

**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), during which time, Commissioner Greg Hull will offer an origami demonstration.

AGENDA

- 1. **Call to Order**
 - a. Welcome (Anne Penny Valentine, Chair)
 - i. Welcome Indiana Poet Laureate Curtis Crisler
 - b. Roll Call (Austin Hendricks)
- 2. **Approval of Agenda and September 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes.** (Anne Penny Valentine) **ACTION**
- 3. **Consent Agenda.** (Anne Penny Valentine) **ACTION**
 - 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 Presentation (André Zhang Sonera)
 - ii. CY24 Agency Goals Presentation (André Zhang Sonera)
 - b. **Programs, Grants, and Services**
 - i. Lifelong Arts Research Presentation (Stephanie Haines and Amanda Wolfe)
 - ii. Accessibility Partnership (Campbell-Maher and Haines) **ACTION**
 - iii. Every County Funded Report (Lydia Campbell-Maher)
 - iv. Every County Funded Framework (Lydia Campbell-Maher) **ACTION**
 - v. On-Ramp Evaluation Presentation (Jordan Adams)
 - vi. Regional Arts Partner Network Evaluation Update (Miah Michaelsen)
- 5. **Regional Arts Partnership Consortium Report.** (Sherri Wright/Kayla Myers)
- 6. **Consent Agenda Items Moved to Full Agenda (if any).** (Anne Penny Valentine)
- 7. **Transition Update** (Miah Michaelsen)
- 8. **Old Business and New Business.** (Anne Penny Valentine)
- 9. **Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting.** (Anne Penny Valentine) **ACTION**



To: IAC Commissioners
From: André Zhang Sonera, Deputy Director of Operations
Date: November 27, 2024
Subject: **October 2024 FY25 YTD Financial Report**

Recommendation: Approval of October 2024 FY25 YTD Financial Report

The Indiana Arts Commission staff presents the enclosed October 2024 Fiscal Year 2025 Year-To-Date (FY25 YTD) Financial Report before the Commissioners and recommends its approval.

October 2024 FY25 YTD Financial Report Summary

I. IAC Revenue: An increase in our FY25 Revenue, it now includes a Carry Forward from our 2023 NEA Grant that will be applied for our Pt. 1 expenses.

II. IAC Expenses*: On track and consistent with the beginning of FY25.

- **Pt. 1 | Personnel, Benefits**

The vacancy of the Director of Programs position caused the negative variance (surplus) in Pt.1.

- **Pts. 2-5; 8 | Tech, Consultancies & Panels, Supplies/Office Equipment, Unemployment**

Pt. 2 has a positive variance (deficit) due to additional software and services licenses. Pt. 3 shows a negative variance as we have a few outstanding professional services contracts for FY25 that still need to be completed.

- **Pts. 7 | FY24 Grant Contracts**

Grant expenditures are on track and expected to be encumbered by the start of Calendar Year 2025.

- **Pt. 9 | Shared Departmental Operating Expenses**

- Includes memberships, mailing, and conference fees.
- Includes travel expenses: mileage, lodging, per diem, parking reimbursements, and car rentals.

- **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

FY25 YTD Comparative Budget Financial Statement

Period Ending October 31, 2024

REVENUES	FY25 Actuals		FY25 Budget	
State of Indiana Appropriation				
FY25 State Appropriation	\$ 639,918		\$ 639,918	
FY25 State Appropriation (2024 NEA Grant State Match)	\$ 1,036,200		\$ 1,036,200	
FY25 State Appropriation (Non-Match)	\$ 3,418,110		\$ 3,418,110	
Total State Appropriation (\$5,197,761) minus 2% Reserve (\$103,955)	\$ 5,094,228		\$ 5,094,228	
National Endowment for the Arts Federal Grant				
2024 National Endowment for the Arts Grant (IAC's FY24)	\$ 1,036,200		\$ 1,036,200	
2023 National Endowment for the Arts Grant (IAC's FY23)	\$ 100,157		\$ 100,157	
Interagency Funding Agreements				
Indiana Department of Education: Fellowship for Creative Teaching	\$ 210,052		\$ 210,052	
Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Aging: Lifelong Arts/Creative Aging	\$ -		\$ -	
Carryforward & Payment Obligations				
FY24 SOI State Appropriation Carryforward	\$ 1,573,376		\$ 1,573,376	
Interagency Funding Carryforward	\$ 20,442		\$ 20,442	
Total Payment Obligations	\$ 1,593,818		\$ 1,593,818	
Dedicated Funds/Donations				
Cultural Trust Income	\$ 123,814		\$ 123,814	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 8,158,269		\$ 8,158,269	
* Year To Date *				
EXPENDITURES	Actual/Encumbered	Budget	%Variance	FY25 Budget
.1 Personnel, Benefits	\$ 367,176	\$ 383,381	-4.227%	\$ 1,150,144
.2 Technology/Communications	\$ 17,587	\$ 13,218	33.058%	\$ 39,653
.3 Consultancies/Contracts/Panelist/Capacity Building	\$ 415,011	\$ 540,565	-23.226%	\$ 668,498
.4 Materials & Supplies	\$ 902	\$ 1,175	-23.243%	\$ 5,400
.5 Office Equipment	\$ -	\$ 333	-100.000%	\$ 600
.7 Grant Contracts (FY25)	\$ 3,771,872	\$ 3,972,339	-5.047%	\$ 4,327,839
.8 Unemployment Compensation	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 78,000
.9 Shared Departmental Operating Expenses	\$ 111,298	\$ 97,912	13.671%	\$ 141,397
<i>Payment Obligations (Encumbered)</i>	\$ 1,593,818	\$ 1,400,343	13.816%	\$ 1,593,818
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,277,663	\$ 6,409,266	-2.053%	\$ 8,005,349
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		\$ 1,880,607		



Connie Brahm
Marketing and Communications Director
Indiana Arts Commission

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FY25 Q1 Trust Report

Lifetime Interest	\$817,974.92
Lifetime Plate Revenue	\$4,136,073.09
FY25 Distribution	\$(28,356.36)
Interest Available	\$370,449.61
Fund Balance as of September 30, 2024	\$4,501,523.35

Fiscal Year	Quarter	Interest	Sales Revenue	Plates Sold
FY24	2	\$41,880.61	\$28,200.00	1,128
FY24	3	\$35,482.96	\$23,175.00	927
FY24	4	\$68,390.57	\$34,600.00	1,384
FY25	1	\$79,230.17	\$32,175.00	1,287

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
600555	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.5100%	1/27/2025	\$ 103,558.33
600749	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note	\$ 500,000.00	0.5000%	6/11/2027	\$ 88,125.00
600768	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note	\$ 299,916.00	0.5150%	12/30/2025	\$ 29,097.50
522	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Investment Pool	\$ 2,100,000.00	0.1100%	12/31/2024	\$ 279,189.75
	Total	<u>\$ 4,399,916.00</u>			<u>\$ 522,776.14</u>

Matured Investments and Coupon Payments Since 7/1/2024					
Inv. Number	Current Investments	Book Value	Rate	Maturity Date	
600555	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.5100%	1/27/2025	\$ 25,500.00
600307	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note	\$ 500,000.00	0.1000%	3/30/2026	\$ 3,080.56
600768	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note	\$ 299,916.00	0.5150%	12/30/2025	\$ 7,682.08
600792	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note	\$ 1,900,000.00	0.5500%	4/8/2026	<u>\$ 42,961.11</u>
	Total Government Interest Income				\$ 79,223.75
	Plus Sec Lending Income				<u>\$ 6.42</u>
				Total Interest	<u>\$ 79,230.17</u>



To: IAC Commissioners

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

Date: November 4, 2024

Subject: Communications Update

FY25 Q1 Announcements

- [11 Indiana Communities Receive Training, Funding Through the Creative Convergence Program](#)
- [Arts Commission Hosts Summer Training for Educators](#)
- [Indiana Arts Commission Announces New Team Members, Staffing Changes](#)
- [Arts Commission invests over \\$3.5M to strengthen communities through art and creativity](#)
- [Arts Commission Seeks Applications from Communities for Workshop, Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Arts Commission announces additions to Indiana's Digital Poetry Archive](#)

Fall 2024/ Winter 2025 Communications Projects

- Website Re-Development, Updates
- Transition to New Email Marketing Platform (Salesforce Marketing Cloud)
- Relaunching the Artist Services Hub
- Guidelines Standardization
- Preparing for the launch of the FY26 Arts Organization Support and Arts Project Support programs.
 - Creating support materials for Regional Arts Partners, navigating change management, updating web content and guidelines, preparing for public application opening.
- Supported first public application window for Creative Convergence
 - In a two-week window for applications, received 40 applications for 10 spots. Facilitated social media outreach, supported direct outreach, and provided partners with materials to conduct outreach on IAC's behalf.



To: Indiana Arts Commission
From: Stephanie Haines, Arts Education and Accessibility Program Manager
Date: November 6, 2024
Subject: Poetry Out Loud program update

Poetry Out Loud overview

A partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Poetry Foundation, and state and jurisdictional arts agencies, Poetry Out Loud (POL) provides a platform for high school students across the country to participate in a dynamic poetry recitation competition that is designed to improve their public speaking skills, help build confidence, and teach them about literary history and contemporary life. POL provides free lesson plans and other educational materials to teachers and organizers, including an online anthology of 1,200 classic and contemporary poems.

The program starts at the local level with a school or participating organization. Winners then may advance to a regional and/or state competition, and ultimately to the national finals. Poetry Out Loud takes place in all 50 states, American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since the program began in 2005, more than 4.4 million students and 81,000 teachers from 20,000 schools across the U.S. have participated in Poetry Out Loud.

In 2022, Indiana's state champion, Sreepadacharna Munjuluri from Columbus, Indiana claimed the National POL champion title, the first for our state.

Indiana Poetry Out Loud 2024

As part of our annual partnership agreement with the NEA, Indiana Arts Commission hosts a statewide Poetry Out Loud program. Starting in 2023, IAC established a program partnership with Indiana Humanities, a statewide non-profit whose mission is "Indiana Humanities connects people, opens minds and enriches lives by creating and facilitating programs that encourage Hoosiers to think, read and talk." Find more about Indiana Humanities at their website <https://indianahumanities.org/>.

Indiana Humanities is the program lead for the 2024 Indiana POL program and is working directly with schools and teachers to support participation in the state POL competition. Indiana Humanities will also be planning and hosting the IN state finals on March 1, 2025.

A full report of POL activities to date from Indiana Humanities is provided below.

2024 Poetry Out Loud Update

Submitted by Indiana Humanities

October 25, 2024

Number of Schools Registered

As of October 25, ten organizations and schools have registered to participate in this year's competition. This year's registered organizations include library branches and writer's centers in addition to high schools. The Indiana Humanities team is currently working with local poet and educator Dr. Adam Henze to strategize recruiting more high school participation before the December 6th registration deadline.

Webinar Details

The Indiana Humanities team held two informational webinars on September 5 and October 17. The webinars were recorded and recently posted to Indiana Humanities' YouTube channel and is being shared on our website page as well as in communications with potential participants moving forward.

Press Coverage

- <https://www.wbiw.com/2024/09/02/final-poetry-out-loud-is-back/>
- <https://www.wbiw.com/2024/10/02/hear-from-aalihya-banks-reigning-poetry-out-loud-state-champ/>
- <https://www.inkfreenews.com/2024/08/15/indiana-humanities-urges-high-schools-to-get-involved-with-poetry-out-loud/>

New Strategies

The Indiana Humanities team is trying out several new strategies this year, including a bi-monthly Poetry Out Loud newsletter to potential organizations and more direct outreach to statewide organizations whose missions align with the Poetry Out Loud program.

The Indiana Humanities team plans on coordinating several onsite school presentations to recruit additional schools for this year's competition in November.

Other Notes

The Indiana Humanities team has found success in forming relationships with other organizations to expand the reach of Poetry Out Loud. Information regarding the program will be shared in the National History Day Educator Newsletter and ICTE Newsletter going forward. We will also be hosting a table at the Bloomington Book Festival (Nov. 2) and Indiana Library Federation conference (Nov. 18-19) where we will share Poetry Out Loud information.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: André Zhang Sonera, Deputy Director of Operations
Date: November 27, 2024
Subject: **Staff Activity Report CY24 Q4**

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

IAC'S STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT | FOURTH QUARTER OF 2024

This past October, Indiana was well represented at the **National Assembly of State Art Agencies (NASAA) 2024 Assembly** in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Here is a recap of what the team did:

- **Stephanie Haines** participated in the Arts Education PDI, **Jordan** on the Folks and Traditional Arts Program Managers, and **Lydia** in the Community Development Network Peer and the Accessibility Coordinators Pre-Conferences.
- **Miah** led the Executive Directors Breakout Session, while **Eric** planned and led the Grants Manager Peer Group Session.
- The dynamic duo, **Eric** and **André**, presented on Communicating Impact with colleagues from the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Connecticut Office of the Arts; they shared their current experience with the IAC Financial Dashboard and Data Collection.

Sharing the Results! **Jordan** and **Eric** presented the results of their **Artist Needs Assessment** via a Zoom Webinar.

Philanthropy in Action. In October, **Lydia**, **Stephanie Haines**, and **Eric** attended the **Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Philanthropy Leads Conference**. Additionally, **Eric** attended the **Technology Association of Grantmakers' Philanthropy Tech Trends** training.

Making the rounds at IU Bloomington. **Eric** spoke to the **2024 IU Presidential Arts and Humanities Fellows** and participated on a panel for the **IU Jacobs School of Music Office of Career Development** on how to fund projects. Meanwhile, **André** attended the inaugural **O'Neill Alumni Advisory Council** Fall meeting, where he serves as a Council Member representing IU Indianapolis.

Over the Rhine... Creatively. **Miah** and **André** attended the **CODAworx's CODAsummit: Art, Technology and Place** in Cincinnati, OH.

Chirp! Chirp! **Gwendolyn** and **Lydia** completed the **Ball State University Indiana Community Institute's Community Development Course**.

Getting it Done and Certified! **Stephanie Haines** earned her Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification from the **Project Management Institute**.

The Team shares their expertise. **Lydia** was a panelist for the **Alabama State Council on the Arts' Community Arts Project Grants**. Meanwhile, **Stephanie Haines** was a **National Endowment for the Arts' Arts Education Grant** panelist. **Eric** served as a presenter/proposal reviewer for the **City of Bloomington**. Additionally, Eric has been supporting the data collection while serving on an advisory group for **PATTERN's Creative Economy Research Group**. **André** participated in **Monumental Gestures' White River Art Experience Visioning Workshop** and was a guest speaker for the **Association of Fundraising Professionals' Arts and Culture Affinity Group**.

The learning keeps going! **Lydia** continues to expand her knowledge and network by attending several trainings, online conferences, and webinar opportunities:

- Confronting Difficult Histories in Museum & Archives (**Indy Arts Council**)
- Building Capacity for Disaster Readiness (**NASAA**)
- A Prescription for Arts? Yes, Please! (**South Arts**)
- Arts Health & Wellbeing Cross-Sector Partnerships (**NASAA**)
- Maintaining Public Places through Sustainable Funding Programming and More (**IU Center for Rural Engagement**)
- Disability Arts Listening Session (**NEA**)
- Transforming the Disability Perspective (**Indy Arts Council**)
- Community Engagement and Co-Creation of Public Spaces (**IU Center for Rural Engagement**)
- Advancing Inclusive Development in Rural Towns (**Brookings Institute/LISC**)
- Social Inclusion (**Indiana Tourism Association**)
- Restorative Cities: Urban Design for Mental Health & Wellbeing (**The Institute for Human Centered Design**)

Pass the mic over! **Stephanie Haines** has been busy presenting and sharing her knowledge in the field:

- Long-Term Care Leadership Conference (**IN Department of Health**)
- Accessibility in the Arts for Summer Reading Programs (**National Collaborative of Summer Library Program**)
- State Arts Agencies Partnering With State Department of Education on Federal Title Funding Projects (**NASAA Arts Education Network**)

March Madness is back in the Circle City. **André** has been named Co-Chair for the Arts & Culture Committee by **Indiana Sports Corp** as Indianapolis prepares to host (once again!) the NCAA Men's Final Four in 2026.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Miah Michaelsen
Date: November 29, 2024
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, staff salaries and the partnership with Traditional Arts Indiana. The IAC submitted its annual grant application at the end of September (before the deadline!) and will know funding status by mid-April.

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

NASAA is our national “trade association”. Many of IAC’s staff attended the biennial conference at the end of October, and several staff served on panels during breakout sessions. An internal share out of learnings was held earlier in November.

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 – most recently providing new funding for artists with disabilities and supporting a new program for culture bearers (traditional artists). Miah continues to serve on the Arts Midwest board as one of two state arts agency representatives.

State Government Partnerships

In addition to ongoing partnerships with the Division of Aging at FSSA and the Indiana Department of Education (both led by Stephanie Haines), the IAC is engaging with the following:

Department of Health

IAC is partnering with the Department of Health's Tobacco and Cessation Division to support their efforts through an arts-based project. The project is being developed and led by their VOICE youth ambassadors and implemented statewide. Lydia Campbell-Maher is supporting that partnership.

Indiana Archives and Records Administration (IARA)

The IAC is partnering with IARA on a 'zine project featuring graphic artists interpreting key sections of Indiana's state constitution. André Zhang Sonera is heading up this partnership which will conclude in 2026.

Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)

The agency continues to partner 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 will support regional arts and cultural planning and subsequent project development meant to drive transformation in the state's arts and culture ecosystem. Miah continues to serve as lead for the agency in these efforts.

Other In-State Partnerships

Indiana Communities Institute

ICI is partnering with the IAC in support of the first public offering of the IAC's new Creative Convergence program for communities, spearheaded by Lydia Campbell-Maher.

Indiana Humanities

Indiana Humanities (IH) is the current state partner for the Poetry Out Loud national poetry recitation competition, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts. IH provides administration of the state program and finals competition with funding and assistance from the IAC. Additionally, the IAC will be partnering with IH on a pilot accessibility grant program which, pending Commissioner approval, will roll out in CY25.



To: Commissioners

From: Eric Ashby, Grants and Research Manager

Date: 11/4/2024

Subject: Update on Technical Assistance Tracking

Introduction

One of the services provided by the IAC, in addition to grant funding and as a general resource, is technical assistance (TA). Technical assistance is tailored support provided by IAC staff to individuals, organizations, and communities. TA topics and delivery formats vary. The time spent with stakeholders constitutes a key resource to build knowledge, capacity, and connections across the state that supports the arts and culture sector.

Beginning in September 2024, the IAC launched a pilot tracking form with two primary goals: (1) Communicate and quantify an additional area of impact for the IAC that aligns with Strategic Framework impacts and (2) Better understand recurring TA topic areas and related programs to inform future service and grant delivery. Below is a summary of the initial results from the first two months of TA tracking.

TA Tracking Results: September and October 2024

Relevant IAC staff members who provide TA filled out a form summarizing their work with stakeholders at varying cadences throughout the last two months. In total, staff reported **68.4 hours** in TA time combined in September and October. This is already about 70% of the way to the initial target for the fiscal year of 100 hours in TA. A majority of those hours occurred in October and centered around the Creative Convergence program (see Figure 1), which had a recent application deadline.

Program	Sum of Time Spent (in hours)
Creative Convergence	21.00
Not Applicable	13.00
Every County Funded	9.00
Lifelong Arts	4.75
On-Ramp	4.25
ARTSY	3.50
Tobacco Cessation Project with Voice	3.00
Youth Ambassadors	
Fellowship for Creative Teaching	2.75
Arts Project Support	2.10
Creative Community Pathways	2.00
IN Humanities Partnership	2.00
Cultural Districts	1.00
Total Hours	68.35

Figure 1

The IAC used a variety of communication methods to support constituents with email serving as the primary delivery mechanism for TA (see Figure 2)¹.

Communication Method	Total Hours	Count of TA Submissions
Email	31.75	18
In-Person Meeting	17.00	5
Phone Call	6.85	8
Video Call	12.75	10
Total	68.35	41

Figure 2

The topics span a wide range of areas with a percentage of TA sessions focused on Application/Project Development, Finding Additional Funding, and Introduction to IAC (see Figure 3)². In TA sessions not tied to a program, topics included long-term planning, introduction to the IAC, diversity, and finding additional funding.

¹ Please note: the Count of TA Submissions column is not reflective of total TA sessions. Some reporting occurred on an aggregate basis clouding the number of individual sessions offered. This will be adjusted for next reporting period.

² Ibid.

Topic Area(s)	Count of TA Submissions
Application/Project Development	23
Finding Additional Funding	8
Introduction to IAC	7
Foundant Support	5
Long-term Planning	5
Final Reporting	4
Career Advising	3
Accessibility	2
SAM	2
Budget development/ application reviewing	1
Contract process support - where/how to execute contract with IAC	1
Diversity	1
Making connections to artists	1
Making connections to others	1
Managing grant modifications mid-cycle	1
Navigating all the follow up steps with Foundant and DocuSign	1
Network and Connection	1
Post-application feedback for improvement	1
Public Art	1
Public Art Maintenance	1
Total	41

Figure 3

Next Steps

IAC staff will continue piloting the TA tracking form adjusting based on staff feedback and data validity. The next iteration of the form will require reporting based on single TA sessions to generate uniform data with more accurate insights. The Commission will receive quarterly updates on TA hours to benchmark progress over time. In the first two months, it is evident IAC staff are supporting stakeholders across a variety of topic areas. As more data comes in, the IAC will leverage TA insights to aid program and service delivery topics/strategies in the future.



**Report prepared by Stephanie Haines for the
Indiana Arts Commission's December 2024
Quarterly Business Meeting**

No action needed.

INverse Indiana Poetry Archive

Evaluation Plan Fall 2025

Background

As the INverse program completes its fifth year, the Indiana Arts Commission is undertaking a comprehensive program evaluation as part of a natural cycle of program evaluation and improvement.

Launched in 2019, INverse was developed as a special community initiative of the 2018-2020 Indiana Poet Laureate Adrian Matejka with the goal of celebrating and preserving the diverse range of Indiana poetry for future generations of Indiana writers and readers. Working in collaboration with the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Arts Commission, Matejka wanted to create a space in which all Hoosiers were welcome to share their poetry. Noting the history of many local Indiana poets who were overlooked for recognition in their lifetime, Matjeka had the vision that capturing pieces of Hoosier history through a poetry archive would create a time capsule of significant moments in Indiana's creative community.

INverse Program Goals

- Provide a place for Hoosier poets of all types to be celebrated and included.
- Collect important poetry from across Indiana to preserve for future generations.
- Create a new opportunity within the literary community that is important and necessary.
- Create a repository of Indiana poetry that can be utilized by educational institutions, researchers, archivers, and more now and in the future.

Current Program Framework

Every year from February 1st through April 30th the Indiana Arts Commission accepts poetry submissions to be considered for the INverse poetry archive.

Upon submission, every poem is given an internal eligibility check and then moved on to a full external review panel. The panel consists of one representative of the Indiana Arts Commission, one representative of the Indiana State Library, and the standing Indiana Poet Laureate. Additional reviewers are brought in as necessary.

Review criteria include:

- Application meets eligibility criteria
- Application supports the spirit of the program

- Applicant meets criteria of connection to Indiana

Key Elements of the Program

Some key elements of the INverse poetry archive include:

- **Open access to all:** Unlike other poetry archives, INverse will not be exclusively for ‘expert’ poets. Applicants do not need to provide any CV or resume to prove their expertise or previous experience to be considered.
- **All poetry accepted:** We cannot know which topics or styles of poetry will be of most interest to future generations, so opening the doors to a wide variety of poems is important. Poems can be in any style and any topic with exceptions for inappropriate or dangerous language or content.
- **Connection to Indiana:** To truly ensure this archive is the *Indiana* Poetry Archive, applicants must provide assurance of a meaningful connection to Indiana. The IAC defines this as having lived in Indiana for five years or more at any point in the applicant’s life.

Statistics of applicants over 5 years:

		# poets	# poems
Year 1	2019 & 2020*	33	86
Year 2	2021	41	99
Year 3	2022	34	92
Year 4	2023	55	135
Year 5	2024	28	73
Totals	2019 - 2024	191	485

*In the first year, the archive opened early in the fall of 2019 during the program launch, and that open period lasted until May 2020.

Evaluation Plan

As part of a regular cycle of agency program evaluation and improvement the INverse poetry archive has reached a natural point to pause and evaluate. Through the evaluation process, IAC will explore the following questions.

- Has the program lived up to the goals?
- Have the participants gained positive outcomes from the program?
- What impact does the archive have on Indiana communities?
- Which elements of the INverse poetry archive have been a challenge?
- What changes to the procedures and processes of the INverse program can make it most effective? (i.e. changes to frequency of application periods, changes to the overall timeline for program, or changes to the criteria)
- How can the INverse poetry archive evolve to meet changing needs of Hoosiers?

Step 1: Internal program review

IAC staff will review past submissions, interactions with applicants, and past review panel discussions to examine the program implementation and its impact on constituents. Additionally, IAC staff will examine any similar programs in other states which may provide examples or guidance.

Step 2: Data Analysis

IAC staff will collect and analyze data from past INverse submissions including poet demographics, geographic representation of applicants, denied applications, and other information to form a full picture of the program to date.

Step 3: External program feedback

IAC will ask for feedback from community members most closely aligned with this program. This will include Poet Laureates who have been involved with the program, Indiana State Library staff who have been involved with the program, and other poets or artists who have an interest in this work.

Timeline

Step 1: Internal Program Review	Nov – Dec 2024
Step 2: Data Review	Jan – Feb 2025
Step 3: External Program Feedback	Feb – Mar 2025
Evaluation Results	March 2025

After the Evaluation

After completion of all three steps of the evaluation process, IAC will publish an evaluation report outlining the findings and recommending next steps to maintain or evolve the INverse poetry archive. With this report, IAC staff will adapt INverse programming as needed and inform all stakeholders of the next steps of the INverse program.

Contact:

Stephanie Haines

Arts Education & Accessibility Program Manager

Indiana Arts Commission

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