



Indiana Arts Commission FY27 Lifelong Arts Indiana – Teaching Artist Training Guidelines For Fiscal Year 2027

Program Overview

What is Lifelong Arts Indiana: Lifelong Arts Indiana is a creative aging initiative of the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) focused on providing creative programming for older adults to improve quality of life and combat social isolation and loneliness.

Teaching Artist Training: A five-part virtual training series delivered synchronously on Zoom by [Prismatic Creative Aging](#) with expert instructors Stephanie Haines and Dr. Jon Kay covering creative aging using the Lifelong Arts Indiana model.

Who Can Apply: Indiana teaching artists seeking to grow their skills in facilitating meaningful creative aging programs for older adults in Indiana.

- Applicants must be an individual. Organizations may not apply.
- Must be 18 years or older
- Must be a US Citizen
- Must be an Indiana resident
- May not have already received Lifelong Arts Indiana training
- Artist's primary discipline must be one of the eligible disciplines listed in the guidelines

Note: This is not a grant program. This is a free training in creative aging for artists.

Key Dates:

Application Deadline: September 1, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET

Virtual Training Dates (Must be able to attend all five dates):

- Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | 4-6PM ET
- Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 4-6PM ET
- Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | 4-6PM ET
- Thursday, October 22, 2026 | 4-6PM ET
- Friday, October 23, 2026 | 4-6PM ET

Who to Contact: Anna Ross, anross@iac.in.gov

Program Details

Program Goal

Provide teaching artists with the knowledge and tools to provide older adults access to sequential arts learning in accessible community settings to improve quality of life and combat

social isolation and loneliness.

Program Outcomes

- Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities[§]
- Older adult well-being and quality of life are improved through arts engagement

[§ IAC 2024 – 2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact](#)

Artists who complete this training will be equipped to:

- **Understand the core principles of adult learning and creative aging in the Lifelong Arts Indiana model**
 - Participants will gain a working knowledge of how older adults learn differently — and how arts programming can be designed to meet those needs with dignity and creativity.
- **Engage meaningfully with Arts and Aging Service Providers (ASPs) to pursue programming**
 - Participants will learn how to communicate effectively with arts organizations, community organizations, and senior living and healthcare organizations — understanding their priorities, speaking their language, and building trust as a partner.
- **Develop and deliver lesson plans tailored to older adult participants**
 - Participants will leave with the tools to create accessible, adaptive lesson plans — and a clear process for submitting those plans to their ASP partner for program proposal integration

About Us

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) is an agency of state government, and its funding comes from the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

A core component of the Indiana Arts Commission's commitment to investing in the state's vibrant and rich arts and culture sector are learning opportunities, which support people and communities in advancing arts and creativity across the state.

Program Contacts

This program is conducted by the Indiana Arts Commission.

The following information outlines primary contacts for the training program:

- **For questions about application, eligibility, and guidelines:** Contact Anna Ross (anross@iac.in.gov).
- **For help or technical assistance with the Online Grant System:** Contact the IAC grants and operations team at grantsadmin@iac.in.gov.
- **For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project:** Contact accessibility@iac.in.gov.

- **To apply:** [Access the application](#). Only applications submitted online will be accepted, except in the case of ADA accessibility accommodations.

Training Content

The program consists of five synchronous virtual sessions hosted on Zoom each two hours long. Each lesson includes lecture, hands-on activities, and real-world application delivered by [Prismatic Creative Aging](#) with expert instructors Stephanie Haines and Dr. Jon Kay.

Session topics include the following:

- Session 1 – Foundations of Creative Aging
- Session 2 – Designing Lessons with the Lifelong Arts Indiana Model
- Session 3 – Arts and Aging Service Provider (ASP) Partnership Skills
- Session 4 – Designing Accessible Programming
- Session 5 – Planning, Practice and Next Steps

Selection Priorities

The IAC will prioritize statewide representation and a variety of creative disciplines in the selection process.

Dates to Know – Lifelong Arts Indiana Teaching Artist Training

Program Opens for Applications	August 6, 2026
Application Due	September 1, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET* *Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.
Cohort Decision Notification	September 24, 2026
Workshop Dates	- Tuesday, October 13, 2026 4-6PM ET - Thursday, October 15, 2026 4-6PM ET - Tuesday, October 20, 2026 4-6PM ET - Thursday, October 22, 2026 4-6PM ET - Friday, October 23, 2026 4-6PM ET (Applicants must commit to attending all virtual sessions scheduled for this training.)

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants*

- Applicants must be an individual. Organizations may not apply.
- Must be 18 years or older

- Must be a US Citizen
- Must be an Indiana resident
- May not have already received Lifelong Arts Indiana training. (If you are unsure if you have received training, contact the IAC staff.)
- Artists' primary discipline must be one of the following:
 - Dance
 - Music
 - Opera/Music Theatre
 - Theatre
 - Visual Arts
 - Design Arts, including architecture, fashion, graphic, industrial, interior, landscape architecture, and urban/metropolitan
 - Crafts – including clay, fiber, glass, leather, metal, paper, plastic, wood and mixed media
 - Photography
 - Media Arts – including film, audio, video, and work created using technology or experimental digital media
 - Literature
 - Interdisciplinary – art forms that integrate more than one arts discipline listed above to form a single work
 - Folklife/Traditional Arts – oral, customary, material and performance traditions informally learned and transmitted in contexts characteristic of ethnic, religious, linguistic, occupational, and/or regional groups. Does not include folk-inspired forms.

**IAC staff may follow up to request documentation or additional information and will make the final determination on eligibility.*

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants must commit to attending all virtual sessions scheduled for this training in order to be eligible.
- All applicants must be in good standing with all the following: the State of Indiana, the Indiana Arts Commission, the applicant's Regional Arts Partner, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Evaluation Criteria and Review Process

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on how well they meet the following criteria:

- **Career Alignment** – The extent to which participation in the training supports applicant’s career goals
- **Commitment to Creative Aging** – The extent to which the applicant has or is planning to support older adults through arts and creativity
- **Teaching and Community Engagement Experience** – The extent to which the applicant demonstrates teaching and/or community engagement experience in their work

Final Eligibility Review

After the application deadline, submitted applications receive an eligibility review to ensure the applicant is eligible to apply for the program, and all required information has been submitted. Incomplete or missing information may deem the application ineligible to advance to the review process.

Application Review

Review will be by IAC staff and creative aging professionals.

The review process is competitive, and not all applicants will be selected to participate in the training.

Future Opportunities

Following completion of the Lifelong Arts Teaching Artist Training, artists will have the opportunity to be included on the IAC website alongside all artists who received Lifelong Arts training. This listing will be used to connect arts and aging service provider organizations with trained artists for future creative aging grants offered through the IAC.

To Apply

Access the application at in.gov/arts/grant_portal

Application Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET