

Region Five Development Commission Receives ArtPlace America Grant for the Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace

ArtPlace America recently announced the recipients of their National Creative Placemaking fund. Region Five Development Commission and the Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace in Little Falls are among the recipients awarded \$440,000 to help support an ongoing economic development opportunity that utilizes culinary, functional and nonfunctional art installations and experiences. Cheryal Hills, Executive Director at Region Five says the ArtPlace grant will help the communities within the region flourish. Hills states, *“We have a unique opportunity to showcase our population of local artists and growers who are a vital part of the economic prosperity and culture of this region. The Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace in Little Falls will be a community gathering place to enjoy live music, view local forms of art, try new foods, share recipes, utilize locally made/culturally diverse artistic expressions that beautify and fill the Sprout Marketplace space. This opportunity advances our placemaking journey, and we welcome ALL to share in upcoming conversations and experiences that reflect our unique region.”*

About Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace:

The Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace is a newly constructed 20,000 square foot building that dubs as a culturally diverse hot spot for artists and growers alike. It also serves as a local food processing facility complete with cooking demonstrations. Growers and artists across the region can find solace in the indoor winter marketplace to sell their locally grown produce, art, and more.

What will this grant provide?

Commissioned ART. Project Core Team members (from Sprout, R5DC, The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa, 3 Cheers Hospitality, The Latino Economic Development Corporation and local grower artists with trusted relationships within Amish and Somali grower communities), will continue to meet with culturally diverse communities to prioritize commissioned art that will reside at the Sprout Marketplace to allow for ongoing conversation and appreciation of diverse cultural heritage.

Art demonstrations. In addition to commissioned art from culturally diverse artist, grant funds will support performing artists and artist demonstrations coordinated for general public on open Marketplace dates.

Multi-cultural culinary art demonstration and cooking classes. Core team members engage regional culinary artists/chefs to set cooking demonstrations and cooking classes of heritage recipes, alongside community members.

Business classes. Growers and artists will set forth a schedule of learning opportunities, such as succession planning that increase economic prosperity.

Deployment of a variety of art forms selected to address economic development offer mutually beneficial impacts. Artists partner with local growers at Sprout Marketplace to increase economic benefits and livable wages for both. All activities improve our region’s way of doing business, create an improved ecosystem that collectively provides new experiences for

residents to financially prosper, and welcome all resident to participate and learn from each other in ways that inspire future initiatives.