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Contact:

Julia Taylor
Deputy Operations Officer
609.341.4713
jtaylor@isles.org

**Trenton to participate in Worldwide Park(ing) Day:
Trenton's first parklet speaks to history and the future**

Trenton, NJ – Trenton will participate in Park(ing) Day for the first time in its history, with a pop-up parklet at 128 West State Café, the new downtown coffee shop across from the State House. An “open source holiday,” National Parking Day reclaims space from cars for people through temporary installations in parking spots around the world. This year, it will be held on Friday, September 16th.

The temporary installation will occupy a triangular No Parking zone in front of the café, and incorporate planters, a seating area extending the café's capacity, visual elements of Trenton's history, and an interactive project. Visitors will be able to enjoy the parklet for one week, through September 25, after which it will reappear in other spots around the city.

The launch event from will take place from 12:30 – 2 pm and will feature live music and an art show. This event is free and open to the public.

The parklet is a project of Isles, Inc. and the Trenton Historic Development Collaborative (THDC), a group of nonprofits and residents that have been working to revitalize the area extending from West State and Willow Streets to Rutherford and Hermitage Avenues, with collaboration from 128 West State Café, the City's Department of Public Works, and Artifacts Gallery, which donated a set of Trenton tiles for decoration.

“Part of our goal is to challenge the barriers between West State Street and the neighborhoods behind it,” explains Julia Taylor, Isles' Deputy Operations Officer. “It will give everyone – residents and workers – a great place to mingle, while also providing those who don't often go beyond West State Street a glimpse of the transformation underway in the THDC neighborhood just a block away.”

Ongoing work in the THDC neighborhood includes the rehabilitation of multiple vacant buildings; improvements to the Carver Center, a historic hub of Trenton's community; Shiloh CDC's new family life center on Bellevue Avenue; the beautification of 30+ vacant lots and four parks; the T-Recs mobile recreation van; targeted revitalization of commercial nodes and properties; and a range of services designed to meet resident and stakeholder priorities.

Parklets have taken off as a public space intervention in cities across the world. Typically built in a single parking spot, a parklet is a miniature park that offers seating, greenery, and a pleasant space for people to mingle, often in partnership with a restaurant or coffee shop. Most are temporary and mobile, though cities such as New York now have programs that create semi-permanent or permanent parklets. A parklet at Small World Coffee in Princeton proved very popular last year, and one study in Philadelphia found that a successful parklet can boost sales of the host business up to 20%.

The modular structure was designed by Iana Dikidjieva and Jon Gordon, and built by Isles' Clean & Green team, which beautifies vacant lots and parks in the THDC neighborhood and the East Trenton neighborhood through landscaping and other installations. The project is supported by funds from the New Jersey Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program.

About Isles:

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization in Trenton, New Jersey. With a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities, Isles designs and develops effective services that support this mission and share what they learn with others who can make a difference. Beyond its central New Jersey base, Isles works to influence policy and practices that support healthy, self-help agendas. For more information, visit www.isles.org.

About THDC

The Trenton Historic Development Collaborative (THDC) is a coalition of stakeholders convened by Shiloh Community Development Corporation in 2006. The collaborative includes more than 40 neighborhood organizations, business, and residents who are committed to working together to revitalize their community.

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