500 Plates

League of Creative Interventionists

2015 / Akron (Ohio) / USA

www.500plates.com

Dinner on a freeway

On Sunday, October 4th 2015, 500 Plates brought together 500 Akron, Ohio residents from each of the city's 22 neighborhoods at one, 500 foot-long table on the Innerbelt Freeway for a shared community meal.

Prior to this main meal, we collected a favorite household recipe from one resident in each of Akron's 22 neighborhoods. These recipes were printed onto custom designed stoneware plates which was used at the community meal, creating a unique way to connect Akronites from different neighborhoods. Each guest at 500 Plates took home their plate as an extension of the meal.

We also created a toolkit to help neighborhood partners carry out smaller community meals in their neighborhoods. In addition, we created 22 unique tables, one for each neighborhood, which serve as gathering points for each neighborhood to hold their neighborhood meals.

The meal took place on a stretch of the Innerbelt Freeway near downtown that was closed to vehicle traffic that day and is permanently closing in 2016. This event also served as a way for residents to reimagine what the freeway could potentially be used for. Sixty-three tables connected atop the concrete, creating one continuous 500 foot-long table. Attendees were guided by volunteer table hosts to discuss their personal stories as well as the challenges and opportunities of their neighborhoods, public space, and the future of their city. A 500-foot long table runner invited participants to write or draw their ideas for the Innerbelt.







About the team

The League of Creative Interventionists works with communities to reimagine the social and physical landscapes of their cities and prompt curiosity, creativity, and connection.

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Space typology Street
Intention Celebrating / Educating / Enjoying / Exchanging / Experimenting / Gathering / Raising awareness / Reclaiming
Action Eating food