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## Allied Media Projects and Young Nation Receive ArtPlace America Grants for Creative Placemaking Projects in Southwest and Northeast Detroit

**DETROIT, MI** - Allied Media Projects and Young Nation announced today that they are among 38 recipients of ArtPlace America's 2015 National Grants Program. ArtPlace, one of the nation's largest philanthropies dedicated to creative placemaking, is investing \$225,000 in Young Nation for the Elsmere-Avis Plaza and Market, and \$500,000 in "CreateNED," a collaborative community revitalization project by Allied Media Projects with partners RestoreNED (Northeast Detroit/District 3) and The Work Department.

ArtPlace selected these Detroit recipients from a pool of nearly 1,300 applicants across 48 states and the District of Columbia. In selecting Young Nation and Allied Media Projects as grantees, ArtPlace is recognizing and investing in models of creative placemaking that put the work and vision of long-time residents at the heart of community planning and development, while integrating best practices of art, culture, and participatory design.

Both of the funded projects grow out of many years of grassroots organizing and relationship-building in their respective neighborhoods of Southwest and Northeast Detroit, where they work with dozens of community organizations, block clubs, arts organizations, churches, businesses, and other anchor institutions. These projects share a vision for utilizing the ArtPlace grants to foster more equitable, beautiful, and creative communities.

### Allied Media Projects: CreateNED

Allied Media Projects will work with RestoreNED, a coalition of six community-based organizations in Northeast Detroit, and The Work Department, a design studio that uses human-centered and participatory design, on the CreateNED project. The project will promote and begin to implement a plan for equitable and creative development in Northeast Detroit, utilizing art, design, and digital communications in the revitalization strategy.

Since 2011, the RestoreNED coalition has conducted an independent land-use planning process that has resulted in a resident-led vision for the district. With support from ArtPlace, the CreateNED project will make the outcomes of this work more visible, both through online channels and communications, and within the built environment through the development of public art and landscape projects in vacant lots and in local parks.

"Through this process, local art and artistic talents will emerge, be recognized, and be celebrated," said Karen Washington, one of the CreateNED coordinators.

The CreateNED project will include public festivals that promote the revitalization plan, demonstration projects in three city parks, and the distribution of seed grants for resident-led public art and landscape architecture projects. The project will also launch a CreateNED website and related online



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communications to share and promote a vision for the community's development, with the goal of incorporating that vision into the City of Detroit's new Master Plan.

"We are excited to celebrate the vision we established as a community in 2011," said Pat Bosh, another coordinator of CreateNED. "Now we can activate our plans and use our parks as an anchor point for grassroots, community-led revitalization. We hope to make Northeast Detroit come alive with creative art and landscape projects, and inspire greater appreciation of the beauty and creativity we have within the district."

Learn more about the CreateNED project at: <http://www.artplaceamerica.org/grantee/create-northeast-detroit-create-ned>

Watch a video about CreateNED at: <https://vimeo.com/121970837>

### Young Nation: Elsmere-Avis Plaza and Market

Young Nation will work with the artists, youth and residents of Southwest Detroit to design a new building, plaza and green space at the intersection of Elsmere and Avis streets in the neighborhood. The project will provide a supportive space for community members, visitors, and artists to create and build socio-economic capital.

Young Nation has been at the forefront of creative revitalization efforts in Southwest Detroit, primarily through its initiative The Alley Project (TAP), a community gallery that displays street art by local youth, while also creating a safe environment to build intergenerational relationships. The Elsmere-Avis Plaza and Market, which is located adjacent to TAP, will greatly expand the initiative's capacity and role in the neighborhood as a catalyst for cultural development and economic growth.

"The primary goal of our work is reframing the narrative of our communities and helping to form relationships between youth, elders, and community members," said Erik Howard, founder of Young Nation. "Building out our own physical, permanent space with the Elsmere-Avis Plaza and Market is a big step up for us because it allows us to expand our programming year-round, while also hosting local businesses in the space to help grow entrepreneurial activity in the neighborhood."

Learn more about the Elsmere-Avis Plaza and Market at:  
<http://www.artplaceamerica.org/grantee/elsmere-avis-plaza-and-market>

### *About ArtPlace America*

ArtPlace America (ArtPlace) is a ten-year collaboration of foundations, banks, and federal agencies that exists to position art and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities. Visit [www.artplaceamerica.org](http://www.artplaceamerica.org) for more information.



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To view the complete list of 2015 ArtPlace grantees, go to [www.artplaceamerica.org](http://www.artplaceamerica.org).

### *About Allied Media Projects*

Allied Media Projects' mission is to cultivate media strategies for a more just, creative, and collaborative world. Through the Allied Media Conference and the Sponsored Projects program, AMP shares and supports models for using media for transformative social change. Visit [www.alliedmedia.org](http://www.alliedmedia.org) for more information.

### *About Young Nation*

Young Nation's mission is to promote holistic development of youth in urban settings through building relationships, community education, and passion-driven projects. Visit [www.youngnation.us](http://www.youngnation.us) for more information.

### *About RestoreNED*

The mission of Restore NED is to empower, strengthen and transform Northeast Detroit into a vibrant community. Visit [www.facebook.com/pages/Restore-Northeast-Detroit](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Restore-Northeast-Detroit) for more information.

### *About The Work Dept.*

The Work Department is a design studio that uses human-centered and participatory design. We empower businesses and organizations to more effectively carry out their missions and realize greater impact. Visit [www.theworkdept.com](http://www.theworkdept.com) for more information.

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### For Press Inquiries:

Erik Howard  
Young Nation  
[mrehoward@yahoo.com](mailto:mrehoward@yahoo.com)  
(313) 598-2050

Pat Bosh  
RestoreNED  
[villagendet@aol.com](mailto:villagendet@aol.com)  
(313) 891-7709

Karen Washington  
RestoreNED  
[emmanuel\\_center@yahoo.com](mailto:emmanuel_center@yahoo.com)  
(313) 377-6550

Jenny Lee  
Allied Media Projects



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[ALLIEDMEDIA.ORG](http://ALLIEDMEDIA.ORG)

[jenny@alliedmedia.org](mailto:jenny@alliedmedia.org)  
(313) 903-0322

Nina Bianchi  
The Work Dept.  
[nina@theworkdept.com](mailto:nina@theworkdept.com)  
(313) 595-4375

