



WFYI Documentary Celebrates 20 Years of Creative Renewal Arts Fellowships

Lilly Endowment renewal program has invested nearly \$4 million in more than 400 central Indiana artists through 20-year partnership with Arts Council of Indianapolis

***Recharged: The Art of Creative Renewal* debuts May 16 at 7:30 p.m. on WFYI 1**

2020-2021 Fellowships will expand from 30 to 40; Applications open May 16, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY (May 9, 2019)

INDIANAPOLIS, IN -- In the late 1990s, Lilly Endowment Inc. approached the Arts Council of Indianapolis with an interest in making innovative grants to help rejuvenate and retain the city's creative talent. As a result, the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship (CRAF) program was designed to recharge artists and arts administrators. Twenty years later, the program has infused nearly \$4 million into the Indianapolis arts community through fellowships engaging more than 400 professionals working in music, dance, theatre, literature, and visual arts.

Recharged: The Art of Creative Renewal is a new public television documentary celebrating the program's 20th anniversary. The 30-minute documentary, which debuts May 16 at 7:30 p.m. on WFYI 1, examines the profound impact the program has had on the individual lives of participating artists as well as the collective impact it's had on the creative health and vibrancy of our city.

Produced by WFYI's Sandy Roob and Sharon Gamble (Creative Renewal Fellow, class of 2005-2006) with generous support from Lilly Endowment, *Recharged* provides an overview of the CRAF program through the experiences of seven fellows: visual artist Anila Agha, musician John Alvarado, cabaret artist James Benn, theatre artist Keesha Dixon, poet Norbert Krapf, dancer Caitlin Negron, and visual artist Samuel Vazquez.

"Eli Lilly once wrote, 'It takes an artist to make us see, not the bewildering details of the world around us, but the great universals that give significance to our human experiences.'" said Rob Smith, Lilly Endowment's vice president for community development. "At Lilly Endowment, we are inspired by these words from one of our founders. That's why we have supported the

Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship program since its inception in 1999. Artists come back from renewal experiences inspired in new ways, which in turn helps our community be a more engaging and vibrant place for residents and visitors alike.”

Building on its Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program founded in 1987, Lilly Endowment approached the Arts Council of Indianapolis in the late 1990s to explore ways to expand its commitment to renewal and reflection to the arts community. The collaboration inspired the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship as a two-year, \$10,000 grant for artists and arts administrators.

“Lilly Endowment has a wonderful history of making grants to help rejuvenate professionals through the power of sabbatical,” said Julie Goodman, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Indianapolis, which administers the program. “In fact, the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship is one of five renewal programs Lilly Endowment supports, so that teachers, pastors, artists, human service workers, and youth workers can take time away from their work to replenish physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual resources. The documentary does a beautiful job telling the story of the impact these renewal experiences have in our arts community - and how that translates into a creative competitive advantage for Indianapolis overall.”

***Recharged: The Art of Creative Renewal* airs Thursday, May 16th, at 7:30 pm on WFYI 1**
Recharged will premiere on WFYI 1 Public Television at 7:30 pm Thursday, May 16. To celebrate the documentary premiere and the 20th anniversary of the program, Creative Renewal Arts Fellows will host community watch parties for alumni and prospective applicants, including events at the Chatterbox on Mass. Ave., Indiana Repertory Theatre, and other venues - visit indyarts.org for details.

“It’s such an honor to tell the story of this program and what it means for creatives in Indianapolis,” said Sharon Gamble, WFYI Producer and Creative Renewal Arts Fellow (2005-2006). “We are grateful to Lilly Endowment for their visionary commitment to renewal - and for extending this commitment to artists in our city. We hope *Recharged* encourages past Fellows to pause and reflect on their experiences, and inspires artists in need of renewal to apply and continue to grow the impact of this program in our community.”

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Every two years, \$10,000 Creative Renewal Arts Fellowships are awarded to qualified professional artists and arts administrators who apply through an open grant application process managed by the Arts Council. Since 1999, \$3.7 million has been awarded to 430 artists and arts administrators across all artistic disciplines. Based on the growing vibrancy of the Indianapolis arts community, the 2020-2021 Fellowships will be expanded from 30 to 40 to enable even more artists to participate. Applications for the next round of Creative Renewal Arts Fellowships will open on May 16, 2019, and 2020-2021 Fellowships will be announced in the fall. To learn more about the program and application opportunities, visit indyarts.org.

The Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship program is made possible through generous support from Lilly Endowment. To learn more about Lilly Endowment's full portfolio of Renewal Programs, visit lillyendowment.org.

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family — J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons Eli and J.K. Jr. — through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana. To learn more, visit lillyendowment.org.

About WFYI Public Media

As a PBS and NPR member station that also produces local and original content, WFYI Public Media serves the public through six 24/7 digital broadcast services. WFYI Public Radio operates on two distinct stations – 90.1 FM and 90.1 HD2, while WFYI Public Television operates three DTV services (20.1, 20.2 and 20.3). Through intentional community engagement, WFYI has a strong education component, particularly as a hub for the public media initiative American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen, and an ongoing public presence as an organization that amplifies the voices of our community. Additionally, WFYI runs the Indiana Reading and Information Service (IRIS), a reading service for visually - and literacy-impaired people. Learn more at www.wfyi.org.

About the Arts Council of Indianapolis

The Arts Council of Indianapolis is a nonprofit service organization dedicated to fostering meaningful and equitable engagement in the arts by nurturing a culture where artists and arts organizations thrive. The Arts Council allocates public funding to arts and cultural organizations through a competitive grant program; offers fellowship opportunities including the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship, the Robert D. Beckmann, Jr. Emerging Artist Fellowship, and the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award; provides programs, services, and technical assistance for artists and arts organizations; manages the city's public art program including the Public Art for Neighborhoods initiative; supports arts education and arts integration in partnership with Indianapolis Public Schools; and owns/operates the Indianapolis Artsgarden, Gallery 924, and IndyArtsGuide.org. For more information, visit indyarts.org.