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## **Annual Grants Program 2021 awards \$1.2 million to 69 Central Indiana nonprofit arts and culture organizations**

***New evaluation criteria focuses on racial diversity, equity, inclusion, and access***

INDIANAPOLIS—The Arts Council of Indianapolis and City of Indianapolis today announced grant funding totaling \$1.2 million to support the programming and general operations of 69 nonprofit arts and culture organizations serving Indianapolis and Marion County. The Annual Grants Program has been core to the City's support for the arts since 1987, and this year, new scoring criteria was applied.

The City of Indianapolis funds the grants, which are awarded through a competitive, juried, independent public panel process administered by the Arts Council. The 2021 criteria, created by the Arts Council and Central Indiana arts leaders, centers racial diversity, equity, inclusion, and access across three areas of evaluation: artistic merit (25%), organizational capacity (25%), and community impact (50%).

"We're excited to support nearly 70 organizations through this funding, in partnership with the Arts Council," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "These grants are a clear demonstration of the City's commitment to equity and inclusion, as well as our commitment to a robust arts ecosystem across our neighborhoods."

The 10 top-scoring organizations, according to the new evaluation criteria, include Arts for Lawrence, Asante Art Institute, Big Car Collaborative, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Fonseca Theatre, Freetown Village, Indiana Performing Arts Centre, Indianapolis Shakespeare Company, Indianapolis Jazz Foundation, and the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library.

"This program will become an important barometer of our sector's progress to advance racial equity as organizations compete for public funds based on accountability criteria developed with direct input from arts leaders," said Arts Council President and CEO Julie Goodman. "We're encouraged that 40% of the top-scoring applicants are African American- or Latino-centered

organizations. This tells us the new criteria is working to ensure that the allocation of public funding through this program represents the community we serve.”

The 69 organizations that receive Annual Grants Program funding offer programs and outreach in all 25 City-County Council districts. Grant amounts range from \$2,000 to \$75,000.

The independent, public review panel took place April 6-9. Panelists included Alison McNeil of McNeil Creative Enterprises in Arlington, Va.; Ann McKim of the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana in Evansville; Eboni Lewis of the Arts & Science Council in Charlotte, N.C.; Dr. Antonio Cuyler of Florida State University; Dr. Gregory Charleston of Goucher College in Baltimore, Md.; Kathy Hsieh of the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture; Kate Fox of the New York City Office of Cultural Affairs; Kyle Rupert of Jasper (Ind.) Community Arts; Tetia Lee of the Tippecanoe Arts Federation in Lafayette, Ind.; and Tamara Winfrey-Harris of the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

Organizations receiving 2021 Annual Grants Program funding (in alphabetical order) include:

American Pianists Association	\$16,650
ArtMix	\$22,500
Arts for Lawrence	\$6,000
Arts for Learning Indiana	\$35,219
Asante Art Institute of Indianapolis (Asante Children’s Theatre)	\$50,000
Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site	\$2,300
Big Car Collaborative	\$37,800
Brick Street Poetry	\$2,900
Buck Creek Players	\$2,100
The Cabaret	\$31,282
The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis	\$75,000
Classical Music Indy	\$4,500
Claude McNeal Productions	\$4,400
Dance Kaleidoscope	\$19,800
The District Theatre	\$6,000
Drum Corps International	\$2,900
Echoing Air	\$2,300
Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art	\$75,000
Ensemble Music Society of Indianapolis	\$2,000
Festival Music Society	\$2,500

Footlite Musicals	\$2,000
Freetown Village	\$8,000
Fonseca Theatre Company	\$45,610
Harrison Center for the Arts	\$24,519
Heartland Film	\$4,500
Hoosier Salon Patrons Association	\$2,000
Indiana Fashion Foundation Corporation	\$6,000
Indiana Historical Society	\$5,000
Indiana Music Education Association	\$3,000
Indiana Performing Arts Centre	\$10,000
Indiana Repertory Theatre	\$75,000
Indiana State Museum	\$75,000
Indiana Writers Center	\$5,000
Indianapolis Art Center	\$22,719
Indianapolis Ballet Inc.	\$7,000
Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra	\$13,050
Indianapolis Children's Choir	\$15,300
Indianapolis Film Project (dba Kan Kan)	\$4,800
Indianapolis Jazz Foundation	\$39,584
Indianapolis Men's Chorus	\$5,500
Indianapolis Movement Arts Collective	\$5,800
Indianapolis Opera	\$19,719
Indianapolis Shakespeare Company (dba Indy Shakes)	\$7,000
Indianapolis Suzuki Academy	\$3,700
Indianapolis Symphonic Choir	\$12,150
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra	\$75,000
Indianapolis Women's Chorus	\$5,500
Indianapolis Zoo	\$20,000
IndyBaroque Music Inc.	\$2,700
The Indy Convergence	\$3,500
IndyFringe	\$26,282
International Violin Competition of Indianapolis	\$21,150

Kids Dance Outreach	\$34,018
Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library	\$45,610
Madam Walker Legacy Center	\$30,000
Music For All	\$5,000
The New Harmony Project	\$4,000
NoExit Performance	\$3,300
PATTERN	\$4,100
Percussive Arts Society	\$4,500
Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis	\$4,200
Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre	\$30,219
Sapphire Theatre Company	\$4,400
Storefront Theatre of Indianapolis	\$4,400
Storytelling Arts of Indiana	\$6,000
Summer Stock Stage	\$4,000
Summit Performance Indianapolis	\$3,500
WFYI	\$20,000
Young Actors Theatre (dba REACT)	\$30,519

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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](#).*