Program Overview - Work In Progress Exchange Labs and the Work In Progress Exchange Lab Micro-Support Grant Program

Work In Progress (WIP) Exchange Labs are in-person convenings for artists of all disciplines to gather in person to discuss topics of interest pertaining to creatives such as the status of current projects and their creative practices and careers. Primary topics of discussion include projects attending artists are currently in the process of creating, technique and skill recommendations, sharing of both virtual and physical resources, sharing of specific past and present experiences as it pertains to creative careers, and their immediate local arts ecosystem. Work In Progress Exchange Labs are free to attend and are regionally based. Artists who participate in at least one Exchange Lab meeting are eligible to apply to the Work In Progress Exchange Labs Micro-Support Grant.

The Work In Progress (WIP) Exchange Lab Micro-Support Grant Program is a competitive grant program providing funding of between $250 - $1,000 to support a current project connected to Exchange Lab discussions, topics, or an artist's individual practice.

Who Can Apply to the WIP Micro-Support Grant Program: Artists (of any discipline) who have attended a minimum of one Exchange Lab are welcome to apply. Please see the full list of eligibility requirements below.

Key Dates:
Spring/Summer Cycle: The Spring Application Deadline is 5/1/2025 for the grant period 7/1/2025 - 11/4/2025.

Fall/Winter Cycle: The Fall/ Winter Cycle Application Deadline is 10/29/2025 for the grant period 1/5/2026 – 5/5/2026.

Who to Contact: Jordan Adams, Artist Services Program Manager – joadams1@iac.in.gov

Program Details

Program Goal
This program allows creatives across the state to connect and network in five regional areas with a variety of accessible locations within those regional areas. The facilitated discussions are

designed to specifically to support artists develop and advance both emerging and existing projects.

Program Outcomes

- Indiana's artists build successful careers in our state. [§]
- Indiana's artists are offered a community that offers critique, feedback and collaboration specifically on their artistry.
- Indiana's arts providers (as partners) have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities. [§]
- Indiana's artists, both rural and metropolitan, are offered spaces that combat feelings of isolation

[§] IAC 2024 – 2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact

About Us

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) is a state government agency, and its funding comes from the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

A core component to the Indiana Arts Commission's commitment to investing in the state's vibrant and rich arts and culture sector are grants, which support people and communities through arts organizations and arts projects.

Program Contacts

The following information outlines primary contacts for the grant program:

- **For questions about application, eligibility, and guidelines:** Contact the Artist Services Program Manager, Jordan Adams, at joadams1@iac.in.gov for your region.
- **For help or technical assistance with the Online Grant System:** Contact IAC grants and operations team at grantsadmin@iac.in.gov.
- **For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project:** Contact André Zhang Sonera at accessibility@iac.in.gov.
- **To apply:** Access the application. Only applications submitted online will be accepted, except in the case of ADA accessibility accommodations.

Grant Award Amounts and Grant Payment

Applicants can request a minimum of $250 and up to $1000.

Applicants' projects recommended for funding will receive partial or the full amount requested. Recommended applicants are eligible to be paid in full at the beginning of the grant period provided they are in good standing and supply the required information in a timely manner.

While there are two application cycles, an applicant is only eligible to receive one WIP Micro-Support Grant in CY2025.

Work In Progress Exchange Labs and Micro-Support Grants Funding Priorities
This program will prioritize funding projects in each region hosting labs.

Dates to Know – Spring Application Cycle (Grant Period July 1, 2025 – November 4, 2025)

Program Opens for Applications	March 19, 2025
Informational Webinar	April 2, 2025, AT 4:00 p.m. ET (Register to attend.)
Application Due	May 1, 2025, by 4:30 p.m. ET* *Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.
Funding Notification	Week of June 9, 2025
Final Grant Report Due	November 20, 2025

Dates to Know – Fall/Winter Application Cycle (Grant Period January 5, 2026 – May 5, 2026)

Program Opens for Applications	September 17, 2025
Informational Webinar	October 1, 2025
Application Due	October 29, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. ET* *Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.
Funding Notification	Week of December 8, 2025
Final Grant Report Due	May 21, 2026

Eligibility
Eligible Applicants*
- Artists and creatives in any arts discipline that include the following.
    - Dance
    - Music
    - Opera/Music Theatre
    - Theatre
    - Design Arts
    - Visual Arts
    - Photography
    - Media Arts
    - Literature
    - Crafts
    - Folk/Traditional Arts
    - Interdisciplinary Arts
    - Multidisciplinary Arts

- Creatives must have attended at least one scheduled Work in Progress Exchange Lab in their local region
- Currently an Indiana resident
- 18 years or older

*IAC staff may follow up to request documentation or additional information and will make the final determination on eligibility.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- All applicants must be in good standing with all the following: the State of Indiana; the Indiana Arts Commission; the applicant's regional area lead.

WIP Access Code Tool

To access the grant application, you will need to utilize an access code provided by your area lead or the program manager. If you have not already received access, please reach out to the program contact via the information previously provided in this document.

Use of Grant Funds

Eligible Uses of IAC Funds

Work In Progress Exchange Labs' Micro-Support grants are able to financially support eligible expenses of a short-term arts project or professional technical development for an individual artist which can include the following;

- Registration fees for conference or seminar

- Memberships or subscriptions that offer business or administrative skill development, and/or field knowledge

- Purchase of supplies, equipment or materials

- Studio or Equipment Rental fees

- Payment of fees to an artistic collaborator

- Publishing, printing, or framing costs for artwork, literary work or promotional materials

- Travel to attend a residency (airfare or mileage reimbursement within the U.S.)

This list is not exhaustive and other expenses submitted for eligibility will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Ineligible Uses of IAC Funds

IAC funds may not be used on food and beverages (including alcoholic beverages); cash awards or prizes (including gift cards); and fundraising costs and events. **This is not an exhaustive list of ineligible expenses. [Consult Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information on eligible and ineligible uses of IAC funds.](#)**

Evaluation Criteria and Review Process

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated in the order they are submitted, as well as by how well they meet the following criteria:

- **Artistic Vision and Project Alignment (40%) –** The artist articulates their own unique artistic vision and perspective in a clear and concise declarative statement. The artist provides a clear description of the creative work or project being considered for funding. The creative project or work described aligns with the artist's vision and is ambitious in their own framework of shared expression.
- **Project Management and Planning (30%) –** The artist explains the current status of the project, and if it will begin or be completed within the next calendar year. They are also able to provide a clearly aligned budget and how IAC funds will contribute to the completion of the project. The artist can explain how specific feedback, critique, resource(s), or connections gained from attending their local exchange lab(s) were used to assist and support the progression of their creative project or work being considered for funding.
- **Community Benefit and Career Development (30%) –** The creative project or work provides public benefit as an outcome by providing access to an arts experience to their community or benefiting their community in some other tangible way. The creative project or work also positively progresses the applicant's creative career in a specific area.

Access the Evaluation Criteria.

Access the scoring rubric that will be used by application reviewers.

Final Eligibility Review

Post application deadline, applications receive an eligibility review to ensure the applicant is eligible to apply for the program and all required information was submitted. Incomplete or missing information may deem the application ineligible to advance to the review process.

Application Review

The Artist Services Program Manager, along with the respective regional hosts, will review and evaluate grant applications by how well each artist's application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Later, the program manager will use reviewer scores and other factors such as available funds in the determination of award recommendation.

Grant Recipient Requirements

Final Report Requirements

Grantees will be required to report on their activity(s) at the end of the grant period. This report includes qualitative and quantitative information and an accounting of how IAC funds were used. Collected information is shared with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to determine trends and funding impact. Grantees should be engaged in participant tracking during the activity(s).

Final grant reports submitted after the due date may be subject to penalty. Read the Not in Good Standing policy.

Additional Requirements

IAC grants come with additional requirements such as acknowledgement of public funding. Consult Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information.

To Apply

Access the application at https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=indianaarts

Application Submission Deadline: May 1, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. ET or October 29, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. ET.