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## **May signals momentum for nonprofit Indy arts & culture sector**

*Audiences can look forward to exciting new venues and more in-person experiences*

INDIANAPOLIS – More than 30,000 central Indiana arts and culture events were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, but there's reason for local arts lovers to feel optimistic: Nearly 60% of Indianapolis nonprofit arts and culture organizations expect to be open for in-person events by June, and that number will grow to 85% by September, according to a recent survey by the Arts Council of Indianapolis.

This month, audiences can look forward to the openings of new outdoor and indoor venues, the reopenings of existing venues, and a return to some of their favorite experiences and events—reimagined in ways to ensure attendees are safe according to the sector's [#IndyKeepsCreating pledge](#).

"This is May in Indianapolis and we're seeing a race to safely reopen—at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and on stages, in galleries, and at outdoor venues across our city," said Julie Goodman, Arts Council President and CEO. "Indianapolis is committed to restart, reopen, and recover with art, and we're grateful to the artists and cultural organizations who have continued to serve us and help us heal and connect during the pandemic. The momentum we're seeing now will build through the summer toward a full, vibrant arts season in Indianapolis."

The majority of nonprofit arts and culture openings and reopenings in central Indiana has been supported through the \$10 million [Indy Arts and Culture Restart & Resilience Fund](#), administered by the Arts Council and made possible through the generosity of Lilly Endowment, Inc. Since July, the Arts Council has awarded nearly \$6.5 million in Restart & Resilience Fund grants to 41 nonprofit arts and culture organizations that are Indiana-based and physically headquartered in Marion County. The grants are designed to help organizations address the unexpected capital and operating expenses due to COVID-19 in order to support their safe reopening and future delivery of their missions.

While demand for the return to in-person events is high, many arts and culture organizations will continue to offer virtual options to ensure access and inclusion, and reach new audiences. In 2020, 70% of Indy arts and culture experiences were offered virtually and 30% were offered in person, according to Arts Council research. By the end of 2021, those percentages will flip: 70% of experiences will be offered in person and 30% will be "hybrid," with both in-person and virtual options available.

Here are the highlights of arts and culture openings and events throughout May. For the most updated information, visit the [Indy Arts Guide](#).

- [Kan-Kan Cinema](#) will present an outdoor screening of *The Watermelon Woman* May 12 at The Play Ground at Indy Fringe.
- After more than a year of no in-person concerts, the [Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra](#) will re-emerge with “Spring Inspirations,” a series of in-person and virtual performances at Hilbert Circle Theatre, starting May 13.
- The [Indianapolis Opera](#)’s *Madame Butterfly* returns refreshed and in a new, “wilder” setting. Performances will take place May 14-16 at the Indianapolis Zoo’s Bicentennial Pavilion.
- The [Indianapolis Art Center](#) has reimagined its popular Broad Ripple Art Fair into Locally Made, a celebration of art, music, brews, and food, in partnership with the IndyJazz Fest, May 15-16.
- The [Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra](#) presents *The Piazzolla Centenary* May 15 at Clowes Memorial Hall in celebration of “Tango Master” Astor Piazzolla’s 100th birthday. Tickets for virtual performances are also available.
- Guests can take a seat in [District Theatre](#)’s new “hidden urban oasis,” the Outback Theatre in the Alley, for May 16 performances of *Listen To Your Mother*. Performances will be live-streamed for those who prefer to sit inside the venue.
- Art and fashion have taken over the former Crackers Comedy Club in Broad Ripple. [PATTERN](#) has reinvented the space as PARADOX and the first exhibition, *Lost in the Mood!*, will showcase the works of local photographers. It opens May 21.
- Summit Performance Indianapolis presents a staged reading of [Where We Stand](#) by Donnetta Lavinia Grays, featuring Manon Voice, May 21-23, at the Allen Whitehill Clowes Amphitheatre at Marian University. The long-form poem will bring humor, heart, and music to live theater.
- [Fonseca Theatre](#) opens its season with Rachel Lynett’s *Apologies to Lorraine Hansberry (You Too August Wilson)*, May 21-30, in its outdoor theater space. It’s the theater’s first production following the 2020 death of its beloved founder, Bryan Fonseca.
- [Laughter and Resilience: Humor in Native American Art](#), a new exhibition at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, will celebrate the vital role that humor has played in artistic expression by many Native American tribes. It opens May 22.
- Watch performances against the backdrop of the Indy skyline when [The Park at the Phoenix](#) opens. The Phoenix Theatre has re-envisioned its carpark into an outdoor space featuring two stages and a lounge. Phoenix Rising Dance Studios will perform May 23.

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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](#).