



2017 Impact Report

The Akron League of Creative Interventionists facilitate creative methods of communication, reimagine and activate dormant public spaces, and inspire play and foster curiosity.

5 community projects | More than 470 people engaged
8 public meetings held | Formed 17 partnerships

Courage | March-April 2017

RainWorks Installations

- Engaged over 30 new members in creating and installing projects.
- Potentially hundreds more passers-by in the following month.
- Partnered with The Well CDC, Compass Coffee, The Big Love Network, Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance, and The Rialto Theater.

RainWorks is a water repellent spray that allowed members to create encouraging messages and images on sidewalks that would only appear when it rained. We installed a variety of messages, from a number to call to get help with addiction to simple inspirational quotes at 12 different locations around the city, focusing on Middlebury and Kenmore.



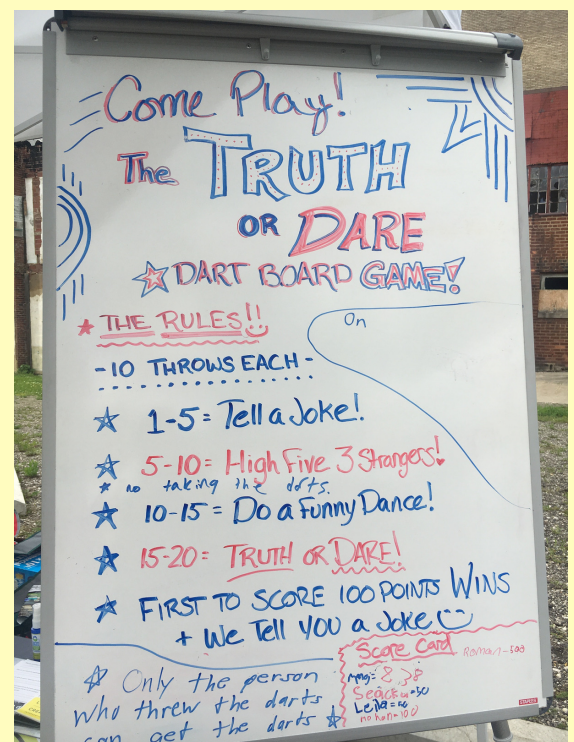
Truth or Dare Dartboard: Transforming Strangers into Friends

- Engaged 12 members, new and previous, in creating game system.
- At least 70+ participants of Nepali Applause Festival.
- Partnered with PineHaven Studios to create Dartboard installation.
- Gum-Dip Theater and The Exchange House for the event.

The Truth or Dare dartboard has quickly become one of our fan-favorite projects. All of the activities are icebreakers between total strangers, transforming them into friends. We commissioned a local wood-working artist, John Wilkie, who had applied for the fellowship but was not selected. His PineHaven Studios were the perfect fit to create the installation.



At Nepali Applause, directed by fellow Katie Beck, the trial run of the dartboard was a huge success. The majority of participants were Nepali/Bhutanese refugees and even if their spoken English was not great, they could read the rules on the board. Many families, especially with children, enjoyed playing the game. There were dozens of cross cultural exchanges that happened that day. Native Akronites were especially curious to interact with their new neighbors.



Transform the Boulevard: Kenmore Needs More...

- Engaged over 20 members over two public meetings.
- More than 200 participants of Open Streets Kenmore.
- Partnered with Open Streets Akron, Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance, Todd Ederer (local developer), and Todd Jakubisin (local artist).

Strong community partners led this intervention. After a few meetings with leaders in Kenmore, we decided to concentrate our footprint to a boarded-up storefront and the sidewalk in front of it. The owner of the building, Todd Ederer, had recently bought it, along with 3 others on the boulevard, and was looking to gather feedback from the community. He loved our idea of the chalkboard wall during the event, to be followed by a full mural piece.

All of the participants loved our intervention. Many expressed that they had never been asked what their community needs before. Several people were very touched and expressed the need for more of these activities, especially because the area has such a big opioid problem. A few people wrote "more hope dealers" on the wall, or something to do with the issue. The Truth or Dare Darts game was also a big hit, especially with kids. There were dozens of new connections made between total strangers.



Freedom | July-August 2017

#FreedomFlow

- Engaged 10 members to develop set of questions.
- More than 100 participants of Signal Tree Fest.
- Partnered with Signal Tree Fest and The Devil Strip.

The Akron LOCI had a fun presence at Signal Tree Fest, a festival dedicated to celebrating everything Akron. We had two interventions; one was the Truth-or-Dare Dartboard and the other was #FreedomFlow, a small scale production set that invited two strangers to interview each other for 90 seconds. We gave each participant a list of three questions, all related to freedom, to ask the other participant.



The intervention allowed participants to speak frankly and openly with each in a short amount of time. Because they didn't have time to overthink their responses, they answered with honesty and it created an atmosphere of trust. Because of the intervention, the participants had an opportunity to meet someone new (when they didn't expect it) and to have a positive experience from that. This will impact how they interact with strangers in the future because of their recent experience with #FreedomFlow; they can trust new people to listen and they can listen to new people's stories.

The video that was made during the day now has over 3,000 views on our social channels.



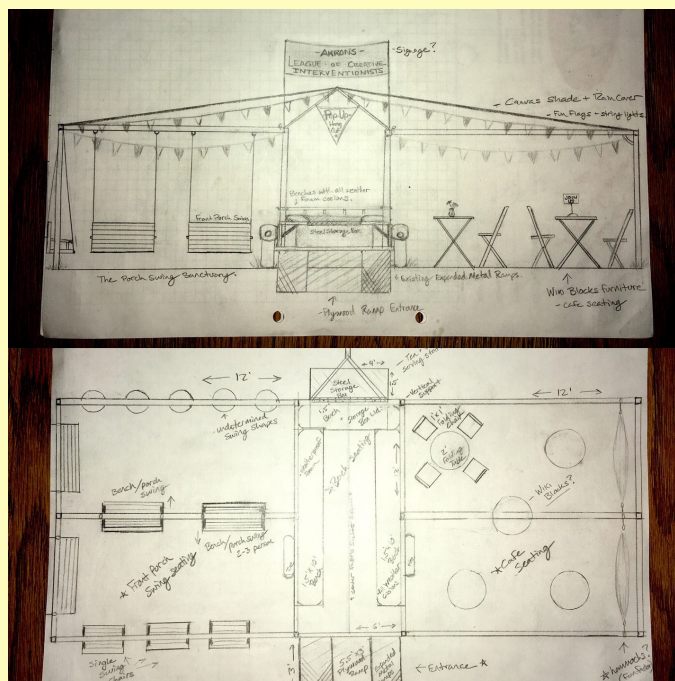
Mobile Choutara

- Engaged over 30 members over two public meetings.
- Future use has unlimited possibilities, because the trailer is available for public use.
- Partnered with Condor Welding and Kai Wick (Better Block).

The idea for this project arose independently in the minds of multiple members. Taking inspiration from the Nepali word "Choutara", which means gathering place, and other ideas, a singular vision emerged. A mobile "front porch" that can be fully equipped with porch swings and cafe-seating to create a playful, safe atmosphere. The space can be used for guided programming or informal use, and the intention is to be used as a space to discuss meaningful community issues and for cultural exchange.

It is a gift to Akron and it's people. Available to be borrowed just like a library book, complete with instructions on how to set it up and use it to it's fullest potential. The target users are neighborhood or community development organizations, it will be highlighted at the many music and arts festivals.

Design and build led by Megan Shane.



Completion by Spring 2018.

