



**Indy Arts Council announces new five-year strategic plan**  
*Nearly 3,000 regional stakeholders engaged to provide feedback that will help guide the future of central Indiana's arts and culture sector*

**Indianapolis (June 3, 2025)** – [Indy Arts Council](#), central Indiana's leading arts advocacy and services agency, announced today the official launch of its new strategic plan. Based on evolving community needs and unprecedented challenges during and post-pandemic, the Arts Council partnered with locally based, national planning leaders Next Practice Partners to embark on its most inclusive and comprehensive strategic planning process in over a decade.

This effort, spanning 2023-2024, engaged nearly 3,000 regional stakeholders—artists, arts organizations and administrators, funders, civic partners, and community residents—through surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

“We approached this project with curiosity and humility—and frankly, a lot of patience,” said Brenda Horn, Indy Arts Council Board Chair. “We’re eager to do more to champion arts and culture in Indianapolis, and in 2020, we began the process of discovering how to do so most effectively. Funding priorities took a turn when the pandemic hit, and we knew we could not undertake this project with anything less than a thoughtful, community-wide approach.”

This strategic plan is a collaborative roadmap informed by robust community input, recommended practices, and innovative solutions. It reflects the Arts Council's commitment to regional collaboration, centering inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) in all facets of its mission, ultimately aiming to strengthen central Indiana as a vibrant arts and culture hub for all.

**Key findings include:**

- Residents report high participation in local arts (79%), but only 48% feel their needs are fully met. Barriers include lack of awareness (46%) and affordability (34%).
- Residents strongly value the arts' contributions to quality of life, education, and community well-being, and 79% support private funding for the arts.
- Arts professionals highlighted the need for increased funding, professional development, and equitable resource allocation. Key priorities include networking opportunities, advocacy, and support for diverse communities.
- Artists expressed the need for mentorship, equitable funding, and access to affordable spaces. Themes included better artist support, increased community engagement, and visibility for local talent.
- Stakeholders highlighted an opportunity to increase the visibility of the Arts Council and its impact, both within the arts sector and the broader community.

**This input showcases a thriving yet evolving arts scene.** It underscores the need for strategic enhancements in funding, outreach, and inclusivity to meet diverse community needs. By addressing barriers and amplifying support, the Arts Council can strengthen its role as a leader, advocate, and connector, advancing its priority of creating a vibrant, equitable, and accessible cultural landscape for all.

**Download the Indy Arts Council strategic plan:**

[Executive summary](#) (20 pages)

[Full plan](#) (58 pages + appendix)

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**About Indy Arts Council**

[Indy Arts Council](#) is central Indiana's leading arts advocacy and services agency. Their mission is to champion arts and culture. Indy Arts Council believes every resident should experience arts and culture in a way that nourishes and inspires them. This vision of a creative life for all is central to the work they do to support artists, arts organizations, and the community.

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