



THE BRIDGMAN COURTYARD

A HUMBLE BEGINNING

- The Bridgman Courtyard started as a simple idea to transform an underutilized parking lot into a gathering space.
- It was born out of the community's need for connection and a safe outdoor area during the height of Covid.
- Local residents, businesses, and organizations recognized the potential and rallied behind this vision.





A VISION FOR WHAT COULD BE

- In Spring of 2022, the Corridor Improvement Authority and the Bridgman Council for Growth and Advancement worked together to create a more inviting space.
- The space was programmed with live, local, acoustic music on Sunday afternoons through the summer as a way to draw visitors and support local businesses.
- Drawings were sketched for the continuing evolution of the space while we continued to watch how the space was embraced.

INVOLVING OUR YOUTH

- The Bridgman High School Art Club was formed because of this project.
- Student artists designed and installed a 400 square foot mural in the Courtyard under the direction of our high school art teacher.
- The mural is made of triangles of different colors and varying sizes. It is representative of how individual we all are but when we come together we can make something great.





GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- The project was fortunate to receive a generous private donation relatively early in its journey. This allowed us to dream a little bigger.
- The project also received a BridgeBuilders Main Street microgrant from the Michigan Municipal League Foundation and a 1:1 matching grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Public Spaces Community Places program.
- These grants further fueled our progress, allowing us to realize our vision on a larger scale.
- Partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and volunteers who contributed their time, skills, and resources helped to make this project a reality.



DONATED LABOR AND EXPERTISE

- The heartwarming aspect of this project was the countless hours of donated labor and expertise.
- Skilled craftsmen, professionals, and volunteers generously gave their time and talents to create a space of beauty and inspiration.
- Their dedication and passion brought to life the Courtyard's structure, mural, and artistic elements.



THE COURTYARD TODAY

- The Courtyard will be completed in summer 2023. It includes a pergola structure, a variety of seating arrangements, a vibrant rug mural, and a brick patio and fire pit.
- It will continue to be programmed with live music from local musicians every Sunday through the summer months.
- Its organic evolution, driven by community support and kind hearts, has created a lasting legacy.
- The Courtyard stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community unites behind a shared vision.

WE'LL SEE YOU IN THE COURTYARD!

