FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Arts Council of Indianapolis and Community Funders Announce $225,000 Indy Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund

Relief fund to help support artists and affiliated workers of all disciplines experiencing severe losses due to more than 1,000 arts and culture closures and cancellations as #IndyKeepsCreating

INDIANAPOLIS – More than 1,000 Indy arts and culture event cancellations and venue closures due to the COVID-19 public health crisis are causing devastating losses affecting 30,000 artists, administrators, and affiliated workers and 125+ arts and cultural organizations that comprise Indy’s creative economy.

A recent COVID-19 impact survey conducted by the Arts Council of Indianapolis found 95 percent of individual artists (inclusive of all disciplines - music, dance, visual art, theater, literary, and media) anticipate significant losses, with a majority estimating critical impact on their financial stability. The impact is equally devastating for Indy’s nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, with two-thirds reporting significant financial losses related to cancellations and closures and more than half anticipating the need for emergency relief within one to three months to continue operations.

In partnership with the Arts Council of Indianapolis, a coalition of community funders has established the Indy Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund. The fund will provide rapid response grants to bridge the severe lost wages that make many members of our creative community vulnerable, helping to ensure that #IndyKeepsCreating now and into the future.

The Fund is launching with $150,000, thanks to generous initial investments of $50,000 each by the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc., the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) and the Efroymson Family Fund. A public Go Fund Me campaign with a goal of $50,000 is now open, and gifts of any amount will be matched by the Efroymson Family Fund up to $25,000. The public campaign goal totals $75,000 with the match and the total Relief Fund is expected to exceed $225,000.

“One hundred percent of all contributions to the Indy Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund will go directly to central Indiana artists, arts workers, and administrators,” said Julie Goodman, President and CEO of the Arts Council of Indianapolis. “We are deeply grateful for the swift, compassionate response of these generous community funders to help address the critical financial needs of our artists and arts workers who are experiencing immediate and severe losses due to this crisis.”

The Fund will be administered by the Arts Council of Indianapolis in partnership with the funders and support from Indy Music Strategy, Indiana Humanities, Create Indy, and others.
#IndyKeepsCreating Connects and Promotes Virtual Arts & Culture Offerings
Despite the massive cancellations and closures required to slow the spread of coronavirus, Indy artists and organizations continue to find innovative ways to help us stay connected and inspired using social media. The entire creative community is asked to use the #IndyKeepsCreating hashtag so the Arts Council, Visit Indy, news media, civic, and arts partners can amplify our collective efforts to serve and support our community and each other during this incredibly difficult time. Learn more at www.IndyKeepsCreating.org. Special thanks to Pattern Indy and Big Car Collaborative for their partnership to develop the #IndyKeepsCreating artwork.

“Artists always have, and always will be, on the front lines of human expression, hope, healing, reflection, and resilience,” said Goodman. “#IndyKeepsCreating and the Relief Fund are two immediate ways we can come together as a community and support our artists and organizations as we assess the magnitude of impact from this pandemic and the pathways to recovery. Our phase one priority is helping individuals in our creative community who are suddenly and severely vulnerable while also supporting our organizations as they navigate federal, state, and other local aid and resources.”

Here's how you can support the Indy arts and cultural community during this challenging time:
2. Visit www.IndyKeepsCreating.org to learn more about the growing number of virtual arts and cultural offerings and additional resources to support artists and arts and cultural organizations.
3. Donate tickets to any canceled events back to the organization instead of asking for a refund.
4. Donate directly to the arts and culture organizations and venues you value.
5. Provide payments and tips to individual artists as they share their work on social media.
6. Buy subscriptions, memberships, tickets, and gift cards from arts and cultural organizations.
7. Support local restaurants, bars, businesses, music venues and other cultural and entertainment locations impacted by the crisis.

Apply to the Indy Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund
Artists and qualifying arts and cultural organizations in need of emergency relief funds can apply for a rapid response grant through the COVID-19 Indy Arts & Culture Emergency Relief Fund. Visit IndyKeepsCreating.org for guidelines and application instructions.

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The Arts Council of Indianapolis fosters meaningful engagement in the arts by nurturing a culture where artists and arts organizations can thrive. Read the Arts Council’s Equity Statement here.