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***Swish* arts & culture festival welcomes basketball fans to Indy in March**

Downtown visitors can experience an outdoor art gallery, live music, dance performances, and more

INDIANAPOLIS—Nearly 600 visual artists, musicians, dancers, spoken-word artists, curators, and other creative-industry professionals will turn downtown Indianapolis into a sidewalk art gallery and a three-week cultural festival when *Swish* tips off Saturday, March 13. All experiences are free and open to the public and will take place outdoors.

Swish will shine a spotlight on the city's creative talent as Indianapolis prepares to welcome all 68 men's college basketball tournament teams and fans from across the nation. The initiative will also employ central Indiana artists who have lost significant income during the pandemic due to event cancellations and venue closures. The Arts Council of Indianapolis put out a public call for artists in February.

"In Indianapolis, arts and sports have always made great teammates, and this powerful collaboration will allow the city's amazing artists and creatives to reach, and connect with, an even bigger audience," said Julie Goodman, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Indianapolis. "Indy was 'made for this moment,' and *Swish* will take things to a level that will truly enable us all to showcase what we are made of."

Swish is funded through a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant received by Indiana Sports Corp to create a safe, welcoming environment for residents and visitors during the tournament. More information on the art experiences and performance series lineup will be announced later this week. Among the highlights visitors can expect:

In-the-paint, immersive murals. Four visual artists with iconic styles created basketball-themed 3D murals that invite people to step into and be surrounded by artworks inspired by stories of childhood basketball games, players' "court vision," a determined female athlete who overcame cultural barriers, and an astronaut shooting for the stars. The 10x10x10-foot murals will be showcased at Lugar Plaza, Monument Circle, Georgia Street, and the Majestic Building (47 S. Pennsylvania St.).

Street & sidewalk galleries. Nearly 50 vibrant visual art and poetry installations will be displayed in storefronts in key areas downtown and greet visitors at Indianapolis International Airport. Visitors can

stroll Monument Circle to see vinyl reproductions of original works by artists, and stop by 10 W. Washington St. to catch *Paint*, a 3D installation of 64 brightly colored basketballs strung vertically, and *Mona With Cats*, a feline-friendly parody of Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting. Other "galleries" will be located along Georgia Street and around the exterior of Circle Centre Mall.

A public art crawl. A 60-foot-tall mural of Indiana Pacers legend Reggie Miller in mid-shot. Portraits of Indiana Avenue jazz legends. The *Murals for Racial Justice*, a series of temporary murals painted last summer on boarded-up storefronts. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of these and other public artworks highlighting sports, historic landmarks, famous Hoosiers, and works by artists of color. The tour was curated by Rokh, in partnership with the Arts Council.

Music & performance series. A diverse lineup of Indy's top performance talent will bring the city's outdoor civic spaces to life, including 11 pop-up locations along the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick. The series—produced by the Indianapolis Cultural Trail and curated by GANGGANG—will feature 500+ musicians, DJs, spoken-word artists, and dancers delivering performances starting March 13, and continuing Thursdays through Sundays with the big finale on April 6. The series' main locations are Lugar Plaza, Georgia Street, and Davlan Park; additional locations and partners include the Indianapolis Arts Garden, Monument Circle, and Indianapolis International Airport.

"*Swish* is the perfect opportunity to highlight the talented and diverse arts and culture scene in Indianapolis while providing paid opportunities for local creative professionals," said Kären Haley, executive director, Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc. "We are excited to team up with the Arts Council of Indianapolis and GANGGANG to host a free and dynamic experience with more than 200 live performances in downtown public spaces along the Cultural Trail."

Details, including information on *Swish* artists and a map of artwork locations, will be available later this week on the [Arts Council of Indianapolis website](#) and on social media at @artscouncilindy. For news and updates on the performance series, follow @IndyCulturalTrail on social media. To keep up with all things *Swish*, follow and use the hashtag #SwishIndy.

In February, Indiana Sports Corp received a \$905,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to fund *Swish* and other beautification and vibrancy efforts led by civic organizations including Visit Indy, Downtown Indy, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, IndyHub, Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc., Indianapolis Urban League, Indiana Humanities, Indianapolis Airport Authority, and the Arts Council of Indianapolis.

Swish arts and culture experiences are being led by volunteers on the Indiana Sports Corp's Welcome Committee," who represent the Arts Council, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indy Chamber & Indy Music Strategy, Rottmann Collier Architects, Pacers Sports & Entertainment, Through2Eyes, and Yelp.

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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](#).