

## STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### **USDA and University of Kentucky to Host Conference on Expanding Access to Placemaking Resources for People in Rural America**

**WASHINGTON, April 27, 2023** – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Xochitl Torres Small today announced that USDA and the University of Kentucky will host a conference on **Tuesday, May 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time**, on expanding access to placemaking resources for people in rural America.

To register, visit: [https://whova.com/portal/registration/psrcc\\_202305/](https://whova.com/portal/registration/psrcc_202305/).

Local leaders from across the nation are invited to connect with key placemaking experts and funding organizations. Local leaders will have the opportunity to access resources to create more livable and vibrant places for people in their communities.

Rural leaders and placemaking experts will discuss:

- The ways rural communities can help advance placemaking strategies to create successful, thriving communities in rural America.
- The importance of preserving and sustaining rural culture.

Attendees will also hear firsthand experiences from rural entrepreneurs who have implemented successful placemaking strategies that advanced food and culture while supporting farmers and their communities.

People living in communities that are a part of the [Rural Partners Network](#) as well as disadvantaged and distressed communities are encouraged to attend.

Placemaking is a collaborative planning and technical assistance process. This process helps leaders from rural communities develop plans to create quality places where people will want to live, work, visit, learn and explore. The plans can enhance a community's capacity to provide people access to economic development opportunities as well as community infrastructure such as affordable housing, safe and reliable transportation, high-speed internet in their homes, and more.

Interested parties may [sign up to receive updates from USDA](#) on rural placemaking.

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