Social Connection Projects

Funded by a grant from The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation
In a time where physical distance is necessary to keep us all safe, how can artists keep us connected?

A series of artist-led projects were funded in this uncertain time to keep Cincinnati together, separately. Eric Avner posted on his facebook feed on March 13th, “Okay #Cincinnati: How do we remain socially connected when we have to be physically distanced?” He asked folks to submit ideas to People’s Liberty’s website, which resulted in 38 idea submissions. Seven of these bright ideas were then funded by The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation in partnership with Wave Pool.

The projects ranged from mobile projections to food delivery to roving yard flamingos. One thing they all have in common: they aim to connect people to each other, from a distance.

**Projects**

- **Projection Connections**
  by Douglas Borntrager

- **Soup and Bread Cincy**
  by Katie Vogel

- **Dial-Up**
  by Colleen O’Connor*

- **Pink Flamingo Rescue**
  by Jeffrey Miller

- **Food Tour To Go**
  by Barb Cooper

- **Signs of Respect**
  by ART HAGS

* Coordinated by Colleen O’Connor, inspired from idea by Katherine Durack.
Projection Connections

by Douglas Borntrager

A traveling light projection installation, Borntrager coordinated with artists to develop content that was seen as light up displays from their houses and apartments throughout the city.

Created in partnership with Know Theater.

Engagement

15 Installations
2,700 Viewings
Estimated live impressions

7 Neighborhoods
673 Followers on Facebook
9,800 views on social
Virtual dinnertime is an opportunity to check-in and share a meal. Weekly dinners were made out of pantry staples and shared virtually among strangers. Additionally, delivery of needed food staples was coordinated for people who needed them to participate. The project also supported local musicians with a mid-dinner set from folks including The Tillers’ Mike Oberst, and Kate Wakefield.

**Engagement**

- **43 Participants**
  Participants from 12 local neighborhoods, 4 US cities, and 2 international cities

- **$110 of Groceries donated**

- **4 Dinner Concerts**
  Average musician earning was $300 per 30 minute gig

- **200 Facebook Members**
Dial-Up

coordinated by Colleen O’Connor, inspired from idea by Katherine Durack

A series of dynamic and participatory community conversations with artists, musicians, entrepreneurs, and others to inspire connection to ones’ neighbors both near and far through shared-experiences. Referencing past ways of communicating and connecting with larger groups of people through telephone party-lines and internet chat rooms – Dial Up’s approach is inclusive and plural. It does not discriminate or eliminate participation, and intends to reflect, commiserate, and postulate on what we are currently experiencing, how we are coping, and why our world will never be the same.

Engagement

9 Conversations 465 Attendees
6,700 Social Media Across Facebook Impressions and Zoom
Pink Flamingo Rescue

by Jeffrey Miller

Intended to elicit a smile and a reminder of our connection to community, this project used a flock of 100 portable yard flamingos. Participants signed up to 'adopt' this flock for a few days in their yard, and Miller installed and then moved the flock to a new, randomly-selected location. Those who adopted the flock were encouraged to participate in the yard placement process and creative decorating of the flamingos.

Engagement

- 9 Neighborhoods
- 10,000 Viewings
- 117 Followers on Facebook
- Estimated live impressions
- 2,000 views on social
Food Tour To Go
by Barb Cooper

Presented by Cincinnati Food Tours, a small box of non-perishable items from Findlay market merchants will be delivered to your door. Send a special gift to a family member, friend, or neighbor. Thank a first responder. Order in bulk for your next virtual meeting with co-workers. Or just treat yourself! This grant provided free shipping to the first 80 orders.

Engagement

137 Total Boxes Sold
55 Boxes Sold Out of State
$1,406 Products Purchased
Helping support Findlay Market merchants

Shipped to 15 states
Signs of Respect
by ART HAGS

*Signs of Respect* was a call for neighbors to interact with each other outside of digital communication by utilizing a DIY approach to create homemade, upcycled signage. Individuals were invited to follow prompts using simple templates to create signs for their yard or windows to support methods of ‘IRL’ connectedness, holding space for creativity, and recognition of one another in our most immediate surrounding during these anxious and trying times. The ART HAGS group is comprised of Linnea Gartin, Liz Miller, Amy Scarpello, Kate Tepe, and Cori Wolff.

**Engagement**

- 50 Signs to Artists
- 50 Made in Classes
  - Camp cARTwheel and Cincinnati Art Museum Camp
- 50 Signs Given Out at Art Climb
- 2 Press Coverages
  - From Spectrum and Channel 12
Thank You!

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