WHAT IS PLACEMAKING?
Placemaking is a way to highlight your neighborhood’s unique character, assets and potential. It can turn a physical space into a desirable, livable and inviting place by using the vision of the people who live and work in an area, along with the support of community partners. It brings diverse people together, livens up spaces, provides opportunities for social activities, stimulates local businesses and energizes our neighborhoods.

CITY RESOURCES
The City of Boise’s Energize Our Neighborhoods initiative is aimed at celebrating neighborhoods and improving livability.

The city’s “Activating Your Neighborhood” handout provides information, resources, ideas and links to help build and maintain livable neighborhoods.

For a full list of ideas, go to

EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org
events | projects | resource tool kit

Energize Our Neighborhoods
Quick Start Guide

Neighborhoods across the country are using creative ideas to improve the areas they love. With placemaking projects and events, neighborhoods can bring people together and create unique economic, cultural and learning opportunities.
NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

STREET FAIR/MARKET. Imagine a warm summer evening strolling through a colorful plaza filled with people, music, and vendors. You can bring that to your own street with a food festival, arts and crafts market or a street fair.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP. Organize residents and volunteers to pick up garbage, clean graffiti, paint or remove overgrown weeds.

SCAVENGER HUNT. Highlight your neighborhood and involve local businesses and organizations. Mix up teams for a great ‘neighbor-building’ exercise.

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL. Get neighbors together once a month. Try a potluck, a pancake breakfast or a movie night!

BLOCK PARTY. Plan block parties around a theme, season, or holiday. Get creative with activities, games, food, contests, prizes and resources. Reserve the city’s block party trailer for your event.

OUTDOOR GAME NIGHT. Pick a host location, have everyone bring their favorite game and enjoy a fun evening.

NEIGHBORHOOD BARTER/SWAP. Organize a ‘swap’ to discover the goods and services your neighbors can provide, then start bartering! For example, can you design a website in return for getting your house painted?

NEIGHBORHOOD LENDING LIBRARY. Create an inventory of neighborhood items that residents are willing to share. Include tools, yard equipment, appliances or sporting goods.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS. Get a group of neighbors together to volunteer for a specific group or event. You’ll strengthen relationships with your neighbors while giving back to the community.

ART + MUSIC

TRAFFIC BOX ART. Many neighborhoods work with the city to ‘wrap’ their utility/traffic boxes in artwork, which livens up an industrial-looking corner or street.

SIDEWALK CHALK ART is a great way to turn grey, concrete sidewalks into works of art! Make chalk art an ongoing neighborhood activity with team contests or an create an annual festival.

PUBLIC ART. Use statues, installations or sculptures to create a hidden wonder in your own neighborhood.

POP-UP ART/MUSIC/DANCE. Put up a temporary exhibit, organize a concert or designate a space for a performance. Get creative with outdoor karaoke, a drum/music circle, group music or dance lessons.

GATEWAYS/SIGNAGE. Signage lets people know they’re in your neighborhood. Use art to highlight the area’s history and identity, and combine signage with landscaping to welcome people to your neighborhood.

GREEN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY GARDEN, URBAN FOREST. Convert a neglected space into a pocket garden or tiny ‘forest’ with a bench or two. No space is too small! Neighbors can come together to plant flowers, trees and vegetables and watch them grow. Create a group to maintain the space.

POP-UP PARK. Check out how “Park(ing) Day” has become an annual global event where citizens turn a metered parking spot into a temporary park.

NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE. Rotate homes or have designated repeat houses. Create different themes and make it a neighborhood staple for events like evening art shows, ‘how-to’ demonstrations or potlucks.

WORKSHOP SERIES. Bring educational workshops to your neighborhood. Ideas include financial literacy, home maintenance/repair, city resources, weatherization, resume-building and interview skills.

IDENTIFY NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES to create a strong community. Include businesses, organizations and physical spaces, as well as resident’s skills, talents and professional networks. These assets will help you maximize partnerships and engagement for events and projects.

For a full list of ideas, go to EnergizeOur Neighborhoods.org