

Indiana Arts Commission
Quarterly Business Meeting
Friday, June 12, 2026, 9:00 AM (ET)
Indiana Government Center South, Room B



Dave Haist, Chair

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Call to Order

- a. Welcome (Dave Haist, Chair)
- b. IAC Staff Updates (André Zhang Sonera)
- c. Roll Call (Ramona S. Ward)

2. Poetry Out Loud Celebration!

- a. Program Overview (Eric Ashby & Megan Telligman, Indiana Humanities)
- b. 2026 Poetry Out Loud National Champion (Jayda Dawn of University High School)

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

ACTION

a. Items Submitted for Commission Approval

- i. March 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- ii. FY26 May 2026 YTD Comparative Budget Statement
- iii. Contract Authority Delegation

b. Reports Submitted for Commission Review

- i. Staff Activity Report
- ii. 2024-2028 Strategic Framework Key Performance Indicators
- iii. FY26 Q3 - Arts Trust Statement
- iv. Communications Update
- v. Vision and Venture Program Recap
- vi. Every County Funded Update
- vii. External Partnerships

4. Artist Spotlight: Brandon Meeks (Jordan Adams)

5. Committee on the Future

- a. FY27 Arts Trust Draw (André Zhang Sonera)
- b. FY27 Budget (André Zhang Sonera)

ACTION

ACTION

6. Programs, Grants & Services

a. FY27 Core Grant Programs (Eric Ashby)

- i. Arts Organization Support Year 2
- ii. Regional Arts Partner Arts Organization Support Year 2
- iii. Arts Project Support - Spring Cycle

ACTION

ACTION

ACTION

- b. On-Ramp Program Recap (Jordan Adams)
- c. Cultural District Program Planning (Anne Johansson)

DISCUSSION

For Discussion:

1. Are the identified program goals and outcomes the best for advancing this work?
If not, what would you change?
2. Are the criteria for selection or reauthorization the best ones to achieve program goals and outcomes?

- d. Creative Convergence Program (Anne Johansson)

- e. Arts and Health (Eric Ashby)

7. Regional Arts Partnership Consortium (Kayla Myers)

8. READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative (Miah Michaelsen)

9. FY27 Officer Election (Miah Michaelsen)

ACTION

10. Consent Agenda Items Moved to Full Agenda (Dave Haist)

11. Old Business and New Business. (Dave Haist)

- a. Recognition of Outgoing Regional Arts Partnership Consortium Co-Chairs
Sherri Wright, Arts Illiana, Inc.; and Kayla Myers, Community Foundation of St. Joseph County

12. Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting. (Dave Haist)

ACTION

**Indiana Arts Commission
Quarterly Business Meeting**

Friday, March 13, 2026, 9:00 AM (CT)
Southwest Indiana Small Business Development Space
318 Main St. #500, Evansville, IN 47708
Dave Haist, Chair



Commissioners Present: Réna Bradley, Jeanne Campbell, Dave Haist, Greg Hull, Daniel Martinez, Judith Sawyier, Scott Wylie

Commissioners Present via Zoom: Azizi Arrington-Slocum, Dawn Conwell, Rick James, Jake Oakman, Kelsey Peaper

Commissioners Absent: Chad Bolser, Walter Knabe, Renee Thomas

IAC Staff Members Present: Jordan Adams, Eric Ashby, Connie Brahm, Britt Fechtman, Austin Hendricks, Anne Johansson, Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfindler, André Zhang Sonera

IAC Staff Members Present via Zoom: Gwendolyn Pickett

Regional Arts Partners Present via Zoom: Kayla Myers, Sherri Wright

1. Call to Order

- a. **Welcome.** Commission Chair Dave Haist called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM Central Time and welcomed all present.
- b. **Roll Call.** Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Administrative Assistant, Austin Hendricks, called the roll. All were present as listed above.
- c. **Welcome to Evansville.** Commissioner Scott Wylie gave a few remarks welcoming the Commission to Evansville and highlighting the networking event and community hours hosted the night before. He also highlighted some of the development in Evansville as it continues to grow. Mr. Wylie then introduced Dominic Poggi, Regional Director of the Southwest Indiana Small Business Development Center. Mr. Poggi shared the work his organization does as well as how they are funded. He highlighted the intersection of arts and the economic sector, especially in Evansville.

2. **Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda.** Mr. Haist asked for any items to be removed from the consent agenda. Mr. Wylie motioned for the removal of the executive committee meeting from the agenda. Commissioner Réna Bradley seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the executive committee meeting was removed from the agenda.**

Mr. Haist then called for a motion to approve the agenda and the consent agenda. Commissioner Greg Hull motioned, and Mr. Wylie seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor, and the agenda and consent agenda were approved.**

- a. **Items Submitted for Commission Approval**
 - i. December 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes
 - ii. FY26 Year-to-Date Financial Statement
 - iii. Arts and Health Program Framework
- b. **Reports:**
 - i. Arts Trust
 - ii. Communications
 - iii. Key Performance Indicators
 - iv. Staff Activity
 - v. America250
 - vi. Creative Convergence Round 1 & 2
 - vii. Every County Funded
 - viii. External Partnerships
 - ix. Vision and Venture Participants

3. Committee Reports

a. Committee on the Future

- i. **FY27 Budget Preview.** IAC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, André Zhang Sonera, presented this agenda item. He highlighted that the state’s budget runs from July 1 through June 30 and that we are in year two of the 2026-2027 biennium budget. In the fall of this year, the IAC will submit its proposed budget for FY28-29. Mr. Zhang Sonera then reminded the committee that the Federal budget runs from October 1 to September 30 and that the IAC gets funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and submits a yearly application every September. He then shared that since this is the middle of a biennium budget, that the IAC will still be in a 33% reduction from the last state appropriation. He expects a 4% reduction in the NEA grant due to the fact that the America 250 allocation was a one-time funding opportunity. Mr. Zhang Sonera then shared that the agency is expecting a draw of \$240,000 from the Arts Trust, and a 5% management reserve holdback is expected for the next fiscal year. He then shared that the agency is expecting increases in personnel expenses due to the potential addition of a new program manager; an increase in Arts Project Support (APS) granting; and targeted opportunity funding, including cultural districts. He noted that staff welcome input from the commission on the budget, and that the IAC will receive federal allocation information in early May. The budget for FY27 will be presented at the June 2026 QBM. . Mr. Zhang Sonera called for questions and discussion. *Please see the agenda for the specific discussion questions.* None was had.

At this time Commissioner Judith Sawyier joined the meeting.

- ii. **CY26 Agency Goals Presentation.** Mr. Zhang Sonera continued with this agenda item. He noted that the IAC is in the middle of its 2024-2028 strategic plan framework. The goals for 2026 were presented to the commission and are listed below:
 1. **Strengthen the fieldwide capacity through subject matter partnership.** This goal is aligned with the IAC’s “Partner” strategic priority. Below are the specific actions the IAC plans to use to meet this goal:
 - a. Identifying Subject Matter Expert (SME) organizations (statewide, regional, and national) aligned with priority needs for Indiana artists and arts organizations (e.g., governance, accessibility, finance, communications, talent retention, sustaining economic volatility, diversification, and sustainability of funding streams, etc.)
 - b. Structuring formal partnership models (learning series, pilot program) that pairs SME with Indiana organizations and artists.
 - c. Embedding SME-led learning or technical assistance opportunities within existing grant programs.
 - d. Prioritizing partnerships that demonstrate scalable impact across multiple regions or disciplines.
 2. **Standardize programmatic lifecycle to strengthen accountability and learning.** This goal is aligned with the IAC’s “Build” strategic priority. Below are the specific actions the IAC plans to use to meet this goal:
 - a. Defining and documenting standard lifecycle phases for all programs, including application, award, grant implementation, closeout, and reflection.
 - b. Establishing clear expectations and timelines for final grant reports, communications closeout, and record retention.

- c. Aligning internal workflows across the Programs, Communications, and Operations departments to support lifecycle consistency.
 - d. Creating a structured internal reflection process to capture lessons learned and inform future program design.
3. **Implement Cohesive Arts and culture messaging informed by national research.** This goal is aligned with the IAC’s “Amplify” strategic priority. Below are the specific actions the IAC plans to use to meet this goal:
- a. Transitioning national research into an internal messaging framework applicable across programs, grants, and communications.
 - b. Aligning external-facing communications, reports, and dashboards to shared language and narrative themes.
 - c. Equipping staff, commissioners, and partners with consistent talking points and messaging tools.
 - d. Integrating data and storytelling to reinforce key messages about the arts’ impact, public value, and outcomes.
4. **Create Actional Pathways for Cross-Sector Support of the Arts.** This goal is aligned with the IAC’s “Amplify” strategic priority. Below are the specific actions the IAC plans to use to meet this goal:
- a. Engaging with non-arts partners (business, philanthropy, health, education, community development) that are interested in supporting the arts.
 - b. Facilitating introductions between partners and arts stakeholders.

Please see the corresponding memo for more details on each of these goals.

Mr. Zhang Sonera then moved on to the discussion portion of this presentation. *Please see the agenda for specific questions asked.*

Mr. Haist thanked Mr. Zhang Sonera for his work on the goals.

Ms. Bradley noted that she appreciated that Goal 1 is very clear, and she is willing to recommend mentors for that specific goal. She also is impressed with Goal 3, and if the data presented with it will be sharable as graphics.

IAC Marketing and Communications Director Connie Brahm said yes, they will and she will share them as they are made.

Commissioner Jeanne Campbell noted that she is impressed with accountability and support that the IAC centers in its goals.

Mr. Haist called for anyone online for comments. None were spoken.

Mr. Haise called for a motion to approve the goals. Commissioner Jake Oakman motioned. Ms. Bradley seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the goals were approved.**

- iii. **IAC Tableau Dashboard Update.** Mr. Zhang Sonera also presented this item. He shared the financial grants dashboard. It is a tool to measure the impact on the grantees from counties, disciplines, and regions. This dashboard is approximately four years old and

was powered by Microsoft Power BI but is now on Salesforce Tableau. Mr. Zhang Sonera noted that the data presented goes back to FY17.

IAC Executive Director Miah Michaelsen then shared that this dashboard has been a goal for a while, and it is available on the website and is publicly available. She then noted that the agency will send a link to the Commission for their use. This dashboard is also for the public, commissioners, and state-decision makers to understand how the IAC's dollars are being used. Ms. Michaelsen reemphasized that this presentation is to seek input on any features the Commission would like to see in addition for this.

Mr. Zhang Sonera then proceeded with the visual demonstration. *Please see the recorded livestream for the demonstration.* He then called for questions.

Mr. Haist asked how this dashboard will be publicly shared.

Ms. Brahm shared that this will be linked in the grant announcements and annual report. She noted that this model that was demonstrated is not currently live but will be soon. Previous iteration is live and shared on the website.

Ms. Campbell asked if it was the first year all 92 counties were funded.

Mr. Zhang Sonera shared that FY25 was the first time when all 92 were funded, in no small part due to the Every County Funded program.

Ms. Campbell also noted that there's likely some cross-sector movement within the arts and health sector.

Mr. Zhang Sonera added that yes there are some non-traditional applicants like 4H groups.

Commissioner Daniel Martinez shared that he thinks that this tool is very helpful in getting the quantitative data. He added that he also values qualitative data, and wondered if there is a way to link the qualitative data to the quantitative data. He specified: if there is a way to share the specifics of projects in each county, he would like to see that added to the dashboard.

Mr. Zhang Sonera noted that that is something the agency is working on and that the programs team is working on standardizing the qualitative data in the final grant report. Connecting the qualitative and quantitative data together is an additional development he would also like to see.

Mr. Haist asked if the IAC was using Artificial Intelligence (AI) on this project.

Ms. Brahm shared that no, the state is both supportive and cautious with AI due to the sensitive data that it has access to. At this time the State is making sure there are policies in place before they use it.

Ms. Michaelsen shared further discussion on AI will be coming in the future at QBMs. She then responded to Mr. Martinez's question. She noted that the IAC is still thinking about how to make a data tool capture qualitative data and that adding that into the dashboard

is the next step in this project. She shared that the IAC is thinking a lot about storytelling and adding it into more of their communications. One example being adding photos to the dashboard.

Mr. Zhang Sonera highlighted that this tool is unique among other state arts agencies, and that the IAC is providing coaching on how to make a dashboard like this for other states.

Ms. Michaelson emphasized that the IAC is the only state agency in Indiana that shares its data in this format.

Mr. Haist called for more questions or comments. None were spoken.

Ms. Michaelson shared that Mr. Zhang Sonera is great at coaching people on how to use systems like this dashboard, and he is available to help any commissioner with its use.

b. Programs, Grants, and Services

i. Core Programs

1. **FY27 Arts Project Support (APS) Update.** IAC Director of Programs, Eric Ashby, presented this agenda item. He shared that the deadline was on March 5, 2026, and that there will be another cycle of this program in July. He noted that a majority of the applicants in this cycle are not arts organizations. In this cycle, there were 211 applicants which is a 20% decrease from the previous cycle. There were 63 counties with applications, which is a 7-county decrease from FY26 Spring Cycle (this time last year). He noted that 8 counties that applied in this cycle that didn't apply last year. 30 metro counties applied, 48% of applicants, and 33 rural counties applied: 52% of the applicants. These percentages were almost identical to the FY26 Spring applications last year. He then shared a map of application volume. He noted that this map is very standard when compared to most years.

Mr. Ashby then shared theories on why the applications were lower this year than last year: the volume of program offerings between the end of 2025 (which includes READI 2.0 Arts and Culture), the first time offering a Spring cycle after a Fall cycle, or a greater awareness of the second cycle. He also noted it could be a response to the increasing competitiveness of this program.

He noted then that the application numbers through FY26, which shows an ever-increasing number of applications, In FY23 there were 236 applications, but in FY26, there were 431 applications, a 50% increase.

He then shared a visual graph of applications including the Spring and Fall cycles split out. He noted that there will be a big push in the Fall to try and get the numbers of applications to match what has been previously shown. He then gave a breakdown of the applications' type of activity, with concerts, performances, or readings being the most common type of application, followed by arts instruction. By discipline, the top two categories were visual arts and music projects. The groupings are prescribed by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Mr. Ashby then gave the next steps for this program. Currently, there are final reviews for completeness and eligibility, completed by the IAC and Regional Arts Partners (RAPs) through March. Then the external reviewer training will happen in March, then external reviewers will review in April, and the funding recommendations to come to the commission in June.

Ms. Campbell asked if Mr. Ashby knows why counties who did apply then did not this cycle.

Mr. Ashby shared that oftentimes it's a personnel issue, and oftentimes in rural counties, people may not have the bandwidth and find it is not worth applying again.

Ms. Campbell noted that first-time applicants can have a difficult time applying for a state grant.

Mr. Ashby said yes, and that IAC Community Services Program Manager Anne Johansson provides a lot of good hands-on help, as do the RAPs.

Ms. Zhang Sonera added that first time applicants do have the opportunity to get a draft review from their RAP.

Mr. Ashby called for more questions. None were spoken.

Mr. Haist thanked Mr. Ashby for his report.

ii. **Community Services Programs**

5. Cultural Districts Presentation. IAC Community Services Program Manager, Anne Johansson, presented this agenda item. She shared that this program has been on a brief hiatus and gave a brief recap of what a cultural district is. The program was established by the Indiana Code (IC 4-23-2-7) and Ms. Johansson has been doing research on the program with the current districts and former program managers. The Code does not carry any dedicated funding or tax incentive requirements and allows the IAC to run the program as they see fit. Currently, there are 12 cultural districts, which have been added from 2010-2021. Ms. Johansson noted that in the past, certification criteria included local designations of cultural districts, community demographics, cultural aspects, narrative descriptions, cultural programming, and various plans including goals, marketing, evaluation, budget, and other requirements. She noted she met with all the districts back in January of this year, and all Cultural Districts are interested in recertifying.

Historically the IAC offered a \$5,000 project support grant for planning or casemaking each year. They were also required to submit an annual report, a final grant report if money was accepted, and attend an annual consortium meeting with all the Cultural Districts.

Ms. Johansson moved into the discussion questions that were presented to the commission. *Please see the questions listed in the agenda of this meeting.* She also recapped the discussion had in the Committee meetings.

In the first question, the committees wanted to see the local designation, and narrative in their final report shows that they are meeting the goals that they set. The committees wanted to see a slightly simpler application while still making sure that the designation is important.

Commissioner Dawn Conwell noted she would be interested in hearing the economic impact of the current cultural districts, and that it would encourage other potential districts to apply.

Ms. Michaelsen called on Mr. Ashby to share the work of Michael Hicks in the cultural district designation.

Mr. Ashby noted that Dr. Hicks is with Ball State University and he looked at the data surrounding Cultural Districts in Indiana, specifically noting that home values increased with proximity to a cultural district, and that there are some snapshots of specific basic economic indicators of the Districts shared on the IAC website. Mr. Ashby noted that the economic indicators lag about two years behind due to how long it takes to process that data. Mr. Ashby did add that some of the economic impact that is tracked nationally is going away, and that replacement indicators are being ideated.

Mr. Haist asked if Dr. Hicks' findings are public.

Ms. Michaelsen shared no, but the agency is looking at putting it on the website.

Commissioner Judith Sawyier asked if the Cultural Districts decide their project when using the \$5,000

Ms. Johansson responded yes, they would have to apply for the \$5,000 with a specific project in mind.

Ms. Conwell asked if there was any other funding that the IAC can provide to communities with a cultural district.

Ms. Johansson responded that that is a conversation that has happened internally, and two options are an annual grant, or using the Arts Trust Plate to fund the program, and in return the Cultural Districts would have to promote the plate.

Mr. Ashby noted that the READI arts and culture plans call out Cultural Districts as a piece of their arts economic strategies.

Ms. Michaelsen shared that Districts support will likely be an increased ask in the FY28-29 proposed budget to the General Assembly. She added that around 2012, there was a proposed piece of legislation to appropriate specific funds to Cultural Districts. It did not pass at the time, but it was a good learning experience and could be something to be revisited in the future.

Ms. Conwell asked if any private funding has been sought.

Ms. Michaelsen shared she will share more about that when she discusses READI.

Ms. Conwell clarified that she wondered if there were any private individuals who would donate to the Districts to help fund them, so they don't solely rely on State dollars.

Commissioner Greg Hull asked about the period of time for recertifications.

Ms. Johansson noted that it is 3-5 year cycles, with a recertification at year 5 and a check-in at three years.

Mr. Martinez shared that this is not an easy designation to get, and that a longer cadence makes sense. He then added that in the Programs, Grants, and Services Committee, they had discussed shared desires among the districts, and having an option open where they could pool their \$5,000 together and get one project that benefited all of them, such as unified wayfinding graphics.

Ms. Johansson noted that there will be check-ins quarterly with all the Cultural Districts and she loves the idea of the Districts collaborating.

Mr. Haist thanked the Programs, Grants, and Services Committee for their discussion for this item. He added that getting the Cultural Districts to work collaboratively is an interesting idea and provided an example of two Districts that are relatively close together doing joint events. He then called for any final thoughts. None were shared.

Ms. Johansson shared her next steps, which include creating guidelines, evaluation criteria, and scoring rubrics for recertification, opening applications Summer 2026, and provide updates at the June and September QBMs.

Mr. Haist asked if all Cultural Districts participated in the last convening.

Ms. Johansson responded that about 80% participated.

Mr. Haist thanked Ms. Johansson for her presentation.

*At this time, the meeting took a twelve-minute break.
It was reconvened at 10:30 AM CT.*

iii. **Artist Services Programs**

1. **Creative Leap First Year Pilot Review Presentation.** Artist Services Program Manager, Jordan Adams, presented this agenda item. She gave a quick verbal update of On-Ramp, noting that the Indy Arts Council is hosting in Indianapolis, and this is the last central cohort of On-Ramp before it moves to local models, one North, one Central, and one Southern. She noted she will give a further update in June. She then gave a brief review of what the On-Ramp program is.

She then went into the review of the Creative Leap program. She highlighted that this program came out of the Artist Needs Assessment and it was geared toward serving sustaining and scaling artists by revisiting their strategic business plans. This program meets the needs of marketing, financial support, education, and local access. This program was a 6-week virtual series, with the core curriculum presented in the first four weeks and the final two being progress check ins. Dr. Elaine Grogan Luttrull of Minerva Financial Arts reviewed survey results, themes, participant feedback, and recommended improvements. Ms. Adams then shared that there was a pre- and post-workshop survey with this program having four statements that the participants answered on both ends of the program, noting that on the whole, all responses trended positively. Ms. Adams then shared the common themes that came out, which included accountability, community, and instructor/team. Each of these themes had a specific quote from a participant attached in the presentation. Ms. Adams then shared observations taken from the program. Participants were able to accomplish their goals, collaborations were impactful, participants were comfortable sharing challenges, and participants shared impactful wins. She then shared participant feedback noting that they wanted to adjust the timing of the workshops and the payment schedule, desired tailored goals to the cohort, shared an interest in guest speakers, and wanting IAC branded posts to share on social media. She then shared that the recommended improvements for this program are to increase communications and community and tweak the programmatic plan. Ms. Adams then shared some specific participant highlights with the commission.

Ms. Adams then noted that the IAC is thinking of re-sequencing the artist services programs to better serve individual artists. Ms. Adams called for questions. None were spoken.

4. **Regional Arts Partnership Consortium.** Regional Arts Partner (RAP) Sherri Wright presented this agenda item. She highlighted that Region 6 has a Work-In-Progress (WIP) grantee had an artbook published recently, and he will be speaking on that in Region 6 in April.

She then gave a brief review of the partnership's work. Currently all RAPs are reviewing grant applications for completeness with a deadline of Monday March 16, 2026. They are also reviewing the FY26 final grant reports for Arts Project Support (APS). They are also working on their capacity building opportunities, and making sure the IAC's Communications Team knows of them so they can be shared with the state. There is also planning for an in-person RAP meeting in Indianapolis for this Summer. She also noted that there is high interest in the READI program, and that Ms. Michaelsen will be meeting with the RAPs to discuss more information. Ms. Wright called for questions. None were spoken.

5. **READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative.** Ms. Michaelsen presented this item. She noted that there was a question about READI at the networking event last night, and she is interested in furthering the IAC's partnerships with this program and other state agencies. She then gave a brief overview of READI and its history, noting that it is an Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) program that is partnered with the IAC. She noted that it's a \$65 million statewide investment supporting arts and culture-driven projects. She also highlighted that this project is made possible by the Lilly Endowment. She shared that this project has two phases, a planning phase, and a funding phase. Currently, the project is in its funding phase, and applications are open through April 15, 2026. Ms. Michaelsen then gave a brief overview of the 15 regional arts and culture plans. She then shared the twelve themes she pulled out from the regional arts and culture plans. *Please see the corresponding memo for additional information.* She added that the planning process was engaged with arts organizations, community leaders, and economic development individuals in each region. She highlighted that more will come soon on this

program. She noted that in the funding step of this program, the Commission has no responsibility in approving or reviewing funding recommendations. The funding decisions will all be made by IEDC, and Ms. Michaelsen will share more information as funding is determined. She then called for questions.

Mr. Martinez asked about the matching funds that are not required but recommended in the requirements. He wanted to know how READI was reviewing applications' funding with the match element.

Ms. Michaelsen shared that working with an economic development entity is great, but there are differences in sector operations. She highlighted that the READI grant is a reimbursement grant, as opposed a disbursement grant. The match is recommended and encouraged, but is not a requirement, and she expects a substantial number of applications who do not apply with a match. She also noted that there is ability to use the match from dollars given to an applicable project from 2023 on to today. She noted that this recommendation of match is used to help IEDC to show how this grant elevated local development to the Indiana General Assembly.

Mr. Haist asked if there was a priority toward programs, venues, or construction.

Ms. Michaelsen responded that there is no priority given to any particular "discipline," and the primary focus is if the project advances the goals of the regional arts and culture plan. She added that all the funds given by READI must be expended by December 31, 2028.

Mr. Haist then asked if there is any interest in collaboration from multiple organizations working on one project.

Ms. Michaelsen noted that collaborations like that would get a slight preference given to them in the application review. She defined consortium as several parties working together to do a single project, and partnerships as multiple organizations working together to accomplish a goal, but not all of them are actively working on the project. She added that there is encouragement to organizations to have partners, especially if they are not a consortium.

Ms. Michaelsen then thanked the Regional Arts Partners for their work in this program.

Mr. Haist noted that he is very excited to see that the IAC is a part of this project, and thanked Ms. Michaelsen for her leadership.

6. **Consent Agenda Items Moved to Full Agenda.** No items were moved. This item was skipped.
7. **Old Business and New Business.** At this time, Mr. Haist called for any old or new business to be shared.
 - a. **Poet Laureate CY27-28 Extension.** Ms. Johansson noted that Curtis Crisler is the current Poet Laureate for the State of Indiana and his contract has been extended for two more years into 2027-2028.
 - b. **Poetry Out Loud Winner.** Mr. Ashby reviewed this program. It is a poetry recitation program, the funding comes from the NEA, and it is a high school program. This program has been hosted in partnership with Indiana Humanities for the last two years. This happened on February 21, 2026. The champion was Jayda Dawn from Carmel, IN and the runner up was Mina Dioubate from Indianapolis, IN. Ms. Dawn will be going on to compete at the national level after her win in Indiana. Mr. Ashby thanked all the schools, students, and coaches for this project.

Ms. Campbell asked about how long the poetry anthology goes back. She also noted there were two finalists from Dubois county.

Ms. Michaelsen noted that the anthology is curated by the NEA, from public domain poems.

Mr. Ashby also noted that the Lifelong Arts program currently has a toolkit, which the physical book has been shared with the Commissioners. The Creative Aging summit will happen on March 23, 2026, in Indianapolis, and the event sold out. This is one of the first major statewide convenings since COVID in this field.

Mr. Zhang Sonera shouted out the Communications team to put together the Lifelong Arts Toolkit.

Mr. Zhang Sonera also noted that the Men's Final Four is in Indianapolis April 3-6, 2026. He is serving as co-chair for the Arts and Culture Committee for this event. There are dozens of artists participating in this event. He also noted that Commissioner Hull and his students commissioned five poster designs for this event.

Mr. Haist thanked the IAC staff for their work across the board, and thanked Mr. Hendricks for his work in coordinating the QBMs.

8. **Adjournment of Quarterly Meeting.** Mr. Haist called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mr. Martinez moved and Mr. Oakman seconded. **By roll call vote, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM Central Time.**



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Stephanie Pfendler, Financial Operations Manager
Date: June 3, 2026
Subject: May 2026 FY26 YTD Financial Report

Recommendation: Approval of May 2026 FY26 YTD Financial Report

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

May 2026 | FY26 YTD Financial Report Summary

- I. IAC Revenue:** Consistent with the approved FY26 Budget.
- II. IAC Expenses*:** On track and consistent with the Q4 projections for FY26.
 - **Pt. 1 | Personnel, Benefits**
Reflects a slight negative variance (surplus) due to a temporarily vacant position; the FY26 June 2026 Financial Report will reflect the full expense for Pt. 1.
 - **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 and/or paid for FY26.
 - **Pts. 7 | FY26 Grant Agreements**
Consistent with Q4 expenditures, and full payment of FY26 Arts Organization Support (AOS) grants, both cycles of Arts Project Support (APS) grants, the America250 (A250), and other artist services and community programs.
 - **Pt. 9 | Shared Departmental Operating Expenses**
Pt. 9 shows a negative variance (surplus) due to outstanding memberships that need to be invoiced.
 - **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 May 31, 2026

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 *			FY26 Budget
	Actual/Encumbered	Budget	%Variance	
.1 Personnel, Benefits	\$ 837,843	\$903,914	-7.309%	\$ 986,088
.2 Technology/Communications	\$ 44,281	\$ 47,825	-7.410%	\$ 52,173
.3 Consultancies/Contracts/Panelist/Capacity Building	\$ 641,240	\$ 895,645	-28.405%	\$ 895,728
.4 Supplies, Materials, & Parts	\$ 3,169	\$ 3,442	-7.926%	\$ 3,700
.5 Capital Assets	\$ -	\$ 688	-100.000%	\$ 750
.6 Distribution to Other Governmental Units	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ -
.7 Grant Contracts (FY26)	\$ 2,909,088	\$ 3,151,290	-7.686%	\$ 3,150,483
.8 Social Service Type Payments	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ -
.9 Administration & Other Operating Costs	\$ 78,450	\$ 110,639	-29.094%	\$ 131,637
<i>Payment Obligations (Encumbered)</i>	\$ 689,050	\$ 689,050	0.000%	\$ 689,050
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 5,203,122	\$ 5,802,493	-10.330%	\$ 5,909,609
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		\$ 322,325		



To: Committee on the Future
From: André Zhang Sonera, Deputy Director & Chief of Staff
Date: May 19, 2026
Subject: **Fiscal Year 2027 Contract Signature Authority Delegation**

This request authorizes the Indiana Arts Commission's Executive Director to sign contracts and other binding documents on behalf of the Commission's Chair for **Fiscal Year 2027 for the period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.**

Under Indiana Code, the Commissioners of the Indiana Arts Commission have the powers to:

IC 4-23-2-3 (4) To enter into contracts, within the limit of funds available therefor, with individuals, organizations and institutions for services furthering the objectives of the commission's programs;

IC 4-23-2-3 (5) To enter into contracts, within the limit of funds available therefor, with local and regional not-for-profit corporations or associations for cooperative endeavors furthering the objectives of the commission's program; and

IC 4-23-2-3 (8) To make and sign any agreements and to do and perform any acts that may be necessary to carry out its purposes and duties.

Per the Indiana Arts Commission Governing Policies:

Section 9.4 Authority of The Executive Director – The Executive Director shall negotiate and sign contracts on behalf of the Chair of the Commission should the Commission authorize by resolution such authority. The Executive Director may delegate this authority but remains accountable for its use; and

Section 13.0 Commission Meetings - At its last Quarterly Business meeting of the fiscal year, the Commission must pass by resolution authority for the Executive Director to sign contracts and other binding documents on behalf of the Chair of the Commission. Said resolutions shall be attested by the Secretary of the Commission.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: André Zhang Sonera, Deputy Director & Chief of Staff
Date: May 21, 2026
Subject: **Staff Activity Report CY26 Q2**

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 | SECOND QUARTER OF 2026

Making Connections Across the State. **Connie** and **André** attended the Indiana Tourism Conference in Indianapolis, where they hosted an information booth and connected with destination marketing organizations and tourism leaders from across Indiana. Additionally, **Miah**, **Connie**, and **Anne** attended the IU Rural Conference this month, where **Anne** gave a presentation on the Creative Convergence program. **Anne** also presented at the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission's Placemaking Workshop.

Supporting artists and creative communities. In April, **Connie** visited the BankOnArt Gallery in Brazil, Indiana. The newly opened gallery currently features local artists, many of whom previously participated in programs supported through the IAC's Artist Services department. **Britt** also completed a Region 12 meet-up in New Albany in collaboration with the Regional Arts Partner, continuing efforts to strengthen networks of regional artists and arts organizations. **Eric** completed several site visits throughout the quarter, including visits to Big Car Collaborative/CAMi, Indiana Artisan, Music For All (Indianapolis), Cornerstone and Madjax (Muncie), Books, Brushes, and Bands (Schererville), and the Accelerate Rural Indiana/CRE culminating event in Greensburg. **André** attended the first America250 grantee project, the Stage Reading of Willa B's Letter, presented by the Naptown African American Theater Collective. Also, in early May, **André** spoke in a Funder Panel during the Herbert Simon Family Foundation's Creative Risk Grantees gathering.

Capacity Building and Learning. **Anne** completed the Indiana Communities Institute Economic Development Course and attended the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Building Bridges Workshop. **Connie** and **Gwendolyn** attended a National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) briefing webinar for public information officers focused on newly issued public messaging guidance and national survey findings. **Gwendolyn** attended the 2026 Government Social Media Conference in New Orleans, continuing to expand the agency's knowledge and capacity in public communications and digital engagement.

Leadership beyond the agency. **Eric** graduated from the 1828 Leadership Project Class XV through IndyHub, and he also joined the Indianapolis Cultural Trail Young Professional Board. **Miah** attended the Arts Midwest executive directors' gathering in Columbus, OH. **André** was selected to serve as a judge for the 2026 CODAwards, an international awards program for public art and the creative team.

Staff Creative Practices. In March, **Gwendolyn** was part of the cast of *Funny Girl* at Footlite Musicals. This summer, **Gwendolyn** will also be closing Buck Creek Players' season with the production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. Earlier this year, **André** joined the ¡WEPArt! Colectivo is a collective of Puerto Rican artists living in Indiana. The collective's inaugural exhibition is currently on display at the Indianapolis International Airport through June 8, commemorating the first nonstop flight between Indiana and Puerto Rico. **André** was also selected to exhibit one of his photography works in "Indiana, Naturally," a juried exhibition presented by the Indy Arts Council and The Nature Conservancy.

Looking Ahead. **Anne** will attend the Start Small Summit in June, and **Anne** and **Jordan** will participate in Placemaking Week in Detroit later this summer. **Miah** and Eric continue to work with the READI 2.0 Arts & Culture with the IEDC.



To: IAC Commissioners

From: Britt Fechtman, Data and Grant Systems Manager and Eric Ashby, Director of Programs

Date: May 26, 2026

Subject: Strategic Framework KPI Baseline & Targets Update for FY26

Overview

Below are baseline numbers and targets for growth that articulate IAC goals related to each Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and associated impact. Baseline numbers, if available, come from current IAC grants data and public data currently available. Progress in achieving the [2024-2028 Strategic Framework](#) impacts will be measured against these KPI targets. The baseline metrics are updated to reflect the close of FY25 and inform reasonable targets for completion by the end of FY26. The original FY25 targets are included for comparison with the “actual” FY25 metrics which appear in the “Baseline” column.

Baseline: Performance as of August 2025

Target: Goal for IAC by the end of FY26

Impact 1: In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences.		
Measure	Baseline	Target
# of counties directly supported	FY24: 81/92 counties FY25: 92/92 counties	FY25 Target: 92 FY26 Target: 92 counties
# of activities in counties (AOS/APS)	FY24: Averaged 7 arts activities per county FY25: Averaged 11 arts activities per county	FY25 Target: 8 FY26 Target: Average 15 arts activities per county

# of organizations moving from Every County Funded or Creative Convergence to APS/AOS applications **New metric added as of FY26.	FY25: Not tracked	FY26 Target: 10
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Impact 2: New populations of Hoosiers experience meaningful learning in and engagement with arts and creativity.

Measure	Baseline	Target
# of first-time grantees (AOS/APS) *for FY26 extending to all grant programs	FY24: ~150 (28%) FY25: 149 (26%) FY26 Update: 100 (21%)	FY25 Target: 35% FY26 Target: 30% across all programs
# of grantees and total grant \$ by type and discipline* *Metric sunset at close of FY25. No longer federally required.	See Figure 1 and Table 1 below	See Figure 1 and Table 1 below
Primary population benefited (rural counties served, underserved populations, etc.) * *Metric sunset at close of FY25. No longer federally required.	FY24: 25% grants to rural counties and 22% grant dollars to rural counties FY25: 28.9% grants to rural counties and 29.5% grant dollars to rural counties	FY25 Target: 30% grants to rural counties and 25% grant dollars to rural counties FY26 Target: 30% grants to rural counties and 35% grant dollars to rural counties
Age specific metrics – primary age group served by project with ranges that mirror census groupings. ** **New metric added as of FY26	FY25: Not tracked	FY26: Ages served mirror census population breakdown for Indiana

Percent of local (in county of project) vs. Non-local attendees** **New metric added as of FY26	FY25: Not tracked	FY26: 60% local and 40% non-local
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Impact 3: Indiana’s artists build towards successful careers in our state.		
Measure	Baseline	Target
\$ invested in individual artists	FY24: \$186,000 FY25: \$146,445 FY26 Update: \$43,594.69	FY25 Target: \$250,000 FY26: \$200,000
Total investment in artist entrepreneurship from IAC partners	FY25: \$0	FY25 Target: \$250,000 FY26 Target: \$100,000
# of hours of technical assistance to artists/organizations (funded and not funded)	FY24: not tracked FY25: 155 hours FY26 Update: 500 hours	FY25 Target: 100 hours FY26 Target: 250 hours

Impact 4: Indiana’s arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities.		
Measure	Baseline	Target
\$ leveraged beyond grant award	FY24: \$3.3 Million FY25: \$3.3 Million	FY25 Target: \$3.5M FY26 Target: \$3.5M
# of sustained creative aging projects	FY25: ~5	FY25 Target: 25 FY26 Target: 15
# of attendees/views of service delivery presentations and webinars Virtual: 700	FY25: Not tracked FY26 Update: 915 attendees/views	FY26 Target: 1,000 attendees/views

In Person: 300	Virtual: 385 In Person: 530	
# of service delivery events/presentations by IAC staff and RAPs	FY25: Not tracked FY26 Update: 36	FY26 Target: 50 events/presentations

Impact 5: There is broad recognition of arts and creativity's value for Indiana.		
Measure	Baseline	Target
\$ invested in arts and creativity outside of IAC programs	FY25: \$1.5M	FY26: \$25M
# Non-arts and artists grantees	FY24: 119 FY25: 148 FY26: In APS 25 Non-Arts/Non-Humanities Grantees	FY25 Target: 175 FY26: 150
Per capita funding compared to peers	FY24-25: \$0.76 FY26-27: \$0.50	N/A

Next Steps for KPI's

Following FY26 funding recommendations and Final Grant Reports across FY26 Programs, as well as Service Delivery sessions by IAC and Partners, will begin updating FY26 results and see how they compare with target metrics.

Figures

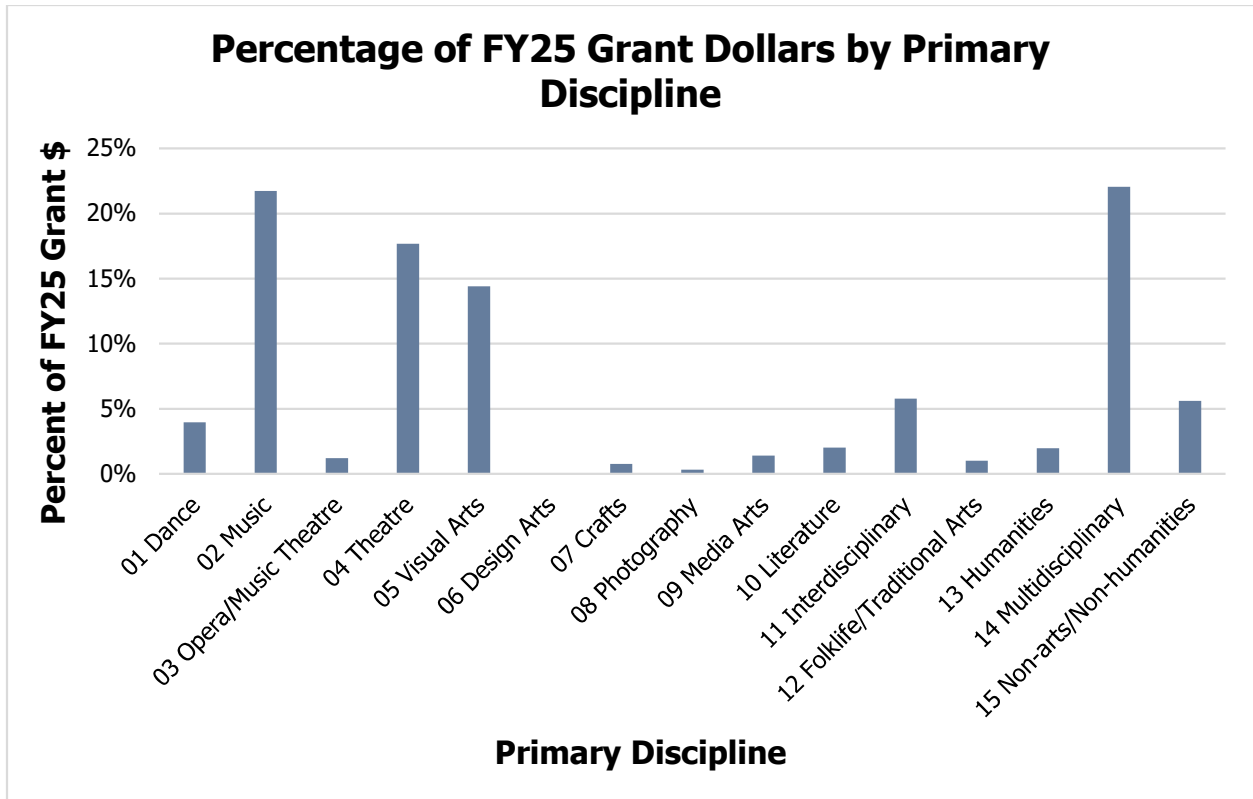


Figure 1

FY25 Baseline: The current baseline of funding by primary discipline for all FY25 Grant programs as of August 2025 is listed above in Figure 1.

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

Discipline	Percentage of \$ Awarded (Peer)	FY24 Percentage of \$ Awarded (IAC)	FY25 Percentage of \$ Awarded (IAC)
Visual Arts	15%	16%	14%
Performing Arts	40%	47%	45%
Other (Crafts, Folklife, Humanities, Interdisciplinary, Literature, and Non-arts/humanities)	16%	15%	18%
Multidisciplinary	29%	22%	22%

Table 1

Source: NASAA (https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/saa-grant-making-explorer/)



To: IAC Committee on the Future
From: Stephanie Pfendler, Financial Operations Manager
Date: May 26, 2026
Subject: FY26 Q3 – Arts Trust Statement

The Indiana Arts Commission Trust Fund ("Trust") was established with the purpose of establishing and maintaining a stable and enduring source of funding for the arts in Indiana for future generations and is managed by the Indiana Arts Commission.

For over twenty years, Hoosiers have supported the arts in Indiana by purchasing an Arts Trust License Plate, which funds the Arts Trust Fund. Every plate purchase or renewal generates \$25 for the Arts Trust Fund.

Fiscal Year 2026 Investments

The Indiana Treasurer of State, who is the administrator of the Trust by statute, reported on the following investments as of March 31, 2025:

- **Bank of New York (BONY) Government Agency Coupon Note:**

The \$500,000 that was invested in a Bank of New York Government Agency Bond matured on March 30, 2026. The investment yield totals \$5,000.

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 issuer's ability to borrow funds.

- **TrustINDiana Local Government Investment Pool (TrustIN LGIP):**

\$4,708,668.57 has been invested in the [TrustINDiana Local Government Investment Pool](#). This investment will mature on 12/31/26 with a projected interest yield of \$171,395.54. 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 3.6400%. The investment yield at 4.4600% that matured on 12/31/25 totals \$122,923.14.



Stephanie Pfendler
 Financial Operations Manager
 Indiana Arts Commission

spfendler@iac.in.gov

FY26 Q3 Trust Report

Lifetime Interest	\$1,096,914.67
Lifetime Plate Revenue	\$4,309,048.09
FY26 Distribution	\$240,000.00
Interest Available	\$409,389.36
Fund Balance as of March 31, 2026	\$4,713,438.10

Fiscal Year	Quarter	Interest	Sales Revenue	Plates Sold
FY25	4	\$51,321.94	\$34,825.00	1,393
FY26	1	\$46,785.20	\$33,675.00	1,347
FY26	2	\$41,402.59	\$28,750.00	1,150
FY26	3	\$39,739.05	\$21,025.00	841

Inv. Number	Current Investments	Book Value	Rate	Maturity Date	Projected Annual Interest
522	TrustIndiana LGIP Interest	\$ 4,708,668.57	3.6400%	12/31/2026	\$171,395.54
Total		\$4,708,668.57			\$171,395.54

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	1.0000%	3/30/2026	\$ 5,000.00
	Total Government Interest Income				\$ 5,000.00
522	TrustIndiana LGIP Interest	\$ 3,500,000.00	4.4600%	12/31/2025	\$ 122,923.14
	Plus Sec Lending Income				\$ 3.70
				Total Interest	\$ 127,926.84



To: IAC Commissioners

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

Date: May 20, 2026

Subject: Communications Update

FY26 Q3 Announcements

- [Indiana Arts Commission accepting applications for Arts Project Support grant program](#)
- [Arts Commission Accepting Applications for Business Training and Creative Community Development Programs](#)
- [Arts Commission Supports Creative Small Businesses Through Two Programs](#)
- [Arts Commission Announces Creative Aging Summit](#)
- [Arts Commission Supports Projects Around the State](#)
- [Ten Indiana Communities Launch Creative Convergence Projects](#)
- [Arts Commission Funds Projects That Celebrate America250](#)

Spring 2026 Departmental Projects and Updates

- Finalized the [Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report](#), with plans underway to complete the 2026 Annual Report in December.
- Created an updated agency messaging guide to steer agency communications over the coming biennium.
- Support promotion and program materials for the Or-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator, Every County Funded program, FY27 Arts Project Support, Spring 2026 Creative Convergence, and the Lifelong Arts Indiana Creative Aging Summit.
- Successfully prepared for compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1, Level AA Department of Justice rule update deadline, which was ultimately delayed to 2027.

Government Social Media Conference Overview and Next Steps

- Gwendolyn attended the Government Social Media Conference, taking part in sessions and learnings on high impact storytelling, aligning social media with agency goals and key messaging
- Presenting and implementing learnings with Regional Arts Partner network and pursuing ways to expand this education around the state to our grant recipients.



To: Programs, Grants, and Services Committee
From: Jordan Adams, Artist Services Program Manager
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026
Subject: Vision & Venture Virtual Series

Program Overview

The Vision & Venture virtual training series served selected artists who are emerging as new entrepreneurs and small business owners, of multiple disciplines, as a mechanism to provide a sound foundation as well as inject business strategy and compliance into a creative business at the onset of its formation. The six-week series focused on business model alignment and required startup tasks. The program serves as a precursor to the On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator.

Selected Cohort

	Artist	Discipline	County
1	Alecia Esarey	Visual Arts	Grant County
2	Alisa Moore	Visual Arts	Vigo County
3	Amanda Hengeveld	Interdisciplinary	Greene County
4	Beks Freeman	Multidisciplinary	Tippecanoe County
5	Claire Pendleton	Music	Marion County
6	Emily Mellentine	Literature	Marion County
7	Karley Duncan	Music	Hamilton County
8	Laura Yahya	Folklife/Traditional Arts/ Crafts	Marion County
9	Makenzie Lukas	Dance	Marion County
10	Mary Marquart	Visual Arts	Howard County
11	Richelle Brown	Visual Arts	Marion County
12	Rochelle Berry	Crafts	Howard County
13	ShaRon Wilson	Dance	Hendricks County
14	Terry Moore	Music	Morgan County

The cohort was a diverse group of artists with varying disciplines and backgrounds. Three of the fourteen artists learned about the program from attending the WIP: Exchange Labs. There were also two recent out-of-state transplants hailing from Florida and California who were so excited that this type of training opportunity was available to them.

Facilitation Team

The team was comprised of Jordan Adams as program manager and Dr. Elaine Luttrull of Minerva Financial Arts who focused on curriculum design and facilitation. An additional team member joined the facilitation team from the North Central Indiana Small Business Development Center, Hannah Ollen, Ecosystem Navigator. As, an On-Ramp Alumna and business professional, Hannah developed and delivered content that focused on the intersection of an artist's revenue potential and perceived level of creative autonomy and control.

Workshop Modules and Content

The series was organized into weekly modules with a specific topic that directly aligns with the various areas of business, within the context of bringing a vision to life.

Each module was structured with the introduction of a business concept, application to vision implementation, start-up tasks and compliance, application to creative entrepreneur practices, a group activity, break-out discussions, and homework assignment. In subsequent weeks, the session opened with a review of the previous week's homework.

Below is a recap of the workshop titles and topics;

- Vision Sharing: Appropriate Business Model and Creative Entrepreneur Matrix
- Finding Customers: Landscape Analysis, Market Research, and Limiting Beliefs
- Get it Going: Start Up Tasks – Name and Entity Research, InBiz Live Tour
- Planning Costs: Start Up Budget and Operational Financial Forecasting
- Tracking Actuals: Record Retention and Effective Systems
- Keep It Going: Goal Accountability

Program Next Steps

The inaugural pilot participants were excited to leave the program with a plan and an honorarium to support identified start-up costs to get their visions going and implemented.

The program's team and Minerva Financial Arts are excited to learn from the progress of these artists and make necessary improvements to continue to offer this program to artists interested in becoming small business founders.



To: Projects, Grants, and Services Committee
From: Anne Johansson, Community Services Program Manager
Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026
Subject: Community Services Update – Every County Funded

Every County Funded 2026

The Every County Funded (ECF) program is an annual invitation-only initiative designed to expand access to arts funding and strengthen local creative activity through two eligible community-based arts projects per county. ECF includes an informal cohort model with high levels of technical assistance to support sustainable growth in arts activities.

Counties are eligible for this program if they have not received funding through the Arts Organization Support (AOS) or Arts Project Support (APS) programs in the last fiscal year. For the current cycle, the Indiana Arts Commission accepted applications from **Blackford, Lawrence, Parke, Newton, Rush, Washington, and White counties**. Applications closed February 20, 2026. Funding notifications were sent March 13, 2026.

Project List

Blackford County – Arts Place – \$10,000.00

Grant funds will support the launch of Blackford County’s first ceramics program, including installation of a donated kiln, equipment, supplies, and fees for a local ceramicist. The program will offer classes, workshops, open studio time, and kiln firing services for all ages.

Lawrence County – Bedford Public Library – \$5,000.00

Community Culture Fair: Bedford Public Library will host a free four-hour community culture fair in mid-Winter 2027, featuring local glassmaking demonstrations, live jazz, typewriter poetry, storytelling by the Bloomington Storyteller’s Guild, and a culinary arts station.

Lawrence County – Bedford Revitalization, Inc. – \$5,000.00

Second Saturdays Concert Series: Four free outdoor concerts at Harp Commons in downtown Bedford, running June 12 through September 12, 2026, featuring Indiana musicians. The series is free and open to all.

Newton County – Brook-Iroquois Washington Public Library – \$4,023.46

The Brook Public Library will implement a yearlong series of free arts workshops and live performances for all ages, including ceramics, fiber arts, mosaic design, mixed-media projects, sculptural art, and a concert. Grant funds will cover supplies, materials, and performer fees.

Newton County – Newton County Community Services – \$2,900.00

Art Wall — Artist of the Month Gallery: A rotating community gallery featuring a monthly featured artist who will host a free public “Spotlight Tea” for community members to engage with the artist and learn about their creative process.

Parke County – Historic Ritz Theater – \$5,000.00

Parke Players Summer Musical — Historic Ritz Theater: Grant funds will support the Parke Players’ summer musical at the Historic Ritz Theater, covering set construction, costumes, technical equipment, marketing, and facility operations, while keeping ticket prices accessible to all.

Rush County – Imagine:nation Rush – \$10,000.00

Rush County Community Gallery: A permanent interactive gallery within the Love Community Center in Rush County, featuring rotating exhibitions, community-submitted artwork, and artist-led workshops for youth, adults, and seniors.

Washington County – Washington County Community Action Coalition – \$5,000.00

The Sentinel Project: A monthly healing art circle open to all community members, centered on themes of resilience and creative expression. The project includes installation of a permanent “Woman Warrior” sentinel, stipends for local artist-facilitators, and art supplies for participants.

White County – Streets of Monticello – \$10,000.00

Art & Music in Motion — Monticello: A creative placemaking initiative activating Monticello’s Art Alley and Riverwalk through public art installations and live music performances, celebrating local artists and enhancing the cultural identity of downtown.



To: IAC Commissioners
From: Miah Michaelson
Date: June 5, 2026
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.

The IAC has received notification of its FFY26 federal award. As of this writing the Trump administration has once again proposed a wind down of the agency and its funding which would impact FFY27 (IAC FY28). Previous funding reduction/agency elimination proposals have been overturned by Congress. The agency is monitoring communications provided by federal advocacy groups closely and will notify Commissioners if the situation changes and connect them with opportunities to learn more.

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

NASAA is the IAC’s national “trade association”, and IAC staff are active in both role-based networking and in topic-based presentations. NASAA has its biennial conference in Washington, DC in October, and IAC anticipates sending most, if not all, staff to participate.

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 that benefits Indiana artists and organizations. 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 and working groups.

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. Miah continues to serve as lead for the agency in these efforts; with critical support from Eric and André.

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 continues to team up with IHEDA’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. Indiana’s state champion, Jayda Dawn, of University High School, Indianapolis, competed at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in April in Washington, DC.