

Project Name: Bridgman Courtyard

Location: Bridgman, Michigan

Completion Date: 2023

Services: Ideation, Design, Funding,
Marketing, Project Management, Activation

Awards: Community Excellence Award 2023,
Michigan Municipal League, Design Award
from American Institute of Architects



In the heart of Bridgman, a neglected space blossomed into a vibrant community hub, thanks to the vision and dedication of Changemaker Studio. Co-founders Tara Heiser and Julie Strating spearheaded the transformation from start to finish, ensuring every step reflected the community's spirit and needs.

CREATING A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN VISION

Changemaker Studio brought together residents, businesses, schools, local government, and nonprofits to ensure the new public space best served the community. Cross-sector collaboration was key in making this project happen, from high school students painting a mural to volunteers assembling furniture. Our grant writing efforts achieved a 100% success rate, securing all necessary funds.



CRAFTING AN INCLUSIVE SPACE

Partnering with a local architect, we designed a beautiful, functional, and accessible space. We managed every aspect of the project, from scheduling vendors to daily on-site oversight, ensuring it stayed on track and within budget. We also created an activation plan for ongoing community programming.

A HUB OF ACTIVITY AND JOY

Since its completion, the Bridgman Courtyard has become a lively hub for concerts, performing arts, festivals, and gatherings. It has revitalized the downtown area, attracting visitors and boosting local businesses, showcasing the power of thoughtful placemaking.

At Changemaker Studio, we believe in creating spaces that bring people together and enhance community vitality. The success of the Bridgman Courtyard highlights our commitment to creative placemaking and community-driven development.

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