

Indiana Arts Commission Quarterly Business Meeting

Friday, December 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m. (ET)
Hulman Riverhouse, Indianapolis Zoo
1200 W Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46222
Dave Haist, Chair



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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

- a. Welcome (Dave Haist, Chair)
- b. Welcome from the Indianapolis Zoo (Commissioner Jake Oakman)
- c. Welcome, New Commissioners Jeanne Campbell, Dawn Conwell, Rick James, and Judith P. Sawyer (Dave Haist & Full Commission)
- d. Roll Call (Austin Hendricks)

2. Approval of Agenda (Dave Haist)

**ACTION
ACTION**

3. Consent Agenda (Dave Haist)

a. Items Submitted for Commission Approval

- i. September 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- ii. FY26 Year-to-Date Financials

b. Reports for Review:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| i. Arts Trust Report | v. FY27 Arts Organization Support Year 2 |
| ii. Communications Report | vi. FY26 Creative Convergence Round 1 Participants |
| iii. Staff Activity Report | vii. Work In Progress (WIP) Grantees |
| iv. External Partnerships Report | |

4. Committee Reports

a. Committee on the Future

- i. Strategic Framework Update & Proposed KPI Metrics (Britt Fechtman)

DISCUSSION

For Discussion:

- *What kind of data should the IAC track to better understand who is served by grant investments? Is there data not currently captured in the KPI's that the IAC should consider collecting?*

- ii. CY25 Agency Goals Review and CY26 Agency Goals (André Zhang Sonera)

DISCUSSION

For Discussion:

- *Outside of our existing programs and services, what should be the agency's top priorities for CY26?*

b. Programs, Grants, and Services

- i. Arts Project Support Program (APS)
 1. FY26 APS Fall Grantee Recommendations (Eric Ashby)
 2. FY27 APS Spring & Fall Cycle Framework (Eric Ashby)
- ii. Arts & Health Update (Eric Ashby)
- iii. Community Services Programs (Anne Johansson)
 1. FY26 Every County Funded Program Framework
 2. Creative Convergence Round 2 Framework
- iv. Artist Services Programs (Jordan Adams)
 1. On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneurial Accelerator

ACTION

- a. Evaluation Findings
 - b. Central Cohort Program Framework
- v. Program Frameworks Approval (Dave Haist) **ACTION**
- 5. **Regional Arts Partnership Consortium Report** (Sherri Wright & Kayla Myers)
- 6. **READI LEI Arts and Culture Initiative** (Miah Michaelsen & Jim Rawlinson, READI)
- 7. **Consent Agenda Items Moved to Full Agenda** (Dave Haist)
- 8. **Old Business and New Business.** (Dave Haist)
 - a. Thank you to Commissioner Emeriti Laurie Burns McRobbie and Anne Penny Valentine!
 - b. Next Quarterly Business Meeting: Evansville (Scott Wylie)
- 9. **Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting.** (Dave Haist) **ACTION**

Indiana Arts Commission Quarterly Business Meeting

Friday, September 5, 2025, 9:00 a.m. (ET)
Ballroom A, Community Learning Center, St. Joseph County Public Library
304 S Main St, South Bend, IN 46601
Dave Haist, Chair



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

Members Present: Réna Bradley, Dave Haist, Greg Hull, Daniel Martinez, Jake Oakman, Renee Thomas, Scott Wylie

Members Present via Zoom: Azizi Arrington-Slocum, Chad Bolser, Laurie Burns McRobbie, Kelsey Peaper

Members Absent: Walter Knabe, Anne Penny Valentine

IAC Staff Present: Jordan Adams, Eric Ashby, Connie Brahm, Britt Fechtman, Austin Hendricks, Anne Johansson, Miah Michaelson, Gwendolyn Pickett, André Zhang Sonera

IAC Staff Present via Zoom: Stephanie Pfendler

RAP Partners Present: Kayla Myers, Clare Ramel

RAP Partners Present via Zoom: Sherri Wright

Special Presenters Present: Bryant Rozier

Special Presenters Present Via Zoom: Jon Kay

Others Present: Rose Meissner

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

- a. **Welcome.** Commission Chair, Dave Haist, called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM (ET). He thanked everyone for being present, as well as the South Bend Museum of Art for hosting the social event last night. He also thanked the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County for hosting the agency.
- b. **Welcome from South Bend.** Mr. Haist gave the floor to Executive Director of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, Rose Meissner, to welcome everyone to South Bend. Ms. Meissner highlighted that the Community Foundation has been a Regional Arts Partner (RAP) since 1999. She noted that there have been major expansions to arts experiences throughout South Bend including some at Notre Dame University and in downtown South Bend. She thanked the Commission for their support to South Bend's arts and culture.
- c. **Roll Call** Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Administrative Assistant, Austin Hendricks, called the roll. All were present as listed above, for a total of 11 commissioners present, satisfying quorum.

2. Approval of Agenda and July 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Haist called for any additions or changes to the agenda or previous meeting's minutes. None were spoken. Mr. Haist called for a motion to approve this agenda item. Commissioner Jake Oakman motioned, and Commissioner Greg Hull seconded. Mr. Haist called for discussion. None was had. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

3. Consent Agenda.

Mr. Haist read the consent agenda in its entirety to those present at the meeting. The items contained in the consent agenda were as follows:

a. Items Submitted for Commission Approval

i. FY26 Year-to-Date Financials

b. Reports for review:

- | | |
|--|---|
| i. Arts Trust Report | vi. External Partnership Update |
| ii. Communications Report | vii. Strengthen & Innovate Report |
| iii. Staff Activity Report | |
| iv. Committee Chair and Committee Assignments | viii. Commissioner Policy Handbook Redevelopment |
| v. CY26/CY27 Meeting Calendar Dates | |

Mr. Haist called for any item to be moved from the consent agenda to the full agenda. None were recommended to be moved. Mr. Haist called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Scott Wylie motioned, and Mr. Oakman seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

- 4. Traditional Arts Indiana Presentation.** Traditional Arts Indiana (TAI)'s update was given by Dr. Jon Kay and Bryant Rozier. Dr. Kay began by highlighting that the partnership has announced that the apprenticeship pairs for the current year have been made, and Mr. Rozier will present a video of last year's work. Dr. Kay then shared the apprenticeship pairings and their artform which include Bluegrass guitar, historic homes and architecture, artistic basketry, weaving, Chinese orchestra work, and capoeira. Dr. Kay noted that he is very excited about this cohort.

Program Partner, Bryant Rozier, then shared some of his background, noting that he was the director and producer of the 2023 Governor's Arts Awards documentary series. He noted that many of the documentaries presented at those Awards have been further presented at film festivals around the state and on local PBS stations. He added that community and tradition were highlights of the program, but his documentaries also focus on the craft element of this program. He then shared a short documentary he created about "low-riding" – an artform about modifying cars and carhopping – in the Fort Wayne area. *Please watch the recorded livestream on YouTube to view the short film.* Mr. Rozier concluded by sharing some of his experience on the project, the connections he made while working on this documentary, and noting some next steps for further documentaries for other artforms for this program. He then called for questions.

Commissioner Réna Bradley asked if the community was receptive to being documented.

Mr. Rozier shared they are receptive because they are used to filming themselves. He also highlighted that some of the shots in the documentary came from other videographers in the car-hopping community.

Ms. Bradley continued by asking if the community was interested in support from the IAC.

Mr. Rozier noted that this project exposed the communities to the work of the Commission, and some of them are interested in getting involved.

IAC Executive Director, Miah Michaelson, noted that this is just the beginning of where TAI can expand into. She thanked Mr. Rozier and Dr. Kay for their work and their efforts to connecting people, as well as how these videos will be distributed around the state.

Mr. Haist thanked the presenters for their reporting on other forms of traditional art.

5. Committee Reports

a. Committee on the Future

i. Strategic Framework Update

- 1. KPI Report and Update.** IAC Director of Programs, Eric Ashby, presented this agenda item. Mr. Ashby began by noting that these Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) align with the strategic framework. The end of FY25 is the new baseline for FY26's KPIs.

Impact 1: In every Indiana County, people and communities have access to arts experiences.

- **Measurement 1: Access to arts experiences in Indiana.** In FY25 77/92 counties received funding. Mr. Ashby noted that in one calendar year the agency can meet all 92 counties, but the Fiscal Year can split the outcome. In FY26 the goal is to meet all 92 counties again. Mr. Ashby added that the number of counties directly supported will be supported by the Every County Funded program in this measurement going forward.
- **Measurement 2: Number of Activities in Counties (Arts Organization Support (AOS)/APS).** In FY24 there was an average of 7 activities per county, which increased in FY25 to 11 activities per county. The goal for FY25 was 8 activities on average per county. In FY26 the agency wants to average 15 activities per county. Mr. Ashby also shared that the number of Activities in counties is hoping to be bolstered by some of the READI grant.
- **Measurement 3: Number of Accessibility Focused Projects.** This goal has been paused. The program this was associated with (a micro-grant in partnership with Indiana Humanities) has been put on indefinite pause as the federal funding source for this grant has changed. The pivot point on this is to measure returning organizations in Every County Funded and/or their movement to AOS and APS pool. Mr. Ashby noted a new metric will be presented at the December or March Quarterly Business Meeting (QBM).

Impact 2: New populations of Hoosiers experience meaningful learning in and engagement with arts and creativity.

- **Measurement 1: Number of first-time grantees.** The number of first-time grantees in FY25 is 149, down from about 150 in FY24. In FY26 the goal is to get 30% across all programs. Mr. Ashby noted that historically this goal has been measured only with AOS and APS and that going forward it will be measured through all programs, not just the core two.
- **Measurement 2: The number of grantees and total grant dollars by type and discipline.** Mr. Ashby shared a graph of this item using the federally prescribed categories of discipline. The percentage of FY25 grant dollars went primarily to Music (20%), Theater (>15%), Visual Arts (>10%), and Multidisciplinary (>20%). Mr. Ashby noted that these disciplines are prescribed by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA),

and that multidisciplinary might be high because respondents will say they do multiple artforms in their organizations.

FY25 Baseline: The current baseline of funding by primary discipline for all FY25 Grant programs as of August 2025 is listed above.

FY25 Target: Maintain a mixture of disciplines in alignment with national breakdowns from peer states with a grant budget between \$2 Million and \$5 Million.

FY26 Target: Maintain a mixture of disciplines in alignment with national breakdowns from peer states with a grant budget between \$2 Million and \$5 Million.

- **Measurement 3: Primary Population Benefitted (rural counties served, underserved populations, etc.).** In FY24 the agency gave 25% of grants to rural counties and 22% of grant dollars to rural counties. FY25's goal was 30% of grants to rural counties and 25% of grant dollars to rural counties. In actuality, the agency got 28.9% of grants to rural counties and 29.5% of grant dollars to rural counties in FY25. In FY26, the agency wants to see 30% of grants going to rural counties and 35% of dollars sent to rural counties. Mr. Ashby then shared a graph of "Rural Investment and Count of Grantees by Fiscal Year," showing an upward trend of dollars awarded and rural grantees. *Please see the corresponding memo for the associated graph.*

Mr. Ashby noted that Measurement 1 for this Impact was below the target of 35% at the end of FY25, and the FY26 goal has been lowered to reflect that.

Impact 3: Artist building toward successful careers in our state.

- **Measurement 1: Dollars Invested in Individual Artists** FY24 saw the IAC invest \$186,000. In FY25 the goal was \$250,000 with an actual amount of \$146,445. Mr. Ashby noted that this reduction is in part to Lifelong Arts not being run as often nor Arts Education residencies in FY25. He also noted that some of the programs that count for this measurement are also skewed due to the split in fiscal year vs. calendar year. The agency's goal for FY26 is \$200,000 invested. He also noted that the lack of large Lifelong Arts component and the agency is no longer funding individual artists in the arts education space, which were two large components of this metric.
- **Measurement 2: The total investment in artist entrepreneurship from IAC partners.** In FY25 this number was \$0 with a target of \$250,000. Mr. Ashby noted that in the last fiscal year some organizations the IAC expected to help contribute to this metric did not, though there is already some buy-in for FY26. The goal for FY26 is \$100,000 invested. He noted that IAC partners with the IEDC, the Entrepreneurship Office and other state agencies focused on the small business ecosystem, which he expects will have some investment into this metric.

- **Measurement 3: The number of hours of technical assistance to artists (funded and not funded).** Mr. Ashby noted that this is not a publicly advertised service, but the agency does offer it. This item was not tracked in FY24. In FY25 there were 155 hours tracked. Mr. Ashby noted that this number is likely lower than actual due to staff turnover at the agency. The target for FY26 is 250 hours. He noted that there are coaching hours provided by IAC Artist Services Program Manager, Jordan Adams, and Community Services Manager, Anne Johansson, that are included in this metric. Mr. Ashby said that this will be tracked a little more closely in FY26.

Mr. Ashby here noted that the goal technical assistance hours will likely be met and exceeded in FY26, partially due to the reduction in the state's appropriation to the IAC.

IMPACT 4: Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities.

- **Measurement 1: Dollars leveraged beyond grant award.** In FY24 and FY25 this amount was \$3.3 million. The FY25 target was \$3.5 million, and that number will be repeated for FY26. Mr. Ashby noted that the agency tracks the dollars grantees are able to gain beyond just the agency's grants. Mr. Ashby expects that this measurement will likely increase as the agency's budget has been reduced and he expects grantees to find more funding outside of the IAC's award.
- **Measurement 2: Number of sustained creative aging projects.** In FY25 this number was approximately 5, and the target was 25. Mr. Ashby hoped that the Lifelong Arts program's effects would have lasted a little longer, but many organizations stopped their programming for a variety of reasons. The FY26 goal is to increase this number to 15. Mr. Ashby noted that there is some Arts and Health money from the NEA as well as toolkits the IAC will publish about this work that he hopes will increase the number of creative aging projects.
- **Measurement 3: Universal health survey-Creative Aging (UIndy Research).** This metric was from the Lifelong Arts Creative Aging research in partnership with University of Indianapolis Center on Aging and Community. Mr. Ashby noted that this is a completion metric, and that it was achieved in FY25. He noted that replacement metrics may be increased frequency of access to the IAC's services such as YouTube video views or attending webinars. This new measure will be geared towards service delivery impact.

Mr. Ashby highlighted that the Lifelong Arts program doesn't have as much funding as it has in previous years, but the federal award dollars for Arts and Health will be allocated to this datapoint. He stated that the commission will hear more about this in December. He also noted that the metric for the Universal Health Survey will have a new replacement metric that may come in December or March 2026.

- **IMPACT 5: There is broad recognition in arts and creativity's value for Indiana.**
 - **Measurement 1: Dollars invested in arts in creativity outside IAC programs.** In FY25 this number was at \$1.5 million, with a target of \$25 million in FY26. Mr. Ashby noted that this increase is primarily due to the Lilly Endowment investment along with other potential funders.
 - **Measurement 2: Number of non-artists and artist grantees.** This measures other organizations who may not specifically be arts-based but can provide an arts-based service to their communities. In FY24 there were 119 of these organizations and in FY25 there were 148. The target in FY25 was 175, and the goal for FY26 has been lowered to 150 to match what was seen in FY25.
 - **Measurement 3: The per capita funding compared to peers (other state arts agencies).** In FY24-25 this value was \$0.76 per capita and in FY26 that has lowered to \$0.50 per capita. Mr. Ashby noted that this metric is what it is for next year and that the funding from the Legislature is out of the agency's control.

Mr. Ashby noted that the \$0.50 per capita puts the IAC in the bottom quarter of state arts agency allocations, and this comparative data comes from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA).

Mr. Ashby called for questions.

Mr. Haist thanked Mr. Ashby for his presentation and the development of the KPIs as seeing the numbers a few years in since beginning to report them is helpful to have.

2. **FY25 AOS/APS Final Grant Report Analysis.** IAC Data and Grants Systems Manager, Britt Fechtman, presented this agenda item. Ms. Fechtman began by noting that this data was pulled in July of 2025. Ms. Fechtman then shared the following statistics from the across both programs' Final Grant Reports. *Please note that these are the top three datapoints for each category. For more information, please see the corresponding memo.*
 - Arts Project Support (APS) FY24: 198 Grantees/FY25: 225 Grantees
 - Arts Organization Support (AOS) FY24: 208 Grantees/FY25: 213 Grantees (Includes Regional Arts Partner AOS)
 - Adult participation in both programs: 2.2 million
 - Youth population in both programs: 529,130.

Ms. Fechtman then shared the following highlights of datapoints from just the Arts Project Support (APS) program:

- **The percentage of age groups represented (self-selected by grantees, who could pick more than one group, making totals greater than 100%)**
 - Adults (24-64) - 65%
 - Children and Youth (0-18) - 45%
 - Older Adults (65+) - 39%
- **The percentage of distinct groups served (self-selected by grantees, who could pick more than one group making totals greater than 100%)**
 - No distinct group, - 58%
 - Individuals Below the Poverty Line - 27%
 - Individuals with Disabilities at - 15%

Ms. Fechtman noted that the total is greater than 100% because respondents could pick multiple categories. She added that “No Single Age Group” could be selected as the respondent could say that no group made up more than 25%.

Mr. Ashby clarified that these groups are dictated by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and that in the future the NEA is removing the question about distinct groups served, and that the IAC plans to ask a similar but clearer question in the future. Mr. Ashby shared that the datapoint “Individuals in Institutions” includes long-term care facilities, hospitals, and correctional facilities.

Ms. Fechtman continued with the following data points for APS:

- **The Primary Grant Impacts included (self-selected by grantees)**
 - Increase Access to Arts Experience - 56%
 - Improving Quality of Life in the Community - 15%
 - Reaching New Populations of Hoosiers. - 15%

Ms. Fechtman called for questions. None were spoken. She continued with data points from Arts Organization Support (AOS):

- **The percentage of age groups represented (self-selected by grantees, who could pick more than one group, making totals greater than 100%)**
 - Adults (24-64) - 73%
 - Children and Youth (0-18) - 50%
 - Older Adults (65+) - 44%

Mr. Ashby noted that 19–24-year-olds are the lowest represented group in both projects: APS and AOS. He shared that organizations share that they also have a hard time getting this demographic in the door, and that reporting is consistent with what the agency is seeing.

Ms. Fechtman continued:

- **The Primary Grant Impacts included (self-selected by grantees, who could pick more than one group, making totals greater than 100%)**
 - Increase Access to Arts Experience - 54%
 - Improving Quality of Life in the Community - 26%
 - Reaching new populations of Hoosiers with Arts and Creativity – 10%
- **The Use of AOS Funds (self-selected by grantees, who could pick more than one group, making totals greater than 100%)**
 - Administrative Support, Contracted Expertise, and Stipends/Honoraria - 63%
 - Facility, Rent, Utility, and Accessibility needs - 53%
 - Salaries - 49%

Commissioner Daniel Martinez asked if the age spans are determined by the NEA.

Mr. Ashby responded yes, and that these age groups may be changing in the future, as there was a public comment session about the questions, and it may result in a clearer suite of survey questions coming from the NEA.

Ms. Fechtman asked for additional questions at this time. None were spoken.

- ii. **National Endowment for the Arts Update.** Ms. Michaelsen presented this agenda item. She began by sharing that there have been many changes so far in CY25, and the situation has currently stabilized. The funding for the NEA will either have a 35% reduction as proposed by the House or keep level funding as proposed by the Senate, and that will likely be stabilized in December. She noted that it is too early to say how the budget will play out. Ms. Michaelsen then shared that the application for the State Partnership to the NEA due September 25. She added that this is the only award from the NEA the IAC can apply to. Ms. Michaelsen noted that changes in funding opportunities this year from the NEA's guidelines are that the America250 funds will not be repeated in the next fiscal year, but the Arts and Health competitive arts and health funding of up to \$50,000 will be offered again. Ms. Michaelsen encouraged those in attendance to utilize americansforthearts.org to keep abreast of the federal news surrounding the NEA. Ms. Michaelsen called for questions.

Ms. Bradley asked for clarification about if the level funding is a value or a number amount.

Ms. Michaelsen clarified that it is a level funding number, and the NEA is required to pass 40% of its budget to state arts agencies. Ms. Michaelsen called for more questions.

Mr. Haist asked when Federal Fiscal Year 26 starts.

IAC Deputy Director, André Zhang Sonera, responded that the start date is October 1, 2025.

Ms. Michaelsen added that there's a lot up in the air, including a potential federal shutdown this autumn, and that those elements will not affect the current funds. Ms. Michaelsen added that Traditional Arts Indiana is a partnership with Indiana University (IU) which is the agency's folklife partner. She shared that there are specific federal

funds are earmarked for four kinds of programs: Basic Arts Planning, Arts Education, Underserved Audiences Services, and Folk Life Services. TAI has been the state folklife partner since the 1990s, and the IAC is the only state arts agency that does its traditional folk arts in this way. Ms. Michaelson called for additional questions. None were spoken.

b. Programs, Grants, and Services

- i. **Application Review Data Presentation.** Mr. Ashby and Ms. Fechtman returned to present this agenda item. Mr. Ashby stated that this agenda item and memo is a review of how the reviewers who reviewed Arts Organization Support (AOS) and Arts Project Support (APS) participated in the project. This data specifically reflects how the live panels impact scoring in AOS. Mr. Ashby noted that this data is to help determine which type of review structure works best for which programs. Mr. Ashby noted that the panels consisted of 4-6 reviewers who scored and left comments on a set of 12-20 applications each, then met to share their scores with each other. Mr. Ashby noted that the key changes in AOS in FY25 were that the panels were not recorded, and the scoring range was reduced to a 1-4 scale. Mr. Ashby noted that the prior years included recorded panels and asynchronous viewing while the current year did not. He shared that the agency looked at data relating to the size of the organizations being reviewed, the number of applicants, the time of the panel, the region and length of the panel and how each of those factors impacted attendance.

Mr. Ashby noted that more information will come as more data is analyzed, but the main takeaway is that paneling does not dramatically change the score changes. He also shared that there has been outside interest in this data, and a doctoral candidate at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington utilized this data as part of their dissertation. Mr. Ashby called for questions. *Please see the corresponding memo for a detailed breakdown of all the data.*

Commissioner Laurie McRobbie asked for the name of the doctoral candidate who used the IAC's panel data.

Mr. Ashby shared that their name was Jongmin Lee and he will share her dissertation with any commissioner who asks for it.

Ms. McRobbie noted that there is emerging scholarship about philanthropy as she also worked with a student recently about data like this.

At this point the meeting took a brief 10-minute break.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:25AM

- i. **America250 Program Framework.** Mr. Ashby continued to present by sharing the America250 program framework. He noted that this is a new one-time grant offered through the National Endowment for the Arts. He began by sharing that this is a special program of \$25,000 from the NEA. The main goal of this program is to celebrate and honor American history over the 250 years of America's life. Mr. Ashby highlighted the three key areas this project focuses on:

- To honor the contributions and impact of people and places on American History
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- To pause and reflect on our Nation's past
- To look ahead to future generations

Mr. Ashby shared that the outcomes of this program are that Hoosiers celebrate, learn and reflect on American history, and Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities. He then shared that the eligible organizations are 501(c)3 non-profit entities, schools, and units of local government. Mr. Ashby noted that the selection criteria are defined by the extent the project demonstrates the following:

- Artistic excellent and artistic merit defined by the IAC as artistic quality
- Connection to American history and the 250th anniversary
- Feasibility within the grant period

Mr. Ashby clarified that the Excellence and Merit elements are required criteria for federal funded programs, but they are defined slightly differently by the NEA.

The grant timeline is as follows: the applications open in November 2025 and close in December 2025. The funding decisions will be made in February 2026, with a grant period of March 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. The funding decisions will be announced in February 2026.

Mr. Ashby shared that this timeline was created by backing up from the implementation period of "Summer 2026."

The grant review process is an internal selection committee within the agency.

The grant award amount is up to \$5,000, with an estimate of 12 grantees, as the program itself has a budget of \$60,000.

Mr. Ashby noted this program's funding source comes from Federal dollars, a State Match, and the State Appropriation.

Mr. Ashby concluded that this grant is a one-time program and aligned with NEA efforts in this space, and it is not connected to the Garden of Heroes. The program's language mirrors the national America250 framing and is offered directly through the IAC with no state-level America250 Commission participation.

Mr. Ashby then noted that a lot of the language that is used in this program framework comes straight from the Federal level. He also clarified that "artistic excellence" and "artistic merit" are defined differently depending on the program and are required criteria for this program from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ms. Michaelson shared that the Garden of Heroes is an initiative of the current presidential administration to make a sculpture garden highlighting individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation. The NEA is offering funding to help create the Garden, in partnership with the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Mr. Ashby called for questions.

Mr. Haist added that this program was reviewed by the Programs, Grants, and Services Committee who recommended it to the full commission. No additional questions were spoken. Mr. Haist called for a motion to approve the framework. Mr. Hull motioned, and Commissioner Renee Thomas seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

ii. **Creative Convergence.**

1. **Impact Report.** IAC Community Services Program Manager, Anne Johansson, presented this agenda item. She noted that this is the fourth run of Creative Convergence. She shared that this is a statewide initiative supporting arts-based planning and development, and the program is a partnership with Ball State's Indiana Communities Institute, with 26 projects funded across three cohorts with 12 projects completed to-date with nine of them based in public art. She highlighted that some Creative Convergence grantees are transitioning into other programs: Mount Ayr moved from Every County Funded to Creative Convergence, and three Creative Convergence grantees became APS applicants. Ms. Johansson shared one specific project that came out of this program: the Lebanon Story Booth. An old telephone booth has been transformed into an interactive story station where residents can share their stories connected to Lebanon.

2. **Framework.** Ms. Johansson presented the framework for this program. She noted that the program is empowering Indiana communities to embed arts and creativity into local planning, development, and engagement strategies, and that there are a few changes compared to previous versions of this program: CreatING Places is a new optional partnership with a crowd-granting campaign element that includes tailored support from Patronicity—a third-party crowdfunding platform. To make way for this, the early action grant has been adjusted from \$10,000 to \$5,000. She noted that there is a \$1,000 stipend per team for travel and lodging. This early action grant is up to \$5,000 for a post-workshop community arts project. Ms. Johansson added that there is a workshop component which consists of a free two-day in-person training in November of 2025 in Fishers, IN.

Ms. Johansson shared that the organizations that are eligible are: a team of 3-4 members including local government or economic development representatives, arts or civic organization leaders, and local artist or creative practitioners. Ms. Johansson then shared some program goals such as building cross-sector collaboration and advancing arts as infrastructure.

Ms. Johansson called for questions. None were spoken.

Mr. Haist called for a motion to approve this framework. Mr. Oakman motioned, Mr. Martinez seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

iii. **Artist Services Updates.** The next four agenda items were all presented by IAC Artist Services Program Manager, Jordan Adams. She noted that the order in which she

presented these items was slightly different from the way they were listed on the agenda. *The order listed here is how the items were presented during the meeting.*

- 1. Creative Leap.** Ms. Adams presented a brief update on the Creative Leap program. She noted that this program is a result of the artist's needs assessment that were conducted in FY24. This is the most recent pilot program that is intended to support creative entrepreneurs in accomplishing financial and marketing goals for their artistic practice. This program is geared more toward established endeavors and is intended to be the follow up program to On-Ramp. Ms. Adams shared the current cohort of the program, some of which are previous On-Ramp alumni. *Please see the corresponding memo for the current list.* This program consisted of four workshops which all took place in late Summer of 2025, and the cohort will now be moving on to the check-in phase. The first of these begins on September 15th, and the cohort will be getting a \$1,000 honorarium payment. Ms. Adams called for questions. None were spoken.
- 2. Vision and Venture Framework.** Ms. Adams then shared the framework for the newest program in her suite, Vision and Venture. She noted that this program is the foundational step for creative entrepreneurs before the On-Ramp program. The intent of this program is to inject strategy into the formation of creative businesses. This program is to respond to the Artist's Needs Assessment responses of artists requesting financial support, marketing and educational practices, and to build knowledge in these areas. Ms. Adams shared that this program will consist of a 15-person cohort. The program is intended to build knowledge, capacity, skills and networks that increase markets and audience for Indiana's creative sector. The application opens December 3, 2025, and closes January 8, 2026. The cohort will be selected for the week of January 26, 2026. She noted that this program acts as a starting bookend to On-Ramp, and Creative Leap is the other end. Ms. Adams shared that the agency would like to see people run through the whole suite of programs, but it also allows for people to participate in the program at their current level, as On-Ramp used to be a catch all for all levels of artist businesses.

The program partners with Minerva Financial Arts and an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Navigator from the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC). Ms. Adams stated that there will be six workshops beginning in late February 2026 and lasting until late March 2026. This focuses on how to build the vision of the business from the ground up including how to find customers, planning and operational costs, and how to track those goals. The subsequent guidelines and marketing materials will be shared at the December QBM. This program consists of six workshops beginning on February 23, 2026, through March 30, 2026. Ms. Adams concluded by sharing that guidelines will be shared at the December QBM along with marketing materials.

Mr. Haist called for questions. None were spoken. Mr. Haist then called for a motion. Mr. Wylie motioned, and Mr. Hull seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

- 3. On-Ramp Evaluation.** Ms. Adams continued by giving an update on the On-Ramp Evaluation. She noted that the 2024 cohort's final impact report is due Sept. '25 Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes 12

soon, but the program on the whole is still on pause. There was a 62% response rate from all cohorts since 2018-2024 for the data collection for the evaluation process. There was a draft review of the impact report from Measurement Resources (the evaluation partner) on August 20-25 with the final impact report coming soon. Ms. Adams shared that there were many storytelling elements that are being shared about this program, not just by the IAC. Ms. Adams called for questions. None were spoken.

4. **Work In Progress: Exchange Labs.** Ms. Adams concluded with Work-In-Progress. She shared that the program is a collaborative program intended to develop creative works. She noted that there were 12 artist's projects funded in the Spring applications for this program. The reports for these spring projects are due in November, and the fall session of this program will be opening this month. Ms. Adams noted that there are also the lab sessions happening, and should they be cancelled due to low registration, there are 1:1 sessions offered. The fall application opens on September 17- October 29, with an application webinar on October 1, and Funding Notification on December 8. Ms. Adams called for questions. None were spoken.

- iv. **Coming Attractions.** Mr. Ashby shared coming up is more service delivery such as webinars and training, including the Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) sessions. Ms. Johansson is going to Valparaiso to meet with their Creative Council, and there are a lot of additional programs opening this fall. He thanked the whole team for all their work to get these programs going. He concluded that in December or March, he will have a report about the Poetry Out Loud (POL) program which has some specific federal dollars tied to it. He noted that POL is run in partnership with Indiana Humanities, and that Megan Telligman will be coming to one of those two QBMs to report on that program.

Mr. Haist asked if the Creative Economy Summit will be in Indianapolis.

Mr. Ashby said that it will be in Fishers.

6. **Regional Arts Partnership Consortium Report.** Regional Arts Partner (RAP), Kayla Myers, presented this agenda item. She stated that the RAPs are in the process of issuing the AOS Next Steps forms, and they are all helping promote the new programs as well as the fall APS program opening this month. She noted that the RAPs are looking forward to service delivery as a more prominent feature of their work. She concluded by thanking the Commission for coming to South Bend and for allowing them to host this QBM.

Mr. Haist thanked Ms. Myers and called for questions. None were spoken.

7. **Commerce Vertical and READI Updates.** Ms. Michaelson presented the Commission with a few updates from the Commerce Vertical and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)'s READI program. She began by noting that the Commerce Vertical is the new home for the IAC within state government. This Vertical includes the IEDC, State Fair, Workforce Development and others. The head of the Commerce Vertical is Secretary David Adams, who was appointed by Governor Braun. Ms. Michaelson noted that Ms. Adams and Mr. Ashby are meeting with the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIE) to highlight the individual artist programs the IAC offers. She added that the OIE was Secretary Adams' vision and was created by the state legislature this past session. She noted that the IAC is excited to potentially highlight the work that the IAC is doing vis-a-vis this office. Ms.

Michaelsen also called out that Mr. Zhang Sonera and Financial Operations Manager Stephanie Pfendler are taking on the responsibility of business services for the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) pending a Memorandum of Agreement's approval.

Ms. Michaelsen then shared about READI. She highlighted this program is offered by the IEDC and stands for Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative. She noted that the Lilly Endowment awarded \$65 million to IEDC for the READI Arts and Culture Initiative. The IAC has been working alongside the READI team on how to distribute this funding. The partnership has been working with the 15 READI regions to include regional assets; vision, goals, and strategies; and possible projects to move the regions forward as part of their regional plans. Ms. Michaelsen noted that approximately one quarter to one third of the regions are currently done with their regional plans. Once all are completed, arts and culture organizations in each of the IEDC regions will be submitting proposals for some of the \$65 million investment. Once all the regional plans are available, Ms. Michaelsen will share them with the Commissioners. She noted that the consultant teams the 15 regions are working with are state-based and nationally based.

Ms. Michaelsen added that this program has been eye-opening for the economic development corporations locally as they realized arts and culture is an avenue they can pursue. Ms. Michaelsen thanked Ms. Myers and Ms. Ramel for their and the other RAPs work in helping the consultant teams. She noted that the IAC is more heavily involved in this program than it used to be, and that the IAC grants platform, Foundant, will be used as the grants system for this program's applications. There is also an external partner who is creating the evaluation, grant questions, and sharing the program throughout the state.

Ms. Michaelsen noted she will ask Jim Rawlinson from the IEDC who heads this program to come to the December QBM.

Ms. Michaelsen called for questions.

Mr. Haist asked what the timeline for the program is.

Ms. Michaelsen noted that there is not yet a date to provide when project proposals will be open. She stated that project proposals can be submitted beginning in Q4 of this year (2025). When that is available, she will share that information. Ms. Michaelsen added that this year will be a public application, but that all proposals must be tied back to their regional arts and culture plan.

Mr. Haist clarified that Q4 is the last 3 months of the year.

Ms. Michaelsen confirmed that it is the case. She highlighted that getting the rubric ready will come first.

Mr. Haist complimented Ms. Michaelsen for her work and collaboration on this program.

8. Consent Agenda Items Moved to Full Agenda. None.

9. Old Business and New Business. Mr. Haist called for any old or new business to be shared at this time. Mr. Zhang Sonera noted that Ms. Michaelsen has been at the IAC for ten years and wanted to publicly celebrate that item. Mr. Haist called for any additions to this item. None were spoken. Mr. Hull thanked Mr. Haist for leading his first meeting.

10.Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting. Mr. Haist called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Oakman motioned, and Mr. Martinez seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: André Zhang Sonera, Deputy Director & Chief of Staff
Stephanie Pfendler, Financial Operations Manager
Date: December 5, 2025
Subject: **November 2025 FY26 YTD Financial Report**

Recommendation: Approval of November 2025 FY26 YTD Financial Report

The Indiana Arts Commission staff presents the enclosed report to the Commissioners and recommends its approval.

November 2025 FY26 YTD Financial Report Summary

- I. **IAC Revenue:** Consistent with the approved FY26 Budget.
- II. **IAC Expenses*:** On track and consistent with the Q2 of FY26.
 - **Pt. 1 | Personnel, Benefits**
Now includes figures for full-staffing levels at the agency; consistent with Q2 expenditures.
 - **Pts. 2-5; 8 | Tech, Consultancies & Panels, Supplies/Office Equipment, Unemployment**
Pt. 3 shows a negative variance (surplus) as the agency still has outstanding professional services contracts that need to be developed for Q3 and Q4 of FY26.
 - **Pts. 7 | FY26 Grant Agreements**
Consistent with Q2 expenditures, we will see a shift in expenses as new grant awards get issued at the beginning of CY26.
 - **Pt. 9 | Shared Departmental Operating Expenses**
Pt. 9 shows a negative variance (surplus) due to outstanding memberships.
 - **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

FY26 YTD Comparative Budget Financial Statement

Period Ending November 30, 2025

REVENUES	FY26 Actuals		FY26 Budget
State of Indiana Appropriation			
FY26 State Appropriation (Personnel)	\$ 986,088		\$ 986,088
FY26 State Appropriation (2025 NEA Grant State Match)	\$ 1,138,638		\$ 1,138,638
FY26 State Appropriation (Non-Match)	\$ 1,153,530		\$ 1,153,530
Total State Appropriation (\$3,450,796) minus 5% Reserve (\$172,540)	\$ 3,278,256		\$ 3,278,256
National Endowment for the Arts Federal Grant			
2025 National Endowment for the Arts Grant (IAC's FY26)	\$ 1,138,638		\$ 1,138,638
2024 National Endowment for the Arts Grant (IAC's FY25)	\$ 179,503		\$ 179,503
Interagency Funding Agreements			
	\$ -		\$ -
Carryforward & Payment Obligations			
FY25 SOI State Appropriation Carryforward	\$ 642,618		\$ 642,618
Previous NEA BSP State Match	\$ 46,432		\$ 46,432
Total Payment Obligations	\$ 689,050		\$ 689,050
Dedicated Funds/Donations			
Cultural Trust Income	\$ 240,000		\$ 240,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 5,525,447		\$ 5,525,447
EXPENDITURES	* Year To Date *		
	<u>Actual/Encumbered</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>%Variance</u>
.1 Personnel, Benefits	\$ 379,341	\$ 410,870	-7.674%
.2 Technology/Communications	\$ 20,449	\$ 21,739	-5.934%
.3 Consultancies/Contracts/Panelist/Capacity Building	\$ 282,725	\$ 770,545	-63.308%
.4 Supplies, Materials, & Parts	\$ 1,632	\$ 1,719	-5.038%
.5 Capital Assets	\$ -	\$ 313	-100.000%
.6 Distribution to Other Governmental Units	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
.7 Grant Contracts (FY26)	\$ 2,428,456	\$ 2,646,206	-8.229%
.8 Social Service Type Payments	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
.9 Administration & Other Operating Costs	\$ 29,149	\$ 75,111	-61.193%
Payment Obligations (Encumbered)	\$ 689,050	\$ 689,050	0.000%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,830,802	\$ 4,615,553	-17.002%
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ 1,694,645		



Stephanie Pfendler
Financial Operations Manager
Indiana Arts Commission

spfendler@iac.in.gov

FY26 Q1 Trust Report

Lifetime Interest	\$1,015,773.03
Lifetime Plate Revenue	\$4,259,273.09
FY26 Distribution	\$240,000.00
Interest Available	\$328,247.72
Fund Balance as of September 30, 2025	\$4,582,521.46

Fiscal Year	Quarter	Interest	Sales Revenue	Plates Sold
FY25	2	\$58,202.09	\$26,850.00	1,074
FY25	3	\$41,488.88	\$27,850.00	1,114
FY25	4	\$51,321.94	\$34,825.00	1,393
FY26	1	\$46,785.20	\$33,675.00	1,347

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
522	TrustIN Invstmnt Pool Interest	<u>\$ 4,030,026.93</u>	0.4460%	12/31/2025	<u>\$ 18,846.82</u>
		\$ 4,530,026.93			\$ 40,799.48

Matured Investments and Coupon Payments Since 7/1/2025					
Inv. Number	Current Investments	Book Value	Rate	Maturity Date	
600307	Bank of NY - Gov Agency Coupon Note	\$ 500,000.00	0.1000%	3/30/2026	\$ 2,500.00
	Total Government Interest Income				\$ 2,500.00
522	TrustIN LGIP Interest	\$ 3,500,000.00	0.4460%	12/31/2025	\$ 44,281.50
	Plus Sec Lending Income				<u>\$ 3.70</u>
				Total Interest	<u>\$ 46,785.20</u>



To: IAC Committee on the Future
From: Stephanie Pfendler, Financial Operations Manager
Date: November 17, 2025
Subject: FY26 Q1 – Arts Trust Statement

Fiscal Year 2026 Investment

The Indiana Treasurer of State, who is the administrator of the IAC Arts Trust ("Trust") by statute, has invested \$4,530,026.93 of the Trust into two investments as of September 30, 2025.

- **Bank of New York (BONY) Government Agency Coupon Note:**
\$500,000 has been invested in a Bank of New York Government Agency Bond. This is a callable investment, meaning that the issuer has the right to redeem before the maturity date. Typically, these investments offer a higher interest rate in exchange for the opportunity for an issuer to borrow funds. As of this writing, the interest rate is 0.10000% and the investment yield for FY26 Q1 was \$2,500.00.
- **TrustINDiana Local Government Investment Pool (TrustIN LGIP):**
\$4,030,026.93 has been invested in the [TrustINDiana Local Government Investment Pool](#). The pool allows local units of government and the State of Indiana to invest in a shared pool of investment assets that seeks to preserve the principal of the public's funds and to prioritize liquidity and return on investment. TrustINDiana only invests public sector funds in securities and other investments that are legally permitted pursuant to Indiana law and in the manner further defined by the TrustINDiana investment policy. As of this writing, the interest rate is 0.4460%, and the investment yield for FY26 Q1 was \$44,281.50.

Discussion on Future Investment Options

The IAC Staff will meet with Duane Jasheway, Portfolio Manager at the Indiana Treasurer of State Office, to obtain additional information and present alternative investment options to the IAC Commissioners for discussion in 2026.



To: IAC Commissioners

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

Date: November 10, 2025

Subject: Communications Update

FY25 Q4 Announcements

- [Twelve Indiana Artists Receive Micro-Support Grants to Support Creative Careers](#)
- [Indiana Arts Commission accepting applications for Arts Project Support grant program](#)
- [Arts Commission Seeks Applications from Communities for Workshop, Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Arts Commission invests \\$2.4M to strengthen communities through art and creativity](#)

Winter 2026 Departmental Projects and Updates

- Working to produce and distribute a Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report, returning to the practice after a previous decision to step in a different direction.
- Deploying the recently established promotional strategy for the Arts Trust License Plate.
- Producing SOPs for major departmental functions, outlining procedures and best practices for role-specific tasks.
- Establishing CY2026 goals and goal-related KPIs to measure departmental growth and progress.
- The department continues to focus on web accessibility and is on track to be in compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1, Level AA, ahead of the April 24, 2026, Department of Justice rule update deadline.
- Producing a video profile of the Work In Progress Exchange Labs that have occurred across five regions of the state in 2025.
- Assisting with the following program launches: America250 Grant Program, Or-Ramp Local Team Expression of Interest, Vision & Venture Artist Programming, Every County Funded, FY27 Arts Project Support, Spring 2026 Creative Convergence, Spring 2026 On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator, and the Creative Aging Summit.
- Assisting with the following grant and fellowship announcements: The Creative Leap training program, the Work In Progress Micro-Support Grant Program, and the Fall FY26 Arts Project Support Grant Program.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Austin Hendricks, Administrative Assistant
Date: November 18, 2025
Subject: **Staff Activity Report CY25 Q4**

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

IAC's STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT | THIRD QUARTER OF 2025

September

During September, **Anne** presented at the **Valparaiso Art + Innovation Event**. **Eric** was selected to the **IndyHub 1928 Leadership Cohort** and participated in the **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Professional Development Institute**. The entire **Programs Team** also conducted Site Visits to various locales around **South Bend, IN**.

On September 12, **Britt, Gwendolyn, Eric, and Connie** represented the agency in the **State Employee Community Campaign's Annual "Paddle Battle"** competition, raising money for charity. During their lunch hour, they raced kayaks down the canal against fellow state agencies.

André attended the **National Puerto Rico Museum for Arts and Culture's Engage Conference** in **Chicago, IL** where he connected with Puerto Rican Arts & Culture Administrators from across the world. **André** also was a guest speaker at **Indiana University Bloomington's ADDM-Y599 Public Policy and the Arts**.

October

In October, **Anne and Eric** presented at the **Rural Placemaking Studio Webinar** with the Director of Programs from **Indiana University's Center for Rural Engagement**. **Anne** attended the **Creative Economy Summit** and the **ICI Community Development Course**. **Eric and Jordan** participated in the first **National Artist Peer Coaching Cohort** through Pollinator.

Also in October, **Anne, Britt, Gwendolyn, Connie, Eric, Jordan, and Miah** attended the **Pattern Creative Economy Summit** in **Noblesville, IN**. Here, **Jordan** presented on the On-Ramp program evaluation findings, and **Eric and Miah** provided planning support to Pattern in the lead-up to the convening.

Anne, Eric, Gwendolyn, and Miah attended the **Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) Conference** in French Lick, Indiana in October, where **Eric** presented two sessions.

André served as a grant reviewer for the **United States' Regional Arts Organizations Walking Together Program**, the **Simon Herbert Family Foundation's Indianapolis Creative Risk Fund**, and he served as a guest reviewer for the **Puerto Rico Art Museum's "De La Idea a la Propuesta/From Idea to Proposal" Workshop**.

November

In November, **Anne** launched the Creative Convergence Fall 2025 cohort. **Eric, Miah, Jordan, Gwendolyn, and Austin** all helped facilitate the Creative Convergence workshop in **Fishers, IN**.

Eric was a guest speaker at the **Arts Management Intro Course** at **Indiana University** and also spoke at the **IU Presidential Arts and Humanities Fellows**.

Connie presented at the **Indiana Association of Regional Councils Annual Meeting** in Terre Haute, highlighting low budget, high impact strategies for creative Community development.

André and Miah both attended the **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' (NASAA) Executive Forum** in **Omaha, NE**, where they connected with other State Arts Agencies leadership and participated in discussions on how to better serve their constituents. **Miah** went on from there to **Minneapolis, MN** to attend the **Arts Midwest** board meeting.

André served as a guest **Career Coach** for **IU Indianapolis O'Neill** students for their **"Backpack to Briefcase" series**.

December

André was selected to showcase five photography pieces at the **Indianapolis Arts Council's Tiny Show XIV**.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Miah Michaelsen
Date: November 20, 2025
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, Regional Arts Partner Professional Service contracts, staff salaries, arts education, underserved audiences, the partnership with Traditional Arts Indiana and the Poetry Out Loud program.

In FY26, the IAC received additional funds from the NEA for two initiatives – America250, designed to support activities related to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and Arts+Health, which will support programming that seeks to improve health outcomes through the arts. The deadline for NEA FFY26 (state FY27) application was September 25, and the agency should learn the status of its funding request in April. There will be competitive funding available again for Arts+Health in FFY26, and the IAC will once again pursue that opportunity.

Regarding the NEA's ongoing funding, we have been informed that the House will try to pass the Interior appropriations before the holidays (the NEA is in the Department of the Interior). At present, the House budget for the NEA is lower than the current appropriation, and the Senate budget shows level funding. Historically, the House and Senate have worked together productively in conference committee to advance the NEA's budget. The Senator is solidly behind level funding for the agency.

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

NASAA is our national “trade association”, and IAC staff are active in both role-based networking and in topic-based presentations. Miah and André attended NASAA’s Leadership Summit in November in Omaha.

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. Arts Midwest also partners with the IAC on several artist-serving programs. Miah continues to serve on the Arts Midwest board as one of three state arts agency representatives and provides support via various sub-committees.

State Government Partnerships

The agency continues to partner with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) 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 are supporting regional arts and cultural planning and subsequent project funding meant to drive transformation in the state’s arts and culture ecosystem. Project applications will be submitted through the IAC’s grant management system. Miah continues to serve as lead for the agency in these efforts.

Other In-State Partnerships

Indiana Communities Institute

ICI continues to partner with the IAC in support of the Creative Convergence program for communities. Additionally, IAC is teaming up with IHCD’s [CreatiNG Places](#) in order to better stretch grant award dollars for Creative Convergence communities.

Indiana Humanities

Indiana Humanities (IH) is the current state partner for the IAC in administering the Poetry Out Loud national poetry recitation competition, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts.



To: IAC Commissioners

From: Eric Ashby, Director of Programs

Date: 12/12/2025

Subject: FY27 Arts Organization Support Update

Overview

The Arts Organization Support (AOS) Program provides general operating support for Indiana 501(c)(3) arts organizations and units of government. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 the Indiana Arts Commission awarded 231 organizations operating support totaling a little over \$2,000,000 in grants.

FY27 Arts Organization Support

The AOS program has a two-year funding cycle with the goal of providing sustained support for arts organizations across the state. As a two-year program, AOS will not open for new applications until January 2027. The 231 grantees in the FY26 AOS program currently will not submit a new application this spring as they will be entering the second year of the program. They will submit a final report in July of 2026 on activities funded in the first year of the grant.

The intention of the IAC is to continue funding all 231 AOS grantees at the same level approved by the Commission at the July 2025 Quarterly Business Meeting. This is subject to change pending the final FY2027 agency budget. IAC staff will present funding recommendations to the Commission in June 2026 for FY2027 AOS.



To: Executive Committee

From: Anne Johansson, Community Services Manager

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Subject: FY26 Creative Convergence (Round 1) Update

Program Overview (as approved)

Creative Convergence is a statewide initiative delivered in partnership with Ball State's Indiana Communities Institute. The program equips teams of local leaders, artists, and civic partners to embed arts and creativity into community and economic development strategies. Each selected team receives:

- A free two-day in-person workshop (held Nov. 4–5 in Fishers)
- A \$1,000 travel stipend
- A post-workshop Early Action Grant of up to \$5,000
- Optional participation in the **Creating Places** crowdgranting program
- Ongoing coaching and mentoring through February 2027

Fall 2025 Cohort

We received 24 applications and selected 10 communities that reflect geographic diversity, cross-sector collaboration, and a range of experience levels:

- **Terre Haute**
- **Marion**
- **Angola**
- **Kewanna**
- **Indianapolis (Marion County)**
- **Gary**
- **Vincennes**
- **Decatur County**
- **Muncie**
- **Delphi**

These communities span urban, rural, and regional contexts and bring a mix of emerging and established arts-based development efforts.

Program Launch & Next Steps

- **Workshop Completed:** The cohort convened in Fishers on November 4–5 for a dynamic two-day workshop focused on community engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and artist-led development. The event featured panels of artists and past cohort participants, and was co-facilitated by ICI and IAC staff.
- **Project Development Webinar:** On November 18, teams participated in a follow-up session to begin shaping their Early Action Grant proposals.
- **Grant Period:** March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027

Looking Ahead

We also identified four strong applicants for **Round Two (launching March 2026)**. These communities will not need to reapply and will be invited to participate in the next cohort. All applicants will receive feedback and guidance on future opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support of Creative Convergence and the communities it serves. I look forward to sharing project highlights and impact stories in the coming months.



To: Commissioners At Large, Indiana Arts Commission

From: Jordan Adams, Artist Services Program Manager

Date: December 12, 2025

Subject: WIP: Micro-Support Fall Grantee Selections and Exchange Labs Update

Program Background Refresh

The WIP: Exchange Labs and Micro-Support program was developed as the initial program response pilot as a conclusion of the Artist Needs Assessment conducted in 2023-2024. The program's goal was to meet artists' expressed needs for networks & connections, as well as provide financial support through a micro-grant of \$1,000 or less to move their practice or a specific project in a meaningful way.

The labs were organized into five regional hubs, all led and facilitated by regional arts leaders. The latter half of the year was framed by a curriculum that explored the five phases of the creative process, 1) research, 2) ideation, 3) develop, 4) revise, and 5) affirm. Each creative was prompted to share both the joys and challenges they experience within each phase, as well as to offer insights, critique and resources to encourage a completed work in progress of their peers.

With the addition of this curriculum, we received more robust and better-considered project proposals with clearly articulated requests to complete a project in motion or that we begin soon.

Fall Award Decisions

The fall application opened on September 17th and closed on October 29th. All applications were reviewed by the lab facilitators, as well as IAC staff. We received a total of 36 applications, a triple increase from the 12 received during the Spring application cycle. Below are the artists that were selected. While many are outstanding and will be ready to begin execution when the grant implementation period begins, there are a few that we will require minor modifications before they begin.

	Name	Discipline	RAP Region	County
1	Kaylan Buteyn	Visual Arts	3	Allen
2	Cameron Omega Alford	Visual Arts	3	Allen
3	Travis Park	Music	7	Hamilton
4	Makenzie Lucas	Dance	7	Marion
5	Rod Bradfield	Visual Arts	6	Vigo
6	Richelle Brown	Visual Arts	7	Marion
7	Chad Copeland	Visual Arts	1	Porter
8	Michael R Stevenson	Visual Arts	6	Clay
9	Brian Teixeira	Crafts	1	Porter
10	Dominique Rene' Harris	Visual Arts	7	Marion
11	Cynthia Phillips-Sabla	Visual Arts	6	Vigo
12	Justin Kane Elder	Visual Arts	5	Wayne
13	Alexander Paré	Visual Arts	6	Putnam
14	Alicia Thomas	Crafts	7	Marion
15	Audrey Johnson	Opera/Music Theatre	4	Tippecanoe
16	Emily Bennett	Visual Arts	6	Vigo
17	Susan Yanos	Visual Arts	5	Henry
18	Kerri Mommer	Visual Arts	1	Lake
19	Becky Hochhalter	Visual Arts	6	Vigo
20	Jessica Renslow	Interdisciplinary	1	Lake
21	Dawn Diamantopoulos	Visual Arts	1	Lake
22	Bowen Tao	Theatre	2	St. Joseph
23	Dana Caldera	Visual Arts	3	Allen
24	Christopher Wilborn	Media Arts	7	Marion
25	David Buenrostro	Visual Arts	3	Allen
26	Joseph T. Swanson	Visual Arts	5	Wayne
27	Susan Lynn Atwell	Visual Arts	1	La Porte
28	John Sherman	Literature	7	Marion
29	Gabrielle Roach	Visual Arts	6	Clay
30	Anita Westhues	Interdisciplinary	2	St. Joseph
31	Gregory Potter	Visual Arts	7	Johnson
32	Anne C. Magnan-Park	Interdisciplinary	2	St. Joseph
33	Victoria Goring	Theatre	6	Sullivan
34	Hannah Rutigliano	Visual Arts	3	Allen

Evaluation and Feedback

Applicants were asked to share the takeaways gained from attending the labs and the insights received. Below are two thorough reflections of their experience attending the labs from artists Chade Copeland and Audrey Johnson.

"Participating in the Work in Progress Exchange Lab gave me the space to step out of the daily demands of running a fabrication business and reflect on my own path as an artist...

A key takeaway from the Lab was the importance of setting concrete deadlines. I realized that progress on self-directed projects cannot wait for a perfect moment to appear. Acting on that insight, I committed to a winter fabrication period and a spring deadline for completing and submitting a full five-piece series for public-art lease opportunities. This structure gives me both accountability and momentum.

The exchange of experiences and advice at the Lab also reinforced my decision to pursue a cohesive body of work that speaks to my personal artistic vision rather than focusing only on commissioned fabrication. The conversations about community impact and long-term creative careers helped me see that developing a distinctive portfolio of my own work is essential for the next stage of my practice.

The sense of community in the Lab, hearing others express similar challenges and ambitions, strengthened my resolve to follow through. It showed me that the struggle to balance personal expression with professional demands is common, and that committing to my own vision is both a personal and professional step forward. These insights directly shaped my approach to the Suspended Ideals series and helped me plan it as a focused, timely project rather than an open-ended aspiration."

"The WIP Exchange Lab I participated in was a wonderful experience that both validated my artistic mission and gave me new ideas on the approach to my process.

The resources I received from the facilitator were fantastic, and in particular, I got a lot of value from The Creative Process nautilus.

Having the nautilus as a resource gave me a feeling of empowerment when I saw that some of the steps I've developed organically were included in The Creative Process, such as google searches, talking to industry people, and storyboarding. Seeing these steps made me feel validated in my work, and others, like taking away content and questioning decisions, gave me reassurance that I'm not the only one who has to go back and keep refining. From that empowered place, I was also able to grow, by recognizing some other steps that have been absent from my process that I will now include going forward, as well as putting the steps in an order different than what I'd been doing before.

Lastly, I learned that some of my steps weren't in the same order as they are on the nautilus. Upon reflection, I realized that this is because I was letting my emotions lead me at an inappropriate time. Skipping forward to adding new content before spending sufficient time with the storyboard, for example, has led to inefficient use of time in the past, and I didn't always realize why. This resource helped to clarify these important aspects of my process that will be very valuable for me going forward.

I also gained a lot of value from the interactions with the other artists at the exchange lab. I particularly liked that there were a wide range of artistic disciplines represented, and it was meaningful to discover how much we had in common, despite our different mediums. A filmmaker and I connected over our commitment to guiding our audiences through an immersive experience, and I deeply resonated with a dancer/teaching-artist who shared that her joy flows from seeing her students come into their own through traditional Mexican dance.

The time with these creatives also gave me an increase in my artistic energy and motivation towards my work.”

A debrief meeting for collective reflection and individual feedback with our regional lab facilitators will also be held in late January. This will inform the next iteration of the program and other ways we can support both artists, arts councils and other artist-serving providers directly in the state.

Pilot Sunset Process and Program Pivot Plans

There are just two labs remaining on December 13, 2025 (North – Chesterton) and December 18, 2025 (Central – Indianapolis). This will conclude the pilot entirely in this iteration. Along with award decisions and notifications, we will notify participants of the decision not to continue the program but direct them to our other business opportunities as well as resources provided via our online Artist Services Hub. We will also host a debrief meeting in late January to hear feedback from our facilitators.

It is our plan as a staff to take the curriculum development and training to support a new iteration of this program where we can build the capacity of those that wish to serve artists directly to develop the talent, skills and works of the creative in their local areas.