



2024 Lifelong Arts - Returning Artist Fellowships

Artist Name, City of Residence	Fellowship Description
Alia Hawkins, Gary	Hawkins' fellowship will support the expansion of the "Restorative Barre" program by teaching the following: (1) basic ballet and modern dance steps; (2) Pilates; and (3) yoga poses. The basic steps will be used to help the older adult population be able to move easier and also learn a choreographic piece that they will be able to showcase at a performance
Alicia Sims, Indianapolis	The "Be Wise! Creative Program" will foster a safe space for intergenerational discussions through creative writing, storytelling, and performing arts. Younger and older adults will engage in six sessions together using these artistic expressions while learning about the stages of aging using the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) curriculum.
Audrey Johnson, Lafayette	Johnson's fellowship will support a week-long musical project in collaboration with Joyful Journey of West Lafayette, Indiana featuring songs about the history of gender equality in America. Johnson will lead a group of participants as they learn, compose, and present a program of songs which will be presented to the Greater Lafayette community.
Cara Schmitt, Munster	Schmitt's fellowship will be used to offer 8 sessions in which students will learn fundamental drawing techniques while exploring self-expression through a series of both abstract and figurative creative prompts, to be done in the pages of a provided art journal. Each session will provide new artistic challenges while building skills and confidence. Students will work in a circle and are encouraged to share both supplies and insights.
Celeste E. Lengerich, Fort Wayne	Lengerich's project, "Creative Expression Through Painting," will teach the essentials of color theory, drawing and painting with pastels, acrylic, and watercolor paints. Students will learn how to mix paint for a range of colors, tints and shades. They also will find out how artists use color to convey emotion and mood. This program will

	cover a simple drawing strategy and explore various painting techniques and strategies.
Chris Acton, Chesterton, Visual Arts	In the “Let’s Throw a Shuttle” program, students will experience weaving in a fun, hands-on environment, learning about a different weaving pattern each week. By the end of the program, each student will have a wall hanging sampler to take home. To celebrate the completion, a special reception will take place involving friends, family, and the community in this unique handwoven experience.
Clare Longendyke, Fishers	The “Concert-goers Social Club” is a four-month program tailored for adults aged 55+ with an interest in classical, jazz, and world music and an excitement for exploring Indianapolis's eclectic music scene. Led by Longendyke, the class will offer pre-concert sessions for enhancing each concert-going experience, attendance at diverse live music events, and the opportunity to develop and synthesize musical knowledge through written concert reviews while building lasting community connections. Each participant's reflections will be compiled into a digital journal, providing a lasting keepsake of the musical journey in this welcoming and inclusive community.
Delores Thornton, Indianapolis	Thornton’s fellowship project, "This Is My Story" will instruct participants on journaling and teach older adults the skills necessary to write a story and how to share their story with family, friends, and the community at large. The programming will also include instructions on publication, promotion, book sales and signings.
Derek Tuder, Indianapolis	Tuder will utilize the fellowship to design and implement a four-day art residency for older adults at a community center. Participants will craft their own Christmas trees and personalized ornaments using precious photographs and keepsakes that honor both departed loved ones and living family members. The meaningful journey will offer a unique opportunity to create beautiful holiday heirlooms that'll culminate in an art exhibition for their families to enjoy with their artist.

<p>Diana J. Ensign, Indianapolis,</p>	<p>Ensign’s fellowship goal is to foster knowledge of the self-publishing process for adults, aged 55 and older, and impart skills so they can self-publish their literary work, whether for an audience of friends and family or for a wider public audience.</p>
<p>Elijah Stephen, Indianapolis</p>	<p>Stephen will organize the "Rhythm of Life" program, a vibrant and engaging creative aging initiative centered around the power of drumming and drum circles. Over six enriching sessions, older adults will delve into the world of percussion, learning various drumming techniques and rhythms from diverse cultures. The program will culminate in a grand drum circle event where participants will showcase their newfound rhythmic talents and celebrate the joy of making music together.</p>
<p>Ellen Mensch, Fort Wayne</p>	<p>In " Painting Fundamentals: Creative Expression Through the Landscape,” participants will learn the fundamentals of painting, using the landscape as a starting point toward full creative expression. The fundamentals that will be covered include perspective, composition and color-mixing. Participants will engage in creative exercises and discussion, all while building toward an end goal of exhibiting a painting in our final exhibition at Artlink Gallery.</p>
<p>Emily Bennett, Terre Haute</p>	<p>Bennett’s fellowship project’s goal is to foster a sense of community by offering a consistent space for older adults to connect and engage in meaningful creative expression, and experience learning something new together. Fellowship funds will be used provide equipment and materials such as lap looms and weaving supplies, create a structured curriculum that gradually builds weaving skills over multiple sessions, and support the collaborative creation of a gallery-worthy tapestry for display.</p>
<p>Janelle Slone, Angola</p>	<p>Through the program “Ceramic Arts Through All Perspectives,” a progressive series of classes will be offered that introduce multiple methods of creating with clay. Participants will be encouraged to explore the limitless boundaries that ceramics has to offer. Instruction will be given in sculpting, coil building, slab construction,</p>

	the pottery wheel, and orchestrating the culminating show to display the unique works of art.
Jessica Renslow, Gary	Through the fellowship, Renslow will launch the Silver Screen Filmmakers Club Spring 2025 Cohort. The program will meet in person twice a week. Members will learn how to shoot short documentary films on their phones, work as production teams, learn a brief history of filmmaking, how to use editing software, and decide which online platform is the best fit for their film.
Jill Mires, Madison	In the fellowship program led by Mires, “Golden Groovers,” participants will focus on fostering physical activity, creativity, and community engagement through movement. Over multiple sessions, participants will gradually develop their dance skills while exploring various styles and techniques in a supportive environment. This programming will be structured to meet all ability levels so that all will experience the joy and benefits of dance.
Julie McColly Hill, Indianapolis	McColly’s fellowship project, “The Blooming Wise: Oracle Deck for Aging Well” will be an interdisciplinary and inter-generational project that draws upon the conflation of art and autobiography, resulting in a co-designed product that will serve as both a legacy for creators and an educational experience for the "players."
Kate Ellis, Bloomington	In the "Botanical Prints on Fabrics" class, participants will learn to create intricate designs on fabric using colors and patterns from flower petals, leaves, and natural dyes. Through techniques like rolling, binding, and steaming, they will transform natural fabrics into creative surfaces. This hands-on experience will encourage participants to build community connections and collaborate on an exciting final project.
Kierra Ready, Indianapolis	In "Culture and Canvas," Ready will implement a residency program designed for older adults that combines cultural exploration with artistic development. Through multiple sessions, participants will learn visual art techniques while sharing and reflecting on their cultural stories and experiences, resulting in a culminating exhibition of their work.
Kristina Neal-Mosley, Gary	Neal-Mosely’s project, “The Soul of Poetry” is back for year two. The program is a five-week project. Welcoming in, the hidden voices to our lives. Poetry as art practice, allows the artist to listen, to play and observe -humanity at its core. Collectively, and individually, poetry is the art of soul - making. As such, a dichotomy of light, and dark. From sight to sound, from pen to page, we all become poets. This Continuation of gathering for year two, will

	<p>serve as a deeper connection to poetry. Participants will write poetry together, pour out their stories, the journey of living on to the page. Fostering communities in hope, self fulfillment, and so much more as we write.</p>
<p>Laura Krentz, La Porte</p>	<p>Fellowship funds will be used to support “Exploring Watercolor Painting for Older Adults,” a course where students will experiment with color mixing and master basic painting techniques. Through sequential learning sessions, students will confidently use all their acquired skills to create finished paintings. Participants will experience pride in their work, enjoy the company of other adults their age in a social and supportive setting, and take away an enjoyable hobby they can do at home.</p>
<p>Laura Krell, Indianapolis</p>	<p>Krell’s fellowship project, “Love Is in the Air: Valentine Circus Cabaret” will take place over a series of nine classes in which seniors will learn, interact, and perform alongside of professionals. The programming will provide interactive workshops from top professionals in vocal music, dance, and circus performance, and will culminate in a combined public performance at a local Indiana theater.</p>
<p>Melli Hoppe, Long Beach</p>	<p>Hoppe’s fellowship programming, “Mindful Movement for Seniors,” will offer eight-week sessions in which participants will learn how the elements of dance (body, space, action, time and energy) can be used as a tool for self-expression while improving focus, memory and balance. Participants will work with partners, small, and large groups to learn dance improvisation skills while meeting new people and building community through movement.</p>
<p>Michal Ann Carley, Bloomington</p>	<p>In “Creating From Our Own Stories,” participants will learn many drawing and painting techniques to explore the expressive and descriptive ways we can communicate through two-dimensional art forms. Participants will learn about nature’s compositional and design principles and employ those to create artful multi-media works of art. Participants will experiment with mark-making, design choices, color, and assemblage to create works of art that echo our lived experiences and memories and show them in a culminating, public art exhibit. Throughout, participants will enjoy personal and artistic validation through the sharing of our ideas, reflections, and artworks.</p>

<p>Nelsy Marcano, Michigan City</p>	<p>Marcano’s fellowship project, “2D Art and Design,” will teach various techniques while experimenting with unique and unconventional materials to create two-dimensional artwork. Over eight sessions, participants will engage in exploration, self-expression, and constructive peer feedback as participants advance into more complex artworks. The course will culminate in an art show to celebrate the artistic achievements of participants amongst family and community members.</p>
<p>Samuel Love, Gary</p>	<p>Through the program “Oral History Interviewing,” Barnett will lead three separate sessions of six weekly, hour-long sessions with a concluding event. The courses will be structured around what an oral historian does before, during, and after the interview and how the process can be relevant to a range of interests like genealogy and family history, storytelling, and local histories. Participants will start with strategies for defining a topic and finding responses and conclude with options for archiving findings and making them publicly accessible.</p>
<p>Sam Bartlett, Bloomington</p>	<p>Through “New Tunes and Techniques for Dance Musicians at the Bloomington Old-Time Music and Dance Group,” Bartlett will build the repertoire and dance music skills on fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandolin with focus on the 55+ aged musicians in the Bloomington Old-Time Music and Dance Group. The programming will be delivered through 14 weekly, one-hour teaching sessions, broken up into two sections.</p>