



# CREATIVE COMMUNITY FELLOWS PROGRAM

Around the world, there are artists, activists, community organizers, administrators and entrepreneurs working as change-makers in their communities – using arts and culture as vehicles to drive physical and social transformations. Community change requires leaders with grit, those who are passionate and dedicated to tackling the challenges that lie ahead. It requires leaders who carefully engage local partners, who listen to the advice and counsel of community members and adapt their strategy based upon community feedback.

With the support of The Kresge Foundation, we've built the *Creative Community Fellows* program for leaders working in this space. We give them tools, training and access to a community of support. This combination will fuel their visions for community change, sparking new ideas and helping propel them into action.

This community of change-makers, combined with Fellows from the first cohort, will create a powerful network in which ideas and opportunities flow freely. The inaugural class demonstrated how the collective wisdom of Fellows, mentors, faculty and communities fuels each project and creates a global dialogue about the ways in which culture can restore and animate communities.

The *Creative Community Fellows* program, presented in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice and The Center for Social Impact Strategy, incorporates a residential and an online track but we are creating a single, unique community of entrepreneurs. All Fellows enter the program with an idea for a cultural project that responds to a problem they want to solve in their communities.

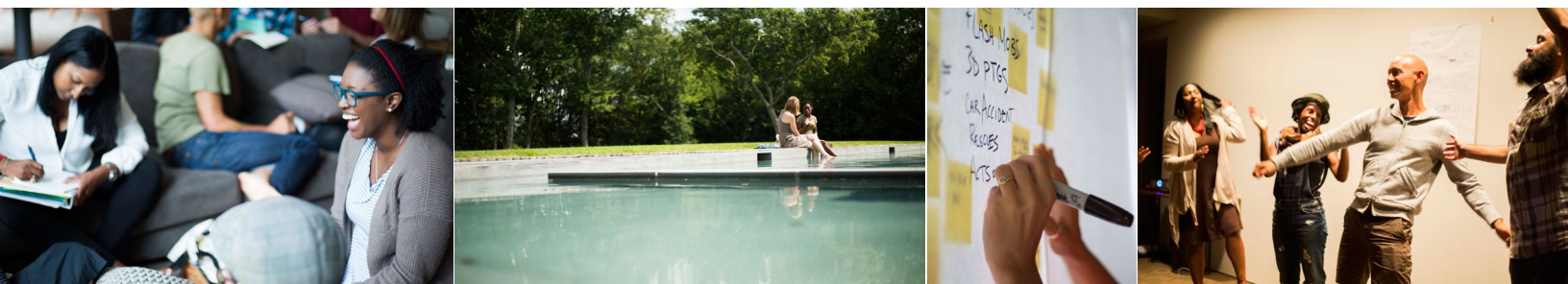
## PROGRAM DATES

- Application open**  
March 16-April 26, 2015
- Creative Community House**  
July 20-27, 2015
- Online courses**  
Monthly, July-December 2015
- Creative Community Launchpad**  
January 2016

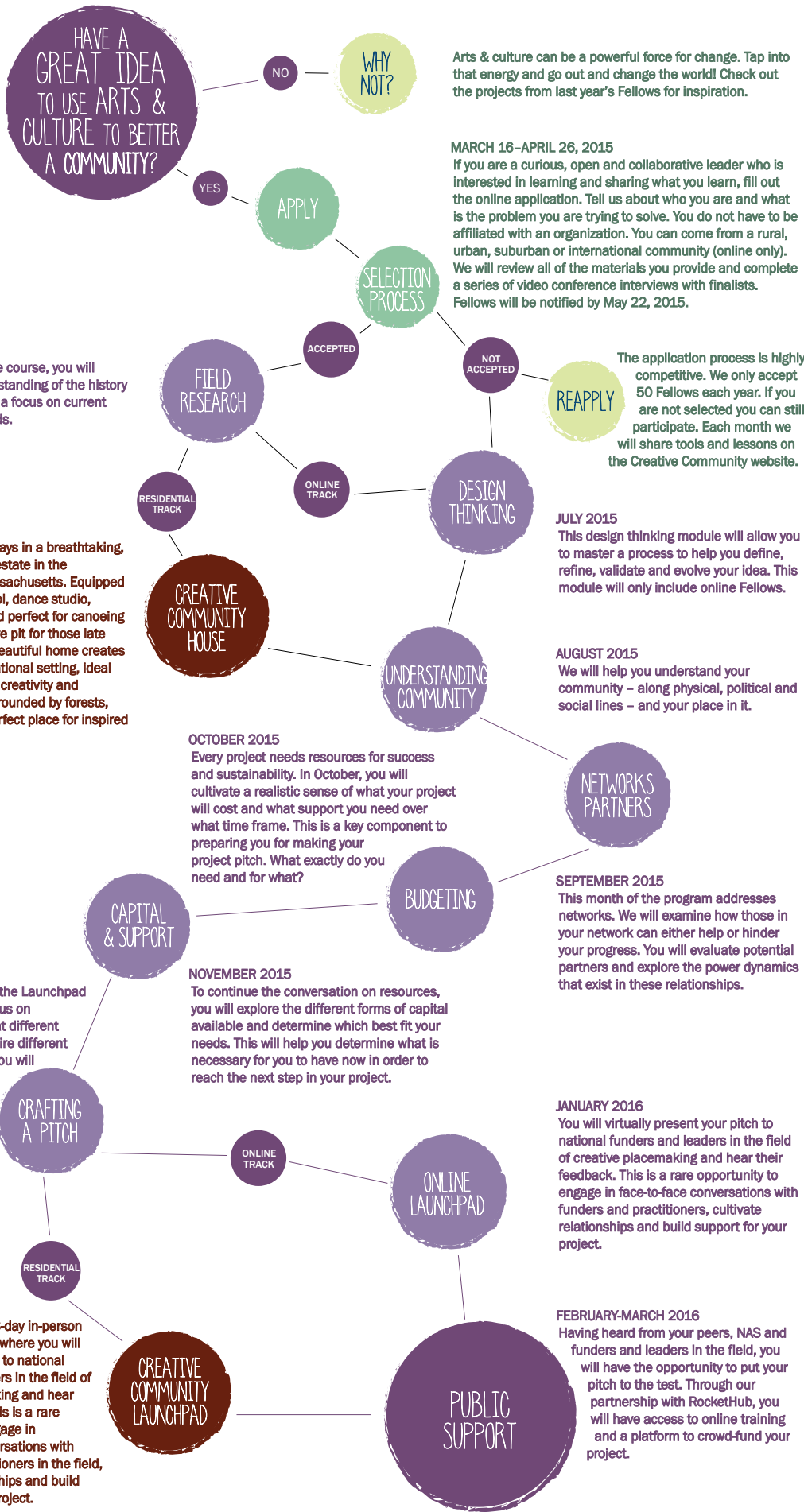
This program is the result of our partnership with the following incredible institutions:



To learn more or apply, go to [artstrategies.org/creative\\_community\\_fellows](http://artstrategies.org/creative_community_fellows).



# HOW IT WORKS



Arts & culture can be a powerful force for change. Tap into that energy and go out and change the world! Check out the projects from last year's Fellows for inspiration.

**MARCH 16–APRIL 26, 2015**  
If you are a curious, open and collaborative leader who is interested in learning and sharing what you learn, fill out the online application. Tell us about who you are and what is the problem you are trying to solve. You do not have to be affiliated with an organization. You can come from a rural, urban, suburban or international community (online only). We will review all of the materials you provide and complete a series of video conference interviews with finalists. Fellows will be notified by May 22, 2015.

**JULY 2015**  
Through this online course, you will further your understanding of the history of your fields, with a focus on current research and trends.

The application process is highly competitive. We only accept 50 Fellows each year. If you are not selected you can still participate. Each month we will share tools and lessons on the Creative Community website.

**JULY 20–27, 2015**  
You will spend 7 days in a breathtaking, farm house-style estate in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. Equipped with an indoor pool, dance studio, trampoline, a pond perfect for canoeing or fishing and a fire pit for those late night chats, this beautiful home creates the perfect inspirational setting, ideal for concentration, creativity and collaboration. Surrounded by forests, this is truly the perfect place for inspired thinking.

**JULY 2015**  
This design thinking module will allow you to master a process to help you define, refine, validate and evolve your idea. This module will only include online Fellows.

**AUGUST 2015**  
We will help you understand your community – along physical, political and social lines – and your place in it.

**OCTOBER 2015**  
Every project needs resources for success and sustainability. In October, you will cultivate a realistic sense of what your project will cost and what support you need over what time frame. This is a key component to preparing you for making your project pitch. What exactly do you need and for what?

**SEPTEMBER 2015**  
This month of the program addresses networks. We will examine how those in your network can either help or hinder your progress. You will evaluate potential partners and explore the power dynamics that exist in these relationships.

**DECEMBER 2015**  
In preparation for the Launchpad events, we will focus on understanding that different stakeholders require different communication. You will develop a core message that can be “flexed” depending on your audience.

**NOVEMBER 2015**  
To continue the conversation on resources, you will explore the different forms of capital available and determine which best fit your needs. This will help you determine what is necessary for you to have now in order to reach the next step in your project.

**JANUARY 2016**  
You will virtually present your pitch to national funders and leaders in the field of creative placemaking and hear their feedback. This is a rare opportunity to engage in face-to-face conversations with funders and practitioners, cultivate relationships and build support for your project.

**JANUARY 2016**  
You will attend a 3-day in-person feedback session where you will present your pitch to national funders and leaders in the field of creative placemaking and hear their feedback. This is a rare opportunity to engage in face-to-face conversations with funders and practitioners in the field, cultivate relationships and build support for your project.

**FEBRUARY–MARCH 2016**  
Having heard from your peers, NAS and funders and leaders in the field, you will have the opportunity to put your pitch to the test. Through our partnership with RocketHub, you will have access to online training and a platform to crowd-fund your project.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Cultural entrepreneurs dedicated to creating healthy communities
- Curious, open & collaborative
- From urban, suburban, rural or international communities (*international applicants are only eligible for the Online Track*)
- Do not have to be associated with an organization
- Know the community problem you want to solve employing culture as an agent in the solution

## PROGRAM TUITION

All tuition, including lodging and meals is completely underwritten. **Fellows are only responsible for their transportation.**

## CONTACT

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