

# CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

SUPPORTING ARTS AND CULTURE  
IN TOLEDO'S NEIGHBORHOODS



**THE ARTS COMMISSION**  
INSPIRING A VIBRANT TOLEDO





## RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY VOICES

**Toledo's Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture (TSPAC) was formally adopted by Toledo City Council in 2015 following a two-year engagement process. The plan identifies ten objectives and eight focus neighborhoods to connect the historic fabric of the downtown Toledo area as the cultural hub of our region.**

Following the TSPAC launch, The Arts Commission leveraged funding to build a Creative Placemaking Program to work alongside residents and organizations to form meaningful partnerships, support and elevate cultural activity, and build capacity to shape a more equitable, vibrant future for our city and its residents.



### TSPAC Objectives

- Education, Youth & Family Engagement
- Image, Marketing & Sense of Place
- Racial, Ethnic & Cultural Diversity
- Arts & Culture in Urban Planning and Development
- Capacity & Stability
- Arts & Culture in Neighborhoods
- Funding
- Collaboration
- Cultural Tourism, Heritage, Anchor Events & Public Art
- Downtown & Maumee River



# FROM ENGAGEMENT TO INSPIRATION

**Creative resident-led engagement drives civic change that inspires reuse of public spaces, creates healthier, safer environments, and increases the vibrancy of our greater community.**

The Arts Commission asks to be guests in neighborhoods to work alongside residents, community leaders, and stakeholders. We partner with local artists to celebrate and elevate neighborhood cultural identity while working to identify and address needs with dynamic cross-sector solutions. Through this process, we beautify spaces, increase programming, and inform opportunities for residents to impact economic and service systems that deliver sustainable change.

## What We Do:

THROUGH THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS WE DRIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- Elevate artists and cultural activity in neighborhoods
- Identify and prioritize neighborhood needs and issues
- Support capacity and strategic vision
- Connect resources and relationships
- Increase opportunities for youth to connect to their passion
- Develop new leaders to enter fields of arts administration and community development



**The Arts Commission prioritizes diversity, equity, and inclusion. We create space and opportunity for all to contribute to improving our neighborhoods and revitalizing our city through engaging, meaningful, and fun dialogue and creative expression.**

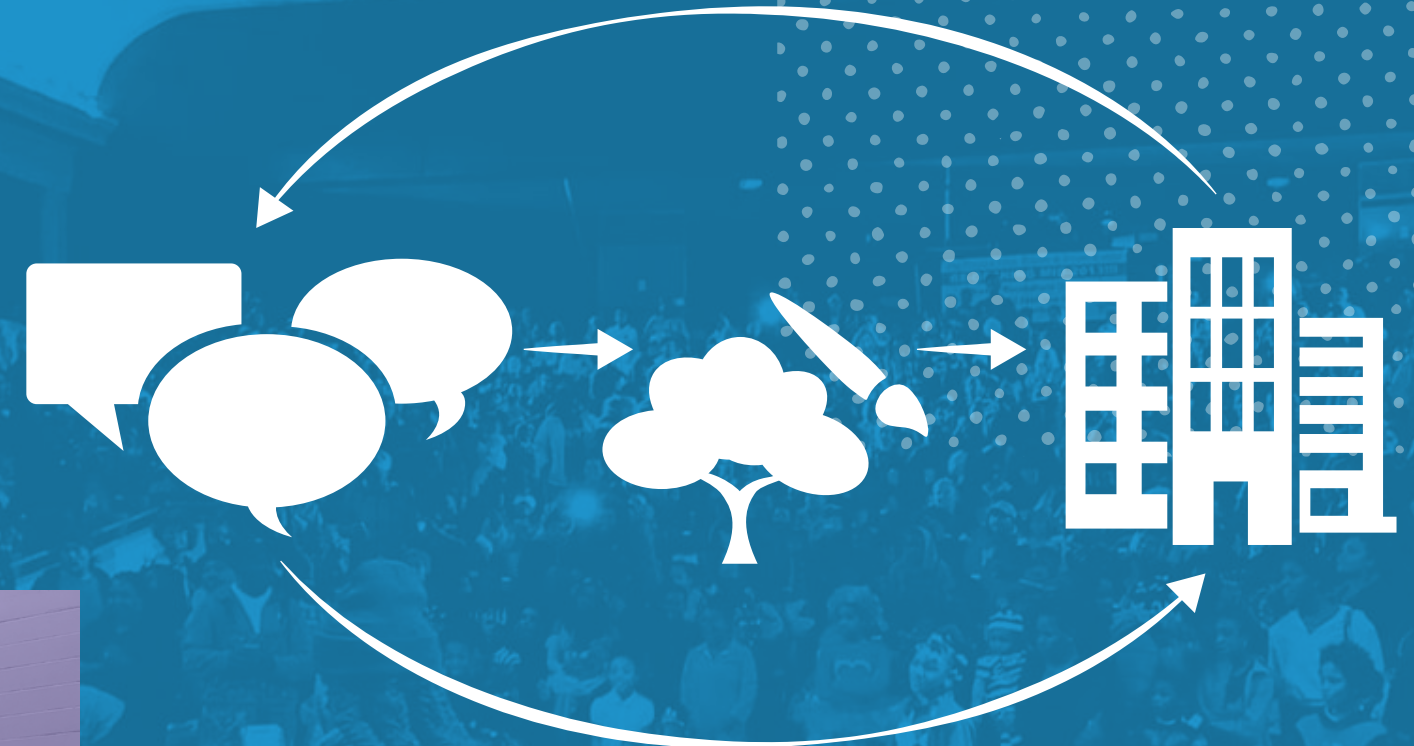


# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Toledo is a nationally known model for Creative Placemaking. The Arts Commission has been recognized by national and regional leaders in arts and community development for our efforts to leverage collaborative partnerships and apply the creative process to civic practice. We have presented our work at the national Americans for the Arts Conference, the Ohio Community Development Conference and many other local and regional conferences.

The Arts Commission has hosted multiple leaders in our field here in Toledo, including executive directors of local arts agencies from around the country for the Americans for the Arts Executive Leadership Forum, the first of its kind to take place outside of its traditional home at Sundance, Utah. Our success in Creative Placemaking methods has been acknowledged in national and regional print and digital publications. Our staff continue to serve on grant panels for the likes of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council, among others.

To date, the Creative Placemaking program at The Arts Commission has attracted more than \$500,000 in investment to Toledo over a three-year period.



**IDENTIFY**  
RESIDENT EVENTS  
YOUTH PROGRAMS  
LISTEN TO CONCERNS

**INSPIRE**  
COMMUNITY MURALS  
TRANSFORM PUBLIC SPACES  
CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

**INNOVATE**  
SUPPORT CAPACITY  
CONNECT RESOURCES  
EMPOWER NEW LEADERS



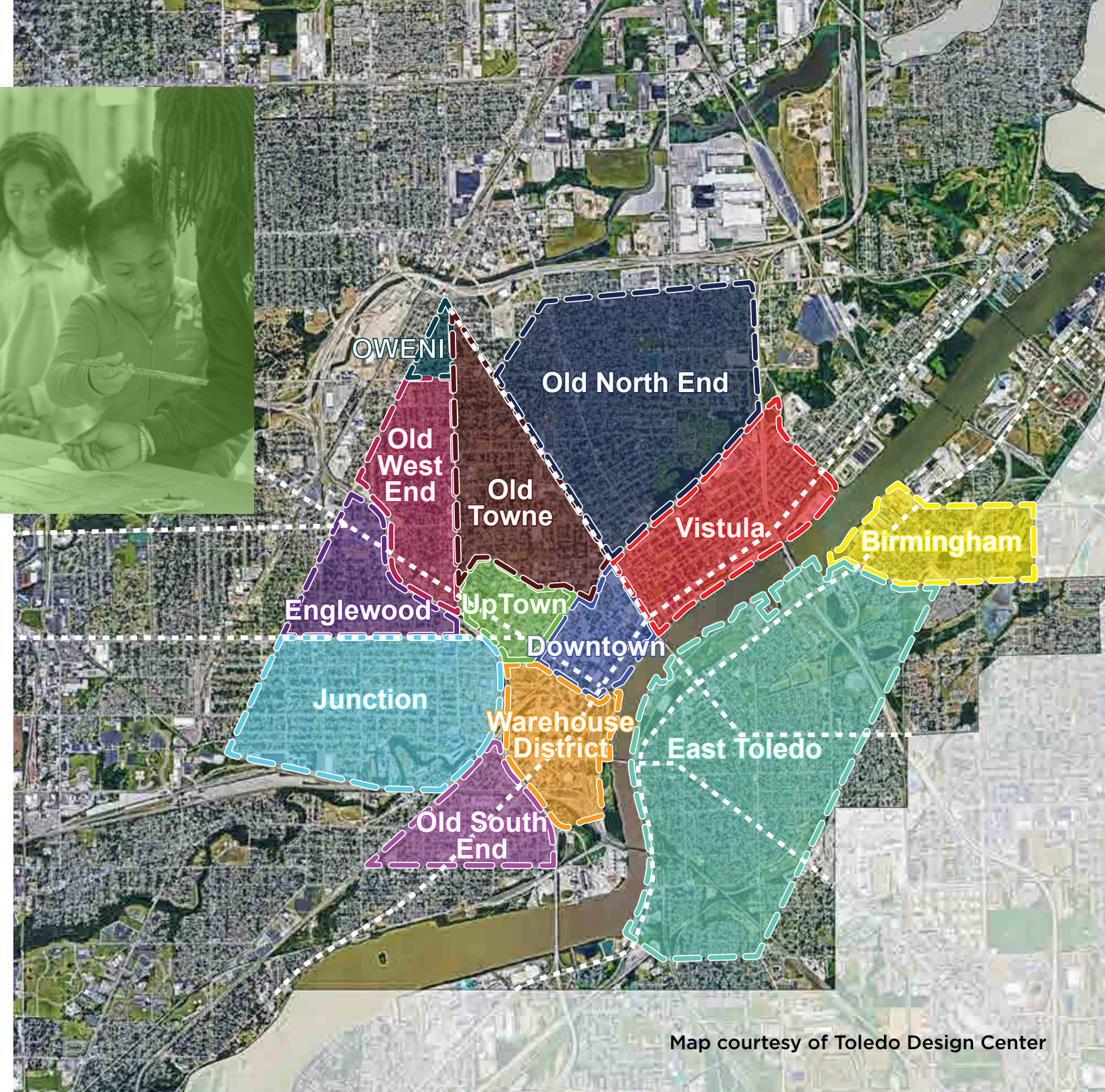
## PRIMARY PROGRAM AND PROJECT PARTNERS

LISC Toledo  
ProMedica  
Mercy Health  
City of Toledo  
Toledo Community Foundation

## PRIMARY NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS

Collingwood Arts Center  
Ebeid Institute  
East Toledo Family Center and  
One Voice for East Toledo  
Frederick Douglass Community  
Association  
Grace Community Center  
Junction Coalition  
Metroparks  
Ohio Theatre & Events Center  
Old West End Neighborhood  
Initiatives (OWENI)

Salem Lutheran Church  
Sofia Quintero Art  
& Cultural Center  
Soul City Boxing and  
Wrestling Gym  
Toledo Design Center  
Toledo GROWS  
Toledo Public Schools  
Toledo Lucas County  
Public Library  
UpTown Association  
Vistula Historic Foundation



Map courtesy of Toledo Design Center



# LET'S CONNECT

Learn more about The Arts Commission's Creative Placemaking program, view work examples, and download the Strategic Plan for Arts at Culture at [TheArtsCommission.org/Community](https://TheArtsCommission.org/Community).

Would you or your organization like to get involved in our work? From funders to artists to volunteers, there are multiple ways to connect with our programming.

## CONNECT WITH US.

Ryan A. Bunch  
Communications & Outreach Coordinator  
[rbunch@theartscommission.org](mailto:rbunch@theartscommission.org)  
419-254-2787



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# CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

**Empower communities, support neighborhood identities, and beautify public spaces through the common language of art.**



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1838 PARKWOOD AVE, SUITE 120 | TOLEDO, OH 43604  
419-254-ARTS (2787) | [THEARTSCOMMISSION.ORG](http://THEARTSCOMMISSION.ORG)