



Why arts
and creativity
belong
in every
community



Putnam County Mural Project

We're the Indiana Arts Commission.



Our focus is on strengthening
Indiana through **arts** and **creativity**.

Resounding Joy

"In communities across the Midwest, we found quality of life matters more for population growth, employment growth, and lower poverty rates than quality of business environment."

Michael Hicks - George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research, Ball State University as published in Brookings



What Do We Mean by Quality of Life?

- **Recreation opportunities**
- **Cultural activities, and;**
- **Excellent services (e.g., good schools, transportation options)**





Arts & Culture Drive Quality of Life

Indianapolis Men's Chorus

Quality of life matters in people's decisions to move or stay, and it drives how attached they feel to where they live.





"Stickiness"





"Stickiness" = Attachment

People with access to arts and cultural activities are more attached to their communities – in both feelings and action.



When people are more attached to a community:

- They are more likely to stay
- They are more likely to volunteer
- They are more civically engaged
- They are more philanthropic





Health and Wellbeing

**Older adults who engage
in arts activities
experience less loneliness
and depression, and
better wellbeing.**

National Endowment for the Arts, 2006



**Arts activities
positively impact the
mental health of older
adults to a statistically
significant degree.**





Youth

2X as likely to graduate college.

5X less likely to drop out.

**\$1 spent on the arts per
child saves \$9 on other costs.**





Local Economies

68% of tourism is driven by arts, heritage and history.

Project for Public Spaces





Arts and Creativity in Indiana Communities



Muncie Arts and Cultural Council



NoCo Art Mobile - Jeffersonville



South Madison Community Foundation –
Pendleton Crosswalks



DILLSBORO

RELY ON FRIENDSHIP
Friendship Insurance
State Farm

The Porch

Dillsboro Jazz Festival



Peru Visual Arts Festival



Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association

ONLY RAIN

IN THE DRAIN



Fort Wayne Storm Drain Murals



Thyen-Clark Cultural Center



Rensselaer Art Walk



To get started, think about...

- **Committing resources for initiatives such as:**
 - **Arts in your parks, greenspaces, farmers markets**
 - **Grants to support the development of arts organizations and arts events**
 - **A city arts commission**
 - **Cultural planning**
 - **Out of school arts programs for youth**
 - **Creative aging programs for older adults**
- **Actively connecting with arts organizations and creatives in your community**
- **Including creative-based businesses to your economic development recruitment and retention strategies**



- **Establishing ordinances that support creative efforts such as murals and outdoor performances**
- **Establishing clear and straightforward right-of-way guidelines and processes to support community events such as artist markets, concerts or festivals**
- **Putting creatives on city boards and commissions and asking them to serve on task forces or be a part of other local solution-seeking groups**





IAC Resources



Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Arts Project Support

- Support for a community-based arts project
- Schools, libraries, units of government, nonprofit organizations of any type eligible to apply
- Awards up to \$4,000. No matching funds required.

Two application cycles in 2025

- Spring Deadline – March 4
- Fall Deadline – September 9



City of Bedford – 2023 Creative Convergence Participant

Creative Convergence Workshop and Early Action Grant Program

- Training for community teams on incorporating arts in community development at in-person workshop in November
- \$10,000 early action grant for participating communities
- Mentoring throughout project planning and execution
- FREE

Application opens in 2025



Gov. Holcomb Announces \$250M Lilly Endowment Grant To Accelerate Quality Of Place Across Indiana

JAN 09, 2024

Funds will support investments in communities throughout the state focused on blight remediation and redevelopment, public arts and cultural initiatives

Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced at tonight's State of the State address that Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded a \$250 million grant to help bolster quality of place efforts throughout the state. The grant to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), which is the single largest award given in Lilly Endowment's 86-year history, will be administered in conjunction with the nationally recognized Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI).

Transformative Arts & Culture

The funds will help accelerate the state's support for blight remediation and redevelopment, public arts and cultural initiatives. The goal is to foster more vibrant and livable communities across Indiana for generations to come.



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Farm/Art DTour - Wisconsin



Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park – Wilson, NC



Blink Festival - Cincinnati



High Trestle Trail Bridge, Iowa



High Trestle Trail Bridge, Iowa



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea



the **MUSIC VILLAGE**
SCHOOL & COMMUNITY
MUSICAL ARTS CENTER



Call on us to help strengthen your community through **arts** and **creativity**.

Art Beat Festival – South Bend



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