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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Arts Council of Indianapolis and Community Funders Announce \$400,000 Indy Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund**

***Relief fund will provide \$500 grants to nearly 800 artists and arts and culture workers  
to ensure that #IndyKeepsCreating during this critical time of financial uncertainty***

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

A recent COVID-19 impact survey conducted by the Arts Council of Indianapolis found 95 percent of individual artists (from all disciplines, including 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 nearly 800 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 has leadership commitments of \$300,000, thanks to generous investments of \$50,000 each by the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc., Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF), Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, Efroymsen Family Fund, Glick Philanthropies, and Herbert Simon Family Foundation.

The Fund is also supported by a public GoFundMe campaign with a goal of \$50,000. Gifts of any amount will be matched by the Efroymsen Family Fund up to \$25,000, bringing the public campaign goal total to \$75,000. Almost \$20,000 has been donated through public contributions to date.

In addition, Visit Indy announced yesterday that the Fund will receive just over \$30,000 from recent sales of official INDY T-shirts. In less than a week, the public T-shirt campaign, a partnership between Visit Indy and The Shop, raised more than \$60,000, which will be divided between the Arts Council and the

United Way of Central Indiana to help support workers in the local hospitality and tourism industry. With Visit Indy's donation and the public campaign goal, the total Indy Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund is expected to exceed \$400,000.

"One hundred percent of all contributions to the Indy Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund will go directly to central Indiana artists, arts and culture 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 with support from Indy Music Strategy, Indiana Humanities, Create Indy, and others.

### ***#IndyKeepsCreating Connects and Promotes Virtual Arts & Culture Offerings***

Despite the numerous 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, and civic and arts partners can amplify these efforts to serve and support our community and each other during this incredibly difficult time. Learn more at [www.IndyKeepsCreating.org](http://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:**

1. [Donate](#) to the Indy Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund.
2. Visit [www.IndyKeepsCreating.org](http://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](http://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](#).*