



## **2023 Annual Grants Program awards nearly \$1.5 million to a record 85 nonprofit arts and culture organizations**

### ***15 Indianapolis organizations are new grantees to the program***

INDIANAPOLIS—A record 85 nonprofit arts and culture organizations received funding through the 2023 City of Indianapolis Annual Grants Program, the Indy Arts Council and the City announced today. Nearly \$1.5 million was invested in the local creative economy through grants that support the development of arts and cultural performances, programs, exhibitions and activities throughout Indianapolis and Marion County.

The 2023 investment represents a 15% increase over 2022 funding, in part so the Arts Council could expand program participation and funding to smaller organizations and organizations led by, and serving, people of color (POC), said Nikki Kirk, director of community investment at Indy Arts Council. This year, 16 POC-led organizations received Annual Grants Program support, compared with 10 organizations in 2022. Seven of those 16 organizations were new applicants to the 2023 program.

“The City of Indianapolis increased its investment in the Annual Grants Program for a simple reason: arts and culture help make up our city’s identity,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett. “Over the past several years, we have made extraordinary gains in our cultural sector, especially through POC-led cultural organizations. We’re proud to expand our support so that even more artists and residents can see the benefits of this program.”

The Annual Grants Program has been core to the City’s support for arts and culture since 1987. In 2021, new scoring criteria was applied that centers racial and socioeconomic equity across three areas: community impact, artistic merit, and organizational capacity.

A juried, independent panel, administered by the Arts Council, evaluated applications April 11-14 via Zoom. (See panelists’ names at the end of this release.) The review process was open to the public.

The top 10-scoring organizations are (in alphabetical order): ArtMix; Big Car Collaborative; the Cabaret; El Sistema Indianapolis; Fonseca Theatre Company; Freetown Village; Indy Shakes; Storytelling Arts of Indiana; the Performing Arts Conservatory; and Sapphire Theatre Company.

“We are grateful for the City’s investment in this program for the past 36 years,” said Indy Arts Council President and CEO Julie Goodman. “We appreciate their recognition of our fast-growing creative economy through the 15% increase to this year’s Annual Grants allocation– 87% of which supported POC-led organizations, cultural startups, and neighborhood-based and small-budget organizations.”

**2023 Annual Grants Program recipients:**

Organizations new to the program are marked with an asterisk. Grant amounts ranged from \$2,000 to \$75,000 and were distributed based on three operating budget categories.

American Lives Theatre*	\$7,500
American Pianists Association	\$17,000
ArtMix	\$50,000
Arts for Lawrence	\$15,000
Arts for Learning (Young Audiences of Indiana)	\$17,500
Asante Art Institute of Indianapolis	\$30,000
Athenaeum Foundation*	\$6,500
Aurora PhotoCenter	\$9,000
Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site	\$4,500
Big Car Collaborative	\$42,000
Brick Street Poetry	\$4,500
Buck Creek Players	\$6,000
The Cabaret	\$45,000
Classical Music Indy	\$18,000
Claude McNeal’s Musical Theatre Training Program	\$11,500
Children's Museum of Indianapolis	\$75,000
Dance Kaleidoscope	\$24,000
Discovering Broadway*	\$6,500
The District Theatre	\$9,500
Drum Corps International	\$4,000
Echoing Air	\$4,000
Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art	\$75,000
El Sistema Indianapolis*	\$9,500
Festival Music Society	\$5,500
Fonseca Theatre Company	\$42,000
Footlite Musicals	\$8,000
Freetown Village	\$9,500
GANGGANG*	\$6,000
Haitian Association of Indiana*	\$6,500
Harrison Center	\$12,500
Heartland Film	\$10,000

Hoosier Salon Patrons Association*	\$4,500
Iibada Dance Company	\$9,000
Indiana Black Expo*	\$4,500
Indiana Entertainment Foundation*	\$4,000
Indiana Fashion Foundation	\$6,500
Indiana Performing Arts Centre	\$9,000
Indiana Repertory Theatre	\$75,000
Indiana State Museum Foundation	\$75,000
Indiana Wind Symphony	\$2,000
Indiana Writers Center	\$8,000
Indianapolis Art Center	\$12,000
Indianapolis Ballet	\$10,000
Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra	\$6,500
Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra	\$12,000
Indianapolis Children's Choir	\$12,000
Indianapolis Cultural Trail*	\$7,500
Indianapolis Jazz Foundation	\$40,000
Indianapolis Men's Chorus	\$8,500
Indianapolis Opera Company	\$32,000
Indianapolis Shakespeare Company	\$9,500
Indianapolis Suzuki Academy	\$10,000
Indianapolis Symphonic Choir	\$10,000
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra	\$75,000
Indianapolis Theatre Fringe Festival	\$14,000
Indianapolis Women's Chorus	\$9,500
Indianapolis Youth Orchestra	\$4,500
Indianapolis Zoo	\$20,000
Indy Convergence	\$8,500
Indy Juneteenth*	\$7,000
International Violin Competition of Indianapolis	\$10,000
Kan-Kan Cinema (aka Indianapolis Film Project)	\$9,000
Kheprw Institute*	\$6,000
Kids Dance Outreach	\$35,000
Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library	\$12,000
Lafayette Square Area Coalition (dba International Marketplace Coalition)*	\$9,000
Madam Walker Legacy Center	\$32,000
Music for All	\$3,000
Musical Family Tree	\$4,000
Naptown African American Theatre Collective*	\$5,500
New Harmony Project	\$22,500

Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art)	\$75,000
PATTERN	\$9,000
The Performing Arts Conservatory	\$9,800
Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis	\$9,500
The Philippine Cultural Community Center	\$6,500
Phoenix Theatre	\$32,000
REACT (formerly Young Actors Theatre Inc.)	\$30,000
The Sapphire Theatre Company	\$10,000
Southbank Theatre Company*	\$6,500
Storefront Theatre of Indianapolis	\$7,000
Storytelling Arts of Indiana	\$10,000
Summer Stock Stage	\$9,000
Summit Performance Indianapolis	\$9,000
WFYI	\$16,200

**The 2023 Annual Grants Program review panelists included:** James Adams, chairman of the DeSoto Arts Commission; Lindsay Akens, director of capacity and engagement of the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo; Megan Berner, arts & culture manager for the City of Reno (Nevada); Ashraf Hasham, partnerships, education, and grants manager of the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture; Mia Hooper, director of development and grantmaking at the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council; Ebony Chuukwu, associate program officer of performing arts at the Walder Foundation; Ray Gargano, vice president of community investments at ArtsWave; Sarah Lindgren, vice president of community investment and support at Fund for the Arts; and Rochelle Riley, director of arts & culture for the City of Detroit.

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***Indy Arts Council** fosters meaningful engagement in the arts by nurturing a culture where artists and arts organizations can thrive. Read our Equity Statement [here](#).*

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