2017 INDIANA ARTS HOMCOMING INSTAGRANT COMPETITORS
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FROM ACROSS THE STATE

BONA VISTA
Brittnee Smith, bsmith@bonaviasta.org
Miriam O'Malley-Long, momalleylong@bonavista.org
Kokomo, Howard County

Bona Vista's adult day program, AIM (Action, Inspired, and Motivated), empowers participants to determine the classes in which they'd like to participate, explore and create art, and even sell their work in the community. Partnerships with the Kokomo Art Association and local businesses have contributed to the integration of this program in the community. The recent establishment of a gift shop gives the individuals served a more permanent way to sell their work. Bona Vista works with the people served supplying art materials and cultivating experiences in the community. The success and growth of the program has led to paid opportunities and recognition in the community.

CHARLES ELEMENTARY
Chapin Schnick, chapin.schnick@msdmartinsville.org
Martinsville, Morgan County

Learn how - in less than one year - three teachers (Art, Music, & PE) transitioned Charles L. Smith Elementary from a Title I public elementary school to a Fine Arts Academy. The dream became a reality through a community grant, community-wide support, and engagement. Students, their families, staff, and ultimately the school board, wholeheartedly approved a transition that melds aspects of a traditional fine arts and a performing arts school methodology to create a unique hybrid. Now, all students have access to fine arts, dance, music as well as integrated curricular experiences allowing teachers and presenters to “teach for artistic behavior” in a regular classroom setting.

CITY OF JEFFERSONVILLE
Dawn Spyker, dawnspyker@gmail.com
Jeffersonville, Clark County

Dream. Dialog. Do. Three words that have brought Jeffersonville’s community together to illuminate and advance the arts. Creative Awakening relies upon the interlocking relationships between arts organizations, arts educators, local artists, arts advocates, community members, and local government. Together, the Jeffersonville Public Art Commission and the Jeffersonville Arts Alliance bring performance art activities, art related field trips for local school children, community art making sessions, and new public art pieces to their city. This momentum sparked efforts to establish a Cultural District. Jeffersonville celebrates being a creative place to live, work, and enjoy.

CONNER PRAIRIE and ASANTE CHILDREN'S THEATRE
Catherine Hughes (Conner Prairie), hughes@connerprairie.org
Keesha Dixon (Asante), kdixon@asantechildrenstheatre.org
Noblesville, Hamilton County; Indianapolis, Marion County

Conner Prairie Museum (CPM) and Asante Children’s Theatre (ACT), seemingly disparate organizations (large/small budget, suburban/urban, primarily Caucasian/African-American), strengthened ties through collaboration. Conversations between
the two cultural organizations began in 2014. The project that ultimately emerged was Giving Voice: African-Americans’ Presence in Indiana’s History, which commissioned a local artist-of-color to write new theatrical scripts highlighting this theme. What unfolded were new community engagement opportunities, greater exposure for ACT, and the stories and history of the African-American community.

**FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATRE**
Phillip Colglazier, pcolglazier@fwcivic.org
Fort Wayne, Allen County

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre’s Project Lights Up provides free, dedicated performances tailored for individuals with autism and other sensory issues. By working with autism and disabilities service organizations, networks, and educators, unique modifications were incorporated into these special performances to make a comfortable, sensory-friendly, and enjoyable experience for all. Serving 1,147 individuals during its 2016-2017 season, this program provides a rare opportunity for a family outing, deepens the theatre’s role in the greater community, and establishes an emerging model for service to this growing population.

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**
Katie Morgan, info@csa-marion.com
Marion, Grant County

The Student Performance Series presented by the Marion Community School of the Arts is an annual program that brings local public, private, and charter school students together for a theatrical or dance performance during the school day. There is no cost to the schools or students, and there are dedicated efforts to integrate the experience into the classroom prior to and following the performance. Relationships between arts organizations, students, local arts educators, artists, and performers have integrated the community in the planning, participation, and evaluation process. Because of this engagement, over 3,900 students have experienced arts integrated learning.

**MILLER BEACH ARTS AND CREATIVE DISTRICT**
Meg Roman, meg@millerbeacharts.org
Gary, Lake County

In 2017 Miller Beach Arts and Creative District marked the third year of its signature event, Lake Effekt Public Art Festival. Held in Gary, Indiana’s Miller neighborhood business district, this family-friendly festival features 60 public artists in collaboration with local businesses. Local artists work alongside and develop professional relationships with nationally and internationally recognized artists. The art created energizes public spaces, leaving an imprint that sparks conversation and energy that carries beyond the event. Lake Effekt would not be possible without the dedicated collaboration between the city, artists, local businesses, and cultural leaders.

**RURAL ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS**
Sarah Heppner, ruralalliance@msn.com
Batesville, Ripley County

Rural Alliance for the Arts (RAA) provides artistic education, expression, and enjoyment in the arts to all people in Batesville. Partnerships are at the core of RAA’s programming. Through collaborations with local businesses and the broader arts community, citizens can participate in enriching arts experiences. Most recently, the Rural Arts Alliance kicked off the community storytelling initiative Project 229, which involves local photographers, city leaders, and community members. With over 200 unique story ideas related to the history of the area, the project fosters community pride and will lead to an on-going, community-inspired documentation of the rich history and culture of Batesville.
TALES AND SCALES
Kensington Eck, keck@evansvillephilharmonic.org
Betsy Heiger, BHeiger@evansvillephilharmonic.org
Evansville, Vanderburgh County

Tales & Scales® is an ensemble that ignites the imaginations of young people through a unique blend of music, story, theater, and creative movement called musictelling. The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra (EPO) adopted the program in 2015. Musictellers use their instruments, voices and bodies in ingenious and unexpected ways to teach children about music and youth-centered themes in an interactive manner. Working in collaboration with composers, writers, and theatre directors, Tales & Scales® creates a new work each year. The rebirth of this innovative education initiative has led to greater community engagement in the Tri-State area and beyond.

ULTREIA
Ricky Herbst, info@ultreiainc.org
Rami Sadek, rami.sadek@gmail.com
South Bend, St. Joseph County

In 2016, members of Ultreia, Inc. grew curious about how being a “citizen” was related to one’s “city”, so The Citizen Project was born. Ultreia, Inc. asked community members about their city and local interests. Responses, often verbatim, were used to write a script that explored the paradoxes and potential of the community. The original play that resulted looked at South Bend’s river and its railroad, assets, and hardships. Partnering with Langlab, a local culture incubator, broadened the culturally diverse audience both live and online. The process and the show served as a mirror, reflecting a community back to itself for observation, consideration, and continued dialogue.

WABASH VALLEY ART SPACES
Meredith Lynn, meredith.lynn@indstate.edu
Terre Haute, Vigo County

Turn to the River is a comprehensive, multi-year project to reconnect downtown Terre Haute with the Wabash River through public art and design. The arts are at the core of this exciting urban redevelopment initiative, and professional artists, community members, and other stakeholders have worked with Art Spaces to host numerous community charrettes and symposiums to develop concepts for the connecting areas. The project is recommended to receive another Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, providing an opportunity for Terre Hautians to re-design an important part of their city using art and nature as a catalyst for community development.