



RESILIENT TOGETHER - Washington, DC

Call for Artists Release Date: Monday, October 19, 2020

Application Deadline: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 11:59PM

To Apply: Fill out an application using [This Link](#)

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is excited to announce a call for artists for **RESILIENT TOGETHER**. This creative placemaking initiative is designed to support local *Artist/Small Business Partnerships*, ultimately building awareness of and support for small businesses located in **Opportunity Zones owned by entrepreneurs of color in Ward 8**.

The overall goal of the RESILIENT TOGETHER initiative is to spur creative and safe re-opening strategies that small businesses can employ to begin to attract and grow their customer base as they adapt to continually changing COVID-19 restrictions. Artists and small businesses should partner to respond to the call for collaborators. Each project should include at least one artist and one small business (“*Artist/Small Business Partnership*”), and detail the way in which parties will work together on their RESILIENT TOGETHER project. Projects will be evaluated based off the following criteria:

1. Cultural Development – Projects should celebrate and highlight the unique culture of DC neighborhoods and highlight local small businesses run by entrepreneurs of color.
2. Community Engagement – Projects must demonstrate community engagement via project design and/or during the project itself. Projects must also demonstrate the benefit to local community and partner business.
3. COVID-19 Operations – Projects must be in line with DC’s [Re-Opening plan](#) and public health recommendations to ensure community health and safety.
4. Geography – Proposed project must be located in Ward 8 and within or adjacent to an [Opportunity Zone](#).

Projects across artistic disciplines (digital arts, performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, decorative arts, etc.) are welcomed. Winners will be determined by a selection committee comprised of local stakeholders. Projects can be primarily virtual or in person. Examples of what a project might be include:

- Online performance or digital engagement
- Public installations and sculptures
- Pop-up markets or exhibits
- Photography or Film
- Culturally-based dance, theater, or musical performances
- Spoken word poetry
- Storytelling

Winning *Artist/Small Business Partnerships* will be **awarded up to \$5,000**. The award will be paid directly to the business, and the business will be required to reimburse the artist as agreed upon in the award MOU. The initiative will award 3-5 grants total.

The deadline to apply is 11:59PM on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. LISC will hold two webinars on Thursday, October 29th at 7PM ([Register here](#)) and Monday, November 16th at 3PM ([Register here](#)). These sessions will be designed to answer any questions and provide guidance to interested *Artist/Small Business Partnerships*. Winners will be notified by LISC.



Each *Artist/Small Business Partnership* awarded will be expected to:

1. Participate in 2-3 check in calls with LISC to discuss progress on project design and implementation.
2. Set and meet specific community engagement targets as specified in Artist/Small Business proposal and agreed upon in a MOU with LISC.
3. Follow CDC and Washington D.C. COVID-19 related public health guidelines to ensure safety of all attendees
4. Obtain all necessary permits from the District of Columbia as required by the project
5. Prepare a short report summarizing project, including but not limited to: documented expenses, total number of individuals engaged, business(es) engaged, revenue generated by project and photographs of event and project.
6. Allow the work to be highlighted by LISC, the government of the District of Columbia and Cities of Service via press release, social media, and other relevant channels.

Creative Placemaking according to LISC

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a community development organization that has been working in DC neighborhoods since 1982. LISC works to help create healthy neighborhoods that are good places to live, work, raise children, and conduct business. For LISC, Creative Placemaking means people coming together to make positive physical, economic and social impacts in their neighborhood through art, culture, and creativity. LISC's engages in Creative Placemaking informed by the following guiding principles:

1. Artists as Leaders – LISC defines art and culture broadly to include anyone who professes and practices their creative expression. LISC invests in artists as leaders, supporting them in the transformation of their communities.
2. Racial Equity – People of Color and people from other historically disinvested communities must be at the center of the transformation in their communities
3. Development without Displacement – We believe in arts and culture as a tool to anchor community cultural identity and ensure as new investment occurs it is in a way that current residents still recognize as their own. Efforts must also be made to prevent financial displacement
4. Community Driven, comprehensive, collaborative – creative placemaking must be based in the hopes, dreams and desires of residents, the work must be comprehensive examining surrounding factors (family income, access to education, livable environments, etc.) and work must be done collaboratively across stakeholders

Creative Placemaking in the time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented challenges for artists, small businesses, and society at large. LISC believes even in a time of social distancing, arts and culture have a unique role to play in providing hope and connection in the midst of incredible uncertainty. LISC recognizes that given the uncertain nature of the times, plans may change and will be in continual conversations with RESILIENT TOGETHER winners. *Artists/Small Business Partnerships* are encouraged to consider both in person and virtual projects as a way of meeting the suggested project goals. For examples of creative placemaking in the time of COVID-19, please check out this resource from [Forecast Public Art](#).



Eligibility

To be eligible each submission must include

1. A partnership between at least one small business and one artist.
2. The business must be owned by a person of color, located within or adjacent to a Ward 8 Opportunity Zone and in good standing with The District of Columbia.
3. Be capable of completion by the end of March 2021. LISC will work with *Artist/Small Business Partnerships* to identify realistic timeline for completion based off proposed project.
4. Demonstrate how your project will:
 - a. Highlight the unique culture of DC neighborhoods
 - b. Include Community Engagement in Design and Implementation
 - c. Benefit the community and local small business by increasing awareness of and support for small businesses owned by entrepreneurs of color

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Timeline

- Application Open: Monday, October 19th
- Q&A Webinar 1: Thursday, October 29th at 7PM ([Register here](#))*
- Q&A Webinar 2: Monday, November 16th at 3PM ([Register here](#))*
- Application Close: Tuesday, December 1th at 11:59PM
- Award Winners Notified: No later than Thursday, December 31st
- Projects Completed: No later than March 2021, project timeline to be finalized in partnership with LISC

* Webinars will be recorded and posted at <https://www.lisc.org/dc/regional-stories/resilienttogether>