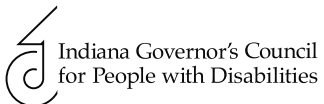


ignite thoughts into action

# spark



**may/june 2012**  
volume 2 number 4

in this issue on  
**ARTS &  
CREATIVITY**



Organization  
lights up the stage



A look at  
three artists



Tapping into  
your creative side

in this issue on  
**ARTS &  
CREATIVITY**

SOUTH BEND ORGANIZATION  
LIGHTS UP THE STAGE ..... 3

THE ART OF INSPIRATION:  
A SPECIAL LOOK AT THREE  
INDIVIDUALS USING THEIR  
CREATIVITY IN THE ARTS ..... 5-9

FRANK EPPERSON: DANCING  
BEYOND BOUNDARIES ..... 6

TERRY HAFFNER: PAINTING A  
PICTURE OF INSPIRATION ..... 7

JODY POWERS: FOR THE  
LOVE OF WRITING ..... 8

ARTSWORK INDIANA ..... 9

TAPPING INTO YOUR  
CREATIVE SIDE ..... 10

THE "ART" OF ASSISTIVE  
TECHNOLOGY ..... 12

INDIANA HUMANITIES HELPS  
HOOSIERS EXPAND HORIZONS,  
CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT ..... 14

ARTS AND CREATIVITY  
RESOURCES ..... 15

**How often do we hear the expression to “think outside the box,” or “let your imagination run wild”? In this issue of Spark, we are encouraging you to do just that.**

With the featured articles and resources provided, we hope you will take this opportunity to not only tap into your creative side, but also to explore another dimension within yourself – the one that is itching to get out and try new things.

We all have the ability to be creative; we just have to give ourselves permission to act on it. After all, most of us were taught not to “rock the boat” or to “accept the status quo.” We can either sit back and let life pass us by, or we can be an active participant.

But being creative does not mean throwing caution to the wind or acting irresponsibly. It's about taking a risk to explore the unfamiliar and try something new, something that may not have a predictable outcome – redecorating a room, using a new recipe, dancing, trying your hand at writing or painting. The possibilities are endless!

Don't hesitate to get started. Make a commitment to yourself to try something new, take a different path – you will be so glad you did. Life is indeed an adventure!

Sincerely,



Suellen Jackson-Boner  
Executive Director

**spark** is a bi-monthly publication of the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, an independent state agency that facilitates change. Our mission is to promote the independence, productivity and inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. This mission is accomplished through planning, evaluation, collaboration, education, research and advocacy.

**Suellen Jackson-Boner**  
Executive Director

**Christine Dahlberg**  
Deputy Director



# South Bend organization lights up the stage

**T**his April, LOGAN Community Resources in South Bend, Ind., prepared itself for one of its most hair-raising experiences ever. The advocacy, resource and service organization for people with disabilities just brought the story of Rapunzel to life on stage in its theater adaptation of the animated Disney movie “Tangled.”

Volunteer theater director Eric West and LOGAN recreation therapist Meghan Stansbury were busy throughout the beginning of the year putting together a production that includes LOGAN clients, ages 12 to 21, and children from area public schools. Performed on April 27 and 28, this was the team’s fourth major production for LOGAN, and it follows a line of popular presentations like “High School Musical,” “Aladdin” and a self-written mash-up of fairy tales called “Once Upon A Time.”

The theater program wasn’t always inclusive, but in 2011 Stansbury decided that opening up auditions to all area kids would create a positive community initiative. And so far, it’s been a complete success.

“It’s new, different and educational for both ends of the community. When we see the children from LOGAN and children from the community interacting on and off stage and being creative together, it’s so rewarding,” Meghan said. “Parents are giving great reviews, too!”

The first step in making a production come to the stage

begins with a meeting between Eric and Meghan to discuss story options and plan the roles of each character. So far, Eric has adapted or written each of the plays himself to make sure that lines, stage direction and choreography are challenging, yet feasible.

“We want to be sure that the characters are split evenly [between the organization’s members and people in the community] to accommodate our clients and for the other children who wish to audition,” Eric said. “For ‘Tangled,’ the role of leading-man Flynn was a LOGAN client while Rapunzel was played by a

**“We also love to see how much the kids gain — social skills, public speaking skills, friendships — in an authentic theater experience.”**

– Meghan Stansbury, LOGAN recreation therapist



Members of the inclusive cast bring Disney's "Tangled" to life!

member of the community. And there were 30 more individuals who had a part in this particular play."

As each play's script progresses, Meghan advertises auditions in the South Bend Tribune newspaper and through area schools. She also built a partnership with the South Bend Parks and Recreation Department to use a community theater space, the Battell Community Center, for performances. When dates are finalized and auditions are underway, Meghan also markets the play in area newspapers, social media, direct mail to LOGAN affiliates and area schools.

Once the audition process is over, many parent and student volunteers help Eric create and design sets and plan out the technical side of the production. Costumes are also borrowed from the South Bend School Corporation, a local theater group or willing parents. A little more than a month before opening night, Eric begins practices once a week for an hour and 15 minutes. During the summer, practices are held about three times a week.

"I want to make sure that the responsibility is on the actors to remember their lines, so we go through the difficult scenes as much as possible in practice. But there's never a practice where someone doesn't say, 'Hey let's do it this way.' There's lots of creative problem-solving going on between the actors and directors," Eric said. "We have fun!"

"The biggest factor is making sure we sustain an environment that creates success. We also love to see how much the kids gain – social skills, public speaking skills, friendships – in an authentic theater experience," Meghan said. "I love when I see participants exchanging phone numbers and making lasting friendships off stage."

The "Tangled" production brought in more than 600 audience members between the two-night performances. Since then, parents, LOGAN leadership, community members and the Battell Community Center have given the theater program great reviews. Parents tend to ask Meghan and Eric when the next play will happen; and it's likely both are

already in the planning phase of their next production. Typically, LOGAN schedules two to three shows a year.

Eric was even the recipient of The Partnership Award, an award presented annually by the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities Inc. for his work building the theater program. This award is given to a community individual, business, club, educational institution or corporation that has made significant contributions to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and the agencies that serve them.

"It's always good to give yourself a reality check to make sure you're putting on performances for the right reasons," Meghan said. "With all its success so far, it must be working – giving kids with and without disabilities a way to be creative and enjoy themselves!" \*







# THE ART OF INSPIRATION

## A special look at three individuals using their creativity in the arts

**C**reativity isn't something that's confined to a box. It isn't restricted by boundaries, common perceptions or traditional norms. Rather, creativity is a tool that gives each of us the ability to go beyond the ordinary and outdo what's expected.

In the following pages, you'll meet Frank, Terry and Jody. See what inspires them to change the ordinary into extraordinary and notice how each of them uses his/her individual creativity to explore the unconventional, shape identity and build personal satisfaction.

We hope these motivational stories will encourage you to use your own creative spirit to discover new interests and share your talents with your community.

# Frank Epperson: Dancing beyond boundaries

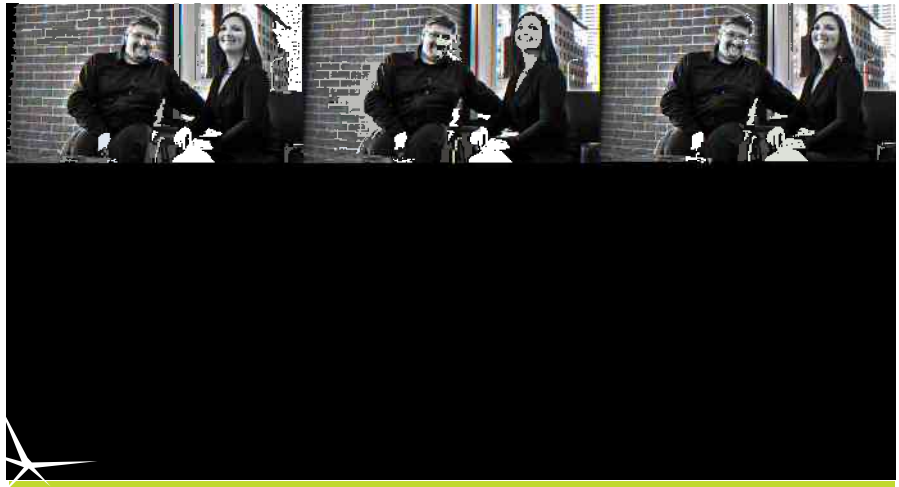
If “Dancing with the Stars” held auditions, it’s safe to say Frank Epperson might just try it out.

When Frank’s date “bailed out” on their first ballroom dance lesson more than a decade ago, he never imagined that being left alone to try something new would inspire a lasting passion. Now, Frank’s been practicing ballroom dancing in a wheelchair for more than 12 years. He says it helps him “stay out of trouble” and keep learning new and interesting things.

Retiring as the fourth-fastest wheelchair racer in the world in the early 1990s, Frank has always maintained an active, can-do attitude. He can foxtrot, waltz, merengue, swing dance, tango and adapt any other form of dance to his wheelchair – including his newest craze – the OMGFastSalsa (also known as a really fast salsa dance).

Frank attends two classes and a practice party each week at Five Star Dance Academy in Carmel, Ind. His instructor, Nicole Thompson, provides the structure and technique during each dance lesson while Frank adds his own flair and emotion for his performances.

“The routines Nicole and I do come through trial and error. What’s great is that we are honest with each other and have developed a great



Ballroom dancer Frank Epperson with his instructor, Nicole Thompson.

relationship so that we can work together,” he said.

Their partnership helps both of them resolve their so-called “stains,” or missteps, during rehearsal and create choreography that is just right for both of them.

“I typically start choreographing the middle section of a dance and work my way outward to make the entrance and exit,” Nicole said. “But Frank is also involved and adds to the choreography what he wants. He even choreographed the whole entrance and exit to the waltz we are working on now.”

Frank certainly loves to add his own personality to his dancing talent. “Creating a persona for my dances is something that I really enjoy doing.” Nicole jokingly refers to them as “Frankisms.”

Frank fell in love with costume and design after getting a behind-

the-scenes look at a ballet performed at Indiana University. Now he visualizes and designs all the elements for each of his performances. And most of his dances start with song selection.

“Lots of times it comes down to song choice. I choose a song because it creates a certain mood and can tell a great story.”

Frank also challenges himself through competition – whether it’s showcases for Five Star Dance Studio or Dance-a-Rama in Chicago, where he took home 12 gold medals and met several people from “Dancing with the Stars.”

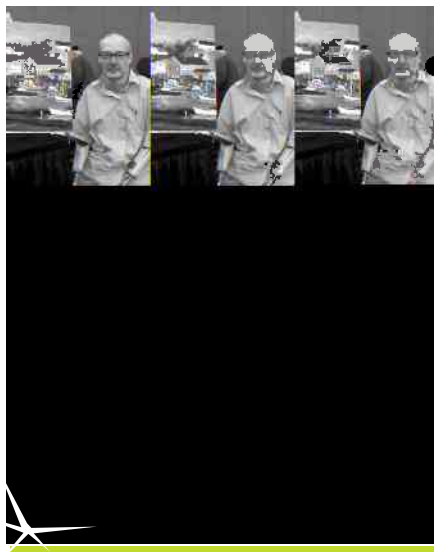
“Just because you do things differently doesn’t mean you can’t do it. It all depends on your definition of what you think you can’t do.” \*

# Terry Haffner: Painting a picture of inspiration

Since he was a toddler – holding pencils and crayons between his toes – and on through college, Terry Haffner was always listening to his parents and teachers. It was their motivation and encouragement that kept him realizing his talent and passion for creating art. They knew Terry was physically limited – with partial legs and no arms – but creatively limitless.

Growing up in Fort Wayne, Ind., Terry nurtured his craft by following the guidance of his art teachers and learning from library books. By 1974, his accomplishments landed him a feature in a segment of the National Enquirer entitled “Tales of True Courage.” His profile caught the attention of thousands of people, and soon he found himself receiving fan mail from across the country declaring him an inspiration to others. It wasn’t until one fan, an art teacher from New Jersey, sent him a box of acrylic paints that he got serious about taking his craft from pencil and paper to paint and canvas.

Terry now uses acrylic paints almost exclusively because he loves the ease and how they lend themselves to color blending and creation. His favorite scenes to paint are New England waterscapes and countryside snow scenes, using a loose, quick brush stroke technique to create his paintings.



Terry showcasing a New England landscape.

“I have my own technique. I want to stay away from Bob Ross and do my own thing.”

**“One of my favorite sayings is, ‘Every tough challenge is a sweeter victory.’”**

– Terry Haffner, artist

Terry also enjoys sharing his love of painting with others. He has visited many school groups, church youth groups, older adult clubs and colleges, showing his talent and giving inspiration – not just as an artist, but as someone whose creativity and determination has overcome the odds.

“One of my favorite sayings is, ‘Every tough challenge is a sweeter victory,’” Terry said.

To those wanting to start painting, Terry recommends buying inexpensive brushes that have just enough bristles to provide a full brush stroke. And, consider middle-grade paper or thin canvas so there will be no worry about the paper buckling. “Start out small and cheap, and just have fun!” Terry says.

But the most important advice Terry can share is making sure to find inspiration in the people around you.

“I love watching people inspire others. I think it’s a good idea for anyone to take an art class at a college or recreation center if they are interested. Just being with other artists is a good way to stretch your creativity.”

To find out more about Terry and to view his artwork, visit his website at [terryhaffner.com](http://terryhaffner.com). Also, look for his autobiography, coming soon. ✨

# Jody Powers: For the love of writing

**H**ow do you fall in love with writing? Jody Powers can explain.

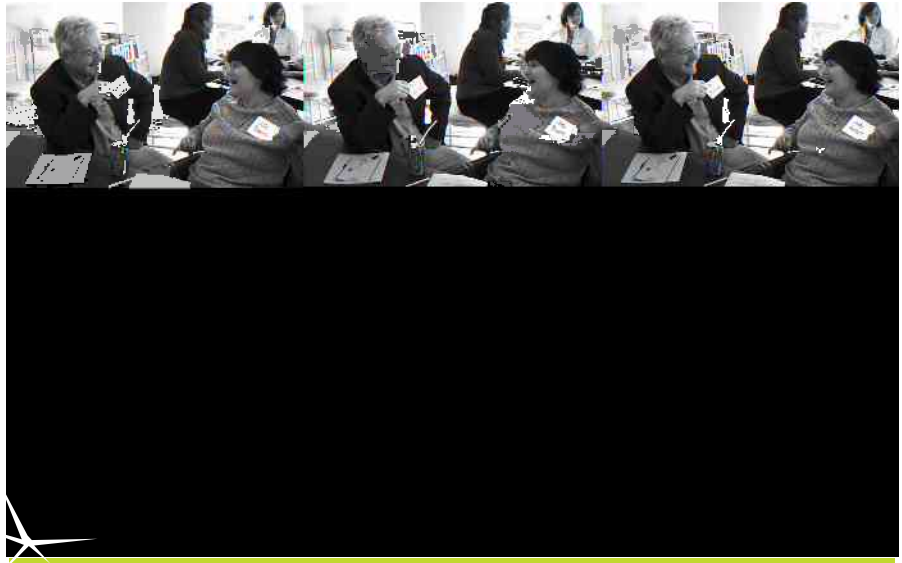
“I think I fell in love with writing because it was a way to let people know there was more to me than what they thought,” Jody said.

“I felt that I always had to prove myself, and my writing was one of the ways I did that.”

At a young age, when her school teachers were still trying to judge her abilities based on her cerebral palsy, Jody discovered the inspiration to show people her creativity through writing. One of her first stories, written at age 10, was a comical tale entitled “The Wish I Wish I Never Made” – about a young girl who wished her little brother had never been born. “I still have the story and probably should put it online. I think people would get a kick out of it!” Jody said.

Jody practiced her talent and continued writing stories throughout college. After graduating, she concentrated on showcasing her creative writing abilities to a wider audience. She became involved with ArtsWORK Indiana, an organization dedicated to encouraging and supporting careers in the arts for adults and young people with disabilities.

“ArtsWORK provided me with practical advice in a supportive tone to develop my skills. Any individual who takes part in ArtsWORK has the opportunity



Jody used ArtsWORK to write her own book.

to create a profile to attract work or to promote their art.”

After being awarded a grant from ArtsWORK, Jody wrote “Unmasking,” published in February 2012 and now for sale in paperback and electronic forms.

“‘Unmasking’ gives a taste of some of the issues that a woman with cerebral palsy faces. I wrote it because I wanted to help discredit the myth that people with disabilities are either superhuman or people to be pitied,” she said.

Jody spent five challenging years crafting the main character, Mandy Morgan, to make sure the character possessed enough depth and emotional layers. And as Jody worked through the writing process, she became even more motivated to write.

“I love writing because it challenges me, and frankly, I feel

awesome when I do it. I write so that I can make a difference for people with disabilities, and I am an example of how you don’t have to be stuck in your fears and anxiety.”

To spark imagination in writing, Jody suggests first deciding on a reason for putting words on paper. She believes if there is a solid theme or message someone wants to communicate, it will motivate anyone to write. She also believes brainstorming, carrying a notepad everywhere, communicating with other authors, reading, taking in nature and even watching cartoons can be great ways to inspire writing.

You can order Jody’s book and read more about her passion for the arts on her website, [jodymichele.com](http://jodymichele.com). \*



# ArtsWORK Indiana

**A**s an informal, statewide network of artists, educators, vocational professionals and cultural organizations, ArtsWORK Indiana offers people with and without disabilities a launch pad to access a career in the arts.

Through ArtsWORK, Jody Powers published her first book entitled “Unmasking.” This organization allows you to:

- gain insight and career advice from other writers, performers and artists;

- receive e-newsletters that highlight events and resources;
- register yourself online and search for opportunities like calls for entry, auditions and gallery openings;
- and post your profile in an online artist directory.

Use Jody’s advice and go to **artsworkindiana.org** to begin networking and advancing your arts career today. ✨

**“ArtsWORK provided me with practical advice in a supportive tone to develop my skills.”**

– Jody Powers, author

## ArtsWORK Indiana

artsworkindiana.org  
info@artsworkindiana.org  
(800) 824-4733 (toll free)

ArtsWORK Indiana, a statewide organization, seeks to increase professional opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities. Go to the website’s “opportunities” page to view a list of arts-related ways people with disabilities can put their creative talents to work. Events and meetings are held quarterly in Indianapolis, and a south central satellite group of ArtsWORK meets monthly in Bloomington.



**“An artist paints, dances, draws, writes or acts at the expanding edge of consciousness. We press into the unknown rather than the known. This makes life lovely and lively.”**

**– Julia Cameron**





# Tapping into your creative side

**H**ave you ever felt you were just not creative enough for a particular task? You struggled to brainstorm new ideas or unique solutions and ended up thinking, “I’ll just let someone else be ‘creative’ and figure it out.”

We’ve all felt that way, and although everyone has different talents and abilities, we all have an innovative side able to create ideas that sparkle. We just need to find the right inspiration and outlet.

Whether in the comfort of your own home or working with others in your community, there are many simple and fun ways to stimulate your own creativity.

## Gather inspiration online

One of the newest online obsessions is the website Pinterest ([pinterest.com](http://pinterest.com)). The site acts as a “virtual bulletin board” of creative ideas. Once you sign up for an

account, Pinterest allows you to create different bulletin boards to categorize the interesting things you find while surfing the web, such as home decorating tips, wedding planning ideas or recipes. And you can interact with other users by pinning their postings to your board.

It’s up to you how you categorize your board. Many users separate their pins into different categories that include recipes, craft ideas, home décor, fashion or vacation ideas. With all of your ideas in one place, your inspiration is right at your fingertips when you’re ready to begin a new project.

Pinterest’s rise in popularity is also due to its ability to act as a social media network. By “following” other users through the site, you can see how other people are gaining inspiration. Pinterest gives users the ability to “Like,” “Repin,” or “Comment” on different pins

to trade ideas and connect people with the same interests. Their ideas may spur a few creative ideas of your own, and in return, you might motivate them. The possibilities for inspiration are endless!

If you’re in need of a quick craft or party idea, especially when working with children, try Crayola’s website at [crayola.com](http://crayola.com). On the left side of the website, a tab directs educators and parents to projects that teach creativity and inspire fun. The useful website also offers free projects such as coloring pages and activity sheets that engage children.

Trying to get creative with your next meal? Websites like [supercook.com](http://supercook.com) or [recipematcher.com](http://recipematcher.com) allow users to upload the ingredients in their kitchens to generate a list of recipes using those ingredients. Without the hassle of an extra

trip to the grocery store, you can try your hand at new recipes. Take a stab at entering random ingredients to make your choices even more exciting.

## Inspire yourself

### “Steal like an artist”

The best artists soak in their favorite creations, take what they like best about them and apply it to their own work. Start by trying to copy the piece of work. As you go, add your own touch or style and see where you end up! It might not be exactly like the original, but that's a good thing. It is original and made by you.

### Flip your medium

Are you good at photography? The next time you take a photo, turn it into a painting. If you play piano, you may want to come up with your own accompaniment for the drums. Stretching your craft beyond what's normal for you expands your horizons and forces you to put your creativity to the test.

### Try something new

Take a class at a local art studio or community center in something that you've always wanted to try. Many places offer activities such as pottery, painting, drawing, music lessons, dance and photography. You'll learn a new skill while meeting other people with the same interests.

### Break your routines

If you go the same way to work every day, eat the same thing or use the same materials project after project, change it up. You may discover a new favorite place

or a fun new food. Experiencing new things forces us to break our typical ways of thinking, which can prevent the burnout that can come from monotonous daily routines.

### Put yourself in someone else's shoes

Try to see the project you're working on from a different perspective. Ask yourself what a celebrity, friend or relative would do or think, and jot down all the ideas that come to mind. Use the ideas you come up with to shape the rest of your project.

## Inspiration beyond yourself

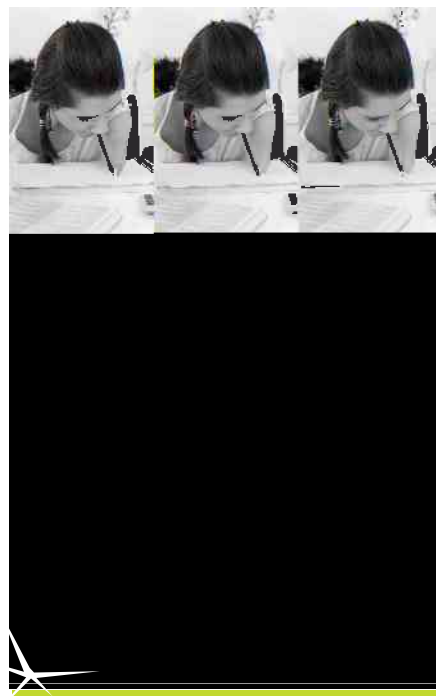
### Mix up your mixer

Have you ever played “You Write the Question” as an icebreaker game? Icebreakers and creativity exercises are always a great way to see new perspectives and offer ideas in a lighthearted, easy way. Here's how to play:

Give everyone a notecard and pick a general topic like “Music.” Then have everyone write a question for anyone in the group to answer about music. For example, “What was the last concert you attended?” or “What's your all-time favorite song?” Pile the cards in the center of the room and have each person draw a card and answer the question written on it.

### Local classes

There are many outlets to explore right in your community! Love music and drums? Find out where the closest drum circle group meets by visiting [drumcircle.net](http://drumcircle.net). Or, if you live in southern Indiana, learn more about Integrated Music Therapy, LLC and their list of



weekly music therapy classes at [inmusictherapy.com](http://inmusictherapy.com).

At Vincennes University, you can take creative arts classes open to the public. Visit [www.vinu.edu/content/personal-interest-classes](http://www.vinu.edu/content/personal-interest-classes), to check which classes are currently being offered. Ivy Tech Community College also offers a myriad of personal enrichment programs – including drawing, basket weaving and landscaping – at many of its Indiana campuses. For more information on those programs visit [ivytech.edu/personalenrichment](http://ivytech.edu/personalenrichment).

## What do you want to do?

Discovering your own ways of being creative is part of the fun. Think about the things you're good at and explore new ways to challenge your skills and talents. And if there's something you've always wanted to learn, there's no time like the present to let your creative juices flow! ✨



# The “art” of assistive technology

**M**ore and more, people of all ages and abilities are using technology in their work, play and education. For people with disabilities, technology is also opening doors to countless opportunities for engaging in arts and cultural experiences. A multitude of options are available to help people with disabilities fully experience movies, plays, museums, art galleries, libraries and more.

## **For people with hearing disabilities**

### **Assistive listening systems**

These systems are available at many movie and performance theaters, museums and other public attractions. The devices are usually kept at the ticket office, information desk or coat check. Assistive listening devices allow people to adjust the volume of sound to a comfortable level.

Some, but not all, assistive listening devices are compliant with hearing aids.

### **Open captioning**

Some theaters offer open captioning that allows viewers to read the movie’s text on the screen. For a complete listing of show times and movies available, visit [captionfish.com](http://captionfish.com). This website allows visitors to type in their hometowns to find nearby captioned movies. It is recommended to call the theater beforehand and arrive early to ensure they are showing the film.

### **CART live captioning**

Live captioning is used for broadcasts and events that require real-time translation from spoken word into text. This service is applied to newscasts, broadcasted sporting events, arenas, city council

meetings, business conferences, weddings and educational functions. CART (Communications Access Realtime Translation) providers may specialize in certain types of events. Terry’s Transcripts of Mulberry, Ind., specializes in personal and educational functions such as weddings or classroom settings. Duvall Reporting, located in Scottsburg, Ind., primarily services classroom and banking investment transactions. There are also some full-service CART programs, such as Voice to Print Captioning that is located in Dyer, Ind. Each of these providers offers services around the state.

### **Sign language interpreters**

Interpreters help facilitate communication between people with and without hearing disabilities. Check with individual arts organizations for the availability of interpreters for



specific programs. A complete list of certified interpreters can be found at the Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services website, [in.gov/fssa/2328.htm](http://in.gov/fssa/2328.htm).

## **For people with vision impairments**

### **Audio description**

This technology describes what is happening on screen. The description often pronounces changes of location, actions, facial expressions, gestures and more to give the context and set the scene. Audio descriptions fit between dialogue and/or commentary to avoid interrupting the flow of the program. This technology is available for some television shows, DVDs, performances and exhibits.

### **DancingDots**

Many technologies are available to help people with visual disabilities read and play music through DancingDots' website, [dancingdots.com](http://dancingdots.com). Their programs teach users how to read Braille music scores, or convert Braille music scores to print scores so people who are unable to read Braille music can play along as well.

## **For people with mobility disabilities**

### **Accessibility guides**

Online resource guides found at these websites, [bit.ly/HN0kus](http://bit.ly/HN0kus) and [ada.gov/stadium.pdf](http://ada.gov/stadium.pdf), help people with mobility disabilities understand what to expect when attending a movie or play at a theater or an event at a stadium. These venues are required to

provide accessible space for people with disabilities, ensuring similar experiences, including views of the event or performance.

### **V-Draw**

This free website allows people with mobility disabilities to draw using only sounds, such as their voices. Speaking at a medium volume creates a straight line; low or high volume creates a curved line in opposite directions. The program runs from the website, [bit.ly/snFQ](http://bit.ly/snFQ), and can be found by searching V-Draw in any search engine.

### **The Art Zone**

National Gallery of Art has a free website for creating multiple types of artistic effects using only a mouse. To explore this kid-centered art hub, visit [nga.gov/kids/zone](http://nga.gov/kids/zone).

## **Low vision applications for computer and mobile operating systems**

### **VoiceOver and Narrator technology**

This technology reads any item displayed on a screen with a simple touch command on a keyboard. All Apple products have VoiceOver technology automatically installed, which can be activated by typing Command+F5. Narrator is the standard equivalent program for Windows operating systems. To activate Narrator on a Windows computer, search for Narrator under the Start button and click the Narrator link in the list of results.

### **Color-free ID**

Available on many smartphones, this free application uses a camera shot to identify the color of an object. Search in the app store on your device to download the program.

### **FlickTunes**

For Apple product users, this application allows you to control an iTunes music playlist by sliding a finger across any portion of the device's screen. You can purchase the app for \$0.99.

## **For people with developmental disabilities**

### **Sensory-friendly movies**

Designed for people with autism, sensory-friendly movies turn the sound down and the lights up to create a more comfortable atmosphere. Families can bring their own snacks, and movies are shown without previews or advertisements. All AMC theaters across Indiana offer sensory-friendly movies. For upcoming shows, visit [amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films](http://amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films).

Using technologies and accommodations, people of all abilities can enjoy a wide range of arts and cultural experiences. But assistive devices and programs can often be challenging to learn and understand. INDATA, the Indiana Assistive Technology Act Project at Easter Seals Crossroads, offers free assistive technology training. To learn more about its programs, services and technologies, visit [eastersealstech.com](http://eastersealstech.com). \*

## How to start a book club

Open a new chapter! Book clubs are a great way to learn and share different perspectives and engage with peers.

### 1. Recruit members

Consider family and friends, as well as members of your place of worship, work colleagues or fellow volunteers. A group of eight people or fewer is best for informal discussion.

### 2. Schedule meetings

Decide when and how often your club will meet, and assign responsibilities. Take turns hosting, leading discussion and providing refreshments.

### 3. Find a location

Members' homes, libraries and coffee shops are great options. Make sure the facility's entrance, meeting space and restrooms are accessible.

### 4. Choose a book

Select books as a group and plan two or three books in advance. Consider your members' interests, reading abilities and the book's availability in alternate formats.

### 5. Have discussions

Appoint a discussion leader or pass around an object that signifies a person's time to speak. Talk about experiences or feelings, and encourage members to be open to everyone's opinions and ideas. \*

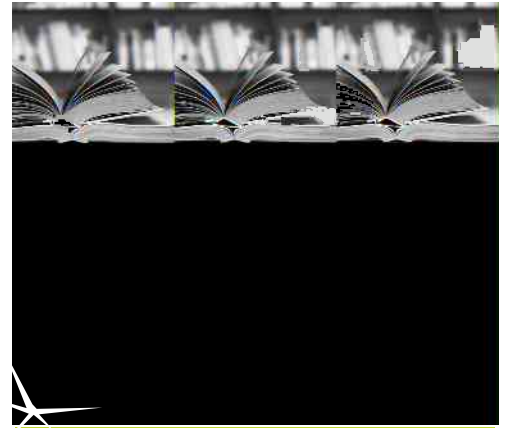
# Indiana Humanities helps Hoosiers expand horizons, cultural engagement

**B**eing creative requires that we step outside the familiar and venture into uncharted territory, opening our minds to new perceptions, ideas and other ways of thinking. Indiana Humanities, a statewide nonprofit organization, facilitates programs aimed at encouraging Hoosiers to “think, read and talk” by engaging in literature, philosophy, history and art.

When we read a new book, learn about unique pieces of history or study different subjects, we expand our understanding of the world around us and ourselves. Indiana Humanities awards grants to nonprofit organizations across the state to fund community-based programs that encourage individuals to participate in cultural opportunities and engage with others.

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis was awarded \$2,000 in March to create a “Hoosier Historical Smart Phone App,” an application that will guide individuals on a tour of the state's historical sites. Another recent grantee, the Fort Wayne Urban League, will use its funds to support a four-week summer program that will teach social justice curriculum – including writing, debating and critical thinking – to minority and low-income youth.

Indiana Humanities also offers its own programs to further extend its mission,



including Novel Conversation – a free-lending library that makes books available to public libraries, organizations and book clubs. In addition, the organization will soon launch its fourth Community Conversations, a workshop series coordinated with partner organizations across the state to address Indiana communities' most pressing concerns.

The Humanities' newest project, Spirit of Competition, explores the role that competition plays in our lives and communities. The two-year initiative includes a traveling interactive exhibit, panel discussions, blogs and more. To learn how you can participate in this and other Indiana Humanities programs, visit [indianahumanities.org](http://indianahumanities.org) or e-mail [info@indianahumanities.org](mailto:info@indianahumanities.org). \*

# Arts and creativity resources

## Indiana Arts Commission

in.gov/arts  
indianaartscommission@iac.in.gov  
(317) 232-1268

The Indiana Arts Commission fosters arts development opportunities across the state. The commission stimulates public interest and participation in Indiana's arts community by enhancing learning opportunities for people of all abilities. The Arts Commission also dedicates a page on its website to accessibility resources and opportunities available around the state.

## Indianapolis Art Center

indplsartcenter.org  
(317) 255-2464

This art center makes it a mission to inspire people of every walk of life to explore art. The center offers summer camps and classes in drawing, painting, glass-blowing, photography, woodworking, jewelry design, textiles and ceramics. It also hosts an annual festival to sell artists' work from around the state.

## Indiana Humanities

indianahumanities.org  
info@indianahumanities.org  
(800) 675-8897 (toll free)

Visit the Indiana Humanities website to learn more about its wide range of programs in literature, history, art, music, philosophy and cultural heritage available throughout the state.

## Arts for Learning, the Indiana Affiliate of Young Audiences

yaindy.org  
office@yaindy.org  
(317) 925-4043

If you are an educator, community program organizer or youth leader, check out Arts for Learning, the Indiana affiliate of Young Audiences. Arts for Learning promotes youth involvement in the arts by collaborating with schools, youth organizations and other groups to provide arts education programs. Browse the organization's full catalogue of programs, including Latin Ballroom Dancing, Fun with Jazz, Drum Dialogues, Mime's the Word and much more!

## IndianaArts

indianaarts.org  
info@indianaarts.org  
(260) 726-4809

As Indiana's only website dedicated to providing statewide resources in the arts, this comprehensive site contains detailed registries of artists, organizations and arts-related businesses throughout the state organized by region or trade. IndianaArts also hosts a community events calendar that gives information on programs and workshops happening across Indiana.

## VSA Indiana

vsai.org  
info@vsai.org  
(317) 974-4123

Through this statewide organization, people with disabilities can learn and experience creative expression through the arts in Indiana. It offers community arts classes in ceramics, 2-D arts, music, movement and drama to people of all ages and abilities. VSA partners with six community organizations across the state to offer local programming. Visit VSA's website to find the location near you.

## The Writers' Center of Indiana

indianawriters.org  
mail@indianawriters.org  
(317) 255-0710

If writing is your passion, learn how to develop your skills and get support and publishing advice from accomplished writers throughout the state. The Writers' Center of Indiana provides writing workshops and classes in a variety of genres, and most events are held around the Indianapolis area. By becoming a member, you can take part in classes throughout the year at a reduced rate.

ignite thoughts into action

**spark**

We welcome your suggestions  
for newsletter content and  
ideas concerning the actions  
of the Council.

phone: (317) 232-7770  
email: [GPCPD@gpcpd.org](mailto:GPCPD@gpcpd.org)

[www.in.gov/gpcpd](http://www.in.gov/gpcpd)

## Honor those who make our communities better

The Governor's Council Community Spirit Awards program recognizes individuals and groups who help make our communities more inclusive for people with disabilities. The Council is now accepting nominations for the 2012 awards in the Distinguished Leadership and Disability Awareness Month categories.

To submit a nomination, visit [www.in.gov/gpcpd](http://www.in.gov/gpcpd) and click on the "catch the community spirit" logo. The entry deadline is August 25, 2012. Awards will be announced at the 2012 Conference for People with Disabilities.

**The deadline for entries  
is August 25, 2012**

  
**catch the  
community spirit**