



**INDIANA ARTS
COMMISSION**
MAKING THE ARTS HAPPEN

2023 Lifelong Arts Artist Fellowships

Artist Name, City of Residence, and Medium of Fellowship Project	Fellowship Description
<p>Audrey Johnson, Lafayette, Opera/ Music Theatre</p>	<p>Johnson’s fellowship will fund the artist fees and costs of accompanying material preparation for a week-long musical project in collaboration with a senior services organization, featuring songs about the history of gender equality in America. Guided by teaching-artist Audrey Johnson, a group of participants will learn, compose, and present a program of songs which will be presented to the Greater Lafayette community.</p>
<p>Laura Krentz, La Porte, Visual Arts</p>	<p>Fellowship funds will be used to support “Exploring Watercolor Painting for Seniors,” a course is designed to give first time students a fun and relaxing opportunity to learn to paint with watercolors in a social setting. Funding will support the purchase of painting supplies, the printing of accessible handouts, and the culminating art exhibit for friends, family and the public.</p>
<p>Laura Krell, Indianapolis, Opera/ Music Theatre</p>	<p>Through the fellowship, Krell will partner with Rosegate Community in offering an 8-class series teaching musical theater songs, dance, and storytelling and will culminate in a Holiday Concert Over the course of several weeks, participants will learn music, choreography, and dramatic elements. Though this process, participants will have opportunities to sharpen artistic skills and build camaraderie.</p>
<p>Melli Hoppe, Long Beach, Dance</p>	<p>No previous dance experience is necessary to experience the joy of moving freely through dance improvisation. In this six-week program, participants will learn how the elements of dance (body, space, action, time and energy) can be used as a tool for self-expression while improving focus, memory and</p>

	<p>balance. The program will work with partners, small, and large groups to learn dance improvisation skills while meeting new people and building community through movement.</p>
<p>Diana J. Ensign, Indianapolis, Literature</p>	<p>Ensign’s fellowship goal is to foster creative written expression for adults, ages 55 and older, and to impart skills so they can publish their literary work, whether for an audience of friends and family or for a wider public audience. Participants will meet once a week for five weeks, including a final event where participants will share their writing with others through a public reading, instilling confidence and a sense of accomplishment.</p>
<p>Grinco, LLC (Lillie Evans and Crystal Rhodes) Indianapolis, Theatre</p>	<p>The Second Act Project, supported by the fellowship, will encourage older adults to write and present stories through the art of playwriting. The programming will teach participants the art of playwriting by helping them develop their own five to ten minute plays through a series of workshops hosted at the Harrison Center.</p>
<p>Emily Bennett, Terre Haute, Visual Arts</p>	<p>Fellowship funds will be used in engaging a group of older adults in a group mural project, using felt instead of paint to create the finished piece. Each participant will work both individually and collectively to achieve the final project goal of a cohesive felt painted mural. This project will bring new connections amongst participants that would have never formed otherwise, as they learn a new skill and put those skills to use to make something beautiful.</p>
<p>Oksana Komarenko, Muncie, Music</p>	<p>Through the “Healing Voice” program, participants will unlock the healing power of music and voice, fostering well-being and connection among older adults through artistic expression and community engagement. Through a series of engaging sessions, Komarenko will help participants will explore various vocal techniques, discover the connection between music and well-being, and collaborate to create beautiful harmonies. Themes such as self-expression, performance anxiety, and emotional release will be explored, allowing participants to tap into the healing power of their own voices.</p>

<p>Derek Tuder, Indianapolis, Visual Arts</p>	<p>Tuder will utilize the Lifelong Arts Indiana Fellowship to create a Community Mural Project with the older adults at The Third Dimension Worship Church. Tuder will design and lead the 4-day curriculum, help the participants implement each of their visions, and curate their artwork into a hanging collaborative mural for the Community Mural Showcase at the end.</p>
<p>Elijah Stephen, Indianapolis, Music</p>	<p>Stephen will organize the "Rhythm of Life" program, a vibrant and engaging creative aging initiative centered around the power of drumming and drum circles. Over six enriching sessions, older adults will delve into percussion, learning various drumming techniques and rhythms from diverse cultures. Through this shared musical journey, participants will develop their artistic skills and forge meaningful connections with their peers, promoting social engagement and well-being. The program will culminate in a grand drum circle event where participants will showcase their newfound rhythmic talents and celebrate the joy of making music together.</p>
<p>Chris Acton, Chesterton, Visual Arts</p>	<p>In the "Let's Throw a Shuttle" program, students will experience weaving in a fun, hands-on environment, learning about a different weaving pattern each week. By the end of the program, each student will have a wall hanging sampler to take home. To celebrate the completion, a special reception will take place involving friends, family, and the community in this unique handwoven experience.</p>
<p>Claire Lacy, Monticello, Visual Arts</p>	<p>Lacy will lead "Art Harmony: Connecting with Your Loved One Through Art" through the fellowship. The goal of the program is to bring caregivers together to show them how to better connect with their loved ones through art. Sessions include demonstrations, discussions, and sharing experiences, meditation. The program concludes with tips for continuing the art journey at home and a reflection on the profound impact of art in enhancing the quality of life for both caregivers and their loved ones.</p>
<p>Alicia Sims, Indianapolis, Multidisciplinary</p>	<p>The Be Wise! Creative Program will encourage an appreciation of aging using creative writing, storytelling, intergenerational discussions, and the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) curriculum to learn about healthy lifestyle practices, barriers and collaborative opportunities for older</p>

	adults. Through storytelling, spoken word, and creative writing, artists and older adults will engage in empowering, intergenerational forms of art that culminates at a publicly viewed event.
Jessica Renslow, Gary, Media Arts	Through the fellowship, Renslow will launch the Silver Screen Filmmakers Club. The program will meet in person on a weekly basis. Members will learn how to shoot short documentary films on their phones, work as production teams, learn a brief history of filmmaking, how to use editing software, and decide which online platform is the best fit for your film.
Alia Hawkins, Gary, Dance	Hawkins' fellowship will support the "Restorative Barre" program. The restorative barre classes will be learning basic steps to help older adults move and prevent bad health outcomes in their lives. Additionally, those basic dance steps will be put together to create a dance piece. This piece will be called Talking Stories. In Talking Stories, the older adults will learn a choreographed dance where they will perform the dance while telling their stories of living through the later parts of Jim the Crow Era, being teens and children during the Civil Rights Movement, being teen and child Integrators, and living through the Vietnam Era as a person of color.
Delores Thornton, Indianapolis, Interdisciplinary	Thornton's goal for the "I Have A Story" project is to enable and equip older adults with the necessary tools to write and share their stories. The program will instruct participants on journaling and will also teach older adults the skills necessary to write a story and how to share their story with family, friends, and the community at large.
Celeste E. Lengerich, Fort Wayne, Visual Arts	"Creative Expression with Watercolor and Mixed Media" will teach the essentials of color theory, drawing and painting with watercolor paints. Students will learn how to mix paint for a range of colors, tints and shades. They also will find out how artists use color to convey emotion and mood. This program will cover a simple drawing strategy and explore various watercolor painting techniques. Creating art has many benefits such as strengthening cognitive ability and emotional well-being. Best of all, participants may enjoy this creative experience in the company of friends.

<p>Nelsy Marcano, Michigan City, Visual Arts</p>	<p>Marcano’s fellowship project, “Mixed Media Mornings,” will teach participants the concept of mixed media to apply preferred techniques to independent artmaking. The course will focus on the process of creation through experimentation and collaboration. Each session introduces a new material allowing participants to continually build on an artwork and share creative ideas with peers.</p>
<p>Samuel Barnett, Gary, Literature</p>	<p>Through the program “Oral History Interviewing,” Barnett will teach a group a comprehensive interviewing process, informed by oral history best practices, that will enable them to create and lead their own social, historical, and creative projects. Over the course of six weekly sessions of one hour each, students will learn the nuances of how (and why) oral history interviewing is conducted, from the first stages of developing a project and finding respondents to the actual interview to tips for preserving and sharing the information collected. The group will consider ethnical and technological issues and the broad application of this process to a wide range of interests and pursuits.</p>
<p>Kate Ellis, Bloomington, Visual Arts</p>	<p>In the "Botanical Prints on Fabrics" class, participants will discover the art of crafting intricate designs on fabric, utilizing colors and patterns extracted from flower petals and leaves. Using methods like rolling, binding, and steaming, they will transform natural fabrics into surfaces for their creativity. This is achieved while embracing eco-friendly and sustainable techniques that result in stunning fabrics and environmentally responsible work. Additionally, this engaging process fosters the opportunity for participants to forge new friendships and collaborate on an exciting final project.</p>
<p>Sonja Lehman, Greenwood, Visual Arts</p>	<p>Through the fellowship, the program “The Magic of the Zhen Xian Bao: Chinese Thread Box,” participants will learn of the centuries old Chinese Folk Tradition of the Zhen Xian Bao Chinese women made and decorated to store their sewing tools and thread. Participants create their own ZXB with the boxes, trays, and folders they make each week throughout the 8-week program. This sequential program lends well to engaging with peers, learning skills that build</p>

	from week to week and encourages critical thinking and development of design skills.
Richelle Brown, Indianapolis, Visual Arts	Brown’s fellowship-supported class will take participants on an adventure of embracing their message and turning unwanted or unused items into art by adding their mark to them. By tapping into self-expression and the creative medium of acrylics, participants will create at least four upcycled artworks that they will be able to showcase in a group art show at the end to highlight their meaningful work while expanding boundaries of what can be used as a canvas to the community.
Janelle Slone, Angola, Visual Arts	Through the program “Introduction to Clay,” Slone will utilize the fellowship to travel off-site to provide aging participants access to a very exciting and tactile medium. The experience of working with clay brings gratification to all ages and skill levels. It is sure to delight makers resulting in lasting treasures and inherent pride. Creativity and self-expression will be encouraged, and confidence will be fostered in the art of working with clay.
Rebecca Rayls, Kokomo, Crafts	In “Expressive Threads: A Textile Mixed-Media Collage workshop,” participants will explore basic embroidery and mixed-media techniques to create their own expressive fiber collage tote bag. Participants will form a stitching community as the group, together, explores texture, color and repetition.
Julie McColly Hill, Indianapolis, Interdisciplinary	“Aging Well Through A Holistic Lens” begins by looking at art that explores the meaning of holism and examines environmental factors for aging well. Hill introduces the use of a four directional wheel mandala as a tool for awareness of the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual domains of being, and how it can be used to inform lifestyle choices. During the program, participants engage in a mindful movement meditation routine as an introduction to the mind, body, spirit connection, and create wheel mandalas for developing personal wellness strategies.
Michal Ann Carley, Bloomington, Visual Arts	In “Drawing Our Own Stories,” participants will experiment with different ways of making marks and drawing from life while becoming familiar with the elements of design and aesthetic principles as they are found in nature. Participants will share their own stories and memories with each other and will create

	<p>a personal symbol or metaphor that resonates with their stories and that they can incorporate into their final drawings. The participants will bring their personal experience and reflections to the discussions and the sharing of their artwork; and, in turn, will find validation in speaking their aesthetic language and finding a collective audience for it.</p>
<p>Amanda Wagner, Goshen, Visual Arts</p>	<p>The objective for “The Elements of Art” is to engage older adults into a creative and non-intimidating class for exploring the elements of art. The goal for the program is for adults who don't have much experience with art to be enlightened to a new way of expressing themselves and to see themselves as artists whose marks matter.</p>
<p>Clare Longendyke, Fishers, Music</p>	<p>The “Concert-goers Social Club” is a four-month program tailored for adults aged 55+ with an interest in classical, jazz, and world music and an excitement for exploring Indianapolis's eclectic music scene. Led by concert pianist Clare Longendyke, the class offers pre-concert sessions for enhancing each concert-going experience, attendance at diverse live music events, and the opportunity to develop and synthesize musical knowledge through written concert reviews while building lasting community connections. Each participant's reflections will be compiled into a digital journal, providing a lasting keepsake of the musical journey in this welcoming and inclusive community.</p>
<p>Kristina Neal-Mosley, Gary, Literature</p>	<p>The Soul of Poetry, is a five week project. Welcoming in, the hidden voices to our lives. Poetry as art practice, allows the artist to listen, to play and observe -humanity at its core. Collectively, and individually, poetry is the art of soul - making. As such, a dichotomy of light, and dark. From sight to sound, from pen to page, we all become poets.</p>
<p>Elizabeth A. Guipe, Indianapolis, Crafts</p>	<p>Guipe will utilize the fellowship to lead “Hand-Made Heirlooms - Polymer Clay Jewelry Techniques.” In this class, each student will engage in sequential skill-building techniques to master three different polymer clay processes inspired by traditional glass beads from Japan, Africa, and Italy. The beads will be combined with jewelry findings to create an original, cohesive</p>

	jewelry set including earrings, necklaces, and bracelets.
Cara Schmitt, Munster, Visual Arts	“Creative Art Journaling for Seniors” will teach basic drawing techniques while encouraging abstract creative expression in the form of an art journal. . Each session will provide new artistic challenges while building skills and confidence. Students will work in a community setting, sharing supplies and thoughts.
Sam Bartlett, Bloomington, Folk/ Traditional Arts	Through “New Tunes and Techniques for Dance Musicians at the Bloomington Old-Time Music and Dance Group,” Bartlett will build the repertoire and dance music skills on fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandolin with focus on the 55+ aged musicians in the Bloomington Old-Time Music and Dance Group.
Jill Mires, Madison, Dance	In the fellowship program led by Mires, students will immerse themselves in the basics of tap, ballet, and jazz. Students will progress from learning basic steps, to combining steps into combinations, then putting all their learning together into a final routine. This residency is a great fit for older adults as it will focus on music and movement while gaining flexibility and stamina. These sessions will be a time to share good news and celebrations as participants gather each week.
Kierra Ready, Indianapolis, Visual Arts	In "Let's Be Real- Create Realistic Art," Ready will teach older adults how to create realistic drawings and paintings using the grid method. Students will explore the grid method, learn about essential elements of art such as value and line, and end up creating their own realistic artwork to be exhibited in an art show in Indianapolis. The social component of this will be to build community by sharing culture with the group.
Ellen Mensch, Fort Wayne, Visual Arts	In " Painting Fundamentals: Creative Expression Through the Landscape,” participants will learn the fundamentals of painting, using the landscape as a starting point toward full creative expression. The fundamentals that will be covered include perspective, composition and color-mixing. Participants will engage in creative exercises and discussion, all while building toward an end goal of exhibiting a painting in our final exhibition at Artlink Gallery. The overall goal is for participants of this class to become confident in their ability to communicate through the visual arts.