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FIFTEEN PROJECTS TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS

Trenton -- From a book festival to monthly bike clinics to murals and collaborative art, fifteen projects will launch in the coming weeks with the shared goal of fostering creativity and community engagement in the Old Trenton Neighborhood (Hanover-Academy). The projects were designed by organizations, artists, and residents that are active in the neighborhood, and are supported by [I Am Trenton Community Foundation](#) through a partnership with [Isles, Inc.](#) under the New Jersey Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program.



Among the projects are (clockwise from top left) Wills Kinsley's Off the Chain bike clinic, the Garvey School's dance and performing arts classes, and a mural by artist Leon Rainbow on N. Broad Street.

The public is encouraged to meet the project teams and learn more at an **Open House on Monday, April 30, 2018, from 6:30-7:30 pm, at the Trenton Free Public Library.** A full list of projects appears below.

"I Am Trenton Community Foundation supports ideas that make our city even better, where Trentonians are active agents of change," says Jon Carl Lewis, President. "We feel privileged to be supporting this remarkable mix of neighborhood improvement and the arts."

Many of the projects will create something new or fill a gap. For instance, the Six Oh Nine Project, an initiative that organizes platforms for local artists to exhibit and create together, will launch a 12-week photography program that will guide local teens through creating and exhibiting a portfolio of work.

Says founder S. Bola Okoya, a professional Trenton-based photographer, “I look forward to providing Trenton youth a chance to create in a new and exciting way that they might never have had an opportunity to.”

New York-based artist Marthalia Matarrita, who has done several projects in Trenton, will partner with Artworks to create a set of mural panels with neighborhood children at the Trenton Free Public Library on Art Making Day, April 21. “The sharing of visual concepts and ideas, the sharing of the common background of a Hispanic heritage, the sharing of information that increases community pride, is what motivates me and makes me feel that what I do as an artist is worth it,” she explains. “With this project, I hope to pass on this feeling of sharing, inclusiveness, encouragement, and having a good time to the younger generation in the Old Trenton community.”

The projects were selected from a pool of 25 proposals I Am Trenton received in February, following an open public process in which neighborhood residents and artists collaboratively designed the requirements that projects would be expected to meet. The independent selection panel included professional artists from multiple fields as well as Trenton community members.

These Old Trenton Arts and Community projects are some of the first initiatives associated with the [Creek to Canal Creative District](#), which includes the Old Trenton Neighborhood and other portions of downtown Trenton. The planning process to create the Creative District identified initiatives that could support Trenton’s growing arts community, address challenges such as safety and abandonment, and build on the long presence of creative institutions, businesses, and residents in the area. “There are significant improvements underway in Old Trenton,” says Julia Taylor, Deputy Operations Officer at Isles, “and these projects build on and increase that positive momentum.”

Old Trenton Arts & Community Projects

- **Academy One Garden: Garden Improvements**
The Academy One Garden will be improving its physical space and engaging more community members to make the garden more open and hospitable.
- **Andrew Wilkinson: Reflect, then Transform**
A public art project that will install reflective material over boarded up windows and other structures in the neighborhood. The concept is to reflect the beauty of the community, streets and architecture during its transformation.
- **Artworks Trenton: Old Trenton Flavor**
Old Trenton youth and families will collaboratively create mural panels under the supervision of artist Marthalia Matarrita and Artworks at the Trenton Free Public Library during Artworks’ Art Making Day, on April 21, 2018. The panels will be mounted along the 1975 wing of the Library.
- **Bruce Lindsay and Aylin Green: OTN Art Puzzle**
The OTN Art Puzzle is a community art project designed to create recognition of the unique shape of the City of Trenton and foster civic pride. The iconic shape of Trenton will be cut from primed plywood, painted by participants of all ages and backgrounds during public events held in the Old Trenton Neighborhood, and exhibited in the neighborhood in Fall 2018.
- **Each One Teach One: The Each One Teach One Project**
This project will bring a series of film screenings and interactive discussions designed to create dialogue within the Old Trenton Community and its neighbors.

- **First Presbyterian Church of Trenton: First Presbyterian connects with Old Trenton**
The historic First Presbyterian Church aims to become more involved with the Old Trenton community by creating a sign about its history and inviting the community into the Church to dialogue about how we can work together to help the neighborhood.
- **The Garvey School: Garvey Community Education Program (GCEP)**
A program designed to empower residents with educational, cultural, and performing arts workshops, including dance, drumming, sewing, etc., that will be hosted at venues within the neighborhood including the Trenton Public Library and MCCC.
- **Herman 'Shorty' Rose with Lisa Lewis: Children are the Future of Art**
An educational program introducing art to children of the Old Trenton neighborhood through fun arts activities, to be hosted at the Trenton Community A-TEAM.
- **Leon Rainbow/ TAWA: Beautiful Broad Street Mural Project**
The bright and colorful mural will depict the cityscape on Broad street from Broad St Discount Furniture to Mercer County Community College, Fashion and Design School, bringing focus and interest to this section of North Broad Street.
- **The Orchid Group: Creative Capital**
A project designed to cultivate residents' interest and ownership in the Old Trenton creative economy through a combination of design and fabrication of furniture and other items and educational programming around land use, property ownership, etc.
- **The Six Oh Nine Project: F.A.C.T. [Future Artists + Creators of Trenton]**
A 12-week hands-on photography program for teens that will teach participants the fundamentals of photography, guide them in creating a portfolio in the neighborhood, and exhibit their work.
- **Trenton Community A-Team: Collaborative Mural**
For this public art project, the Trenton Community A-Team artists will collaborate on a series of 12 mural panels, to be installed along the fence along TCAT's courtyard at 51 North Stockton Street.
- **The Trenton People's Bookfair: The Second Trenton People's Bookfair**
A multicultural, free, family friendly, all day event celebrating equality, equity, diversity, and the city of Trenton in Old Trenton. There will be free food, free music, free books, workshops and book vendors.
- **Walter Roberts: Faces of Old Trenton**
Local artist Walter Roberts will showcase a full range of people, streetscapes, and distinct features of the neighborhood via pastel portraits and interviews, working with teenage resident Nasir Murphy to create photo and video documentation of the process.
- **William Kinsley: Off the Chain**
Off the Chain will be a free monthly series of community bicycle repair workshops at the Orchid House, that aim to make cycling safer and easier for Old Trenton residents.