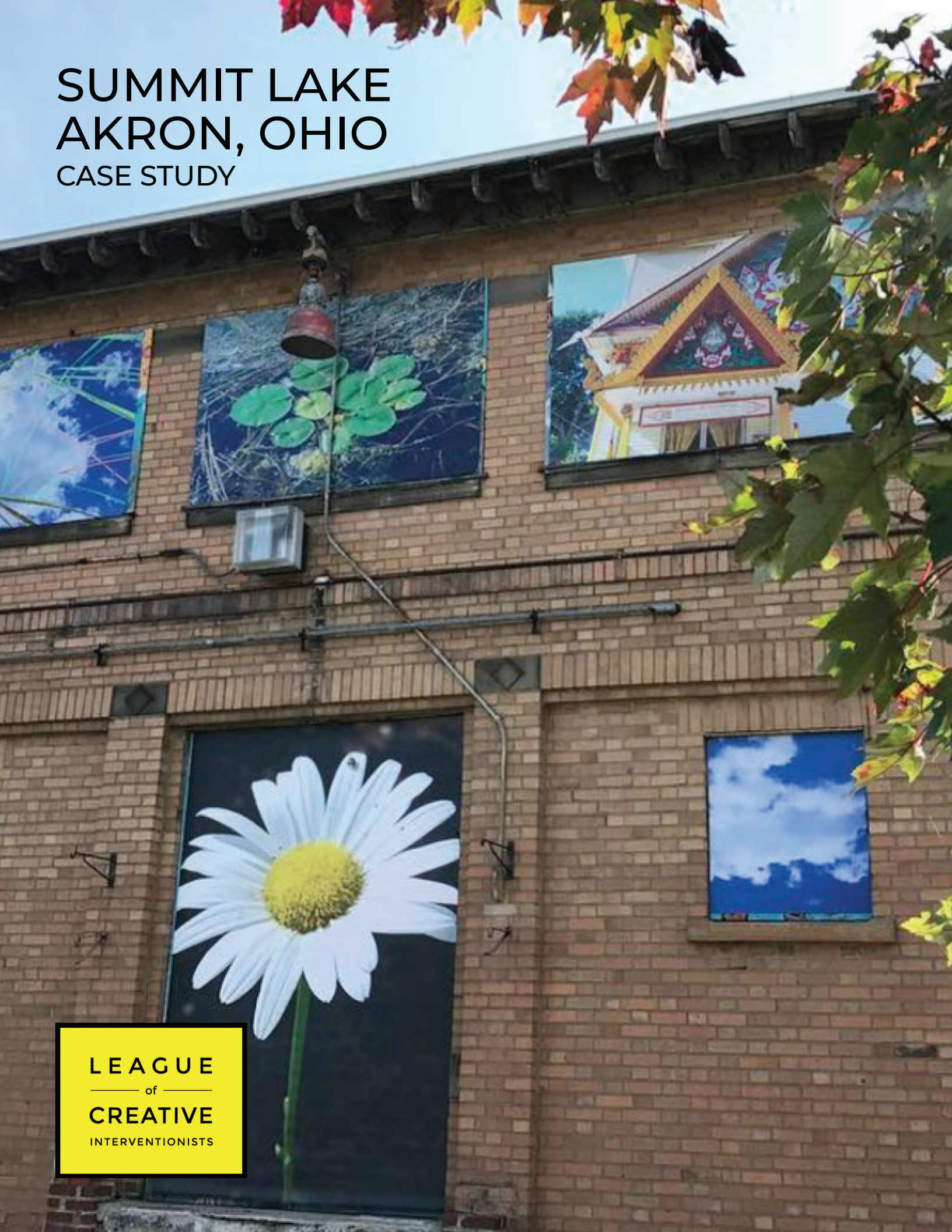


SUMMIT LAKE AKRON, OHIO CASE STUDY



LEAGUE
— of —
CREATIVE
INTERVENTIONISTS



Lil B

The Ledger of Creative Interventions
and the Pump House Center for Art +
Culture partnered with photographer
Shane Wynn to capture powerful and
inspiring portraits of Somali Lake
residents. These photographs have been
temporarily installed along the Township
temporarily installed along the Township
temporarily installed along the Township

PLANT yourself
HERE



Dear Summit Lake,

We want to acknowledge you for your commitment to your neighborhood and to allowing us to be a part of your community over the past year.

You gave us honesty with kindness. You told us what your neighborhood needed and wanted. You showed us what you have built and let us be a part of it. You celebrated with us. You prayed with us. You told us when we were off and lovingly helped us get aligned. You let us know when you didn't feel heard. You stood in solidarity for the best for your community. You let us into the sacred family that is Summit Lake.

Thank you for sharing yourselves, your families, your neighbors, your neighborhood, your stories, and your hearts.

We celebrate our time together and all the ways we have grown into stronger people, community, and organization. We are better because of you. We look forward to our continued collaboration. We will serve Summit Lake as long as you will have us.

Thank you.

With love,

**Hunter Franks
Anne Koller
Michelle Zucker**

//ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our work in Summit Lake was funded by the Knight Foundation. Special thanks to Kyle Kutuchief, Knight Foundation Akron Program Director, whose continued passionate commitment to his city is inspiring.

A special thank you to Stephanie "Leo" Leonardi, with whom this work would simply not have been possible. Thank you for learning with us, for stumbling with us, and for succeeding with us. Your journey is a bright one.

Also thank you to all the partners that helped make this work possible:

Pump House Advisory Board

Grace Hudson, Summit Lake resident
Eric Nelson, Executive Director, Students With A Goal
Lisa Nunn, Executive Director, Let's Grow Akron
Nicole Mullet, Executive Director, Arts Now
Veronica Sims, City of Akron At Large Council
Mary O'Connor, Summit Lake resident

Partners

Christian Bates, Students With A Goal
Tiffany Knox, Akron Housing Metropolitan Authority
Duane Crabbs, South Street Ministries
Audley Gil, Summit Lake Community Center
Jeff Horner, Build Corps mentor
Bryan Huber, Build Corps mentor
Bridget Marquis, Reimagining the Civic Commons
Dan Rice, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
Jason Segedy, City of Akron
Michael Starks, Summit Lake Community Leader
Joe Tucker, South Street Ministries
Frederick Wheat, City of Akron
Abraham Wescott, City of Akron
Shane Wynn, local photographer

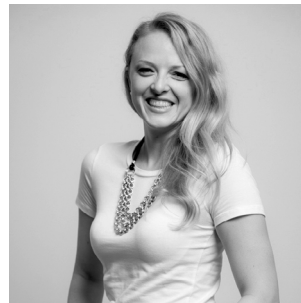
Photos on pages 15-17: Stephanie Leonardi, pages 23-25: Tim Fitzwater.
All other photos by Kendal Kaser.

**The League of Creative Interventionists
create public art and cultural programs
with communities that tell real and
just narratives, generate empathetic
spaces, and develop powerful leaders.**

OUR TEAM//



HUNTER FRANKS
FOUNDER + ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR



ANNE KOLLER
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR



MICHELLE ZUCKER
LEAD DESIGNER





SUMMIT LAKE

We had been working in Akron, Ohio for several years when we were introduced to the Summit Lake neighborhood. It is a place rich in natural beauty, with a large lake anchoring recreational opportunities. Residents, neighborhood leaders and community organizations are passionate and committed to where they live. The neighborhood also faces challenges of vacant buildings, crime, and disinvestment. These factors made Summit Lake a unique place to explore how we could work in partnership with residents to celebrate the people, places and culture of this neighborhood.

TIMELINE //



- + GRANT RECEIVED
- + COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS
- + PUBLIC SIGNAGE
+ PUMPHOUSE ACTIVATION BEGIN
- + PUMP HOUSE COMMUNITY DAY

- + PUMP HOUSE ADVISORY BOARD CREATED
+ YOUTH SNOW SCULPTURE DAY
- + NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITY T-SHIRT DESIGN
- + SUNSET MEDITATION AND ART CLASS
- + PHOTO SHOWCASE
+ TOWPATH PORTRAITS
+ PHOTOBOOK
+ 200 PLATES

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
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FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
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2016

- + COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS
- + COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS
- + HIRED PUMP HOUSE PROJECT MANAGER STEPHANIE LEONARDI

2017

- + BUILD CORPS CREATED
+ BUILD CORPS NEIGHBORHOOD BENCHES
- + BUILD CORPS COMMUNITY PORCH
+ BUILD CORPS VISION BOARD
+ BUILD CORPS OPEN STREETS
- + BUILD CORPS FRUIT STAND



PUMP HOUSE CENTER FOR ART + CULTURE

We began our work in Summit Lake by listening. We conducted several months of interviews with residents and heard the desire for employment and educational opportunities and intergenerational connection in the neighborhood.

Soon afterward, we learned about the Pump House – a vacant historic building that overlooks the lake. We saw potential for the building to be transformed into an active space to facilitate connections, develop skills and job opportunities, and cultivate neighborhood pride. We hired local resident Stephanie Leonardi as a project manager, and then established and convened the Pump House Advisory Board, made up of community leaders, to inform and guide our work.

Across one year, we facilitated multiple projects and events to bring people to the space, collect their ideas for what it could become, and celebrate the creativity and culture of the neighborhood. We hired architects and contractors to understand the costs associated with renovating the building and focused our efforts on planning and executing temporary events and installations to demonstrate the need for the physical improvements to the building.

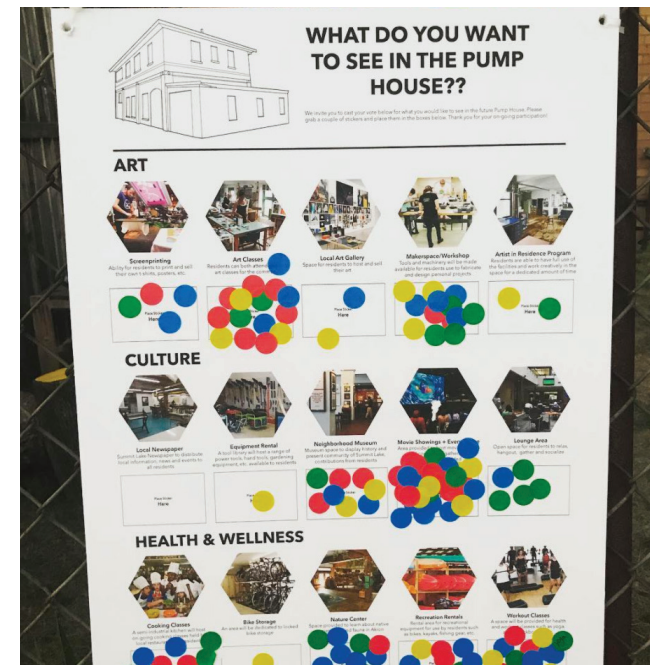
The activations resulted in the local parks department purchasing the building to create a community space.



17
EVENTS
AND
PROJECTS



1050
PEOPLE
ENGAGED



561
IDEAS
COLLECTED



“This is a great community asset with great programming for the neighborhood.”
 -Summit Lake resident

“This past year was pretty successful as far as bringing the community together and trying to get residents involved.”
 - Grace, Summit Lake resident and Pump House Advisory Board member



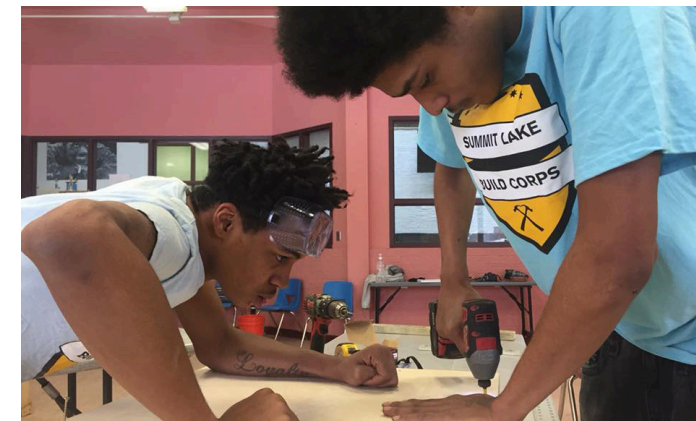
BUILD CORPS PROGRAM

Build Corps pairs youth in the Summit Lake neighborhood with experienced fabricators and builders in Akron to create public space projects that add to the vibrancy of the neighborhood. Build Corps members learn new skills in fabrication, receive a stipend for their work, and are able to see how they can impact their community and create the neighborhood they want to live in.

Build Corps has created projects ranging from neighborhood benches to the main desk for the Community Center, and continue to be commissioned by neighborhood organizations for building projects, proving the demand for the program.



35
YOUTH
INVOLVED



\$7406
PAID TO YOUTH



9
COMMUNITY
PROJECTS



"I love Build Corps! What a difference it is that we create things for the community. I would continue to learn more, meet more people, do more for Summit Lake and keep putting a smile on everybody's face."
- Build Corps Member

"Build Corps became this opportunity where I could employ kids, teach them skills, be around them more consistently to have a relationship and make an impact and open their eyes to opportunities they wouldn't otherwise see."
- Leo, Build Corps Project Manager



SUMMIT LAKE SHOWCASE & PHOTOBOOK

We collaborated with local photographer Shane Wynn to capture portraits of residents while we interviewed them about what they loved their neighborhood. We worked with the City of Akron and local printers to create an installation of these portraits along the Towpath Trail adjacent to the lake. These larger-than-life portraits of residents celebrate community and connect Towpath trail users to Summit Lake residents.

At the same time, youth from the Leaven Lenses Project, a youth photography apprenticeship had been taking photos all over Akron. We worked with the City of Akron and a local printer to install banner-sized images in the windows of the Pump House building, adding color and visual interest to the building. The youth were thrilled to see their photos on the building and at such large scale.

In addition, the photos were printed and published in a book "Beauty in my Neighborhood" alongside the resident portraits. We held a celebration to showcase the project, and residents swelled with pride as they saw their faces in print. Youth even signed each others books, commemorating a truly special occasion.



"The book is a wonderful expression of neighborhood pride and youthful enthusiasm. These kids are expressing joy and optimism in their community."
- Tom Fuller, local non-profit director



173
SHOWCASE EVENT
ATTENDEES



26
PHOTOS
INSTALLED



250
PHOTO BOOKS
DISTRIBUTED



“[This] was an exceptional event that touched everyone. Summit Lake is such a special place and community, you showed it off with such a thoughtful gathering that exemplified socioeconomic mixing in practice. It was awe inspiring.”
- *Bridget A. Marquis, Reimagining The Civic Commons*

“It didn’t feel like work, it felt more like a family reunion. It was a fun and delicious dinner!”
- *Jay, Summit Lake resident and event volunteer*





@theleagueofci



/leagueofcreativeinterventionists



@theleagueofci



hello@creativeinterventionists.com



www.creativeinterventionists.com