Public funding streams are intended to be available broadly, yet knowing what they are or how to tap into them can pose challenges. Federal opportunities are especially difficult to navigate for several reasons. Eligibility requirements can be strict, application documents are often long and complex, the universe of grants is vast while opportunities themselves are highly specific, and the administering agencies may not always understand how creative placemaking strategies can advance the outcomes of their programs. We hope this guide will be a starting place not only for practitioners seeking opportunities, but for the intermediaries and public and private grant makers that provide technical assistance to stakeholders seeking such resources.

There are as many ways to do creative placemaking as there are communities. The universe of federal funding programs that can support such efforts is similarly broad. The guide contains a wide array of federal funding resources that go beyond typical arts grants to encompass various aspects of creative placemaking. Most of them are not directly intended for creative placemaking, but could fund one or more aspects of the overall effort, like business retention or attraction, incorporating artists in planning processes or construction of community-serving facilities.