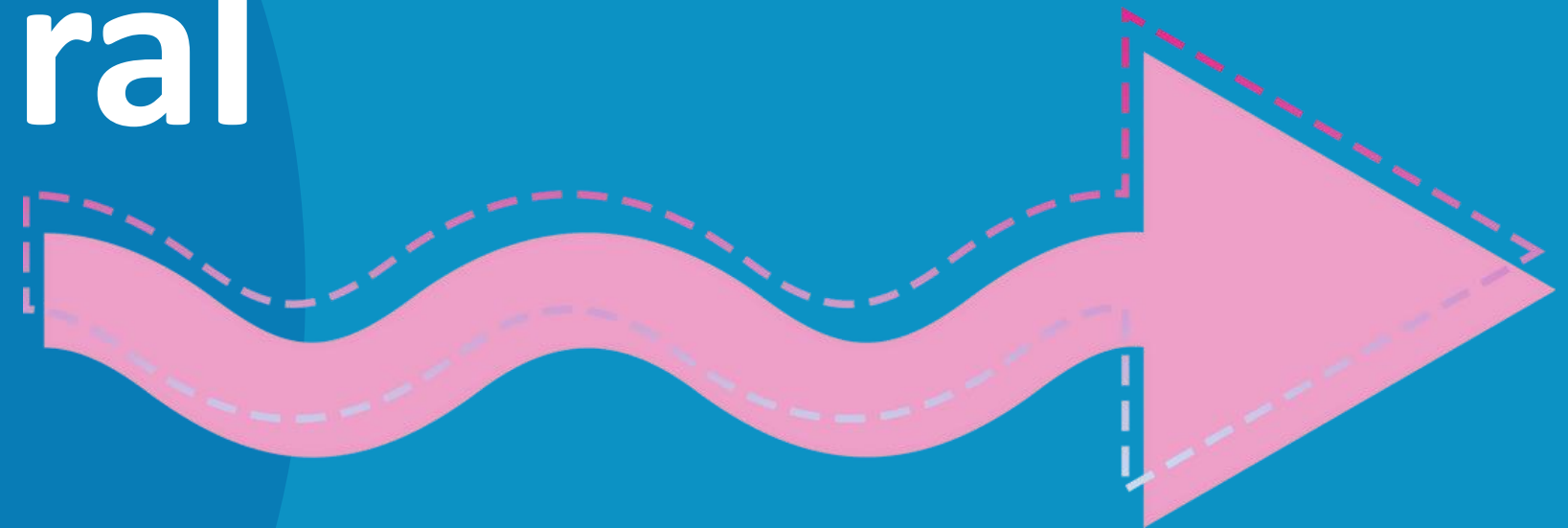
**Portland · Dunkirk · Redkey · Pennville
Bryant · Salamonia**

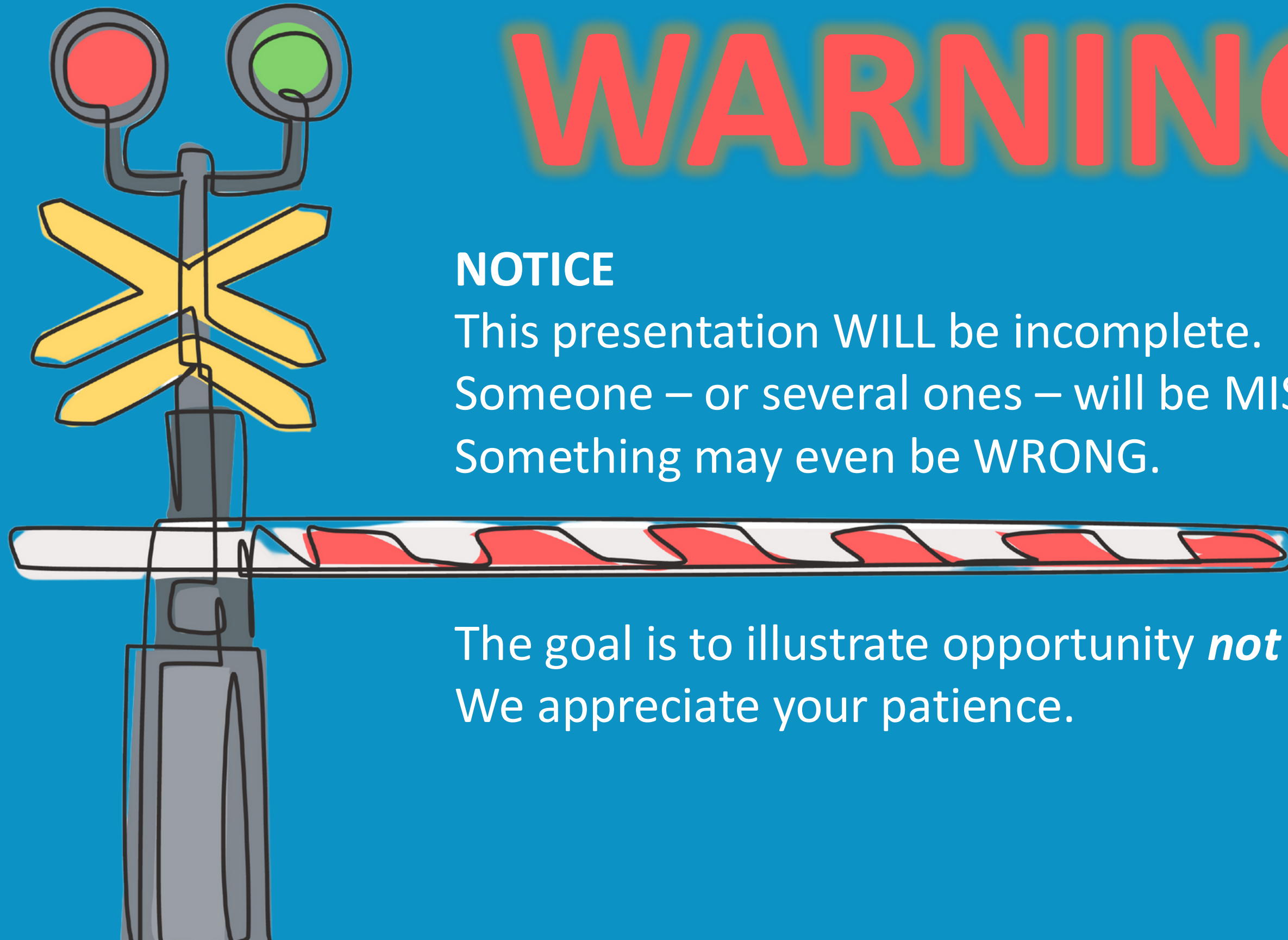


EAST CENTRAL
Indiana
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Drive Times

Arts & Cultural Assets





WARNING!

NOTICE

This presentation WILL be incomplete.
Someone – or several ones – will be MISSING.
Something may even be WRONG.

The goal is to illustrate opportunity *not* to inventory.
We appreciate your patience.

The Management

Murals

Celebrate Local Artists & History

Engage Community

Attract Talent

1919, Schachne Studios, Courthouse Ceiling Murals: Pioneer / Civil War

1941, Frances Foy, Preparations for Autumn Festival, Dunkirk

Pam Bliss: Dunkirk City Building, Glass Capital, Elwood Haynes, Portland Rockets

Rhonda Franklin: Landscape's Legacy

Marie McKinley: Antiville, One Nation Under God, Welcome My Chains are Gone

Zach Medler: Portland Rotary, Portland



Festivals & Fairs

Celebrate History

Engage Community

Attract Visitors



March

Jay County Fiber Art Festival

July

4th July Parade

August

Annual Quilt Show
Tri State Gas Engine & Tractor show
Balbec Daze
Dunkirk Glass Days

Summer

Arts in the Parks, Dunkirk
Arts in the Parks, Pennville
Arts in the Parks, Redkey
Arts in the Parks, Portland
Vintage Bike Show
Gathering of the Great Lakes Nation Powwow
Jay County Fair

September

Jay County Chainsaw Carving Invitational
Portland Main Street Festival

October

Pennville Pumpkin Festival & Car Show
Jay County Heritage Festival
Annual Tri-State Swap & Sell Meet
Halloween Costume Party
Redkey Gas Boom Days

November

Winterfest Parade of Lights
Delts' Holiday Crafts & Gifts Show

Fall

Jay County Homecoming Parade

December

Jay County Farm Toy Show

Multiple

Arby's Cruise-in
Farmers Market

Largest



Antique Gas Engine & Tractor Show

Over 3000 engines

800 tractors

150 antique and craft dealers

Attracts 100,000

Vintage Bike Show



Arts & Culture Organizations

The anchors we expect
when we think about this work
but are unique to Jay +
a couple extraordinary ones we don't

Arts Nonprofits

Art Place

Harmony Players

Jay County Civic Theatre

Dunkirk Public Library

The Glass Museum

Libraries & Related

Friends of the Dunkirk Library & Museum

Jay County Public Library

Friends of the Jay County Library

Pennville Library

Dunkirk Historical Society & Museum

Historic Pennville Depot

Jay County Historical Society

AWAKEN

Big "C" Culture

National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture

Community Culture

The ones we don't always think of first when we think about this work

Our partners, community arts providers, and links to larger strategy

Centers

Jay County Community Center

Pennville Community Center

West Jay Community Center

Churches

Asbury United Methodist Church

First Presbyterian Church of Portland

Portland Church of Christ

Civic

City of Dunkirk Improvement Com.

Jay County Chamber of Commerce

Jay County Visitor & Tourism Bureau

Portland Main Street Connect

Funders

Portland Foundation

Helpers

Purdue Extension – Jay County

Media

The Commercial Review

WPBH Radio

Schools

Jay County Schools

Volunteers

Rotary

Local Businesses

Most call this small business

Artist and "creative" owned and serving

We call it creative industry

...and we ran out of room

Art, Craft, Jewelry & More

Eclectic Mood
Flatline Ink
Grandma & Me Quiltin
James Brewster Jewelry
Pennville Custom Cabinets
Pyramid Connections
Rhonda Mock Short Photography
The Glass Bonsai

Bakeries & Markets

Redkey Blacksmiths LLC
Around the World Market
Mis P's Kitchen
Sweet T's Creations

Bookstores

Cat Tales
Bulldog Books

Craft Drinks

Good-Rich Brewery
Axe and Anvil Meadery
Tipsy Glass Winery

Florists

Bricker's Flowers & More
The Flower Nook
Ren's Heaven Scent

Signs & Designs

Display Craft Signs
Graphic Printing Co.
Reclaiming Design
T-Flyerz

Community Connections

... all tied to art and culture

... to quality of life and of place

Clubs & Groups

Gathering – movies, music, sports...

Growth

Kids

More...

Alcove Artists

Flute Choir

Jay County Woodcarvers

Jay County Trails Club

Stitch N Chatter Quilt Club

Brick Alley (Project of Main St. Connect)

Crown City Cruisers

Greasy Pickle

Harmony Music Studio Dances

Key Palace Theatre

Portland Rockets Baseball

Ritz Theatre

The 615

Valhalla's Axe Hall

The Venue of Portland

Backer's Tae Kwon Do

K.I.C. (Karate Is Cure)

Jay County 4-H

Fun for Kidz

Historic Redkey LLC

Pennville General Store

Redkey Junktion

SPPI Ghost Tours

Places & Spaces

... to see and engage in art

... to appreciate community

... to appreciate nature

... to draw in visitors

Barns

Rankin, Rebecca, Round Barn

Floral Hall (octagonal barn)

Bridges

Bowstring Truss Bridge

Galleries

Hugh N. Ronald Gallery (Arts Place)

John Jay Center for Learning

Steve McClung Studio

First Merchants Bank

IU Health

Raymond Funeral Home

Weaver Community Gallery (Arts Place)

Nature

Gas Boom Trail

Loblolly Marsh

Parks & Fairgrounds

Jay County Fairgrounds

Freedom Park

Haynes Park

Pennville Community Park

Redkey Park

Venues & Events

Hall-Moser Theatre (Arts Place)

Hudson Park Amphitheater

Westlawn Business Center

... and history

Ardagh Glass Factory

Balbec Underground Railroad

Religious Buildings at Trinity

Haines, James, Farm

Jay Country Living (The County Home)

Jay County Courthouse

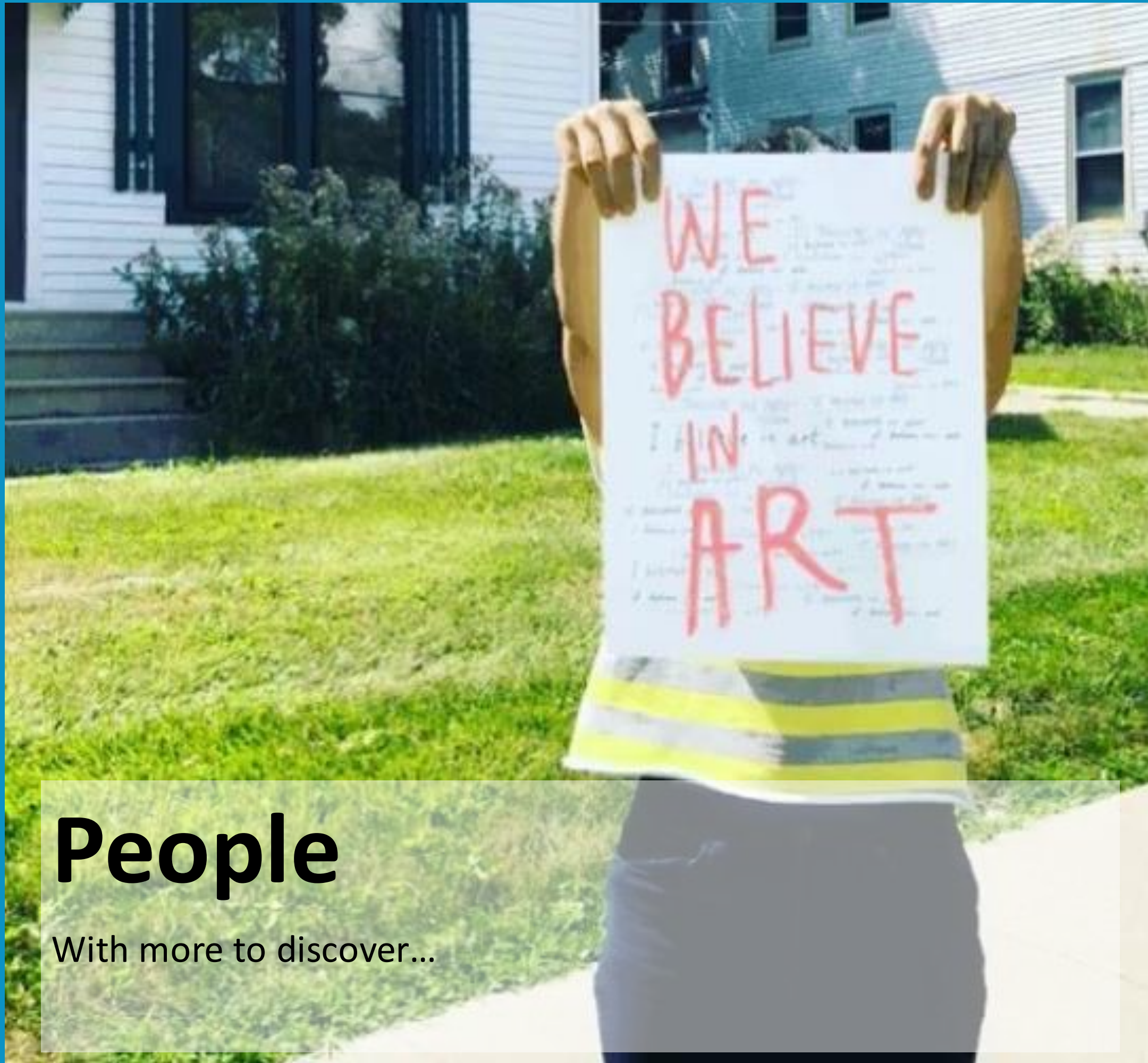
Mt. Vernon Pioneer Cemetery

Portland Commercial Historic District

Redkey Historic District

Shambarger's Restaurant

Votaw, Jonas, House



People

With more to discover...

Jewelers

Painters

Woodcarvers and turners

Musicians

Actors

Fiber artists

Muralists

Leather workers

Furniture makers

Designers of all sorts

Teachers

Rich in History & Community Pride

Treasure trove of events & activities

Impressive, active Fairgrounds

Enviably anchor (Arts Place) with county and regional impact

Active, committed people and organizations

Poised for growth

- Jay County Development Corporation
- Part of Regional Planning organization, and
- Thinks regionally



Opportunities

embedded in plans



Promote economic growth



Retain and attract population
through increased quality of life

Jay County Strategic Investment Plan (2023)

Advance E-Connectivity

Enhance Quality of Place

- Walkability Fund
- Grow youth program promotion and marketing efforts

Promote Community Wellness

- Crisis Intervention Program
- Recovery and Reintegration Program

Strengthen Local Economies

- Jay County Marketing Program
- Downtown Revitalization Programs

Key Themes (Past & Present)

Brand, Market, Promote

Enhance Quality of Place & Community

Connectivity

Dunkirk

- Glass Capitol Crossing: **Develop a gateway** into Downtown Dunkirk with civic enhancements that **boost quality of life** and **support community events**.
- Catalyst Projects: **Revitalize historic Main Street buildings** to increase downtown living and business activity.
- **Streetscape** Infrastructure: **Upgrade** residential streets with sidewalks, curbs, and greenery, and promote Dunkirk as Indiana's Glass Capital.

2019 Downtown Revitalization Plan Update

Pennville

- Invest in youth priorities and **make community more attractive to young people**
Create Third Spaces: coffee shops, micro-breweries, creative and networking outlets
- **Support** for **Small business** and entrepreneurial opportunities
 - Young people want to own their own business; very receptive to incentives
 - Create buzz in community about the benefits of 'shopping small'

2019 Comprehensive Plan

Portland

- **Increase Public Awareness of Parks and Parks Programs**
- **Facade Restoration** to re-establish a welcoming environment
- Downtown Signage, **Way Finding**, and Parking
- Creation of **trails and attractions** to increase regional draw and quality of life for residents.
- Creation of new, market rate housing opportunities

2022 Portland Park Plan
2019 Downtown Revitalization Plan

Redkey

- Economic growth and private **investments in retail, dining, entertainment** offerings
- **Quality of life** amenities and wellbeing
- **Creative Placemaking** - community gathering points and connectivity
- **Community pride** through strategic community investments
- Harness the energy of **volunteers**

2018 Downtown Revitalization Plan

The Vision

A welcoming region, backed by community resources, where all are empowered to be their authentic selves, create a life that matters, and forge a path to success.

Keys Elements

⁽¹⁾ Mosaic of Communities ⁽²⁾ Innovative Eds/Meds ⁽³⁾ Amenities Enable Residents to Thrive

Investment Strategy

Quality of Life

Stabilize the region's population and encourage growth through **investments that directly benefit the health and well-being** of residents, **promote tourism**, and **support vibrant downtowns**.

Housing & Infrastructure

Childcare & Support for Families

Education & Opportunity



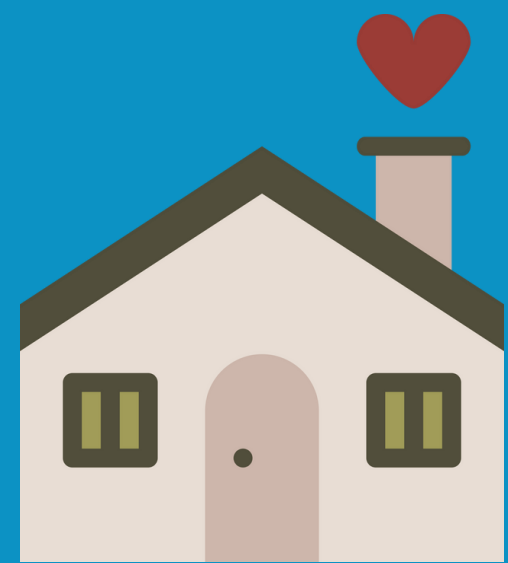
Finding Our Horizon

dreaming together



Planning

here to there
from start to vision



Start



Vision
Horizon

Planned Goals

To reach our goals and our horizon

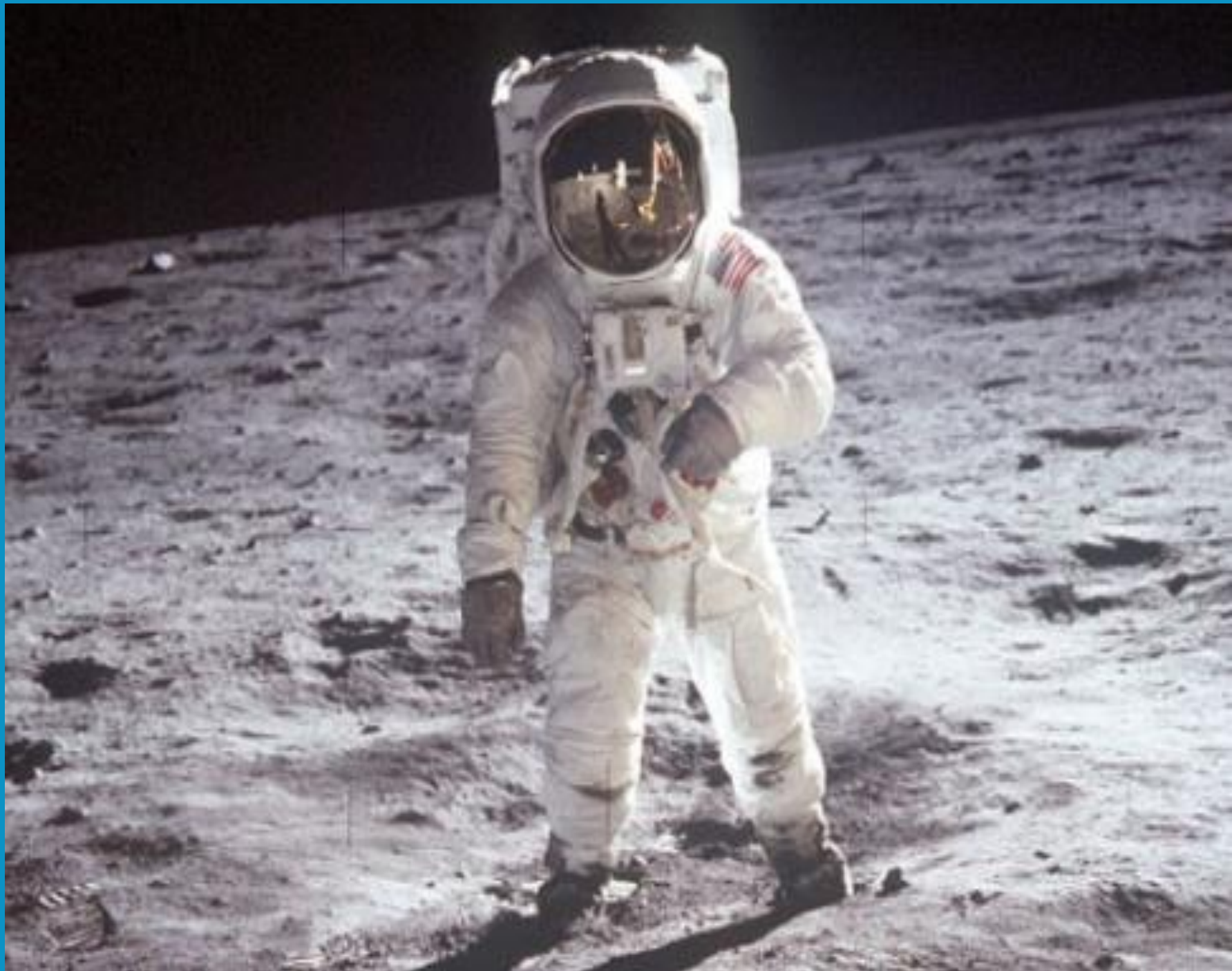
What do we need?

What do we need to do?

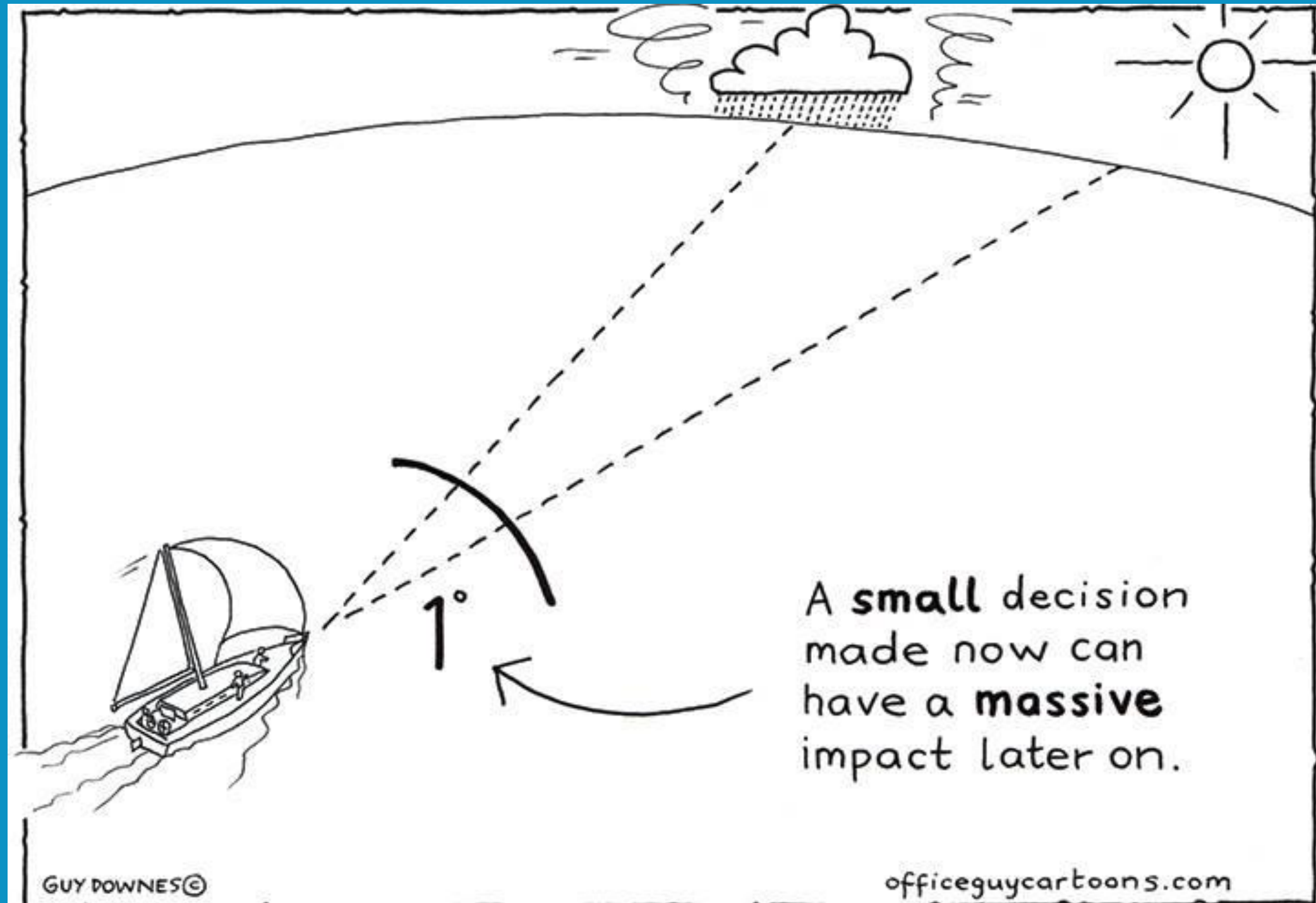
What do we need to change?

Think Big!

But within nature...



Oh, how things change...



15 years ago (2009)...

Cpt. Sully lands Miracle on the Hudson
Slumdog Millionaire won Oscar
Netbooks were a thing
iPhones started GPS navigation

20 years ago (2004)...

Bush defeated Kerry
Lord of the Rings won Oscar
Facebook and skype started
Flip phones, iPods NOT smart

Discussion Questions

A little
daydreaming

Lots of ideas lead
to revelations

Collect ALL the
ideas...

Envisioning 2035

1. Describe a vibrant, vital Jay County Arts Landscape –
*one in which we have all changed, as artists, organizations,
educators/schools, leaders, communities*
2. When we step back, what themes emerge?
3. What are our priorities (framed as goals and strategies)?

Facilitating Change

- 4a. What partners or influences might HELP progress?
- 4b. What barriers or influences might HURT progress?

Next Steps

Tonight is the beginning...

Other Counties in the Project
Focus Groups
Surveys
Finalizing the Plan
Making it Happen
Regional Work



Thank You



Sara A. Peterson

peter@SaraPetersonConsulting.com



Paige Sharp

paige@sharpvisionarts.com

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THANK
YOU

Thank you to the community leaders supporting this work.

The Board of Commissioners of Auglaize County

The Board of Commissioners of Blackford County

The Board of Commissioners of Jay County

City of Montpelier

Patrick J. McGowan, Mayor, City of St Marys

John Boggs, Mayor, City of Portland

Travis C. Richards, Executive Director, Jay County Development Corporation

Jeremy W. Gully, Superintendent, Jay School Corporation

Cheri Brown, Director, Purdue Extension Blackford County

The Portland Foundation

St. Marys Community Foundation

Arts Place Corporate Board

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**
arts.gov