



## **Invitation for Letter of Inquiry**

September 15, 2011

ArtPlace is a collaboration of major foundations, the National Endowment for the Arts and various federal agencies to accelerate creative placemaking across the U.S.

Participating foundations to date include Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Ford Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation and The Robina Foundation as well as an anonymous donor. In addition to the NEA, federal partners are the departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Education and Transportation, along with leadership from the White House Office of Management and Budget and the Domestic Policy Council.

ArtPlace believes that art, culture and creativity expressed powerfully through place can create vibrant communities, thus increasing the desire and the economic opportunity for people to thrive in place. It is all about the local.

As of September 15, 2011, ArtPlace invites Letters of Inquiry from initiatives involving arts organizations, artists and designers working in partnership with local and national partners to produce a transformative impact on community vibrancy.

If you wish to apply, please complete the Letter of Inquiry online at [www.artplaceamerica.org](http://www.artplaceamerica.org). All requests must be submitted by November 15, 2011.

### **The Definitions**

- 1. Creative placemaking:** art, culture and creativity expressed powerfully through a specific place that can create vibrancy.
- 2. Vibrancy:** attracting people, activities and value to a place and increasing the desire and the economic opportunity to thrive in a place.

### **The Ingredients**

There are many creative placemaking strategies that have been deployed successfully in communities across America, and we applaud them. However, ArtPlace will favor investments that reach for new possibilities and work with a variety of partners who together are committed to increasing the vibrancy of their communities. ArtPlace sees its role as providing venture funding in the form of grants, seeding entrepreneurial projects that already enjoy strong local buy-in and will occur at places already showing signs of momentum, integrate with a community's economic development and community revitalization strategy and have the potential to attract additional private and public support to the community. We want to learn alongside those doing this groundbreaking work and spread the lessons they are learning to other communities across the U.S.

We are looking for initiatives involving arts organizations, artists and designers working in partnership with local and national partners in such fields as economic development, transportation, neighborhood development, entrepreneurship, sustainability, health, etc.