

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 1, 2015

## **Placemaking Grant Brings Musical Installation to Kalispell**

*Kalispell, MT* – The Northwest Montana Association of Realtors has received a \$2,300 Placemaking micro-grant from the National Association of Realtors to help make the Kalispell community a better place to live and work by transforming public spaces into vibrant community places. The grant is intended to help realtor associations partner with others to plan, organize, implement and maintain placemaking activities in their communities.

The Northwest Montana Association of Realtors (NMAR) is using the funds to purchase an outdoor musical instrument that will be placed near the front entrance at ImagineIF Kalispell. Combined with colorful outdoor furniture and recently refreshed landscaping, this beautiful and interactive musical piece will encourage participation by young and old to play a quick tune or linger over a melody. NMAR is partnering with ImagineIF Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library to fund the purchase and installation of an outdoor metallophone. The Friends of the Library funds are contributions made in memory of Clare Hafferman, a longtime supporter and friend of the library.

“Realtors live, work and volunteer in their communities and take immense pride in working to improve them,” Erica Wirtala, Government Affairs Director for NMAR, said. “Placemaking creates places where people feel a strong stake in their neighborhoods and are committed to making things better. This grant will allow us to address areas in our community that create a place where friends and neighbors can come together.”

Placemaking grants are awarded to local and state realtor associations to help them and their members initiate placemaking projects in the community, such as turning a parking lot into a farmers market or a vacant lot into a playground. To find out more about the National Association of Realtors placemaking grants, visit [www.realtoractioncenter.org/placemaking](http://www.realtoractioncenter.org/placemaking).

The dedication of the musical installation will take place at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, in honor of Clare Hafferman. All are invited to attend, remember Clare and enjoy the new musical installation meant for the enjoyment of our entire community.

ImagineIF Libraries encourage exploration, fresh ideas and self-discovery. ImagineIF offers activities and services for all ages. For more information, visit [www.imagineiflibraries.org](http://www.imagineiflibraries.org).

###