

# spaces to places

## Community Development Placemaking Program

### WHAT IS PLACEMAKING?

Placemaking is the activation and reimagining of public spaces in communities. It is the ongoing collaborative process of creating quality places to strengthen the connection between people and their community.

**Public spaces** include: squares, parks, streets, sidewalks, alleys, corridors, public buildings, markets, trails, parking lots, community gardens, campuses, and privately owned public spaces.

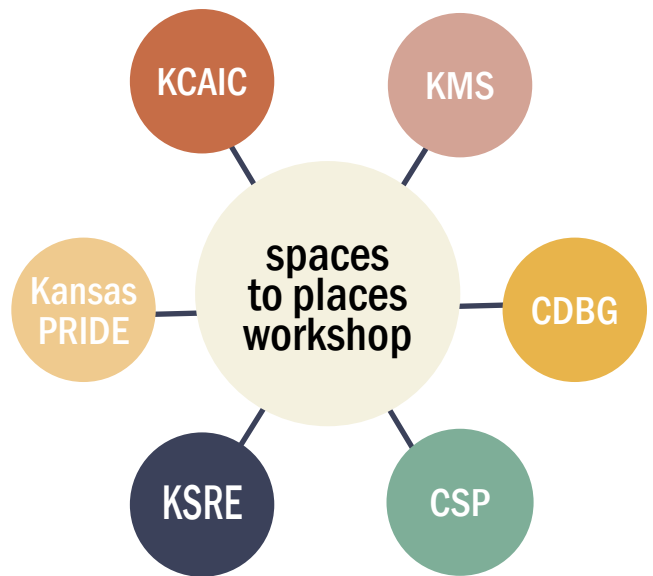


### WHAT IS THE SPACES TO PLACES PROGRAM?

It is a new program for **building community cohesion**, as a key to implementing projects. Spaces to Places supports community-led projects that create, revitalize, or activate public spaces, and bring people together to create welcoming and thriving communities across Kansas.

The program includes a community workshop and outreach, place assessment, and action planning. Community Development staff will guide communities through a four-step process over two months to engage cross-sector stakeholders, youth, and residents to create and pursue an action plan for their public spaces.

Communities will be connected with other community development programs for potential funding or technical assistance, such as the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission (KCAIC), Kansas Main Street, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Service Tax Credit Program (CSP), or the Kansas Community Empowerment and Kansas State Research & Extension (KSRE).



Spaces to Places is a place-based economic development program that **creates a community placemaking action plan** that can lead to:

**Activating and revitalizing public spaces and programming to foster vibrant communities.**

**Empowering residents and local stakeholders to play an active role in shaping and investing in their community.**

**Advancing “quick build” projects which boost community confidence and local pride.**

**Building inclusive and welcoming spaces for social connection, health, and recreation.**

**Increasing the priority and accessibility to green spaces.**

**Stimulating the creative economy and supporting equitable access to the arts.**

**Encouraging entrepreneurship, partnership, and public and private local investment.**

**Emphasizing youth involvement and leadership in community projects.**

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## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



### **Kansas Main Street Affiliate communities.**

Any entity (city, non-profit organization, etc.) can represent an Affiliate community by submitting a brief form to express interest in participating.

Applicants describe community needs, current or prospective partnerships, potential project ideas, and experience in placemaking and engagement. It is encouraged to collaborate with other entities by gathering support letters.

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## WHEN IS SPACES TO PLACES OFFERED?

There will be an ongoing call for interested communities to participate starting May 30, 2023. Of the interested communities, we will implement two pilot communities **July to September 2023**. After the first two pilot communities are completed, interested communities will participate year-round.

**SPACES TO PLACES PROCESS**

1



**STEP 1: Initial Meeting with CD Staff (1 hour)**

Community representatives meet virtually with CD staff to introduce the process and next steps. The community creates a plan to recruit a cross-sector stakeholder group, set dates and outreach plan, and send out a *Place Assessment Survey* to the community for an initial assessment.

2



**STEP 2: Key Stakeholder Exercise (2 hours)**

CD staff meets in-person with the internal stakeholder group for placemaking exercises and inventory local resources (mapping the people, physical sites, and events in town and region).

3



**STEP 3: Community Placemaking Workshop (3-4 hours)**

CD staff conducts the placemaking workshop for all residents with group exercises, visioning, and site evaluation (if applicable). This includes targeted outreach to engage youth (K-12 and college students).

4



**STEP 4: Action Plan Workshop (2-3 hours)**

CD staff meet in-person with the internal stakeholder group to review engagement, finalize vision, and create detailed action plan with short- and long-term goals. The plan identifies champions, timeline, and next steps with a funding plan for identified projects.

**Program Evaluation and Community Check-In**

Six months to one year after the community creates the action plan, CD staff checks in to evaluate progress and identify if additional assistance is needed. CD staff will track the change in community perception, partnerships, collaboration, and local investment to measure success of the program.