



The Gaylord Building

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arts-based Community Development Investment for Lockport *The Gaylord Building one of 89 National Endowment for the Arts Our Town projects selected nationwide*

June 14, 2017 - Lockport, IL – National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced 89 awards totaling \$6.89 million supporting projects across the nation through the NEA's Our Town program. The Gaylord Building will receive a grant of \$50,000 to go towards an upcoming project that will stimulate local artists while giving Lockport residents a look into the entrepreneurial spirit and industrial history of Lockport. The NEA received 274 eligible applications for Our Town this year and will make grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

"The arts reflect the vision, energy, and talent of America's artists and arts organizations," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support organizations such as The Gaylord Building, to cultivate vitality in their communities through the arts."

The Gaylord Building is excited to lead the creation and execution of **unLock: Merging Art and Industry in Downtown Lockport** - a citywide multimedia art experience in Lockport, IL that will increase the city's creative and commercial activity and advance local revitalization efforts by using art to galvanize the city's unique heritage.

"This innovative project will use art to interpret the entrepreneurial spirit and industrial heritage of the Gaylord Building and throughout downtown Lockport. This support from NEA can be transformative as we work to ensure our historic site is a vibrant and sustainable part of the community," said executive director Pam Owens.

Ten local and regional artists will create new works that interpret Lockport's past and present and art inspired by the city's rich historic assets and intimate connection with the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. Selected works will be installed or performed in businesses, historic sites and cultural institutions throughout Downtown Lockport and will be on public display connecting historic resources, landscapes and business of the city- guiding visitors and residents through the physical and cultural assets of Lockport.



A Site of the
**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**

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All new pieces will have accompanied programming which will invite visitors to interact, listen, linger, and learn in new ways at Lockport's buildings, businesses and landscapes.

For a **complete list of projects** recommended for Our Town grant support, please visit the NEA web site at www.arts.gov. The NEA recently relaunched the [creative placemaking web page](#) for additional resources.

To join the social media conversation about this announcement, please use **#NEASpring17**.

The Gaylord Building, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, played a vital role in the creation of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. A landmark since 1838, this handsome limestone warehouse originally stored canal construction materials and later housed a variety of commercial ventures. Today it is a national example of adaptive reuse, community engagement, and serves as a gateway to the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor.

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