



ARTSCOUNCIL
OF INDIANAPOLIS

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DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award program to expand statewide

Contemporary visual artists in Indiana's 92 counties can now apply for the \$10,000 grants

INDIANAPOLIS—The Arts Council of Indianapolis announced today that the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Awards program, which supports aspirational and innovative projects by contemporary visual artists, is accepting applications from artists across the state. Artists from any of Indiana's 92 counties can now apply for the \$10,000 grant.

"Following the successful pilot of the program in central Indiana, we are pleased to partner with the Arts Council to expand the program statewide," said Melynn Klaus, Director of the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation. "We know how proud Christel DeHaan would be to see this expansion and increase in our support provided to artists living and working in our state."

The DeHaan Artist of Distinction Awards are intended to allow artists to take risks and push their work in dynamic ways. While Central Indiana served as the pilot for the award program five years ago, the intent was always to expand statewide.

"We believe this award can help heighten an artist's visibility, advance their career and can truly be life changing," said Ernest Disney-Britton, Vice President of Community Impact & Investment at the Arts Council. "To finally offer this award statewide and to celebrate the innovative contemporary visual artists working throughout our state is exciting."

Artists can find more information about the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award program on the Arts Council's [website](#). The next application deadline is Nov. 12, and applications are reviewed quarterly. Artists submit a final report after their project is complete and are invited to be part of a group exhibition at the Arts Council's Gallery 924.

The fourth annual DeHaan Artist of Distinction Group Exhibition opens Friday, Sept. 3, at [Gallery 924](#), and runs through Oct. 29. It will feature artworks by painter Mason Archie, photographer Eric Lubrick, multidisciplinary artist Samuel Levi Jones, and papel picado artist Beatriz Vasquez.

Christel DeHaan, who died June 6, 2020, was a remarkable businesswoman, philanthropist, and devoted advocate for Indy arts, culture, and education. The DeHaan Artist of Distinction Awards are an example

of her legacy and commitment toward social impact through her work with many Indianapolis arts, cultural, and youth-serving organizations.

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About the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation

Since 1997, CDFF Board Members have overseen grants in excess of \$60 million to arts, arts education, education, child welfare, and human need organizations. Throughout its history, the Foundation has refined its giving strategies and operations to optimize its support provided to arts and cultural organizations with a special emphasis on the performing arts. Support for the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award program is a new opportunity to engage the visual arts community.

About the Arts Council of Indianapolis

The Arts Council 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](#).