



Sample Projects

Animating Infrastructure | FY2017

Each of these projects demonstrates integration of the arts into a community; a connection to a community's shared narrative; community engagement via the arts; or all of the foregoing. They are not intended to serve as model projects, but as inspiration to spark your own ideas as you develop your project.

Bike and Pedestrian Path: A downtown organization working in partnership with the Parks & Recreation Department and the School has identified the location for a community bike path and would like to include sculptural signs and bike racks along the trail that reflect the community history of being an important stop along the underground railroad. A sculptor is hired with **Animating Infrastructure** funds to design the signs and bike racks. With an innovative plan in place the community now has the vision and specific designs/budget in place to actively fundraise to implement the project. The path will be open to all pedestrians and bikers daily from dawn to dusk.

Small Wind Tower and Solar Panels: A Town Select Board working in partnership with the local Energy Company wants to install a very small scale wind turbine or solar panel to generate power for its Town offices. The design will be developed with a team consisting of an engineer, architect, and artist, hired with **Animating Infrastructure** funds, to make a unique design that is not only functional but reflects the unique aspects of the community history in the machine tool industry. The energy company will hold community seminars on the benefits of wind/solar energy during construction. The structure is visible to the community and there is information about the work at the Town office, the local library, and on the Town website.

Local Bridge: A Town Planning Commission is faced with replacing a small local bridge on a Town road in the community. A sculptor is hired with **Animating Infrastructure** funds to work with an architect and engineer to design artistic enhancements into the bridge. A design is developed for a new covered bridge that has images carved in the overhead entrances that reflects the community transportation history. Carvings of trains, carriages, bicycles, tractors, and cars as found in images from the Historical Society collection of photos are included in the design. With the artistic enhancements already designed into the bridge, the Town now has the plan with a specific vision that is reflective of the community and unique to its place. There is a sidewalk included on the bridge and information about the images is provided at the site.

Farmers' Market: A local Chamber of Commerce, working in partnership with area farmers, wants to create a series of permanent farm stand structures that are attractive and uniquely artful and support their regular farmer's market activities. The unique farm stands will be designed in partnership with an architect and artists, hired with **Animating Infrastructure** funds, to offer a visibly unique experience and attract visitors and customers—not just for the world class food—but for the exciting visual experience of being in the space. Each farm stand design reflects a unique element of the community's agricultural history. The structures will be used for weekly farmers and artisan markets. .

Community Center: A local arts organization is interested in undertaking a planning process to turn an abandoned building in town into a community center for arts and other community activities. As part of the

renovation project, the arts organization works in partnership with the local wastewater treatment facility to hire an artist with **Animating Infrastructure** funds to develop artistically designed drains and gutters along the outside of the building that will capture storm runoff. The designs and shapes that capture the water, visually reflect the story of the former function of the facility as a clothespin factory.

Public Library: A local public library is about to undergo a design process to build an addition to its historic building. Working in partnership with the local elementary school, the library uses **Animating Infrastructure** funds to hire a visual artist to work with the community to develop artistic enhancements to the building that reflect the importance of reading. The artist works with the project architect and the library's board of trustees and staff as well as teachers from the school to suggest project enhancements that make the space more efficient and offer a better patron experience; these include a new children's reading room, and outdoor reading garden, that include permanent sculptural seating elements designed in the shape of letters of the alphabet. Weekly storytelling sessions will be hosted by community elders.

Fire Station: XYZ Town is funding the construction of a new Fire Station. Working in partnership with the local Antique Auto History Museum, an artist, hired with **Animating Infrastructure** funding is engaged to design a sculptural frieze for the building, representing the various antique fire trucks and equipment that was used by the fireman over the Town's history. Workshops sponsored by the museum introduce community members to the art of relief carving; one section of the frieze is completed by the volunteer fire fighters. In addition, as a partner on the project, the Village Improvement Association is placing planters in the shapes of antique fire trucks in 10 locations around the village.