



Press Release
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CARTA and Understory Awarded Lyndhurst Foundation Grant for "Search Party"

Creative placemaking project to activate CARTA's downtown rooftop parking garage

CHATTANOOGA, TN — The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA), in partnership with Understory, has been awarded a grant from the **Lyndhurst Foundation** to bring ***Search Party*** to downtown Chattanooga.

The grant will transform the rooftop of CARTA's downtown parking garage, Shuttle Park North, into an immersive public arts destination that celebrates Chattanooga's creative community while reimagining how public infrastructure can serve as a space for connection, culture, and civic life.

Inspired by Understory's immersive artistic approach, ***Search Party*** will feature interactive installations, live performances, and hands-on experiences that invite visitors to become part of the art. The rooftop activation will primarily operate as a free, community-focused space, with a limited number of ticketed events supporting programming.

"This project reflects CARTA's commitment to being more than a transportation provider," said Charles D. Frazier, CEO of CARTA. "We're proud to partner with Understory and grateful to the Lyndhurst Foundation for investing in a project that supports Chattanooga's artists, activates public space, and demonstrates how transportation infrastructure can strengthen community connections."

By investing directly in Chattanooga's creative workforce, the project supports the local arts economy while showcasing the value of collaboration between the arts, public agencies, and community organizations.

"We're excited to partner with CARTA to transform an everyday space into a place for creativity, exploration, and connection," said Jules Downum, Understory's Founder and

Creative Director. "This project demonstrates the power of art to activate public spaces and bring people together in new and unexpected ways."

The installation will make use of the site's unique architecture to create an experience centered on movement, elevation, and exploration.

Beyond creating a new cultural destination, **Search Party** highlights the important role CARTA plays in supporting downtown mobility. Revenue generated through CARTA's parking system helps fund public transportation services that connect people to jobs, education, healthcare, and entertainment.

Search Party also represents a broader vision for Chattanooga—one where transportation infrastructure contributes to the city's creative economy, supports local artists, and creates opportunities for meaningful public engagement.

Additional details, including artist opportunities, programming, and opening dates, will be announced in the coming months.

Additional support for this initiative was provided by the Community Foundation, Bobby Stone Foundation, ArtsBuild, Benwood Foundation, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the Chattanooga Theatre Centre, and WauMaus.