

## Program Overview

**What is Creative Convergence:** Indiana Arts Commission partners with the Indiana Communities Institute (ICI) at Ball State to offer Creative Convergence, a team-based workshop and funding opportunity aimed at building out the arts in selected communities. Teams consist of 3-4 participants who learn how to work together to advance arts and creativity in the community through training and a funded project.

### Who Can Apply:

Communities must submit a team of 3-4 members, including:

- One representative from government, economic development, neighborhood or community development, or the business community
- One representative from an arts or civic organization
- One local artist or creative

### Key Dates:

Application Deadline – September 30, 2025

In-Person Workshop – November 4-5, 2025 (in Fishers, IN)

Early Action Grant Proposal Deadline – January 26, 2026

Grant Period – March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027

Final Report – Tuesday, March 16, 2027

**Who to Contact:** Anne Johansson, Community Services Manager, [ajohansson@iac.in.gov](mailto:ajohansson@iac.in.gov)

## Program Details

### Program Goal: Build Community Capacity Through Arts and Collaboration

Creative Convergence equips community leaders, organizational representatives, and artists/creatives to:

- Embed arts and creativity into community and economic development strategies
- Collaborate effectively across sectors
- Engage residents in meaningful, inclusive ways

## Program Outcomes

- In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences.§
- Indiana’s arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities.§
- There is broad recognition of arts and creativity’s value for Indiana.§

[§ IAC 2024 – 2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact](#)

## About Us

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) is an agency of state government, and its funding comes from the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

A core component to the Indiana Arts Commission’s commitment to investing in the state’s vibrant and rich arts and culture sector are grants, which support people and communities through arts organizations and arts projects.

## Program Contacts

This program is conducted by the Indiana Arts Commission and the Indiana Communities Institute.

The following information outlines primary contacts for the grant program:

- **For questions about application, eligibility, and guidelines:** Contact Anne Johansson, [ajohansson@iac.in.gov](mailto:ajohansson@iac.in.gov) or 317-618-1522
- **For help or technical assistance with the Online Grant System:** Austin Hendricks, [auhendricks@iac.in.gov](mailto:auhendricks@iac.in.gov) or 317-450-6717
- **For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project:** Contact the Indiana Arts Commission, [accessibility@iac.in.gov](mailto:accessibility@iac.in.gov) or (317) 232-1269
- **To apply:** [Access the application](#). Only applications submitted online will be accepted, except in the case of ADA accessibility accommodations.

## The program consists of:

- A free two-day in-person workshop **November 4-5, 2025**, with a focus on community engagement and economic development in and through the arts.
- \$1,000 stipend for each team to cover travel to the workshop and accommodation.
- A post-workshop project grant of up to \$5,000 for an eligible arts and community project within their respective communities.
- Optional partnership with [CreatINg Places](#) program for additional funding through crowdgranting platform Patronicity.
- Ongoing mentoring and coaching calls for grantees by ICI and IAC staff.

**Dates to Know – Creative Convergence Application Cycle**  
**(Grant Period March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027)**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Workshop Application Opens</b>	September 8, 2025	Application available in IAC online system
<b>Informational Webinar</b>	September 16, 2025	<a href="#">Register here for online webinar introducing Creative Convergence.</a>
<b>Workshop Application Deadline</b>	September 30, 2025 (11:59 PM ET)	All materials must be submitted by this time
<b>Notification of Selection</b>	October 14, 2025	Applicants notified of cohort acceptance
<b>Creative Convergence Workshop</b>	November 4–5, 2025	In-person workshop on community engagement and economic development in and through the arts
<b>Project Development Webinar</b>	November 18, 2025	Virtual session to support proposal development
<b>Coaching Calls</b>	December 1–12, 2025	One-on-one sessions with IAC staff to strengthen project plans
<b>Final Proposal Due</b>	January 29, 2026	Submission of full project proposal for funding consideration
<b>Award Notification</b>	February 6, 2026	Selected projects announced
<b>Grant Period Begins</b>	March 1, 2026	Projects may begin implementation (funds may take 90 days to arrive)
<b>Grantee Cohort Coaching</b>	Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 1:00 pm ET	Virtual
<b>Grantee Cohort Coaching</b>	Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 1:00 pm ET	Virtual
<b>Grant Cohort Coaching</b>	Tuesday, February 9, 2027, 1:00 pm ET	Virtual
<b>Grant Period Ends</b>	February 28, 2027	All funded activities must be completed by this date
<b>Final Grant Report Due</b>	Tuesday, March 16, 2027, at 11:59 PM ET	

## Eligibility

### Eligible Applicants\*

Communities must submit a team of 3–4 members, including at minimum:

- One representative from government, economic development, neighborhood or community development, or the business community
- One representative from an arts or civic organization
- One local artist or creative

\*IAC staff may follow up to request documentation or additional information and will make the final determination on eligibility.

### **Additional Eligibility Requirements:**

All applicants must be in good standing with all of the following: the State of Indiana; the Indiana Arts Commission; the applicant's Regional Arts Partner; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## **Evaluation Criteria and Review Process**

### **Evaluation Criteria for Participation in the Program**

Applications to participate in the Creative Convergence program will be reviewed according to evaluation criteria included below. The selection process will prioritize broad geographic representation of communities in the cohort.

- **Team Cohesion and Continuity (50%)** – The extent to which there is evidence of existing collaboration among team members, shared goals, and a clear plan for maintaining team functionality and managing team member turnover (e.g., succession planning, organizational support, or backup participants).
- **Community Engagement and Benefit (50%)** – The extent to which there is a demonstrated track record of inclusive, arts-based community engagement or a compelling plan to initiate such efforts to benefit the community and articulated community benefit and impact goals.

[Access the scoring rubric that will be used by application reviewers.](#)

## **Early Action Grant Details**

The **Creative Convergence Early Action Grant Program** allows the workshop team to apply lessons learned in the Creative Convergence Workshop to a project that benefits **both** creatives and the community.

Communities selected for this cohort, and who participate in the workshop, are eligible to request up to \$5,000 and will receive the full amount requested. No matching funds are required. Grants will be paid in full at the beginning of the grant period provided they are in good standing and supply required information in a timely manner.

Funds will be disbursed in one payment at the beginning of the grant period. Please note, it may take up to 90 days to receive grant payments after the contract is signed and received.

As part of Creative Convergence, communities may also choose to partner with the CreatINg Places program to leverage additional project funding and community engagement through Patronicity's crowdgranting model.

How we define "project" is varied and is shaped by your community and its needs and assets.

Projects contain the following:

- Need or Opportunity
- Community Stakeholders & Engagement
- Arts and Creativity
- Creative Interventions

**Creatives need to benefit from the project in some direct way**, either as a project implementation team member or by being compensated for work.

**Your community's lead organization is the applicant of record and funding recipient.** Your Creative Convergence team members form the nexus of project management – everything from identifying need to community engagement to planning and executing project activities to evaluation and reporting.

## Grant Recipient Requirements

**To receive IAC funding, Early Action Grant Recipients must comply with the following requirements:**

- Publicly acknowledge IAC funding in written, verbal, or visual formats.
- Comply with state and federal contracting requirements, ADA compliance, public manifestation, fair labor, drug-free workplace, and civil rights requirements.

[Consult the Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information on requirements of grantees.](#)

### Application Checklist for the Early Action Grant Program

1. **Identify who will be responsible for accessing the IAC's [online grant portal](#)** to submit the proposal, Next Steps Form, and final grant report.
2. **Identify who will be responsible for signing the grant contract** and receiving, managing, and dispersing funds for the project. (Must be the community team lead organization unless an alternative is approved by IAC staff).
3. **Develop the Project Proposal Components.** Having an understanding of the project proposal components in advance will help you answer application questions. The application is located in the IAC's online grant management system.

### Project Proposal Components

1. The community need or opportunity your team wants to address.
2. The change you hope to make as a result of your project and who will benefit.
3. Describe your project team including their name, email, affiliation, and why you selected them.
4. Beyond your team, which people or groups will you work with to better understand the need or opportunity?
  - a. Why did you select these particular people or groups?
  - b. What role will these particular people or groups have in your project?
5. What are the ways you plan to engage your community throughout the project?

6. What's your project budget (income, expenses, and in-kind, if applicable)? Be sure to include the grant request in the income section.
7. How will you evaluate how well your project addressed the need or opportunity?

### **How to Submit Your Proposal for the Early Action Grant Program**

1. Log in to the [IAC's online grant portal](#) complete the project proposal application, and submit when finished.
  - a. IAC staff will review your project proposal and may be in touch to request revisions.
  - b. IAC will notify you when your project is approved for funding.
2. Log in to the IAC's online grant portal to accept the award.
3. Sign your grant contract electronically via DocuSign.
4. Start your project!

### **Final Report Requirements**

- What occurred and the outcomes as a result of the funding (narrative/multiple choice)
- Grant funding primary impact and future project plans (multiple choice)
- A participant quote that captures the project experience
- Address(es) where the activity(ies) occurred
- Number of participants who are adults, children, artists, and broadcast/online participants (as applicable)
- Participants by age and distinct groups
- Photo and/or video documentation of the project
- Feedback on the training program for your project design and implementation
- Actual cash income, actual cash expenses, and in-kind contributions. A detail of expenditures and additional funds leveraged will be required.

Final grant reports submitted after the due date may be subject to penalty. Read the [Not in Good Standing policy](#).

### **To Apply for Creative Convergence**

Access the eligibility tool and application at  
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=indianaarts>

Application Submission Deadline: September 30, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET

Only communities who apply and are accepted for the Creative Convergence program and complete the two-day training are eligible to submit a proposal for a Creative Convergence Early Action Grant.