



2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Early Music Associates,
Alex Kumar Photography

Cover Photo Credits:

Top left: Arts Project Support, Indy Dance Council, Rowe's Eye Dance Photography

Top Center: Arts Org Support, Indianapolis Men's Choir, Shotwell Photography

Middle Left: Arts Org Support, Youth Symphony Orchestra of East Central Indiana

Middle Center: Arts Project Support, Central Indiana Powwow, Brooks Photography

Middle Right: Lifelong Arts Indiana, Art Barn, Aran Kessler

Bottom Left: Arts Organization Support, Big Car Collaborative

Bottom Center: Arts Org Support, North Adams Arts Council, John Brune

Bottom Right: Arts Org Support, Indianapolis Children's Choir

Friends and Partners –

Across Indiana, public funding for arts and creativity continually proves to be a high-return investment that improves the quality of life of Hoosiers and drives economic development within our state. Arts organizations, artists, and Hoosier communities dedicated to creative community development strengthen our state every day by developing connections; fostering the entrepreneurial spirit of communities; and creating the kinds of places where people want to live, work, study, and stay. The Indiana Arts Commission is privileged to support the work of Indiana's creative sector.

The past year has been busy with new programming and record-high grant applications, as Hoosiers continue to recognize the power of the arts to build community. The agency also shifted within state government, joining the Commerce Vertical of state agencies under Governor Braun's administration. New ideas and partnerships have already emerged from within the Commerce Vertical, and the agency is looking forward to the collaborations, efficiencies, and opportunities to come in the new year.

In the past year, the Indiana Arts Commission:

- Awarded 576 grants totaling \$4,309,245, providing communities with a chance to support quality of life and quality of place through arts and creativity
- Provided direct funding support for arts and creativity for all of Indiana's 92 counties in fiscal year 2025
- Supported the creative workforce through programming, such as the On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator, providing training and resources to Indiana's creative small businesses
- Improved the health and well-being of older adults through the Lifelong Arts Indiana program, a research-backed, arts-based intervention to improve health outcomes of individuals 65-plus through arts programming
- Invested in local Hoosier communities through the Creative Convergence program, providing communities with training and funding to embed arts and creativity in community and economic planning and solutions to improve quality of life

We look forward to another year of serving Indiana and supporting the work of the creative sector.



Miah Michaelsen, Executive Director

Arts Project Support Recipient,
Art Education Association
of Indiana Inc



Arts Organization Support
Recipient, Bloomington
Creative Glass Center





Arts Organization Support Recipient,
Art Spaces



LaGrange County, Chance Varner



Leavenworth Arts
and Crafts Association



Arts Project Support Recipient, Kentuckiana Association of Musicians and Singers
dba Community Music Alliance



Indy Dance Council, Rowe's Eye Dance Photography



Arts Organization Support Recipient, Art Barn School of Art



Fiscal Year 2025 in Review

Revenue

General Assembly State Appropriation	\$ 5,198,192
National Endowment for the Arts Federal Grant	\$ 1,036,200
Interagency Funding Agreement:	\$ 210,058
Indiana Department of Education	
Interagency Funding Agreement:	\$ 237,549
Small Business Administration/Family and Social Services Administration (ARPA Funding)	
Arts Trust License Plate	\$ 123,814

Total **\$ 6,805,813**

Income

Expenditures

Arts Organization Support	\$ 2,647,083
Arts Project Support	\$ 874,268
Arts Serving Youth	\$ 95,000
Creative Convergence	\$ 210,000
Every County Funded	\$ 167,449
Fellowship for Creative Teaching	\$ 161,000
Lifelong Arts Indiana	\$ 94,445
On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator	\$ 60,000
Poetry Out Loud	\$ 50,000
Traditional Arts Indiana	\$ 60,000
Indiana State Poet Laureate	\$ 5,000
Regional Arts Partners	\$ 315,666
Agency Operations	\$ 2,065,902

Total **\$ 6,805,813**

Expenses

Arts Project Support
Recipient, Carmel
International Arts Festival



- IAC invested in strengthening Indiana communities through arts and creativity by awarding **576 grants** totaling \$4,309,245.
- Counties served: **All of Indiana's 92 counties** were served directly in fiscal year 2025.
- Rural breakdown: Of all grants awarded, 30% went to **rural organizations**.
- Artists served: As a result of IAC grants, **47,433 artists** received support or were involved in projects.
- IAC grantees served over **2.5 million people**.
- For every dollar invested by the Indiana Arts Commission, the local community invested \$3. Grantees leveraged \$4.3 million in IAC grant funding to bring in **over \$11 million** in support for the creative sector.

Visit the Indiana Arts Commission dashboard to see all grants awarded in fiscal year 2025.



Arts Organization Support Recipient,
Leavenworth Arts and Crafts Association



213

Grants Awarded



Arts Org Support Honeywell Foundation,
Kaleigh M Photography



Arts Org Support Hendricks Symphonic Society, Matt Edwards

Arts Organization Support Supporting Indiana's Arts Providers

Program Overview:

The Arts Organization Support program supports stable and consistent funding to Indiana's arts organizations across varied geographies and budget sizes. The goal of the Arts Organization Support program is to ensure a wide range of the state's arts organizations can make high-quality artistic experiences available to both residents and visitors through equitably distributed and meaningful grant awards.

Grantee Spotlight:

The Music Village – St. Joseph County

The Music Village is an arts, cultural, and educational institution in South Bend with a mission to enrich and enhance its community through the musical arts. The Music Village receives Arts Organization Support grant funding, which the organization uses to support administrative expenses related to their work in offering music classes and instruction for Hoosiers of all ages.

Arts Organization Support Stats:

- Number of grants awarded: 213
- Dollar amount invested: \$2,647,083
- Distinct counties served: 47
- Percentage of grants that went to organizations in rural counties: 20%
- Percentage increase in applications since FY 2023: 9%
- Percentage of grant recipients that were first-time Arts Organization Support grantees: 18%
- Revenue generated by Arts Organization Support grantees to support the creative workforce, hold public programming, and advance arts and creativity across Indiana: Over \$150 million

Arts Project Support

Bringing Arts and Creativity to All Hoosiers

Program Overview:

Arts Project Support is a core grant program of the Indiana Arts Commission. The program offers grants of up to \$4,000 to support a public-facing, short-term arts project or a series of arts activities. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for the grant, and the goal of the program is to provide Indiana’s people and communities with access to arts experiences.

Grantee Spotlight: Rochester Downtown Partnership – Fulton County

The Rochester Downtown Partnership received an Arts Project Support grant to support the Nickel Plate Music & Arts Festival. The event supported local and regional artists of all disciplines and provided free arts programming and concerts for their community. The festival was attended by 2,000 adults and 300 children and featured live music from multiple genres and hosted booths for local artists, allowing attendees to support the artists’ creative small businesses.

Arts Project Support Stats:

- Number of grants awarded: 225
- Dollar amount invested: \$874,268
- Percentage of grant recipients that are rural organizations: 34%
- Number of people served by grant-supported programming: Over 250,000
- Percentage increase in applications from FY 2024: 37%
- Percentage of grantees that were first-time Arts Project Support recipients: 32%



Impact of the Arts Trust License Plate: In fiscal year 2025, the “Celebrate the Arts” License Plate helped support 32 Arts Project Support grants around the state. Purchasing a “Celebrate the Arts” License Plate from the Indiana BMV not only contributes to an established long-term trust but, along with funds from the IAC’s appropriation from the Indiana General Assembly, directly supports the Arts Project Support program. Thank you to all “Celebrate the Arts” plate holders for helping to make the arts happen in Indiana!

37%

Increase in applications



Arts Project Support ,
Fort Wayne Civic Theatre



Arts Project Support Greencastle,
Arts Council Brittney Way Cooper

Creative Convergence

Supporting Creative Community Development

Program Overview:

Creative Convergence, a partnership between the Indiana Arts Commission and the Indiana Communities Institute at Ball State University's Miller College of Business, offers a team-based workshop and funding opportunity aimed at creative community development. Teams that participate will learn how to work together to advance arts and creativity in their communities through training and a funded project.



Arts Project Support Recipient,
City of Franklin

Grantee Spotlight: City of Franklin – Johnson County

The Franklin Public Arts Advisory Commission and the Johnson County Community Foundation used the Creative Convergence grant to commission 180 kites to be hung overhead in Artcraft Alley. The kites are in the school and city colors and have a unique black light feature that allows them to glow at night, creating an art installation that improves quality of place during the day and night. The project was supported by representatives from local government, Discover Downtown Franklin, and Festival Country Indiana.

- Number of training sessions in 2025: One
- Number of grant cycles in 2025: Two
- Number of grants awarded: 21
- Dollar amount invested: \$210,000

Every County Funded

Serving All Hoosier Counties

Program Overview:

The Every County Funded community-based arts program is designed to increase access to arts funding for all Hoosiers by providing invitation-only grant funding that directly serves counties in which there is little to no state arts funding. The program ensures the Indiana Arts Commission invests in each of Indiana's 92 counties in each calendar year and ensures Hoosiers have access to arts and creative experiences, regardless of their geography. Direct investment often leads to sustained programming. Demonstrating that, in FY 2025, there were 15 counties eligible for Every County Funded, because there were no other funded programs in their county. In FY 2026, only seven counties will be eligible.

Grantee Spotlight: Winslow Elementary School – Pike County

Winslow Elementary School in Pike County used an Every County Funded grant to enhance its outdoor playground with a new musical play area, featuring flower bells, standing drums, and a xylophone. This addition provides students with opportunities to express themselves through music while engaging in creative play. The project aimed to enrich the school environment by fostering creativity, collaboration, and joy through musical exploration.

- Number of grants awarded: 27
- Dollar amount invested: \$167,449
- Number of counties served: 15

15
Counties served



On-Ramp at Swope Museum, Victory Sampson



On-Ramp 2024, Victory Sampson

Artist Services

Supporting Creative Small Businesses

In 2023 and 2024, the Indiana Arts Commission conducted an Artist Needs Assessment to inform new and refined services and programming for artists and creative small businesses in Indiana. The assessment identified the following high-priority needs for artists in Indiana:

- Networks and connection
- Marketing support and education
- Financial support and education
- Local investment in local artists

In response to the Artist Needs Assessment, the Indiana Arts Commission focused on planning a series of programming launched in response to the needs identified. The On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator, a program for emerging creative entrepreneurs, was paused for evaluation to allow the program to grow to better meet the needs of Indiana.

Measurement Resources Company was hired to serve as the IAC's external evaluation partner, and the evaluation began in early 2025. Key findings of the evaluation include:

- On-Ramp provides long-lasting gains in knowledge, skills, and intentions in key business areas, including participants' ability to communicate their unique value proposition.
- Alumni are highly satisfied with the quality and value of the program. On-Ramp improves creative empowerment among participants, and alumni show strong entrepreneurial self-efficacy.
- On-Ramp alumni are growing art-centered businesses in Indiana, employing others, and increasing art-related income, collaborations, and sales.
- On-Ramp alumni enrich the vibrancy of their local communities by serving as educators, mentors, advisors, and connectors.

The Indiana Arts Commission is implementing recommendations for improving the program and will reopen On-Ramp for applications in 2026. On-Ramp will rejoin the suite of Artist Services programming introduced in FY 2026.



Art 4 Life Club, Leota Bauman South Bend Museum of Art, Lee Bowman



Lifelong Arts Indiana Creative Aging for Older Adults

Program Overview:

Lifelong Arts Indiana is a training and programming initiative geared toward developing creative programming in service of our older Hoosiers to improve health outcomes. Since 2021, 156 grants, totaling over \$630,000, have been awarded to individual artists, older-adult-serving organizations, and libraries across 44 Indiana counties.

Programming has served over 2,400 older adults in Indiana. Funding for different phases of the Lifelong Arts Indiana programming was provided by the IAC; the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Bureau of Better Aging and Division of Mental Health and Addiction; a federal subaward from the Indiana State Budget Agency via the U.S. Department of Treasury; E.A. Michelson Philanthropy; and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies.

Research Spotlight:

To evaluate the impact of the Lifelong Arts Indiana program, the Indiana Arts Commission engaged the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community to conduct a rigorous evaluation, resulting in some of the most robust research findings on creative aging programming in the country.

The research found Lifelong Arts Indiana:

- Improves the mental health of older adults
- Has significant impacts on well-being in rural communities
- Creates meaningful employment opportunities for artists
- Creates sustainable community partnerships
- Is a solution for the issues impacting older adults' well-being

The full research report was released in June 2025, and the next phase of training and funding in this space will begin in 2026.



Witherspoon Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, Tuneful Harps at Witherspoon, Melissa Gallant

Funding for the Indiana Arts Commission and its programs is provided by the State of Indiana and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Mike Braun, Governor
David Adams, Secretary of Commerce

Commissioners

Dave Haist, Wabash, Commission Chair	Rick James, Auburn
Réna Bradley, Fort Wayne, Vice Chair	Walter Knabe, Indianapolis
Scott Wylie, Evansville, Secretary	Daniel Luis Martinez, Columbus
Azizi Arrington-Slocum, Terre Haute	Jake Oakman, Indianapolis
Chad Bolser, Richmond	Kelsey Peaper, Indianapolis
Jeanne Campbell, Jasper	Judith Sawyier, Chesterton
Dawn Conwell, Marion	Renee Thomas, Lafayette
Greg Hull, Indianapolis	

Laurie Burns McRobbie, Bloomington – Commissioner Emeritus
Anne Penny Valentine, Carmel – Commissioner Emeritus

Staff

Miah Michaelson, Executive Director
Jordan Adams, Artist Services Program Manager
Eric Ashby, Director of Programs
Connie Brahm, Marketing and Communications Director
Britt Fechtman, Data and Grant Systems Manager
Austin Hendricks, Administrative Assistant
Anne Johansson, Community Services Program Manager
Stephanie Pfendler, Financial Operations Manager
Gwendolyn Pickett, Communications Manager
André Zhang Sonera, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff



INDIANA ARTS
COMMISSION



**INDIANA ARTS
COMMISSION**

