Breathing Lights Project Awarded $1M from Bloomberg Philanthropies

Public art project *Breathing Lights*, a collaboration between the cities of Albany, Schenectady and Troy, has been selected to receive a $1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, as part of its Public Art Challenge. Led by local artist Adam Frelin, architect Barbara Nelson, and the LRC, this multi-site installation aims to regenerate interest in once-vibrant neighborhoods that currently have high vacancy rates.

*Breathing Lights* will illuminate more than 300 vacant homes nightly over a two-month period, filling each window with a diffuse glow that pulses with a gentle rhythm of simulated breathing, transforming vacant structures from pockets of shadows into places of warmth. The project will culminate in a regional summit on vacant homes and neighborhood revitalization that will engage residents, prospective buyers and investors, policy makers and other key stakeholders.

LRC graduate students built a prototype of the lighting for the project. Project partners finalized and installed the lighting in the selected vacant homes in 2016. Illumination kits will consist of miniature LED strip lights bound in adhesive fabric, affixed to interior window frames. The lights will shine through windows covered in diffusion material, powered and controlled by batteries and rheostats.

In 2014, Bloomberg Philanthropies invited mayors of U.S. cities to collaborate with local artists to develop innovative projects that engage residents and attract visitors. 237 cities submitted proposals to the Public Art Challenge, affirming the many ways in which the arts can celebrate, address, and advance critical urban issues. *Breathing Lights* is one of only four projects nationwide selected to receive funding.

**Sponsor**

Bloomberg Philanthropies
Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region

**More Information**

Follow the project on www.breathinglights.com.