

Indiana Arts Commission Quarterly Business Meeting

Friday, December 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m. (ET)
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C
302 W Washington St,
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Anne Penny Valentine, Chair

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

Members Present: Réna Bradley, Chad Bolser, Dave Haist, Greg Hull, Walter Knabe, Daniel Martinez, Mark Maxwell, Jake Oakman, Kelsey Peaper, Renee Thomas, Anne Penny Valentine, Scott Wylie

Members Present via Zoom: Azizi Arrington-Slocum, Laurie Burns McRobbie

Members Absent: Sofia Souto

IAC Staff Present: Jordan Adams, Eric Ashby, Connie Brahm, Lydia Campbell-Maher, Stephanie Haines, Austin Hendricks, Miah Michaelson, Stephanie Pfendler, Gwendolyn Pickett, André Zhang Sonera

RAP Partners Present: Sherri Wright

Special Presenters Present: Curtis Crisler, Amanda Wolfe

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order.** Commission Chair Anne Penny Valentine called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.
 - a. **Welcome**
 - i. **Welcome Indiana Poet Laureate Curtis Crisler** Ms. Valentine welcomed Indiana Poet Laureate Curtis Crisler to the meeting. Mr. Crisler shared that his time as the Poet Laureate has seen movements in the projects he had set out to complete. There have been 11 pop-up poetry sessions this year, and next year he expects to expand them to more parts of the state. Mr. Crisler then shared a reading titled "When Your Mother Corrects the Indiana Poet Laureate." IAC Executive Director Miah Michaelson shared that Mr. Crisler will serve as the Poet Laureate for the next term as well.
 - b. **Roll Call.** IAC Administrative Assistant Austin Hendricks called the roll. All were present as listed above.
2. **Approval of Agenda and September 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes.** Ms. Valentine called for additions or changes to this agenda item. None were spoken. Ms. Valentine called for a motion to approve the agenda and minutes. Commissioner Jake Oakman motioned, and Commissioner Scott Wylie seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.
3. **Consent Agenda.** Ms. Valentine called for changes to this agenda item. None were spoken. She then called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Réna Bradley motioned, and Commissioner Renee Thomas seconded. All were in favor and the motion was passed.
 - a. **Items Submitted for Commission Approval**
 - i. FY25 Year-to-Date Financials
 - b. **Reports for review:**
 - i. Arts Trust Report
 - ii. Communications Report
 - iii. Poetry Out Loud Update
 - iv. Staff Updates and Activity Report
 - v. External Partnership Update
 - vi. KPI Report
 - vii. INverse Program Evaluation
4. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Committee on the Future**
 - i. **CY24 Staff Learning.** IAC Deputy Director of Operations André Zhang Sonera presented this item. He highlighted that in Q1, Ms. Michaelson was at the National

Endowment for the Arts summit and was joined by Connie Brahm at the Arts Midwest Conference. In Q2 staff members Eric Ashby, Stephanie Haines, and Mr. Zhang Sonera, Ms. Michaelson, and Jordan Adams participated the majority of the trainings and workshops. Q3 Stephanie Pfendler participated in the most trainings of all the staff members notably the State Contract Seminar, Q4 all staff went to National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) assembly, and many participated in other trainings including the CODA Summit, AIM Ideas Summit and the ICI Community Development Institute Trainings. Please see the attached memo for more information about the trainings the IAC staff have participated in CY24. Mr. Zhang Sonera called for questions. None were spoken.

- ii. **CY24 Agency Goals Presentation** Mr. Zhang Sonera presented this agenda item. In calendar year 2024, the agency focused on achieving three goals as listed below, and the following bullet points are what Mr. Zhang Sonera highlighted as actions taken by the agency to achieve the goals.

Goal One: Develop and Implement Process Improvements and SOPs.

In pursuing this goal, the agency did the following:

- Moved to Single payment programs.
- Utilized internal vs. external review for some programs
- Earlier approval processes for program frameworks
- Continuing to develop SOPs within the agency

Goal Two Develop and Implement Response Plans for targeted investment areas.

In pursuing this goal, the agency did the following:

- Developing the Artist Needs Assessment
- Tracking Program Participation
- Developing Co-Offered Accessibility and Inclusion Pilot Program
- Developing an Out-of-School Time Arts Education Pilot Program
- Tracking Technical Assistance and Program Participation.
- Tracking Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Goal Three Develop and share learnings from Programmatic Evaluation and Research

In pursuing this goal, the agency did the following:

- Compiling research findings from Lifelong Arts Indiana
- Presenting publishing the results of the Artist Needs Assessment
- Adopting program frameworks to state the goals and outcomes
- Reporting the findings from the FY24 Arts Organization Support (AOS) and Arts Project Support (APS) grants cycle
- Exploring Producing Partnered Primary Research
- Continuing to track and report on KPIs

Mr. Zhang Sonera noted that the CY25 goals will be presented to the Commission at the March 25 Quarterly Business Meeting. He then called for questions. None were spoken.

b. Programs, Grants, and Services

- i. **Lifelong Arts Research Presentation.** IAC Arts Education and Accessibility Manager Stephanie Haines presented this agenda item with Amanda Wolfe. Ms. Haines gave a bit of background on the Lifelong Arts Program (LLA) and how the research was started and what it was focused on. In March 2021, the agency received a \$25,000 grant to create a creative aging program from NASAA. Ms. Haines noted that NASAA's research and criteria were a key part of forming the IAC's pilot program. The original pilot included 25 projects. The IAC then shared the results and feedback with the Division of Aging. The Division was interested in the program and invested about a million dollars to

scale the program up from 25 projects to be a statewide program within two years. She noted that the increased funding had many logistics with multiple avenues, including Artists, Aging Service Providers, Arts Organizations, and The University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community. By the time the project was ready, there were a total of 129 projects funded with 2000 older adults served. Please see the attached memo for more information about the projects and reach. Ms. Haines noted that the agency partnered with the University of Indianapolis's Center for Aging to spearhead the research for the state and the impact of the Lifelong Arts program. The University of Indianapolis looked for how fidelity impacted the program and saw very high fidelity with the work. Currently there are 44 counties covered by this program and a high percentage of those counties are rural counties. Ms. Haines noted that the goals of the program are to improve the quality of life for older adults in Indiana, introduce creative aging as an important part of aging services, improve creative aging programs that are currently happening through training, and to create a creative aging program model that is effective and can be replicated both within the state and without.

Senior Project Director at the University of Indianapolis's Center for Aging and Community (CFAC) Amanda Wolfe presented the research portion of the presentation. Ms. Wolfe shared some additional research that CFAC is involved in and how the current scope of work at CFAC aligned with this project. Ms. Wolfe shared some demographic information, such as the over 55 age group has been growing six times as quickly as the under 55 age group and nationally 25% of older adults are socially isolated with central Indiana coming in at 39%. Ms. Wolfe noted that social isolation can increase risk of death equal to being a daily smoker. She continued with 16% of adults over 65 in Indiana report clinical depression with a higher rate of women than men. She also noted that in Indiana untreated mental illness costs the state \$4.2 billion annually. She then highlighted that there are some existing programs for older adults such as AARP Community Connections, Eldercare Locators, Silver Sneakers, Friendship Line – Institute on Aging, and Oasis Lifelong Learning but that the reach and access of some of these programs are not "universal" with some severe limitations depending on funding, locations, and personal finances. Ms. Wolfe also noted that many of these options are not creatively focused. She continued that the evaluation period of LLA was from April 2023 – November 2024 and was focused on finding answers to the following questions/objectives:

- How successful were the LLA trainings?
- How successful was the ICA in increasing the availability of programming?
- How successful is the LLA model in increasing the quality of life of older adults in Indiana?

The data collected for these questions was both quantitative and qualitative. For information about the data collection methods, please see the attached memo. Ms. Wolfe noted that the number of responses that CFAC got back, beyond just content, indicated interest in the program. Ms. Wolfe then presented the findings. For the first objective, 97% of the facilitators believed they gained practical knowledge they could use in their day-to-day work, as well as statistically significant positive change in the mean knowledge score. The second objective saw a unanimous indication that facilitators and participants felt that the course was high quality and of value to their community. More than 500 older adult Indiana residents participated in the LLA programming, and 97% of trained facilitators indicated they would share what they learned with their fields. Additionally, 44 counties were involved with 16 of them being designated as rural by the 2020 US Census. Ms. Wolfe noted that the most significant

results were present regarding objective three. She shared that was a statistically significant change in mental health scores in participants, and the physical health scores were also approaching statistically significant improvement. The rural population saw a higher impact in this result than the urban populations though both populations saw improvement. She noted that in the interview process, participants explicitly requested more LLA programming options in more places more often. Please see the attached memo for additional information about the results of the research regarding the three objectives. Ms. Wolfe then provided some recommendations to the commission based on her findings, with special emphasis on continuing LLA funding. She elaborated that if there need to be priorities, more free opportunities and more rural areas need to be served. Please see the attached memo for additional recommendations. For future study, she recommended lengthening LLA programing, further research on the return on investment in programming in rural areas, as well as a follow-up survey after a period of time has passed to see if the gains made by LLA are maintained. Ms. Wolfe then called for questions.

Ms. Valentine thanked Ms. Wolfe for her work as someone who is outside the arts world seeing the impacts, as well as having the data that will present to the state legislature. Commissioner Mark Maxwell asked what the cost per individual was in this program. IAC Artist Services Program Manager Jordan Adams noted that a lot of artists did not charge for the programs. Ms. Haines noted that the majority of the funds from the IAC went directly to the programs, with an estimated 700 people served with \$5000 per program. She elaborated that Approximately 80% goes to the artist who provides the service, with few administrative and supply expenses.

IAC Grants and Research Manager Eric Ashby presented a small portion of how these findings fit into the agency's KPIs. He noted that this program fell into Impact 4, Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities. He reemphasized Ms. Wolfe's findings that this program achieved statistically significant improvement in wellbeing. Mr. Ashby noted that next the goal is to see if the long-term effects play out. Ms. Haines closed out by saying the Hoosier population is seeing growth in the aging population. She noted that Lifelong Arts program cost \$925,000 in comparison to the \$4.2 billion the state spends on untreated mental health. She concluded that the next phase of the program is going to see share outs of the findings, presentations about the findings, and replication of the program implantation, with a how-to guidebook and video trainings.

Ms. Haines called for more questions. Ms. Valentine noted that Jay Shaudry would be an excellent connection within Q1 of CY25. Ms. Michaelsen noted there is a lot of interest in this program currently and noted that the agency asked for more NEA funds to continue to offer LLA grants in Indiana. Ms. Michaelsen also noted a few applications to the agency's core grants may be more LLA focused. She also added how the agency can find state partners to continue this work if the agency can no longer fund it directly. Mr. Zhang Sonera noted that additional funding for this project is supported by the Indiana State Budget Agency and the U.S. Department of Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and funding from "State Leading Creative Aging" supported by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies with support from E.A. Michelson Philanthropy. Commissioner Chad Bolser noted that this research may need to be sent to economic development agencies in rural counties for more buy in from those regions. Mr. Maxwell shared his agreement.

At this point the meeting took a break at 10:12 AM and returned at 10:27 AM.

- ii. Accessibility Partnership.** IAC Communities Services Manager Lydia Campbell-Maher and Ms. Haines presented this agenda item. The began by reminding the commission that this is a pilot grant. Ms. Haines gave a brief historical overview of the pilot. The accessibility in the Arts Committee has been in place for five years, however, the accessibility partnership has only recently come into place with Indiana Humanities. IN Humanities is an independent not-for-profit and is not a state government agency. Mr. Haines continued that recently the partnership has been looking at access needs for Indiana communities, which generally provide small grants or funds for material accessibility improvements such as ramps, or interpreters. Ms. Campbell-Maher continued the presentation with the pilot overview for this project. The proposal is a new pilot parentship with IN Humanities with to offer low-barrier grants for accessibility improvements to arts events. Notably, the Humanities will administer the grants through their grant portal. Ms. Campbell-Maher highlighted that 501(c)3 organizations, schools, universities, libraries, churches and government entities may apply, and that the program has the goal of connecting people and communities with opportunities to create and experience the arts and humanities. Ms. Campbell-Maher shared that, according to the Centers for Disease Control, in Indiana 1 in 3 adults has a disability. She noted that some of the activities that would be supported by this program would include but not be limited to ASL interpreters, text translation, Braille or large print items, purchasing or renting tools and equipment, adjusting lighting and sound for sensory performances, providing childcare, offsetting transportation costs, and 3D printing of artwork for tactile exhibits. The grant period would open in January 2025, with a six-week application period. The entire cycle would last until December 31, 2025. Grant awards are up to \$1,000 with \$20,000 invested from the IAC and \$20,000 from the Humanities. Ms. Campbell-Maher noted that the IAC's half of the partnership will provide review of initial grant guidelines created by the Accessibility Committee, collaborative editing of the application guidelines, reviewing arts-based applications, and cross promotion of the program. The Humanities half will provide the grant administration, the marketing and communications, reviewing all Humanities based applications, collaborative editing of application guidelines, and the financial and evaluative reporting of program to the IAC. Ms. Campbell-Maher mentioned that the plans for the evaluation of the program will be a mid-year grant analysis of the demand in July 2025, along with final grant reports, a follow up survey with applicants, and a post-pilot meeting. The findings of the evaluation will be presented at the March 2026 QBM. Ms. Campbell-Maher called for questions. Ms. Valentine requested an update at the June 2025 QBM, to which Ms. Campbell-Maher agreed. Ms. Valentine called for a motion to approve. Commissioner Dave Haist moved, and Commissioner Jake Oakman seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- iii. Every County Funded Report** Ms. Campbell-Maher presented this agenda item. She began by giving a brief review of the program. It is a new program this year to focus on counties that were not receiving grants from the core grant programs. She highlighted that Every County Funded (ECF) is designed to identify allies, partners and stakeholders, provide them with funding and support, provide a simple process to success and growth, connect communities, and support communities through ongoing technical assistance. There are currently 15 counties, and 1 community identified as needing support, split between two complimentary initiatives between ECF and Creative Convergence (CC). She noted that 6 counties received the CC grant, and the ten additional received low-barrier ECF grants. All grantees received additional coaching, and 100% of the

applicants were not previously funded by an IAC grant. Please see the attached memo for more information about the grantees. Ms. Campbell-Maher noted that all 92 counties in Indiana received funding from the IAC in CY24. Her findings were that there were a high number of first-time grantees, which required additional technical assistance. She noted that the value of direct outreach and relationship cultivation was beneficial, as well as the fluid status of an ECF county, as organizations move on or off the AOS and APS cycles. Ms. Campbell-Maher highlighted the agency is building resilience, there are five counties that have joined the ECF list.

- iv. **Every County Funded Framework** Ms. Campbell-Maher then transitioned into this framework. She noted that ECF is an invitation only program, which is very similar to the previous framework approved by the Commission last year. The outcomes are the same as prior year, as well as eligibility, with 501c3 orgs, local or county units of government, and libraries as eligible parties. The only counties on the approved list will be invited. Please see the attached memo for additional information about the framework of the grant. The Application deadline is March 14, with a period of June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026. She highlighted notable changes such as the grant is being reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000, with a goal of eventual transition to APS. Each county will be eligible for three grants for three organizations, and it will now be a one-payment model grant. The program will be evaluated through verbal and written feedback, a formal survey and the final grant reports. Ms. Campbell-Maher noted that she will present this program's results in September 2026 at the QBM. Ms. Campbell-Maher called for questions.

Mr. Maxwell asked if the connections to the counties direct phone calls are, or if there is a more efficient way to connect to the counties. Ms. Campbell-Maher responded that the guidelines are shared directly with all the counties, and she appreciates the direct connection through phone calls. Mr. Maxwell noted that the face-to-face connection is important, he believes that, in his words "art is heart," meaning that seeing the passion Ms. Campbell-Maher presented this agenda item with may be more impactful to the communities the agency is trying to reach if they could visually see the staff's passion for this work. Ms. Michaelsen responded that Ms. Campbell-Maher's position is newer and that her work would look a little different than the other programs work. She elaborated that Ms. Campbell-Maher's work may take a bit more time, be focused more on relationship building, and making people feel comfortable applying to the IAC takes some slow-going focused effort. Mr. Zhang Sonera noted that sometimes he, Ms. Michaelsen and/or Ms. Campbell-Maher will go to the community and meet them in-person in their communities to help build that connection. Ms. Bradley thanked Ms. Campbell-Maher for her work building the relationships with the counties funded. She clarified that she also felt that some of the commissioners can also help with the outreach to the counties. Ms. Bradley elaborated that having something from Ms. Campbell-Maher that's easily sharable from the commissioners, or something they can point to when they do outreach. Mr. Bolser agreed in using the commissioners to help contact counties. Ms. Valentine called for a motion to approve this framework. Ms. Bradley moved, and Commissioner Kelsey Peaper seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

- v. **On-Ramp Evaluation Presentation.** Ms. Adams presented this agenda item. She thanked the commission for their engagement with the Artist Needs Assessment. She is currently working on launching the Work in Progress Exchange Labs that came out of that assessment. She then gave a brief history of the On-Ramp program: the program included business education and portfolio building, partnered with Minerva Financial Arts, to help artists monetize their craft. Her timeline from 2018 to 2023 showed varied

external partners and program leaders. The program includes a three-day workshop in a cohort-based model. She then presented about the timeline of the program after the workshop. Please see the attached memo for more information about the timeline in more detail.

Ms. Adams noted that the 2024 cohort is currently in their implementation period and that currently the program is evaluated through Cohort Progress using the KAIR model, and post workshop surveys. Ms. Adams highlighted that the program is asking for a request for qualifications for evaluators for the program. Please see the attached memo for the qualifications and requirements of an evaluator as well as the progress of the programs. Ms. Adams then called for questions. None were spoken. She requested that there be a share of the request for qualifications by the commissioners which can be found on the On-Ramp landing page of the IAC website.

- vi. Regional Arts Partner Network Evaluation Update.** Ms. Michaelsen presented this agenda item. She noted that the IAC is currently following Niel Cuthbert's recommendations as presented at the June 2024 QBM. Please see attached memo and the June 2024 QBM minutes for detailed information about his recommendations. Currently, the IAC is evaluating the vision and desired outcomes for the network. There are currently three points related to the vision:

- A network that facilitates broad access to the programs and services,
- A network that is representative and responsive to organizations to organizations and communities in each region
- A network that operates at a level appropriate to meet state government expectations for constituent service.

She continued that the desired outcomes are as follows:

- The programs and services experience levels of engagement are indicative of broad access across regions across the state
- Partner mission and programmatic efforts reflection regionally based identity, connection and planning,
- Constituent service is consistent across the state.

Ms. Michaelsen continued by saying that the next steps include internal work to design an approach and see if it is currently feasible in the current reality of how the agency operates. She noted that the commission will receive recommendations ideally in March 2025. Ms. Michaelsen called for questions. None were spoken.

- 5. Regional Arts Partnership Consortium Report.** Regional Arts Partner (RAP) Sherri Wright presented this agenda item. She noted that the RAPs are in the maintenance phase of the FY25 AOS and APS grant cycle. The consortium is monitoring and assisting with the current grantees. They are also prepping for FY26. She noted that yesterday, December 5, 2024, a Regional Arts Partner "boot camp" was held to talk about the next cycle of AOS and APS applications and reviews. Mr. Ashby added that there were a few RAPs at the QBM today and they were very helpful as the agency walked through the applications question by question to comb through the application for clarity and unity of vision. He thanked Ms. Wright and all the RAPs for their work with the IAC. Mr. Maxwell asked what the criteria for a RAP would be, Ms. Michaelsen noted she will share information with him outside the meeting.
- 6. Consent Agenda Items Moved to Full Agenda (if any).** None at this time.
- 7. Transition Update.** Ms. Michaelsen presented this agenda item. She noted that Governor Elect Mike Braun will be sworn in in January 2025 and has announced a few changes to state government structure. She noted that there are still a lot of things in process of changing, so there is not many specifics to report out at this time. She noted that the IAC will likely be clustered with other agencies

the agency has relationships with. She noted that the IAC is going into these changes with excitement, and there will likely be more information in March.

8. **Old Business and New Business.** Ms. Valentine called for any additions to this point. None were spoken. Ms. Valentine thanked the IAC for their work with the Hoosier Women Artists program. She noted that Chief Justice Lorretta Rush of the Indiana Supreme Court wants to continue the program when Lt. Governor Susanne Crouch vacates the office. No further additions were made to this agenda item.
9. **Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting.** Ms. Valentine called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Walter Knabe moved, and Commissioner Laurie Burns McRobbie seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.