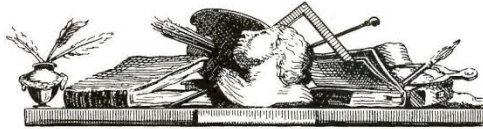


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Bloomberg earmarks \$3m for public art

■ Two major US foundations are increasing their commitment to public art. Bloomberg Philanthropies, a foundation established by Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York, plans to award up to \$1m to each of at least three US cities over the next two years to support temporary public art projects that “celebrate creativity, enhance urban identity, encourage public-private partnerships and drive economic development”, according to its website. The initiative, the Public Art Challenge, is open to cities with 30,000 residents or more. Applications must be submitted by the mayor or chief executive of the host city by 15 December. Meanwhile, the Miami-based Knight Foundation has pledged \$500,000 over five years to help US artists launch grassroots initiatives, from pop-up museums to health fairs that connect uninsured artists with doctors (below, part of the Irrigate



Toolkit project, which adapts disruptive public works into art). Organised with the Minnesota-based non-profit organisation Springboard for Arts, the project, called Creative Exchange, gives enterprising artists access to on-call experts and free step-by-step guides to replicate previous successful programmes. J.H.