



Metro

# Community Placemaking grants

Metro's new placemaking grants support creative projects that strengthen social fabric and foster connecton to place.



A temporary addition of technicolor porches offers people a cool place to socialize in downtown Vancouver, B.C. Courtesy of City of Vancouver, photo credit Krista Jahnke

*Art in vacant storefronts, an active plaza that was once unused parking, a mural depicting people fighting eviction. Here and around the world, people are shaping their communities through placemaking.*

Placemaking is creative and community-driven. It defies easy definition, but successful placemaking projects share a few key characteristics.

Placemaking brings people together to shape their surroundings, helping communities create the change they want to see in their neighborhood. It builds on local and cultural assets and fosters connection to place and to each other.

Placemaking enlivens space with art and activity. It sparks dialog and raises awareness.

Placemaking inspires people to think differently about a space. It tests new ways to use public space that can become permanent. Or, it can be temporary, but create a meaningful moment that points toward a shared vision for a community.

## Funding available

Metro will pilot the Community Placemaking program with calls for grant proposals in the spring and fall of 2017. Grant awards will range between \$5,000 and \$25,000. Projects must be completed within 12 months. Visit the website for upcoming grant deadlines.

## Who can apply?

Anyone can apply, while meeting the following:

- Community-based organizations must have support from the property owner (jurisdictional or private owner).
- Public agencies must have a plan to involve, and demonstrated support from, community groups.
- Public, private and/or community groups may co-partner by defining clear roles and responsibilities for each.

## Community Placemaking grant program

Learn about the next grant cycle and sign up for email updates.  
[oregonmetro.gov/placemaking](http://oregonmetro.gov/placemaking)

## Questions?

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Portland's Sunday Parkways invites people to public spaces to discover active transportation while fostering civic pride and stimulating economic development. The series of events is a public, private and community partnership.

### **Placemaking project examples**

This list is only a start to get you thinking. Examples of project types eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, the following.

**Repurposing public spaces** Examples include turning underused public right-of-way into active plazas, or curbside space into a parklet or seating.

**Enlivening spaces with art and activity** Examples include art programming in vacant storefronts or adding arts or cultural programming to a public space.

**Activating streets** Examples include intersection or crosswalk murals or installing a new pedestrian plaza.

**Sparking dialogue and raising awareness** Examples include murals depicting pressing community issues, such as displacement, or celebrating the cultures in a neighborhood.

**Temporary-to-permanent placemaking** Examples include changing the function or form of a public space to allow community members to be designers, or testing the space to work out design considerations.

**Urban interventions** Examples include temporary zoning and/or transportation grace periods from existing regulations, such as altering a street's configuration to temporarily create additional space for people walking or biking.

**Community visioning via placemaking** Examples include using art to invite people to envision how they would use a public space or the changes they want to see in their neighborhoods.

### **Metro's placemaking program objectives**

**Placemaking** - Prompt people to think differently about a place, foster a personal connection to place and strengthen social fabric.

**Equity** - Promote equitable access to, participation in and benefits from placemaking activities.

**Partnerships** - Promote cross-sector collaboration (public, private, community).

**Leadership** - Build community capacity for civic engagement.