

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

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 Michaelsen, 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 (UIIndy 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](http://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. Michaelsen 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

- 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 250<sup>th</sup> 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. Michaelsen 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 Patrónico—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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 QBM 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. Michaelsen 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. Michaelsen 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.