

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

-CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



PRESS RELEASE

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WaterFire Providence Launches Placemakers.US Website

Online resource offers video presentations from The Art of Placemaking Conference

Providence, RI (February 28, 2014) - WaterFire Providence announces the launch of a new website, Placemakers.US (<http://placemakers.us>), an online resource for artists, designers, urban planners, city builders, real estate developers, elected officials and others interested in the field of creative placemaking.

The inaugural content for the website will be videos from *The Art of Placemaking Conference* which WaterFire Providence organized in Providence, RI in November 2013. Approximately 225 thought leaders and practitioners took part in the 2 day event which focused on measuring, evaluating and communicating impacts of creative placemaking. Speakers included Anne Gadwa Nicodemus and Ann Markusen, co-authors of the National Endowment for the Arts whitepaper on Creative Placemaking; Maria Rosario Jackson, Senior Advisor, The Kresge Foundation; Jason Schupbach, Design Director, National Endowment for the Arts; Kip Bergstrom, Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; Sunil Iyengar, Director of the Office of Research and Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts; Lyz Crane, Deputy Director, ArtPlace America; Laura Zabel, Executive Director, Springboard for the Arts and many others. The closing keynote address was delivered by United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. A full list of presenters can be found at <http://conference.placemakers.us>.

“We were extremely fortunate to have some of the top thought leaders and practitioners in the field of creative placemaking join us in Providence for *The Art of Placemaking Conference*” said Peter A. Mello, managing director, WaterFire Providence. “The videos that we are posting on the Placemakers.US website will serve as a freely available resource to anyone interested in learning more about creative placemaking.”

In 2012 [WaterFire Providence received a major grant](#) from [ArtPlace America](#) to launch a public art incubator to experiment with new forms of public art and a creative placemaking learning lab to share latest and best practices in the field. *The Art of Placemaking Conference* and Placemakers.US are both part of WaterFire Providence's creative placemaking learning lab initiative.

[Placemakers.US](#) is a platform to continue the conversations that began at [The Art of Placemaking](#) conference and to create a forum for discussions and collaboration between creative placemaking professionals working in urban centers and small towns across the country. Videos of the sessions from the *2013 Art of Placemaking Conference* will be released throughout March, April and May 2014 and additional content will be added to the site in the future.

WaterFire Providence is a 501(c)3 independent, non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Created in 1994 by the artist Barnaby Evans, each year approximately one million visitors come to Providence to experience WaterFire making it one of the most popular tourist attractions in the State of Rhode Island.

For more information about WaterFire Providence, please visit <http://waterfire.org>, <https://www.facebook.com/waterfireprovidence> and <http://igniteprovidence.com>.

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