

NEWS RELEASE

---

***Bagg's Square Association Receives National Grid Urban Corridor  
Incentive and Unveils Historical Timeline Mural Project***

Contact: Beth Irons, Bagg's Square Association board president (315) 765-1865

---

April 21, 2016

**UTICA, N.Y.** - The Bagg's Square Association today unveiled their latest mural project as part of a \$250,000 National Grid Urban Corridor program incentive. National Grid funding helped to offset the historical timeline mural and assisted the Association to visually brand the neighborhood, create a sense of space, elevate awareness, and promote the area.

Through National Grid's Urban Corridor grant, the Bagg's Square neighborhood was able to beautify, revitalize and energize streets and public spaces and extend their brand of "Always Making History." Other projects completed include the restoration of the historic entranceway mural above The Tailor & the Cook, custom bike racks and branded litter receptacles created by local artists, pole banners throughout the neighborhood, electrical work in Bagg Commemorate Park, additional lighting on Water Street, wayfinding signage, replicated benches for Union Station and picnic tables for the Park, a directional mural under the Genesee Street overpass and more.

Bagg's Square Association board president Beth Irons shares, "Projects such as this mural illustrate not only the recent developments of Bagg's Square as a neighborhood, but the enormous contributions of both early residents and entrepreneurs who had the vision for a neighborhood that would . . . always be making history. We are deeply appreciative to National Grid, the City of Utica and the Cornell Rust to Green (R2G) Urban Studio for their support to help fund and implement this initiative.

-more-



## **Bagg's Square Association Receives National Grid Urban Corridor Incentive**

### **Page 2 of 3**

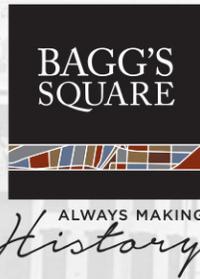
National Grid's Urban Center/Commercial District Revitalization program is designed to help metro centers meet their revitalization goals, increase their property tax base, and promote "smart growth" and sustainable investment in central business districts and commercial corridors located in National Grid upstate New York service territory. The program provides matching grants of up to \$250,000 to local municipalities, development corporations, universities, and medical complexes undertaking major neighborhood revitalization projects.

The program is part of the company's suite of upstate New York economic development programs. Since 2003, National Grid's Economic Development Programs have awarded \$75 million to over 1,000 projects, helping to create or retain over 40,000 jobs in the region. "National Grid is thrilled to partner with Bagg's Square Association and to help drive the revitalization of a neighborhood gem," said Melanie Littlejohn, upstate New York regional executive director of National Grid. "Through our various economic development programs we continue to work alongside community leaders and invest in projects that raise public awareness of the region."

Also unveiled today was the last project under the grant – a historic timeline mural, which features over 110 people, places and events that helped shape the Bagg's Square neighborhood. It is approximately 76 feet long and located on the John Street overpass near Kids Oneida and the Utica Children's Museum.

The success of the National Grid project and mural campaign was due to the collaborative efforts of the project partners to promote the redevelopment of Bagg's Square as a tourist attraction based on the history of the neighborhood where Utica began. Other partners include: the Bagg's Square Association board of directors, Elfun Society of Utica, Inc., The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, area historians, the Oneida County Historical Society, Oneida County, the NYS Department of Transportation, current and past neighborhood business owners, residents and other stakeholders.

-more-



## **Bagg's Square Association Receives National Grid Urban Corridor Incentive**

**Page 3 of 3**

### **About Bagg's Square Association**

The Bagg's Square Association began in 1978 with a mission to save Union Station, which was in danger of being demolished. It has recently been resurrected, with technical assistance from R2G and support from the City of Utica, to promote the growth and interest in the neighborhood and to advocate on behalf of it. Today, the Association is comprised of building owners and merchants from the Bagg's Square area and others who support the area's growth and prosperity.

**Mission:** To promote neighborhood development and cultural relevance while preserving the historical integrity of Bagg's Square

**Vision:** To become a desirable, mixed-used destination

### **About National Grid**

National Grid (LSE: NG; NYSE: NNG) is an electricity and natural gas delivery company that connects nearly 7 million customers to vital energy sources through its networks in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the Northeast. National Grid also operates the systems that deliver gas and electricity across Great Britain.

Through its U.S. Connect21 strategy, National Grid is transforming its electricity and natural gas networks to support the 21<sup>st</sup> century digital economy with smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy solutions. Connect21 is vital to our communities' long-term economic and environmental health and aligns with regulatory initiatives in New York (REV: Reforming the Energy Vision) and Massachusetts (Grid Modernization.) For more information please visit our website: [www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com), or our [Connecting](#) website. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), watch us on [YouTube](#), Friend us on [Facebook](#) and find our photos on [Instagram](#).

###