

**Indiana Arts Commission
Quarterly Business Meeting**

Friday, March 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m. (CT)
Southwest Indiana Small Business Development Space
318 Main St. #500, Evansville, IN 47708
Dave Haist, Chair



There will be a brief break at approximately 10:00 a.m. (CT).

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

- a. Welcome (Dave Haist, Chair)
- b. Welcome to Evansville (Commissioner Scott Wylie, et al.)
- c. Roll Call (Austin Hendricks)

2. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda (Dave Haist)

ACTION

a. Items Submitted for Commission Approval

- i. December 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- ii. FY26 Year-to-Date Financial Statement
- iii. Arts and Health Program Framework

b. Reports:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| i. Arts Trust | vi. Creative Convergence Round 1 & 2 |
| ii. Communications | vii. Every County Funded |
| iii. Key Performance Indicators | viii. External Partnerships |
| iv. Staff Activity | ix. Vision and Venture Participants |
| v. America250 | |

3. Committee Reports

a. Committee on the Future

- i. FY27 Budget Preview (André Zhang Sonera)

DISCUSSION

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. *Any line items you'd like more details on, or you'd like us to consider adjusting (pending available resources)?*

- ii. CY26 Agency Goals Presentation (André Zhang Sonera)

DISCUSSION/ACTION

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. *What's missing here that you would like staff to reconsider?*

- iii. IAC Tableau Dashboard Update (André Zhang Sonera)

DISCUSSION

The goals of this dashboard are to: 1) provide transparency to the public on the agency's grant investments; 2) illustrate the depth and breadth of the agency's investments; and 3) provide information on creative organizations across the state.

The audience for this dashboard is the general public (inclusive of decisionmakers).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. *With those considerations in mind, what suggestions would you have to improve the dashboard in future iterations?*

b. Programs, Grants, and Services

- i. Core Programs

- 1. FY27 Arts Project Support Update (Eric Ashby)

- ii. Community Services Programs (Anne Johansson)

- 1. Cultural Districts Presentation

DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. *What are the primary characteristics you think need to be demonstrated in a Cultural District for certification and recertification?*

- b. *What cadence is most effective for Cultural District certification and recertification?*
- c. *How might the IAC invest in or support Cultural District formation and development?*

iii. Artist Services Programs (Jordan Adams)

1. Creative Leap First Year Pilot Review Presentation

- 4. **Regional Arts Partnership Consortium** (Sherri Wright & Kayla Myers)
- 5. **READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative** (Miah Michaelsen)
- 6. **Consent Agenda Items Moved to Full Agenda** (Dave Haist)
- 7. **Old Business and New Business.** (Dave Haist)
 - a. Poet Laureate CY27-28 Extension (Anne Johansson)
 - b. Poetry Out Loud Winner
- 8. **Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting.** (Dave Haist)

ACTION

**Indiana Arts Commission
Quarterly Business Meeting**

Friday, December 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m. (ET)
Hulman Riverhouse, Indianapolis Zoo
1200 W Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46222
Dave Haist, Chair



Commissioners Present: Réna Bradley, Chad Bolser, Jeanne Campbell, Dawn Conwell, Dave Haist, Greg Hull, Jake Oakman, Kelsey Peaper, Scott Wylie

Commissioners Present via Zoom: Rick James, Walter Knabe, Renee Thomas

Commissioners Absent: Azizi Arrington-Slocum, Daniel Martinez

IAC Staff Members Present: Jordan Adams, Eric Ashby, Connie Brahm, Britt Fechtman, Austin Hendricks, Anne Johansson, Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Gwendolyn Pickett, André Zhang Sonera

Regional Arts Partners Present: Kayla, Myers, Sherri Wright

Special Presenters Present: Jim Rawlinson

Others Present: Dr. Robert Schumaker

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

- a. Welcome.** Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Commission Chair Dave Haist called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.
- b. Welcome from the Indianapolis Zoo.** Mr. Haist invited Commissioner Jake Oakman to welcome the IAC to the Indianapolis Zoo. Mr. Oakman is the Senior Vice President of External Relations at the Indianapolis Zoo. Mr. Oakman also introduced Dr. Robert W. Schumaker who is the President and CEO of the Zoo and gave a bit of his background. Dr. Schumaker thanked the Commission for having this meeting at the Zoo as well as some additional background of the Zoo and its mission, highlighted its efforts in conservation, and expounded on their relationship to the arts.
- c. Welcome, New Commissioners Jeanne Campbell, Dawn Conwell, Rick James, and Judith P. Sawyier.** Mr. Haist then welcomed the IAC's newest Commissioners. Commissioners Jeanne Campbell and Dawn Conwell were present in the room at this meeting, and Commissioner Rick James was present on Zoom. Mr. Haist welcomed them and invited them to share a bit about themselves. Each commissioner present did so.
- d. Roll Call.** IAC Administrative Assistant Austin Hendricks called the roll. All were present as listed above.

- 2. Approval of Agenda.** Mr. Haist called for a motion to approve the agenda as listed. Commissioner Chad Bolser motioned, and Commissioner Jake Oakman seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

- 3. Consent Agenda.** Mr. Haist then called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. *Consent agenda items are listed below.* Commissioner Oakman motioned, and Commissioner Scott Wylie seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

a. Items Submitted for Commission Approval

- i. September 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- ii. FY26 Year-to-Date Financials

b. Reports for Review:

- i. Arts Trust Report
- ii. Communications Report
- iii. Staff Activity Report
- iv. External Partnerships Report
- v. FY27 Arts Organization Support Year 2
- vi. FY26 Creative Convergence Round 1 Participants
- vii. Work In Progress (WIP) Grantees

4. Committee Reports

a. Committee on the Future

- i. **Strategic Framework Update & Proposed KPI Metrics.** IAC Director of Programs Eric Ashby and IAC Data and Grants Systems Manager Britt Fechtman presented this agenda item. Mr. Ashby began by noting that the IAC's Strategic Plan goes from 2024-2028 and there are five Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The last Quarterly Business Meeting (QBM) had some KPI updates, that were focused on the end of the Fiscal Year. Mr. Ashby noted that the metrics presented at this meeting are proposed impact areas, and he encouraged discussion after Ms. Fechtman concluded. *Please see the attached memo for a breakdown of these metrics and proposed metrics.*

Ms. Fechtman then went through the proposed new metrics. In Impact 1, **In Every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences**, there is an accessibility focused project metric, which has been updated to the following:

- **Tracking number of organizations moving from Every County Funded (ECF) or Creative Convergence (CC) into Arts Project Support (APS) and Arts Organization Support (AOS).**

Ms. Fechtman noted that this metric was not previously tracked, but the IAC is aware that it's happening, as the number of counties in ECF continues to decrease.

In Impact 4, **Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities**, the Universal Health Survey Metric will be replaced with two service delivery-focused metrics. She noted that this is following a change with the Regional Arts Partners (RAP) and how they work in their regions to be more service delivery focused. The changes are as follows:

- **Number of attendees of service presentations and webinars.**
- **Number of service delivery presentations and webinars by IAC staff and RAPs.**

Mr. Ashby noted that the Universal Health Survey was a completion metric and is now done. He then called for questions about the updates. None were spoken.

Mr. Ashby then began the discussion element that the agency is looking for commissioner input on. He highlighted that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is sunsetting certain demographic questions that have been in the IAC's final grant reports. He highlighted that the agency is interested in tracking similar data, but is seeking commissioner input on what, if anything, replaces them.

The two questions that are being removed are participants in arts experiences by age, and participants by distinct groups (such as individuals with disabilities, below the poverty line, military veterans, etc.). He noted that these questions were poorly worded

and difficult to report, however all the states and territories in the USA were asking these same questions, which was a boon for data comparison. Mr. Ashby highlighted that replacement questions should be lasting and comparable to other states. He then opened up the floor for discussion, with the following two questions to be the topics of discussion:

- *What kind of data should the IAC track to better understand who is served by grant investments?*
- *Is there data not currently captured in the KPI's that the IAC should consider collecting?*

Commissioner Greg Hull asked if the IAC is still tracking the urban/rural divide in programming.

Mr. Ashby responded yes, the agency is.

Mr. Wylie shared that from his perspective, the state's rural areas are losing population, and the urban centers are growing. He then asked if it's possible to track the county of residence of patrons who attend IAC funded programming.

Mr. Ashby responded that tracking county of residence and how big the reach of certain programming is may provide good insight.

Commissioner Kelsey Peaper added that it might be interesting to track how many attendees are first-time patrons, vs. a regular arts patron, to track the breadth of arts impact rather than the depth.

Ms. Michaelsen called on Jim Rawlinson, Vice President of Regional Development at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), to share his perspective as to what relevant information that could be provided to IEDC and READI.

Mr. Rawlinson noted that there is no one size that fits all regional definitions. He shared he's excited about the partnership between the IAC and IEDC, and that that agency tracks regional and local economic development. He also highlighted that the commerce vertical is trying to align itself to have all agencies within it to have one main map of Indiana regions.

Ms. Michaelsen said that tracking arts patrons and the regions they come from will be helpful data to collect.

Mr. Rawlinson added that tracking non-funded programs may be a good idea.

Commissioner Réna Bradley shared that she would like to see a more detailed breakdown of youth participation, specifically in the categories of primary, middle, and high school ages. She added she would like to see where arts programs serve youth, and more nuance in the age collection.

Commissioner Jeanne Campbell noted that it is very hard to track these demographics and asked if the Commission is aware of the recent changes to the higher education curriculum, and due to said changes, some of this data may be harder to track.

Commissioner Dawn Conwell asked if there is a way to track demographics such as the criminal population's access to arts. She added that there are a lot of great artists in this population and tracking it might be beneficial from a "pro-social" perspective.

Mr. Ashby shared that the IAC worked with the Prison Arts Initiative with Indiana University before and believes that working with that population is a great idea.

Commissioner Walter Knabe asked if there is a way to track the professional artists across all categories. He also added that there are a number of people who are professional artists who have to also work a full-time job in addition to being professional artists.

Mr. Ashby shared that there is a tracker of how many artists are benefiting from the program but that it could go more in depth in terms of what discipline is most benefitting.

Mr. Haist shared that this has been very good input and clarified that this is not an action item.

Mr. Ashby shared that this item will be re-presented in March where there will be an action associated with it.

Ms. Campbell asked if there is any way to look at how other agencies track this data successfully.

Mr. Ashby shared that he had a conversation with the Oklahoma and New York Arts Commissions about how they are addressing these questions. He shared that New York is removing the questions and not replacing them. He stated that the IAC seems to be ahead of the curve of these sunseting questions, but this is still a challenging task to track all this data accurately.

Mr. Haist thanked Mr. Ashby and Ms. Fechtman for their presentation.

- ii. **CY25 Agency Goals Review and CY26 Agency Goals.** IAC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff André Zhang Sonera presented this agenda item. He shared some background by noting that in 2022-2023 the IAC created a strategic advisory committee, who created the Strategic Framework for the period 2024-2028. Each year the IAC creates goals which are aligned with the Framework. He then went over the four goals for CY2025

- **Goal 1: Strengthen Strategic Partnerships to Drive Community and Economic Development**
- **Goal 2: Expand Services and Resources to Strengthen the Arts Workforce**
- **Goal 3: Amplify the impact of programs through data-driven storytelling**
- **Goal 4: Deepen community engagement through Arts-base connections**

Mr. Zhang Sonera then went through how the IAC achieved each of these goals which included partnerships with other state agencies, launching four new Artist Services

programs, presentations at statewide and national conferences, and a record number of grant applications. *Please see the attached memo for additional information about the agency's CY25 goals.*

Mr. Zhang Sonera then opened the floor for discussion about any CY26 Goals and called for questions about CY25 Goals. The following questions were submitted for discussion:

- *What gaps or needs did you notice during CY25?*
- *Outside of our existing programs and services, what should be the agency's top priorities for CY26?*

Mr. Haist congratulated the staff for getting the goals and related actions accomplished.

Ms. Michaelsen added that this discussion is additive to the core work of the agency, and the conversation should highlight items the IAC should be paying attention to in CY26. She also added that the agency goals are filtered down to staff and departmental work plans for CY26.

Mr. Bolser suggested considering what has changed fiscally for organizations and what the impact and practical application of the goals are. He encouraged the agency to evaluate where the IAC sees the impact to how the change in funding from the state has affected the IAC's goals and measurements.

Ms. Bradley added she would encourage the IAC to look at tracking how the loss of funding affects organizations in different budget tiers. With that, she added that the IAC should highlight and strengthen its technical support and training, with specific focus on how not-for-profits can gain alternate revenue streams. She concluded by noting that she'd like to see how quality of life programs are affected if organizations focus funding primary operations.

Mr. Zhang Sonera responded that the Arts Organization Support (AOS) program tracks budget size.

Mr. Ashby added that that is also tracked for Arts Project Support (APS) and can be analyzed year over year.

Ms. Michaelsen shared that in the committee meetings, some commissioners were interested in focusing on underserved audiences and arts education.

Ms. Bradley added that there will be school systems where the arts may be deprioritized in the coming year and if there is a way for the IAC to track arts programming, with a specific eye to underserved youth or youth who may lose arts access.

Ms. Michaelsen added that the agency could look at a goal about understanding the arts education space more thoroughly. She added that the reach of the IAC to impact specific school districts is very weak, if almost non-existent, this area is worth exploring to see what the IAC can do.

Commissioner Renee Thomas asked if the funding rubrics can prioritize quality of life or K-12 funding.

Mr. Ashby responded that yes, and that some of that request is baked into APS eligibility, such as for colleges and universities who apply. He also noted that there can still room for improvement on the rubrics and he and his team are working with the Indiana Department of Education to help those education-based applicants.

Mr. Zhang Sonera thanked the commission for their feedback, and the goals for CY26 will be presented at the March Quarterly Business Meeting (QBM).

Mr. Haist thanked Mr. Zhang Sonera for the presentation and encouraged the Commission to continue sending goal ideas.

b. Programs, Grants, and Services

i. Arts Project Support Program (APS)

1. **FY26 APS Fall Grantee Recommendations.** Mr. Ashby presented this agenda item. He shared that this was the first year this program has been offered twice. He then shared some metrics for this cycle's applications. In the program there were 166 eligible applicants in this cycle, compared to 266 in the Spring Cycle, with a total of 383 individual applicant organizations, across the whole program. This is a 20% increase compared to 322 applicants in FY25. 115 applicants had not applied in the spring and 51 were first time applicants to the IAC. Another 51 reapplied after not being funded in Spring APS while 12 applicants were not funded from the AOS program. 3 applicants were colleges and universities.

The top three applications categories were Concerts/Performing/Reading, Arts Instruction, and Creation of a Work of Art. Mr. Ashby then shared that in this program all applications were reviewed by 3-4 reviewers, and they left 700+ pages of comments. In the Spring cycle of this program there was no threshold score for eligibility, and the IAC funded the highest scoring eligible application in each county until the money ran out. 114 projects were funded this way with a total of about \$430,000.

In the Fall, the agency kept the same funding approach, funding the highest scoring eligible application in each county until the money ran out. With this approach, 53 counties applied and 53 were awarded. \$205,964 was awarded, with an average of \$3886.11 per award. Mr. Ashby noted that this round was extremely competitive compared to prior application periods in this program. He then shared each applicant and awarded applicant with the commission. *Please see the attached memo for the list of organizations recommended for funding.*

Mr. Ashby then called for questions. None were spoken.

Ms. Michaelsen added that in prior fiscal years 70-75% of applicants were funded, and this year has been 30-40%. She noted that this is partly due to a higher applicant pool, but also the 33% reduction in the agency's budget.

Mr. Haist called for a motion to approve the funding recommendations. Ms. Peaper motioned, and Mr. Bolser seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

At this time the meeting took a brief break. The meeting resumed at 10:35 AM.

2. **FY27 APS Spring & Fall Cycle Framework.** Mr. Ashby continued with this presentation. He stated that there are a lot of similarities to prior years. This program includes the following for eligible organizations:

- **Nonprofit arts organizations in any discipline**
- **501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) non-arts nonprofits, including libraries, chambers of commerce, tourism organizations, and social service organizations**
- **Public and private schools, Pre-K through high school, and colleges and universities**

Mr. Ashby added that an added clarification was made for public and private schools: these projects must be public facing in some way, such as a public performance or an artist residency. He added that colleges and universities must provide a community arts learning experience for K-12 or arts experiences in high priority geographic service areas. Mr. Ashby noted that the goal of this program is to provide Indiana's people and communities with access to arts experiences. He then shared that the Spring Cycle from January – March 2026, and the Fall Cycle: July – September 2026. Mr. Ashby shared that Spring cycle runs on the state fiscal year, and Fall cycle runs on the calendar year. Awards in this program are up to \$4,000, and the Evaluation priorities based on the following:

- **Project Quality and Planning**
- **Community Benefit**
- **Project Management**

Selection priorities include geographic access, level of access to arts opportunities, project discipline, first time vs. returning applicants, and budget size. Mr. Ashby noted that these priorities are made because the IAC is expecting a high volume of applicants, and that not all of them will be funded in the coming cycles.

Notable changes are the eligibility for public or private Pre-K through high schools, making sure that funding priorities respond to the availability of FY27 APS funds, and that the IAC now reserves the right to make payments in two installments as needed for this program. Mr. Ashby noted this final change is because Fall APS grantees can apply and earn a Spring APS grant. Mr. Ashby called for questions. None were spoken.

- ii. **Arts & Health Update.** Mr. Ashby gave a brief update on Arts and Health. He noted that the IAC received some support from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to do arts and health programming. The IAC applied for competitive funding and was awarded it. Mr. Ashby noted that the IAC's arts and health work is focused on older adults through a program called Lifelong Arts. The IAC will be offering a free statewide summit on March 23, 2026, on how to create a Lifelong Arts modeled program in more local areas. Mr. Ashby shared that there will also be a Creative Aging Summit, that has a target audience of State and Local agencies that work with older adults, aging service

providers, healthcare systems, trained artists, and arts organizations. In addition to the summit, there will be further grants in Lifelong Arts program, which will be discussed and voted on in the March QBM. The Lifelong Arts toolkit will be shared in January 2026 and will be distributed at the Summit. Mr. Ashby also highlighted that there has also been an application for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) for additional financial support, with the funding coming in January.

iii. **Community Services Programs**

1. **FY26 Every County Funded Program Framework** IAC Communities Services Manager Anne Johansson presented this agenda item. She noted that for this framework this program is funding counties that are not funded by AOS and APS. The seven counties eligible are as follows:

- **Blackford**
- **Lawrence**
- **Newton**
- **Parke**
- **Rush**
- **Washington**
- **White**

Ms. Johansson noted that this list is down from 15 the prior program cycle. She added that Washington County has been added to the list since the last presentation at Programs, Grants, and Services Committee. Ms. Johansson noted that this program's long-term outcomes of counties moving to AOS and APS from this program is on track, as this list of counties is smaller than previous years. The program will open on December 17, 2025, and run through February 20, 2026. The award amounts are up to \$10,000 per county but the goal is to fund two projects at \$5,000 each. A notable change in this program is that the budget has adjusted from \$100,000 to \$70,000 with the \$30,000 difference moving to APS. *Please see the attached memo for more information about this program's framework.* Ms. Johansson then called for questions.

Ms. Michaelsen shared that the IAC has a goal of direct investment in all 92 counties, and this exists to ensure that goal is met.

2. **Creative Convergence Round 2 Framework.** Ms. Johansson continued with this agenda item. She began by noting that this program is team based and has a 2-day workshop element. The teams are made up of 3-4 people from local government, arts and civic leaders, and local artists. This program has an award of a \$5,000 early action grant and is a partner program with Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute (ICI). Ms. Johansson noted that this year there has been an optional partnership with CreatING places and Patronicity. Ms. Johansson then shared that eligibility and the evaluation and priorities are the same as the previous framework. She then shared the goals and the outcomes of this program, which include the following:

- **Build cross-sector collaboration.**
- **Advance arts as infrastructure for community vitality.**
- **Equip teams to sustain momentum and deepen impact.**

- **In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences.**
- **Indiana’s arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities.**
- **There is broad recognition of arts and creativity’s value for Indiana.**

The application is open from January 14 through February 20, 2026, and the grant period is from May 15, 2026, through May 30, 2027. Ms. Johansson called for questions.

Ms. Conwell shared that she is participating in this program, as Marion, IN (*her home area of the state*) is one of the current communities within the program. She was very thrilled with the outcomes of the program and appreciates its cross-sector applications.

Mr. Haist thanked Ms. Conwell for her comment, and Ms. Johansson for her presentation.

iv. Artist Services Programs.

1. On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneurial Accelerator

a. **Evaluation Findings.** IAC Artist Services Program Manager Jordan Adams presented this agenda item. She noted that the Artist Needs Assessment was created in 2023, which helped to create six different programs. One of those six is On-Ramp. On-Ramp has been on pause for evaluation, which was done by Measurement Resources. This was an analysis and survey of the alumni of the program and internal participant evaluations. 43% of those surveyed responded, which Ms. Adams noted is less than half, but high when considered that the IAC does not maintain contact with former participants. Ms. Adams also shared that the data from this survey was presented at the Creative Economy summit earlier this year. The findings focused in three areas:

- **Program satisfaction**
- **Individual outcomes**
- **Outcomes within individual communities**

Within Program Satisfaction, 92% of alumni surveyed said they found the program valuable. In Individual Outcomes, participants maintained their knowledge after the conclusion of their time, and within Individual Communities, 50% of artists collaborated with other artists, and 53% grew their networks outside their arts. *Please see the corresponding memos for additional findings from the survey.*

Ms. Adams then shared that going forward, the data will be shared in a press release and with the Commerce Vertical, and the program will return to a decentralized model with Expressions of Interest (EOI) requests released to the public. Ms. Adams called for questions on the findings.

Mr. Wylie thanked her for her presentation.

Mr. Hull congratulated her on her presentation at the Creative Economy summit.

- b. **Central Cohort Program Framework.** Ms. Adams presented this framework. She began by reviewing the program's overview. The eligible applicants are early-career or emerging artists over the age of eighteen. She then shared that the goals of the program are to empower creatives to pursue a feasible portfolio career, and to provide funds for a year-long fellowship. The outcomes include meeting artists' assessed needs of connections, marketing, and financial education. The application period is from January 14 through February 18, 2026, with a grant period from September 1, 2026, through September 1, 2027. The workshop will be in May of 2026. The award amounts are \$2,000. Notable changes include: potential local hosts observing the 3-day workshop, decreasing the cohort size from 30 to 20, and the ongoing cohort engagement during the fellowship period. *Please see the attached memo for additional information about this framework.* Ms. Adams called for questions about the framework. None were spoken.
- c. **WIP Micro Support Grant Fall selections.** Ms. Adams presented this agenda item. She shared that there were no applications from the southern region for this program, but all other regions did have applications. She shared that the program is sunsetting after it closes and the best practices of the program will be taken forward onto future programs. Ms. Adams called for questions, and none were spoken.

She then reminded the Commission that the Vision and Venture program is open and the deadline for applications is January 8, 2026, and the EOI for On-Ramp is currently out.

- v. **Program Frameworks Approval.** Mr. Haist then called for a motion to approve the FY27 APS Spring and Fall Cycle Framework, the FY26 Every County Funded Framework, the Creative Convergence Round 2 Framework, and the On-Ramp Central Cohort Framework. Commissioner Oakman motioned, and Commissioner Bolser seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the frameworks were approved.**
5. **Regional Arts Partnership Consortium Report.** Regional Arts Partners Kayla Myers and Sherri Wright and Mr. Ashby presented this agenda item. Ms. Wright began by overviewing the Regional Arts Partnership (RAP) for the new commissioners. She highlighted that all the partners will be presenting their regional service delivery plans in January 2026. She also added that the RAPs are in a position to provide technical assistance to their regions in all stages of grants making that the IAC can't get as granular on.

Ms. Myers noted that the partners met yesterday December 11, 2026, and that there are new partners in Regions 1, 7, 8, 10, and 12, and that all the partners are getting ready for the FY27 APS cycles. She also added that the RAPs are promoting both the IAC's programs in their regions and local events in their regions.

Mr. Ashby added that in Regions 8 and 12 the Indiana University Arts and Humanities Council will be serving the two regions, and there will be one staff member dedicated to each region. He added that in Region 10, ARTSWIN is no longer the RAP, and a more formal update regarding Region 10 will be coming in March 2026.

- 6. READI LEI Arts and Culture Initiative.** Ms. Michaelsen presented this agenda item with the Vice President of Regional Development at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), Jim Rawlinson. Ms. Michaelsen began by reviewing that the IAC has been working with IEDC on the READI program and that READI stands for Regional Economic Acceleration Development Initiative.

Mr. Rawlinson shared that IEDC works with 15 regions statewide and that the READI team is 4 people at IEDC, including Mr. Rawlinson. He noted that this is a \$1.2 million initiative. He then shared a timeline of events leading to READI—noting that this version is the second edition of READI. Ten years ago, there was a Regional Cities initiative, began by then-Governor Pence. The IEDC identified population loss is the #1 limiting factor to economic development. As a result of this, the IEDC formulated 9 core principles that indicate success in economic development, which then lead to three cities being funded by the Regional Cities initiative. This initiative then morphed into the READI 1 program. This program began under the Holcomb administration, and 17 regions of the state applied to the program. Mr. Rawlinson added that READI 1 has a sunset date of 2026.

IEDC's regional entities contract directly with IEDC for this grant program. Right now, READI 1 has a \$9.2 billion investment, of which \$8.2 is private and \$1 billion is locally funded. At the time of this presentation, \$393 million has been disbursed. Mr. Rawlinson then shared that there is currently an economic impact analysis being done by Purdue and Indiana University's Public Policy Institute about READI 1. The impact match dollars are at about 1.85 (for every 1 dollar investment, about 1.85 dollars are gained).

Mr. Rawlinson then shared that READI 2.0 was given about \$500 million by the State Legislature and that this version is largely the same as READI 1.0. Mr. Rawlinson highlighted that READI 2.0 does include Key Performance Indicators, and there are 15 regions who applied. The maximum award in READI 2.0 is \$50 million. Mr. Rawlinson then shared that currently 355 projects are submitted, 219 are preapproved, 79 are through full compliance, and 62 are currently being reviewed. \$334.36 million has been preapproved with \$21.8 million disbursed, and \$124 million officially obligated.

Mr. Rawlinson then shared that the Lilly Endowment gave \$250 million to READI for both blight reduction, redevelopment, and for an arts and culture program. \$65 million of that investment is allocated to arts and culture. There are 15 regions who have submitted an arts and culture plan to be considered for funding. Mr. Rawlinson noted that the regions were asked to bring in other arts stakeholders, and asked not just focus on economic development. By the end of the year, there will be 15 strategic plans from each region. Mr. Rawlinson thinks that these plans will help develop better projects and proposals from each of the regions.

Mr. Rawlinson highlighted some arts and culture projects that were funded in READI 1. The majority of the \$65 million from the Lilly Endowment will go to project funding and some will go to capacity building. He then added that the funding recommendations will come out in Q2 of next year (April/May).

Mr. Rawlinson noted that the projects will be submitted through the IAC's grants portal Foundant, and that projects that are selected will then go to the READI portal.

Mr. Rawlinson called for questions.

Mr. Haist asked if there was a sense for how many projects may be submitted and if any submissions would not be tied to the larger regional plans.

Mr. Rawlinson shared that this process is trying to be as accessible as possible and not all of the applications will come directly from the regions who are developing the Arts and Culture plans.

Commissioner Renee Thomas asked what specific dollar amount is coming from READI to support arts and culture. She also thanked Mr. Rawlinson for the IEDC leaning on the IAC's expertise with arts.

Mr. Rawlinson stated that \$65 million is the total investment for READI arts and culture. He also added that this is one of the single largest investments in arts and culture in the state.

Ms. Michaelsen added that the commissioners will be able to see the 15 regional arts plans that are being developed, then the 15 regions will meet with IEDC to understand how the process has been received, followed by an analysis of the program. Ms. Michaelsen shared she will bring what the IAC learned as a result of this partnership to the commission.

Mr. Rawlinson shared that the website indianareadi.com will have an interactive map of the state for the public to see all the investment plans.

Mr. Haist thanked Mr. Rawlinson and is excited about the partnership with the IAC and IEDC.

7. **Consent Agenda Items Moved to Full Agenda.** No items were moved, so this agenda item was skipped.
8. **Old Business and New Business.**
 - a. **Thank you to Commissioner Emeriti Laurie Burns McRobbie and Anne Penny Valentine.** Mr. Haist thanked Emeriti Commissioners Laurie Burns McRobbie and Anne Penny Valentine for their service to the Commission. Ms. Michaelsen agreed and thanked them for their service.
 - b. **Next Quarterly Business Meeting: Evansville.** Mr. Wylie presented this item. He shared that the next Quarterly Business Meeting will be held in Evansville. He noted that his region and Evansville are excited to host, and that it has been roughly ten years since the IAC has been down there for a meeting. He shared that he is working with the most immediate prior commissioners who are in Evansville to plan this event.
 - c. **Additional items.** Mr. Haist shared that if the commissioners haven't done the evaluation of Ms. Michaelsen there is still time to do so. Ms. Michaelsen thanked the Commission and staff for their flexibility with the changes that have happened this CY26.
9. **Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting.** Mr. Haist called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Oakman motioned, and Commissioner Peaper seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:51 AM.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Stephanie Pfendler, Financial Operations Manager
Date: March 13, 2026
Subject: February 2026 FY26 YTD Financial Report

Recommendation: Approval of February 2026 FY26 YTD Financial Report

The Indiana Arts Commission staff presents the enclosed report to the Commissioners and recommends its approval. These numbers reflect projected expenses in comparison with actual expenses through February 28, 2026.

February 2026 | FY26 YTD Financial Report Summary

- I. IAC Revenue:** Consistent with the approved FY26 Budget.
- II. IAC Expenses*:** On track and consistent with projected budget for FY26.
 - **Pt. 1 | Personnel, Benefits**
Now includes figures for full-staffing levels at the agency; consistent with Q3 expenditures.
 - **Pts. 2-5; 8 | Tech, Consultancies & Panels, Supplies/Office Equipment, Unemployment**
Pt. 3 shows a negative variance (surplus) as the agency still has outstanding professional services contracts that need to be developed and/or paid for FY26.
 - **Pts. 7 | FY26 Grant Agreements**
Consistent with Q3 expenditures. Of note, the FY26 Arts Organization Support (AOS) grant program has been fully paid and Arts Project Support (APS) Fall program grant payments are 98% complete. Remaining FY26 grants are in process.
 - **Pt. 9 | Shared Departmental Operating Expenses**
Pt. 9 shows a negative variance (surplus) due to outstanding memberships that were projected to be expensed at this point in the fiscal year.
 - **NEA & State Match Carry Forward**
This number remains constant, including previous FY payments and carryover federal funds.

* Point (Pt.) 1 spending, or "Personnel, benefits -1", is a separate expenditure from Points (Pts.) 2-9.



INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION

FY26 YTD Comparative Budget Financial Statement

Period Ending February 28, 2026

| REVENUES | FY26 Actuals | | FY26 Budget |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| State of Indiana Appropriation | | | |
| FY26 State Appropriation (Personnel) | \$ 986,088 | | \$ 986,088 |
| FY26 State Appropriation (2025 NEA Grant State Match) | \$ 1,138,638 | | \$ 1,138,638 |
| FY26 State Appropriation (Non-Match) | \$ 1,153,530 | | \$ 1,153,530 |
| Total State Appropriation (\$3,450,796) minus 5% Reserve (\$172,540) | \$ 3,278,256 | | \$ 3,278,256 |
| National Endowment for the Arts Federal Grant | | | |
| 2025 National Endowment for the Arts Grant (IAC's FY26) | \$ 1,138,638 | | \$ 1,138,638 |
| 2024 National Endowment for the Arts Grant (IAC's FY25) | \$ 179,503 | | \$ 179,503 |
| Interagency Funding Agreements | | | |
| | \$ - | | \$ - |
| Carryforward & Payment Obligations | | | |
| FY25 SOI State Appropriation Carryforward | \$ 642,618 | | \$ 642,618 |
| Previous NEA BSP State Match | \$ 46,432 | | \$ 46,432 |
| Total Payment Obligations | \$ 689,050 | | \$ 689,050 |
| Dedicated Funds/Donations | | | |
| Cultural Trust Income | \$ 240,000 | | \$ 240,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 5,525,447 | | \$ 5,525,447 |
| EXPENDITURES | Actual/Encumbered | * Year To Date * | FY26 Budget |
| | | Budget | %Variance |
| .1 Personnel, Benefits | \$ 629,888 | \$ 657,392 | -4.184% |
| .2 Technology/Communications | \$ 32,372 | \$ 34,782 | -6.930% |
| .3 Consultancies/Contracts/Panelist/Capacity Building | \$ 422,445 | \$ 892,795 | -52.683% |
| .4 Supplies, Materials, & Parts | \$ 1,905 | \$ 2,644 | -27.940% |
| .5 Capital Assets | \$ - | \$ 500 | -100.000% |
| .6 Distribution to Other Governmental Units | \$ - | \$ - | N/A |
| .7 Grant Contracts (FY26) | \$ 2,689,620 | \$ 3,026,290 | -11.125% |
| .8 Social Service Type Payments | \$ - | \$ - | N/A |
| .9 Administration & Other Operating Costs | \$ 41,820 | \$ 84,103 | -50.276% |
| <i>Payment Obligations (Encumbered)</i> | \$ 689,050 | \$ 689,050 | 0.000% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 4,507,099 | \$ 5,387,556 | -16.342% |
| TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | | \$ 1,018,348 | |



Program Guidelines Framework

FY26 Lifelong Arts Indiana – Arts & Aging Service Providers

Request for Approval: Approval of framework for FY26 Lifelong Arts Indiana – Arts & Aging Service Providers Grant Program and ceding of selection authority to the internal review panel.

Program Overview: Lifelong Arts Indiana is a learning and funding opportunity for Indiana arts and aging service providers to further their knowledge and advance implementation of creative aging activities for older adults. Informed by evidence-based practices, Lifelong Arts Indiana empowers participants to understand how to best implement participatory arts experiences with older adults, in their community. The IAC is offering project grants of up to \$5,000 to support sustained sequential arts learning for older adults using the Lifelong Arts Indiana model.

Goal(s): Improve well-being and quality of life for older adults in Indiana through participatory arts learning

Outcomes:

- State and local agencies that serve older adults view creative aging as a critical intervention and build it into their planning and programming
- Arts providers (artists, arts organizations, and other art producers) incorporate creative aging into arts learning service delivery
- Indiana’s arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities[§]

§ IAC 2024 – 2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) arts organizations and aging service providers

Note:

- Current organizational grantees of the IAC are eligible for this opportunity.
- Applicants will need to have secured a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) prior to application, as the source of funding for this program includes federal dollars from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Selection Criteria or Priorities: Project selection is based on the extent to which the proposal demonstrates adherence to the Lifelong Arts Indiana model, Community Benefit, and Project Management/Feasibility. IAC will prioritize applicants that show commitment to sustaining creative aging programming (e.g. participation in creative aging trainings/learning opportunities, partnerships to support aging service delivery, funding match, etc.)

Program Timeline:*Returning Arts and Aging Service Providers*

- Application Launch: April 2026
- Application Close: May 2026
- Funding Notifications: June 2026

Grant Period: July 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027

*New Arts and Aging Service Providers**

- Application Launch: June 2026
- Application Close: August 2026
- Funding Notifications: September 2026

Grant Period: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

*Timeline subject to change pending federal award notification

Program Budget:

- Estimated Budget: \$170,000
- Planned Source of Funding:
 - Federal Funds – NEA Grant # 1942609-61-25, AL #450025 (62800): \$18,000.00
 - State Matching Funds – State Operating Budget (62800): \$37,000.00
 - State Funds – General Operating Budget (13910): \$37,500.00
 - Private Grants – NASAA Creative Aging, Creative Futures (46670): \$77,500.00

Grant Award Amount: Requests up to \$5,000

Estimated Number of Grantees: 34 (Estimate 20 new and 14 returning arts and aging service providers)

Notable Change from Previous Program Cycle: Inclusion of arts and aging service providers in a single program. Creative Aging Summit to launch grant opportunity and serve as introductory training.

Review and Evaluation Plans:

Due to the program's subject-area specificity, the staff is recommending an internal review and funding determination by a panel of qualified aging and arts professionals.

Standard final reporting is collected. Coaching and check-ins, particularly with new grantees, will be available. Continued metrics on impact on older adults will be tracked.



To: IAC Committee on the Future
From: Stephanie Pfendler, Financial Operations Manager
Date: February 5, 2026
Subject: FY26 Q2 – Arts Trust Statement

The Indiana Arts Commission Trust Fund ("Trust") was established with the purpose of establishing and maintaining a stable and enduring source of funding for the arts in Indiana for future generations and is managed by the Indiana Arts Commission.

For over twenty years, Hoosiers have supported the arts in Indiana by purchasing an Arts Trust License Plate, which funds the Arts Trust Fund. Every plate purchase or renewal generates \$25 for the Arts Trust Fund.

Fiscal Year 2026 Investments

The Indiana Treasurer of State, who is the administrator of the Trust by statute, has invested \$4,571,429.52 of the Trust into two investments as of December 31, 2025.

- **Bank of New York (BONY) Government Agency Coupon Note:**
\$500,000 has been invested in a Bank of New York Government Agency Bond. This is a callable investment, meaning that the issuer has the right to redeem before the maturity date. Typically, these investments offer a higher interest rate in exchange for the issuer's ability to borrow funds.

As of this writing, the interest rate is 0.10000%, and the investment yield for FY26 was \$2,500.00. This investment is set to mature on March 30, 2026.

- **TrustINDiana Local Government Investment Pool (TrustIN LGIP):**
\$4,030,026.93 has been invested in the [TrustINDiana Local Government Investment Pool](#). The pool allows local units of government and the State of Indiana to invest in a shared pool of investment assets that seeks to preserve the principal of the public's funds and to prioritize liquidity and return on investment. TrustINDiana only invests public sector funds in securities and other investments that are legally permitted pursuant to Indiana law and in the manner further defined by the TrustINDiana investment policy.

As of this writing, the interest rate is 0.4460%, and the investment yield for FY26 was \$85,684.09.



Stephanie Pfendler
 Financial Operations Manager
 Indiana Arts Commission

spfendler@iac.in.gov

FY26 Q2 Trust Report

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Lifetime Interest | \$1,057,175.62 |
| Lifetime Plate Revenue | \$4,288,023.09 |
| FY26 Distribution | \$240,000.00 |
| Interest Available | \$369,650.31 |
| Fund Balance as of December 31, 2025 | \$4,652,674.05 |

| Fiscal Year | Quarter | Interest | Sales Revenue | Plates Sold |
|-------------|---------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| FY25 | 3 | \$41,488.88 | \$27,850.00 | 1,114 |
| FY25 | 4 | \$51,321.94 | \$34,825.00 | 1,393 |
| FY26 | 1 | \$46,785.20 | \$33,675.00 | 1,347 |
| FY26 | 2 | \$41,402.59 | \$28,750.00 | 1,150 |

| Inv. Number | Current Investments | Book Value | Rate | Maturity Date | Projected Annual Interest |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 600307 | Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note | \$ 500,000.00 | 0.1000% | 3/30/2026 | \$ 22,805.56 |
| 522 | TrustIN Invstmnt Pool Interest | <u>\$ 4,071,429.52</u> | 0.4460% | 12/31/2025 | <u>\$ 18,158.58</u> |
| | | \$ 4,571,429.52 | | | \$ 40,964.14 |

| Matured Investments and Coupon Payments Since 7/1/2025 | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Inv. Number | Current Investments | Book Value | Rate | Maturity Date | |
| 600307 | Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note | \$ 500,000.00 | 0.1000% | 3/30/2026 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| | Total Government Interest Income | | | | \$ 2,500.00 |
| 522 | TrustIN LGIP Interest | \$ 3,500,000.00 | 0.4460% | 12/31/2025 | \$ 85,684.09 |
| | Plus Sec Lending Income | | | | \$ 3.70 |
| | | | | Total Interest | <u>\$ 88,187.79</u> |



To: IAC Commissioners

From: Connie Brahm, Marketing and Communications Director, Gwendolyn Pickett, Communications Manager

Date: February 10, 2026

Subject: Communications Update

FY26 Q2 Announcements

- [Arts Commission Releases On-Ramp Program Impact Evaluation Report](#)
- [Indiana Arts Commission Accepting Applications for America250 Grant Program](#)
- [Arts Commission Seeking Local Hosts for Business Training Program for Artists](#)
- [Arts Commission Launches Program for Newly Established Creative Small Businesses](#)

Winter/Spring 2026 Departmental Projects and Updates

- Finalizing the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report, returning to the practice after a previous decision to step in a different direction.
- Utilizing updated messaging guides and state government communications practices to establish updated agency messaging for the coming biennium. The finalized messaging will be operationalized into refreshed agency storytelling materials and guiding language, and will be utilized heading into coming legislative sessions.
- Establishing CY2026 goals and goal-related KPIs to measure departmental growth and progress.
- The department continues to focus on web accessibility and is on track to be in compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1, Level AA, ahead of the April 24, 2026, Department of Justice rule update deadline.
- Leading promotion of the America250 Grant Program, Or-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator, Vision & Venture Artist Programming, Every County Funded, FY27 Arts Project Support, Spring 2026 Creative Convergence, and the Creative Aging Summit.



To: IAC Commissioners

From: Britt Fechtman, Data and Grant Systems Manager

Date: March 6, 2026

Subject: Strategic Framework KPI Baseline & Targets Update for FY26

Overview

Below are baseline numbers and targets for growth that articulate IAC goals related to each Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and associated impact. Baseline numbers, if available, come from current IAC grants data and public data currently available. Progress in achieving the [2024-2028 Strategic Framework](#) impacts will be measured against these KPI targets. The baseline metrics are updated to reflect the close of FY25 and inform reasonable targets for completion by the end of FY26. The original FY25 targets are included for comparison with the “actual” FY25 metrics which appear in the “Baseline” column. We have added the KPIs discussed during December QBM to Impact 2, and have updated some other metrics to replace elements no longer being tracked in Impact 1 and 4. New demographic questions that we are replacing the NEA questions with have been added to Final Grant Reports for FY26 grant processes.

Baseline: Performance as of August 2025

Target: Goal for IAC by the end of FY26

| Impact 1: In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences. | | |
|---|---|--|
| Measure | Baseline | Target |
| # of counties directly supported | FY24: 81/92 counties FY25: 92/92 counties | FY25 Target: 92 FY26 Target: 92 counties |
| # of activities in counties (AOS/APS) | FY24: Averaged 7 arts activities per county FY25: Averaged 11 arts activities per county | FY25 Target: 8 FY26 Target: Average 15 arts activities per county |

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| # of organizations moving from Every County Funded or Creative Convergence to APS/AOS applications** <i>**New metric added as of FY26.</i> | FY25: Not tracked | FY26 Target: 10 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|

| Impact 2: New populations of Hoosiers experience meaningful learning in and engagement with arts and creativity. | | |
|---|--|--|
| Measure | Baseline | Target |
| # of first-time grantees (AOS/APS) *for FY26 extending to all grant programs | FY24: ~150 (28%) FY25: 149 (26%) FY26 Update: 63 | FY25 Target: 35% FY26 Target: 30% across all programs |
| # of grantees and total grant \$ by type and discipline* *Metric sunset at close of FY25. No longer federally required. | See Figure 1 and Table 1 below | See Figure 1 and Table 1 below |
| Primary population benefited (rural counties served, underserved populations, etc.) * *Metric sunset at close of FY25. No longer federally required. | FY24: 25% grants to rural counties and 22% grant dollars to rural counties FY25: 28.9% grants to rural counties and 29.5% grant dollars to rural counties | FY25 Target: 30% grants to rural counties and 25% grant dollars to rural counties FY26 Target: 30% grants to rural counties and 35% grant dollars to rural counties |
| Age specific metrics – primary age group served by project with ranges that mirror census groupings. ** <i>**New metric added as of FY26</i> | FY25: Not tracked | FY26: Ages served mirror census population breakdown for Indiana |

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Percent of local (in county of project) vs. Non-local attendees** **New metric added as of FY26 | FY25: Not tracked | FY26: 60% local and 40% non-local |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|

| Impact 3: Indiana’s artists build towards successful careers in our state. | | |
|---|--|--|
| Measure | Baseline | Target |
| \$ invested in individual artists | FY24: \$186,000 FY25: \$146,445 FY26 Update: \$43,594.69 | FY25 Target: \$250,000 FY26: \$200,000 |
| Total investment in artist entrepreneurship from IAC partners | FY25: \$0 | FY25 Target: \$250,000 FY26 Target: \$100,000 |
| # of hours of technical assistance to artists/organizations (funded and not funded) | FY24: not tracked FY25: 155 hours FY26 Update: 95 hours | FY25 Target: 100 hours FY26 Target: 250 hours |

| Impact 4: Indiana’s arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities. | | |
|--|--|--|
| Measure | Baseline | Target |
| \$ leveraged beyond grant award | FY24: \$3.3 Million FY25: \$3.3 Million | FY25 Target: \$3.5M FY26 Target: \$3.5M |
| # of sustained creative aging projects | FY25: ~5 | FY25 Target: 25 FY26 Target: 15 |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| # of attendees/views of service delivery presentations and webinars Virtual: 700 In Person: 300 | FY25: Not tracked FY26 Update: 385 | FY26 Target: 1,000 views |
| # of service delivery presentations/webinars by IAC staff and RAPs | FY25: Not tracked | FY26 Target: 50 presentations |

| Impact 5: There is broad recognition of arts and creativity's value for Indiana. | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Measure | Baseline | Target |
| \$ invested in arts and creativity outside of IAC programs | FY25: \$1.5M | FY26: \$25M |
| # Non-arts and artists grantees | FY24: 119 FY25: 148 FY26: In APS 25 Non-Arts/Non-Humanities Grantees | FY25 Target: 175 FY26: 150 |
| Per capita funding compared to peers | FY24-25: \$0.76 FY26-27: \$0.50 | N/A |

Next Steps for KPI's

Following FY26 funding recommendations and Final Grant Reports across FY26 Programs, as well as Service Delivery sessions by IAC and Partners, will begin updating FY26 results and see how they compare with target metrics.

Figures

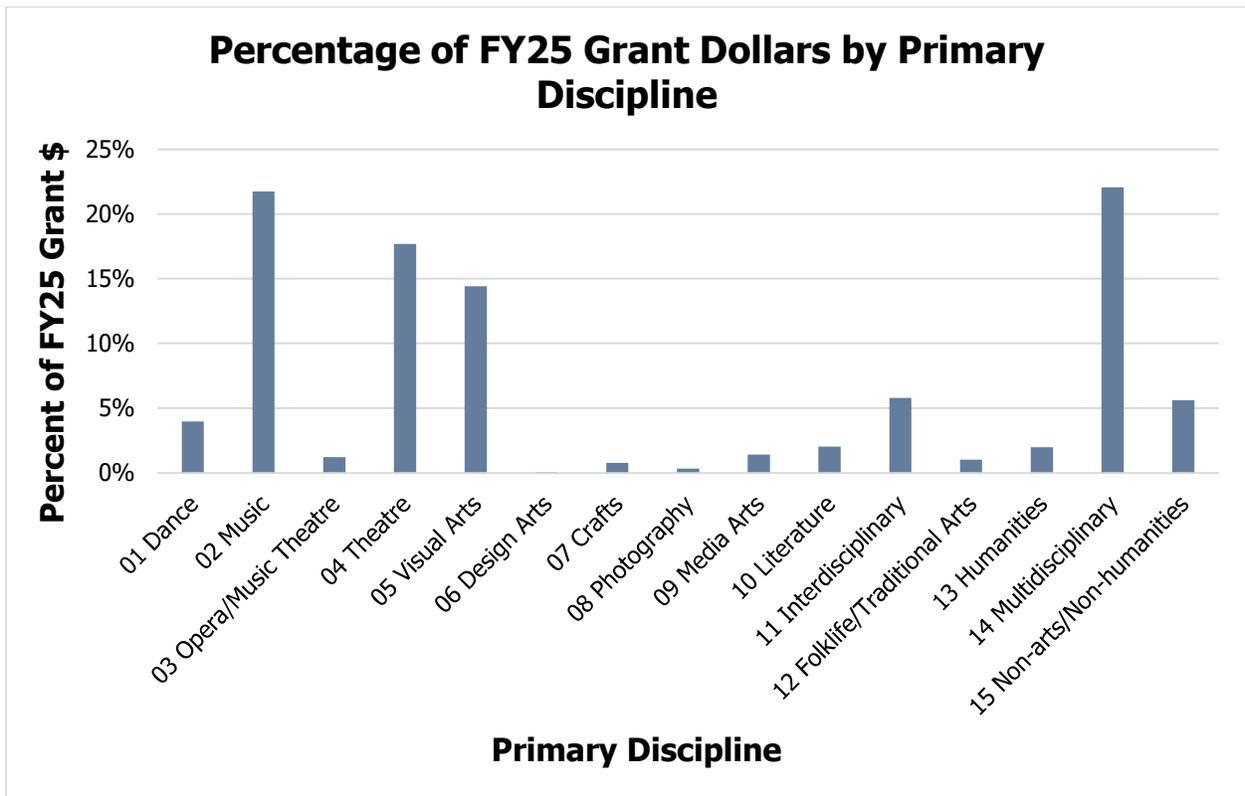


Figure 1

FY25 Baseline: The current baseline of funding by primary discipline for all FY25 Grant programs as of August 2025 is listed above in Figure 1.

FY25 Target: Maintain a mixture of disciplines in alignment with national breakdowns from peer states with a grant budget between \$2 Million and \$5 Million.

FY26 Target: Maintain a mixture of disciplines in alignment with national breakdowns from peer states with a grant budget between \$2 Million and \$5 Million

| Discipline | Percentage of \$ Awarded (Peer) | FY24 Percentage of \$ Awarded (IAC) | FY25 Percentage of \$ Awarded (IAC) |
|--|--|--|--|
| Visual Arts | 15% | 16% | 14% |
| Performing Arts | 40% | 47% | 45% |
| Other (Crafts, Folklife, Humanities, Interdisciplinary, Literature, and Non-arts/humanities) | 16% | 15% | 18% |
| Multidisciplinary | 29% | 22% | 22% |

Table 1

Source: NASAA (https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/saa-grant-making-explorer/)



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Austin Hendricks, Administrative Assistant
Date: February 4, 2026
Subject: **Staff Activity Report CY26 Q1**

Below is a summary of the IAC staff's involvement in statewide, regional, and national activities relevant to the agency's work.

IAC's STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT | FIRST QUARTER OF 2026

December

Gwendolyn served as the facilitator for the **Public Information Officers Peer Session** for the **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA)**. This discussion focused on email marketing platforms used by peer State Arts Agencies.

January

Miah, André, Eric, Gwendolyn, Britt, Jordan, Anne, and **Austin** all attended the **READI Arts and Culture Share-out event** in **Plainfield, IN** where all 15 Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) Regions shared their arts and culture plans.

Connie and **Miah** presented at the **Indiana Tourism Association's Grant Opportunities Roundtable**, where they shared the IAC's current and coming year's grant opportunities that target tourism entities.

Eric also spoke at the **Indiana University O'Neill School's** grant writing courses to discuss effective grant writing.

February

Anne was all over the state this month, visiting the **Jeffersonville Cultural District**, in **Jefferson, IN**, **The Kennedy Art Center Documentary Premier** in **Marion, IN**, and she attended the **Poetry Out Loud State Finals**.

Eric went to **Washington D.C.** to present at the **NASAA Arts and Health Summit**. When he returned, he was a panelist for the **IU O'Neill School's Admitted Student's Day**. **Eric** also attended the **Morris Center's** opening weekend in **South Bend, IN**.

March

In March, **Anne** presented at the **Accelerate Rural Indiana Workshop** in **Shelbyville, IN** regarding the IAC's community programs and how they impact the rural regions of the State.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Miah Michaelsen, Executive Director
Date: February 13, 2026
Subject: America250 Grantees

The Indiana Arts Commission's one-time America250 grant opportunity, made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, received 108 applications from throughout the state for the 12 grants available through the program. Grant amounts were capped at \$5,000 each.

An internal committee of IAC staff reviewed the applications and convened to make selections. Priorities included funding at least one applicant per IAC region and ensuring a diversity in applicants, geography, audiences served and artistic discipline. Grantees selected were:

Region 1: Beachfront Dance School (Gary): Funds will support "Stars and Stripes Ballet Performance" a restaging of segments of the first American ballet, George Balanchine's "Stars and Stripes" danced by local youth.

Region 2: South Bend Venues Parks & Arts Foundation (South Bend): Funds will support "Celebrating America's Quilts and Spirituals: Codes, Signals and Songs", a series of lectures and workshops on the importance of symbols, signs and codes in African American quilts and spirituals, focusing on the period of the American Civil War and the Underground Railroad.

Region 3: LaGrange County Tourism Foundation (Shipshewana): Funds will support "Voices of the First People: Audio History of Chief Shipshewana and the Potawatomi", a narrated audio history sharing the story of Chief Shipshewana, accessible by QR code at his monument.

Region 4: Robert and Ellen Haan Museum of Indiana Art (Lafayette): Funds will support "Indiana at the World's Fair: Art, Industry & American Progress Pop-up Exhibition Series", which will transform five vacant downtown Lafayette storefronts into pop-up exhibitions celebrating Indiana's craft traditions from 1776 – 2026.

Region 5: Youth Symphony Orchestras of East Central Indiana (Muncie): Funds will support "A Musical Celebration of America's 250th Birthday", four youth orchestra concerts which will take audiences through the history of American music with a particular focus on music from the American Revolutionary period and other key moments in American history.

Region 6: Sheldon Swope Art Museum (Terre Haute): Funds will support “The Spirit of Independence: Revisiting the Kent Bicentennial Portfolio”, an exhibit on the history of the Kent Bicentennial Portfolio, alongside relevant works from the Swope’s permanent collection.

Region 7: Indianapolis Men's Chorus (Indianapolis): Funds will support “America Through the Eyes of Indiana”, a touring outreach program of historically themed choral performances in senior centers and community venues.

Region 7: Naptown African American Theatre Collective (Indianapolis): Funds will support “Freedom Reimagined: Staged Reading of “Willa B’s Letter””, a staged reading of a play about Willa Brown, the first African American woman to earn a pilot’s license, the first black officer in the Civil Air Patrol and a graduate of Indiana State Teacher’s College.

Region 8: Early Music Associates (Bloomington): Funds will support “Early Music and Early America”, a five-day celebration of Early America which will include a concert series of ensembles from across the United States, a youth concert, preconcert talks and a documentary film premiere.

Region 9: Perceptions Yoga, Mindfulness & Art (North Vernon): Funds will support “Creative Aging Community 250 Mural Project”, which will engage older adults and community members in designing and painting a large-scale public mural commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Region 10: Otwell Progress Committee (Otwell): Funds will support “America250 July 4th Celebration Concert”, a patriotic concert featuring Air Force veteran Jamie Teachenor, the composer of the anthem for the United States Space Force, performing music that highlights American history and service.

Region 12: City of Jeffersonville - Public Art Commission (Jeffersonville): Funds will support “From 1776 to Tomorrow: A Multi-Arts Journey”. This free, immersive riverfront event will showcase American arts and culture from 1776 - 2026 through hands-on art activities and live performances.

All applicants were notified on Monday, February 16th. Programming will take place between March 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026. I’m planning to attend as many funded events as possible.



To: Executive Committee

From: Anne Johansson, Community Services Program Manager

Date: Friday, March 6, 2026

Subject: Community Services Update – Creative Convergence

Creative Convergence is a statewide initiative in partnership with Ball State’s Indiana Communities Institute that helps communities integrate arts and creativity into their economic and community development strategies. Through a free two-day workshop, funding opportunity, and ongoing coaching, cross-sector teams learn to collaborate, engage residents, and launch a local arts-based project. Communities participate by sending a 3–4 member team representing government or development, a local arts or civic organization, and a local artist or creative.

Creative Convergence – Round 1 Update (Cohort #4)

Communities: Angola, Delphi, Gary, Greensburg/ Decatur County, Indianapolis/ Marion County, Kewanna, Marion, Muncie, Terre Haute, Vincennes

Round 1 project proposals were submitted on January 29 and funding notifications went out February 6. Grants of \$5,000 will be paid to participating communities in one payment and the grant period begins March 1, 2026. Several communities are also taking advantage of the CreatINg Places program with Patronicity and Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA).

From Delphi’s new outdoor arts garden and Vincennes’ collaborative fleur-de-lis murals to Gary’s activation of Jackson 5 mural sites and Muncie’s *Close Encounters*-inspired installations, communities across Indiana are advancing creative placemaking in ways that energize public spaces and deepen community connection.

IAC and ICI staff continue to provide technical assistance and monitor progress with regular check-ins. Early feedback from grantees indicates strong engagement with local partners and positive community response. This program will undergo a formal review this summer. A full evaluation summary will be provided later in the year.

Creative Convergence – Round 2 Update (Cohort #5)

Communities: Bluffton, Fayette County, Fort Wayne, Huntington, Lafayette, North Willow Farms, Riverside, Rochester, Union County, Wakarusa

For the first time, the IAC is offering Creative Convergence a second time continuing a strong partnership with Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute. Round 2 applications closed on **February 20**. Four communities from the last round of applications were selected as alternates and automatically considered for this round. A total of 10 communities will gather for the two-day in-person workshop in Fishers on **March 31 and April 1, 2026**.

Participants in the workshop are eligible for a \$5,000 early action grant and will submit their project proposals by **May 1, 2026**. The timing of the spring Creative Convergence workshop aligns closely with the completion of statewide regional arts and culture plans, and it also coincides with the opening of the READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative grant applications. We're excited to integrate these priorities and insights directly into the workshop experience.



To: Executive Committee

From: Anne Johansson, Community Services Program Manager

Date: Friday, March 6, 2026

Subject: Community Services Update – Every County Funded

Every County Funded 2026

The Every County Funded (ECF) program is an annual invitation-only initiative designed to expand access to arts funding and strengthen local creative activity through two eligible community-based arts projects per county. ECF includes an informal cohort model with high levels of technical assistance to support sustainable growth in arts activities.

Counties are eligible for this program if they have not received funding through the Arts Organization Support (AOS) or Arts Project Support (APS) programs in the last fiscal year. For the upcoming cycle, the Indiana Arts Commission is accepting applications from **Blackford, Lawrence, Parke, Newton, Rush, Washington, and White counties.**

Applications closed **February 20, 2026**. We have applications from each county on the list and are actively working with applicants on modifications. Funding notifications will be sent March 13.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Miah Michaelsen
Date: March 6, 2026
Subject: External Partnerships Report

National and Regional Partners

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – National (Federal) Partner

The IAC receives funding from the NEA through its State Partnership Program, the only grant the IAC is eligible to receive from the NEA. State Partnership funds support the Arts Organization Support program, Regional Arts Partner Professional Service contracts, staff salaries, arts education, underserved audiences, the partnership with Traditional Arts Indiana and the Poetry Out Loud program.

In FFY25, the IAC received additional funds from the NEA for two initiatives – America250, designed to support activities related to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and Arts+Health, which will support programming that seeks to improve health outcomes through the arts. A memo on the 12 recipients of the America250 grants is in the March 13 QBM packet, and Commissioners will be approving a program framework for the Arts+Health funded program at the March 13th QBM.

For FFY26, the NEA's appropriation is level from the current year, and the IAC should receive notification of its federal award in May.

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) – National Association

NASAA is our national “trade association”, and IAC staff are active in both role-based networking and in topic-based presentations. The Comms team is working on new messaging for the agency based on recommendations from NASAA.

Arts Midwest (AM) – Regional Partner

[Arts Midwest](#) is the IAC’s [Regional Arts Organization](#). Arts Midwest administers grant programs on behalf of the NEA and does its own granting as well. Arts Midwest also partners with the IAC on several artist-serving programs. Miah continues to serve on the Arts Midwest board as one of three state arts agency representatives and provides support via various sub-committees.

State Government Partnerships

The agency continues to partner with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) on the state’s regional economic development efforts through READI, more specifically through [funding made available through the Lilly Endowment](#), Inc for regional arts and cultural development. Funds are supporting regional arts and cultural planning and subsequent project funding meant to drive transformation in the state’s arts and culture ecosystem. Project applications are being submitted through the IAC’s grant management system. Miah continues to serve as lead for the agency in these efforts.

Other In-State Partnerships

Indiana Communities Institute

ICI continues to partner with the IAC in support of the Creative Convergence program for communities. Additionally, IAC continues to team up with IHCD’s [CreatINg Places](#) in order to better stretch grant award dollars for Creative Convergence communities.

Indiana Humanities

Indiana Humanities (IH) is the current state partner for the IAC in administering the Poetry Out Loud national poetry recitation competition, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Indiana state final for Poetry Out Loud was February 28th at the Indiana Historical Society, and Jayda Dawn, of University High School, Indianapolis, was named as the Indiana state champion. She will compete at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals on Tuesday, April 28 at 1 PM Eastern. The competition will be live-streamed on YouTube.



To: Programs, Grants & Services Committee

From: Jordan Adams, Artist Services Program Manager

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026

Subject: Vision & Venture Virtual Series -- Inaugural Cohort

Vision & Venture Pilot Background

The Vision and Venture Virtual Series is a training that was developed and designed as a programmatic response to the 2023-2024 statewide artist needs assessment.

While this is the final pilot being implemented in the business development suite of training workshops offered to individual artists looking to monetize their artistic practice, the program will serve as the initial launching pad to get acquainted with business knowledge. The On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator and The Creative Leap Business Series are designed to serve as natural succession programs built on the foundational knowledge provided in this specific program.

Artists and creatives with little to no business knowledge or experience are perfect candidates for the program and a great entry point to get acquainted with all that the commission offers artists directly and indirectly.

Vision & Venture Program Begins

Vision & Venture will begin with its first workshop on February 23 and conclude after six weeks on March 30, 2026.

The series' curriculum has been designed by our core individual artist partner, Dr. Elaine Grogan Luttrull of Minerva Financial Arts, and will be co facilitated by Hannah Ollen, 2023 On-Ramp Alumna and current Eco-System Navigator of the Indiana Small Business Development Center – North Central.

After full completion of the program, including attendance at 100% of workshops, participating creatives will be eligible to receive a \$1500 honorarium to be put toward start-up costs.

As an instructional designer, Dr. Grogan Luttrull, will be issuing welcome and post series surveys to measure curriculum efficacy and knowledge retention amongst the creatives. We will be sure to share those results at the end of the series. However the survey

covers, the understanding of their business model and entity selection, utilized licenses and registrations, customer recognition and marketing, budget and costs forecasting, financial organization and tracking, business goal tracking and confidence in operating their business.

Virtual Workshop Overview

Each workshop will focus on the following topics;

- **Workshop 1: Vision Sharing** – February 23, 2026
- **Workshop 2: Finding Customers** – March 2, 2026
- **Workshop 3: Get it Going** – March 9, 2026
- **Workshop 4: Planning Costs** – March 16, 2026
- **Workshop 5: Tracking Actuals** – March 23, 2026
- **Workshop 6: Keep it Going** – March 30, 2026

Cohort Evaluation Criteria, Rubric and Review Panel

We have selected a cohort via review of IAC staff and the above-mentioned workshop facilitators. We did this based on a developed criteria and rubric that we scored all submitted application on three main concepts;

- Artist Overview; artists discipline specific background and reasoning for wanting to participate in the program.
- Vision; the ability to articulate what they will offer and who it will primarily serve.
- Venture; the ability to understand and articulate what gap their vision will fill in Indiana’s creative economy and how their ideas are unique.

Selected Cohort

From a total of sixteen submitted applications, we selected a total of 14 aspiring creative entrepreneurs. Of the 14 we have variety of disciplines present, and a strong presence in service regions 4,5,6,7, and 8.

| | Artist | Discipline | County |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Alecia Esarey | Visual Arts | Grant |
| 2 | Alisa Moore | Visual Arts | Vigo |
| 3 | Amanda Hengeveld | Interdisciplinary | Lawrence |
| 4 | Beks Freeman | Multidisciplinary | Tippecanoe |
| 5 | Claire Pendleton | Music | Marion |
| 6 | Emily Mellentine | Literature | Marion |
| 7 | Karley Duncan | Multidisciplinary | Hamilton |
| 8 | Laura Yahya | Multidisciplinary | Marion |
| 9 | Makenzie Lukas | Dance | Marion |
| 10 | Mary Marquart | Visual Arts | Howard |
| 11 | Richelle Brown | Visual Arts | Marion |
| 12 | Rochelle Berry | Crafts | Howard |
| 13 | ShaRon Wilson | Dance | Marion |
| 14 | Terry Moore | Music | Morgan |