



Project Grants: Art Activities in Public Spaces

2026 Application Guidelines

Application Release

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 10:00 am

Application Deadline

Sunday, March 15, 2026, 11:59 pm

Application Portal

<https://indyarts.grantplatform.com>

Overview

The Indy Arts Council is pleased to offer project grants between \$2,000 and \$10,000 to artists and nonprofits for arts activities in public spaces. Grant activities must take place in accessible public spaces, including but not limited to parks, libraries, community centers, neighborhood greenspaces, etc. in Marion County between May 1, 2026 and April 30, 2027.

There is a limited pool of funding available. Priority will be given to applicants who best meet the review criteria (listed on pages 3-4).

Program Timeline

January 6, 10:00 am: Application opens

March 15, 11:59 pm: Application deadline

March-April: Applications reviewed

Early May: Grant award notifications

April 30, 2027: All grant activities must be complete, and all funds must be spent

May 31, 2027: Final report deadline

Contact

Anna Tragesser, Program Manager

317-624-2561, ext. 221

grants@indyarts.org

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

Eligible artists:

- Are 18 years of age or older.
- Are able to provide a Social Security Number (SSN), Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), or A-Number/USCIS Number.
- Are a resident of Marion County.

Eligible organizations:

- Have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.
 - Organizations that are fiscally sponsored by a nonprofit entity are eligible.
 - Schools and universities are not eligible. Booster clubs, foundations, and organizations that exist for the sole purpose of fundraising are not eligible to apply.
- Are Indianapolis-based and physically headquartered in Marion County.
- Must include artist(s) in their proposed grant activities and compensate them fairly.

Project Requirements

This funding supports arts activities, projects or programs in public spaces in Marion County that align with the following parameters:

Types of activities:

- Projects can include, but are not limited to: arts festivals, music, dance, literary or theatrical performance(s) or workshops; art, movement, literature/poetry, or music therapy programming, writing or visual art activities, etc.
- *Permanent public art installations are not eligible in this grant program.*
- Applicants may submit only one application and may contain only one proposed project or program.

Locations:

- Grant activities must take place in accessible public spaces, including but not limited to parks, libraries, community centers, neighborhood greenspaces, etc. in Marion County.
- Applicants must include a letter of support from the public venue and/or property manager where the project activities will take place.

Allowable expenses:

- Funding can support all project-related activities, including artist fees, production costs, art supplies and materials, project administration, marketing and outreach to target population(s), etc.
- Artists must be involved in the grant activities and compensated fairly.

Awards

- Approved applicants may be awarded their full or partial grant request, depending on funds available. Awards are paid in full after the grant contract has been completed, unless otherwise requested.
- Awardees will be issued a grant contract and will be asked to acknowledge Indy Arts Council and the City of Indianapolis as a funder.
- Awardees will submit a final report via indyarts.grantplatform.com by May 31, 2027. The report will include reflections about the project's impact, attendee and participant data, photos or videos of the activities, and testimonials.

Application Process

Applicants will be asked to provide details about their project, information about artists involved (including samples of their work), intended audience, use of funds, and location. All applications, attachments, and work samples will be submitted at indyarts.grantplatform.com.

Applications will be evaluated according to the review criteria listed below.

Application Assistance

- A video overview of the guidelines and requirements, the application process, and tips for putting together a strong proposal is available here: <https://indyarts.org/grants/projects/>
- To discuss your ideas or specific questions with the grants team, email grants@indyarts.org to schedule a virtual meeting.
- This is an online, written application. If you prefer an alternate format (i.e. dictated responses, video responses, other languages), please reach out to grants@indyarts.org, and we'll do our best to accommodate.

Review Criteria

Applicants will be reviewed by Indy Arts Council representatives on the following criteria:

- **Community Benefit** (50%) - project meaningfully connects with the intended audience/community;
 - The applicant has been thoughtful about who might engage with their project.
 - The activities and logistics create opportunities for genuine community connection.
- **Artistic Experience** (30%) - arts and culture are meaningfully incorporated for a relevant and engaging experience.
 - The project/program is centered in the arts.
 - The project pays artists and creative professionals fairly.

- **Feasibility** (20%) - applicant has clear and defined plans, including a timeline and impact goals, and can successfully manage the project.
 - The timeline is feasible, the budget is reasonable, and activities align with program goals.
 - A letter of support is included from the venue where the project/program takes place.