City of Indianapolis Awards $1.3 Million in Grants Supporting 70 Arts and Culture Organizations in Partnership with the Arts Council of Indianapolis

Number of arts organizations receiving grant support has increased 37% since 2016; Mayor Hogsett Proclaims May 16 “Creative Renewal Arts Fellows Day” in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, IN -- Thursday, May 16, 2019. Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett will today announce $1.3 million in grants supporting 70 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations serving residents in Marion County during the Annual Grants Program Award Ceremony conducted in the Indianapolis Artsgarden. Grant funding comes from the City of Indianapolis and the Capital Improvement Board and is awarded through a juried public panel process conducted by the Arts Council of Indianapolis. Funded organizations provide programming serving nearly 7 million attendees annually as well as education and outreach in all 25 City-County Council districts.

“Our city supports the arts,” said Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett. “Our arts organizations are essential contributors to the economic health and overall vitality of our city and neighborhoods. We are proud to support the vibrant and growing creative economy in Indianapolis through these annual city grants which are amplified many times over through private support from corporate and philanthropic leaders and individual contributors.”

2019 grantees represent a 37 percent increase in the total number of arts and culture organizations receiving funding, growing from 51 organizations in 2016 to 70 in 2019. The increase is a result of changes made to the Annual Grants Program in 2017 to be more equitable and inclusive of Indy’s overall arts and cultural sector.

According to Julie Goodman, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Indianapolis, Annual Grant applications were reviewed in April 2019, when five independent adjudicators met to conduct the public panel held at The Cabaret. Grants were approved by the Arts Council’s Board of Directors on April 25, 2019.

“Our grant panelists were so impressed by the artistic quality, innovation, and organizational health that was evident in this year’s applications,” said Goodman. “We’re fortunate to have a long history of city support for strategic investment in the arts -- and it’s delivering incredible ROI and community impact. In addition to fueling our quality of life and civic identity, current data tells us that our nonprofit arts and culture sector generates $440 million in annual economic impact in Indianapolis supporting nearly 15,000 full-time jobs and generating $47 million in local and state government revenues.”

The organizations receiving grant funding in this round include (in alphabetical order):

1. American Pianists Association
2. Art With a Heart
3. ArtMix Inc.
4. Arts for Lawrence
5. Arts for Learning
6. Asante Children's Theatre, Inc.
7. Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site
8. Big Car Collaborative
9. Buck Creek Players
11. Dance Kaleidoscope  
12. Drum Corps International, Inc  
13. Echoing Air, Inc.  
14. Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art  
15. Ensemble Music Society of Indianapolis  
16. Festival Music Society  
17. Fonseca Theatre Company  
18. Footlite Musicals, Inc.  
19. Freetown Village, Inc.  
20. Harrison Center  
21. Heartland Film, Inc.  
22. Indiana Historical Society  
23. Indiana Music Education Association & Foundation  
24. Indiana Performing Arts Centre Inc.  
25. Indiana Repertory Theatre  
26. Indiana State Museum  
27. Indiana Writers Center  
28. Indianapolis Art Center  
29. Indianapolis Arts Chorale  
30. Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra  
31. Indianapolis Children's Choir  
32. Indianapolis Jazz Foundation, Inc.  
33. Indianapolis Men's Chorus  
34. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum  
35. Indianapolis Movement Arts Collective  
36. Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art  
37. Indianapolis Opera  
38. Indianapolis School of Ballet  
39. Indianapolis Shakespeare Company, Inc.  
40. Indianapolis Suzuki Academy  
41. Indianapolis Symphonic Choir  
42. Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra  
43. Indianapolis Women's Chorus  
44. Indianapolis Zoo  
45. IndyBaroque Music Inc.  
46. International Violin Competition of Indianapolis  
47. Kids Dance Outreach, Inc.  
48. Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library  
49. Madame Walker Legacy Center  
50. Music for All, Inc.  
51. Newfields  
52. NoExit Performance  
53. PATTERN, Inc.  
54. Percussive Arts Society  
55. Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis, Inc.  
56. Phoenix Theatre  
57. Storefront Theatre of Indianapolis  
58. Storytelling Arts Of Indiana, Inc.  
59. Summer Stock Stage  
60. Summit Performance Indianapolis, Inc.  
61. The Cabaret  
62. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis  
63. The District Theatre  
64. The Indianapolis Theatre Fringe Festival  
65. The Indy Convergence  
66. The New Harmony Project  
67. The Sapphire Theatre Company  
68. WFYI  
69. Young Actors Theatre  
70. Technical assistance will also be provided to one or more organizations

Learn more about the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the Annual Grants Program here.

Celebrating 20 Years of Creative Renewal in Indianapolis

Following remarks by Mayor Hogsett, representatives from funded organizations will accept their awards at a ceremony hosted by the Arts Council of Indianapolis at the Indianapolis Artsgarden on Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 pm. As part of the ceremony, Mayor Hogsett will also proclaim May 16 “Creative Renewal Arts Fellows Day” in Indianapolis. 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship program, which has infused nearly $4 million into the Indianapolis arts community since 1999 through fellowships engaging more than 400 professionals working in music, dance, theatre, literature, and visual arts.

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 program was designed to support artists and arts administrators. Recharged: The Art of Creative Renewal is a new public television documentary celebrating the program’s 20th anniversary. Debuting May 16 at 7:30 pm on WFYI 1, the documentary 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. Learn more about the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship and the Recharged documentary here.

###