

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.

Graduate students in the LRC's Lighting Workshop course built a working prototype of the lighting, solving the technical challenges of the

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project and turning the concept into reality. LRC students collaborated in the development of the control system, tested diffusing light materials,

"Great public art strengthens cities by making them more exciting and attractive places to live, work, and visit. Public art can also help us to see urban challenges in a new light—and imagine new solutions. The winning projects are excellent examples of this, and each can have a lasting impact."

—Michael R. Bloomberg,
founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies
and Mayor of New York City from 2002-2013

experimented with different color temperatures of light, evaluated and proposed power sources, and created a full-scale mockup. LRC staff will continue to work with the project

partners to finalize and install 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.

