



Indiana Arts Commission On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Evaluation Criteria for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

About Arts Project Support

Program Overview:

The On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator is a program designed for Indiana creative entrepreneurs to take charge of their career through a portfolio career. Participants explore a community-engaged approach to apply their creative strengths and build sustainable practice based on business concepts.

Program Goal:

On-Ramp empowers creatives to work out a realistic, individualized, and motivating vision for pursuing a feasible creative portfolio career—and provides access to funds to help make it happen via an early action grant organized as a year-long fellowship.

The accelerator serves as the second program in the business development suite of programs offered to both budding and established creative entrepreneurs. This accelerator will result in the following outcomes.

Program Outcomes

- Meet needs assessed of artists including facilitating networks/connections, and providing marketing and financial support and education
- Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities.§
- Indiana's artists build towards successful careers in our state.§

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

Review Criteria for Program Cohort Selection

Artistic Commitment and Readiness

The extent to which:

- The artist shows commitment to their creative work based on artistic training, artistic experience and artistic work samples relevant to their discipline

Career Benefit and Goals

The extent to which:

- The artist demonstrates career benefit from participation in On-Ramp
- The artist's long-term goal(s) demonstrate a commitment to career growth

Community Benefit

The extent to which:

- The artist is actively connecting their work with collaborators and the community or thoughtfully considering possible ways their work may connect with others

Review Criteria for the Fellowship Award

Project Goals

The extent to which:

- The project description showcases the artist's creative work in a clear and compelling way
- The project proposal has a clear goal that will help reach the artist's bigger picture creative career or creative business goals

Project Feasibility

The extent to which:

- The proposed project's timeline is realistic and starts and ends within the fellowship period
- The details of the proposed project are planned, clear, and feasible
- The project budget is realistic, includes all the costs involved, and all expenses are eligible

Community Engagement

The extent to which:

- Community engagement is demonstrated in project planning and execution
- The project proposal articulates how investing in particular community relationships will allow the artist to reach their career goals or the project to come to fruition