

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS

# MAIN STREET

## Main Street Monthly

*A monthly publication from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs*

### Spaces still available in "Musicant" Placemaking Workshops

OCRA is sponsoring a two-day workshop titled "Placemaking for Main Streets" in six communities across Indiana. The Musicant Group will show communities how to create inexpensive alterations to a public space. By the end of the sessions, the communities will also have a temporary public placemaking installation that was created and built by workshop participants.

Spots are still available for the following dates:

- **Lafayette: July 23-24**
- **Angola: September 10-11**
- **Bargersville: October 8-9**

[Register today!](#)

### Terre Haute Installs First Public Water Fountain



For anyone who's walking the streets of Terre Haute, public water is now accessible thanks to a community effort spearheaded by downtown coordinator, Stephanie Pence.

In an interview with [WIHI](#), Pence said that this project was brought to her attention as a response to the growing homeless population and their need for access to water.

The \$7,000 project, including labor and materials, was

### Important Dates

CDBG Round 1 Applications Due - **July 20**

Musicant Lafayette Workshop - **July 23-24**

Musicant Bloomington Workshop - **July 26-27**

IMPA Conference - **August 29**

[View our calendar](#)

### Registration open for FREE IMPA Conference

Join **OCRA and Municipal Power Agency (IMPA)** as we examine ways to take your community to the next level. Register to attend this FREE conference on **Wednesday, Aug. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the IMPA conference center in Carmel. The day will include a look at how several Indiana cities and towns have empowered entrepreneurship in their communities, as well as examine the impact that downtown housing and Main Street projects have on communities throughout the state.

This event is approved as a Continuing Education (CE) event for certified Grant

entirely donated by local organizations.

Read more about this project [here](#).

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## Main Street Directors, Check your Inbox!

Community Liaisons are scheduling main street assessments with 35 main street organizations between July and November. If you've been contacted, here's a few things you can do to prepare for your assessment.

- Include the committees – Have a few members from different committees present to provide current updates on your organization.
- Encourage the board to be there – We know that with busy schedules, it's impossible for everyone to be there, but it never hurts to ask! However, if possible, ensure that your board president is present at some point during the meeting.
- Invite your mayor – We're always interested in hearing about how the city and main street organizations work together!
- Review your records – Your CLs will be reviewing ROI information, budget and work plans from the past year. If its been a while, give those documents a look before the meeting

As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to [your Community Liaison!](#)

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## Principles of Placemaking

Excerpt from *11 Principles of Placemaking* published in *Placemaking Chicago*

### 1. The community is the expert.

People who use a public space regularly provide the most valuable perspective and insights into how the area functions. They

also can help identify issues that are important to consider in improving the space. Uncovering and incorporating their ideas and talents is essential to creating a successful and vital community place.



### 2. You are creating a place, not a design.

Design is an important component of creating a place, but not the only factor. Providing access and creating active uses, economic opportunities, and programming are often more important than design.

### 3. You can't do it alone.

A good public space requires partners who contribute innovative ideas, financial or political support, and help plan activities. Partners also can also broaden the impact of a civic space by coordinating schedules for programming and improvement projects.

### 4. They'll always say, "It can't be done."

Every community has naysayers. When an idea stretches beyond the reach of an organization or its jurisdiction and an official says, "It can't be done," it usually means: "We've never done things that way before." Keep pushing. Identify

Administrators. Grant Administrators can earn CE credits toward renewal by participating in this event. [Register](#) by Monday, August 20.

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## What are you doing for Downtown Development Week?

The possibilities are endless! You don't have to plan anything big or expensive to celebrate your downtown. Transform regular activities such as a farmers market into a downtown themed event. Indiana loves celebrating and showcasing all of the great things that make us Hoosiers!

Let us know what your community is doing between October 8-14. We want to promote how your community is showing off what makes it special. Contact us [here](#).



Photo courtesy of Madison - 2017 QuIP winners

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## OCRA Announces Quip Winners

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs awarded more than \$59,000 to 13 communities and organizations for quality of place initiatives through the Quick Impact Placebased Grant.

OCRA's Executive Director, Jodi Golden, said, "This grant rewards creativity, ingenuity and collaboration with the end result leaving a lasting impression on communities and the Hoosiers who live there for years to come."

Read the [press release](#) for more information about the winning projects and communities.

For more information, click [here](#).

leaders in the community who share your vision and build support. Talk to your leaders and get them engaged.

**5. You can see a lot by just observing.**

People will often go to extraordinary lengths to adapt a place to suit their needs. A raised curb can be used as a place to sit, sort mail, and even - believe it or not - cook clams. Observing a space allows you to learn how the space is used.

Read about the six other principles [here](#) or read about other placemaking best practices [placemakingchicago.com](http://placemakingchicago.com).



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