WHAT IS
READI ?

INDIANA FOR THE BOLD
Economic Development Corporation

RETHINKING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

⠿ GOAL

READI is a **bold**, transformational investment that the State of Indiana is making into improving quality of life for residents, through the lens of economic development. By investing over $1 BN into our communities, we are encouraging regional collaboration, growing population, and building communities that people want to live in.
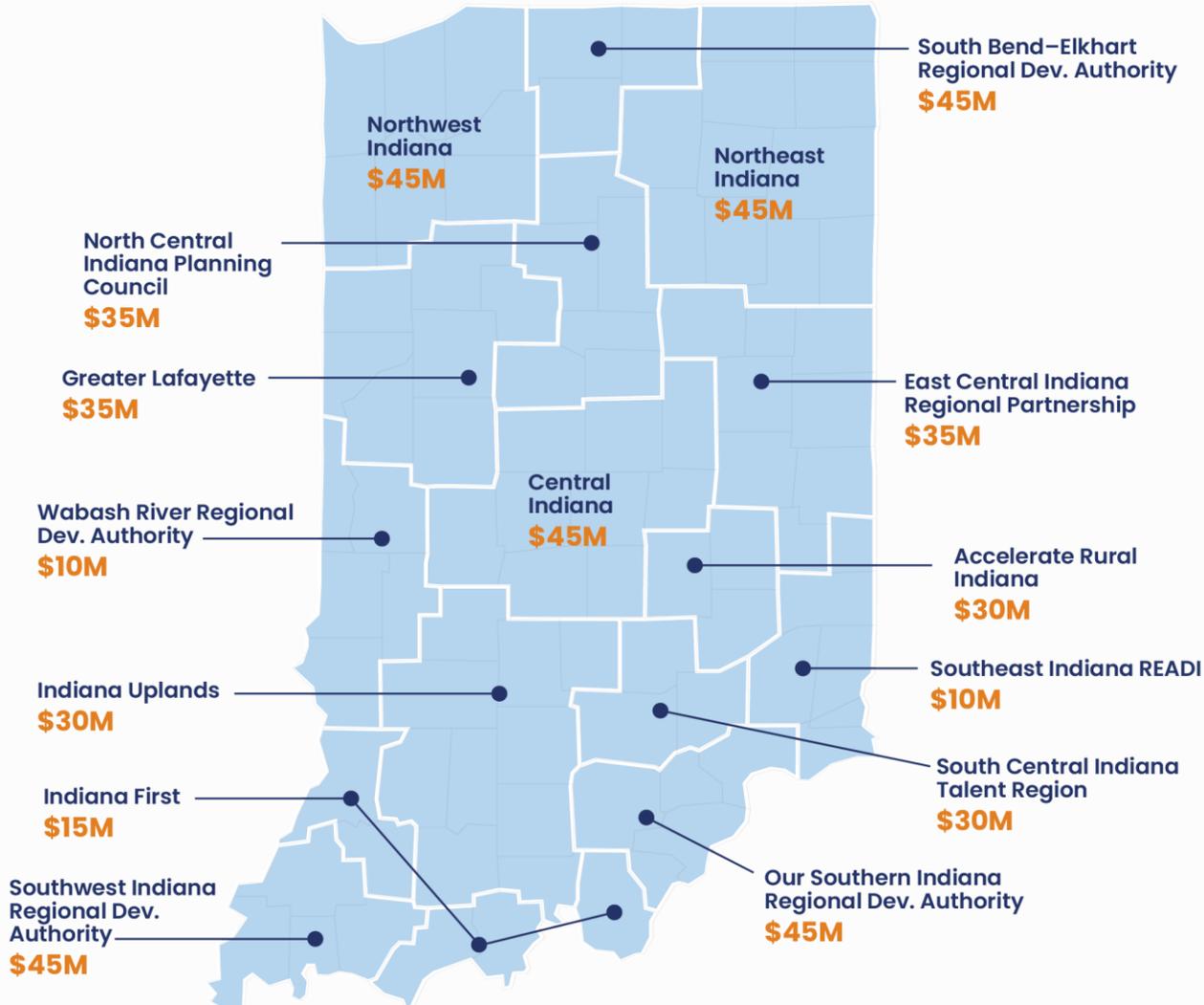
☀ THE HOW

READI pulls together regional leadership across the state to identify their priorities for growth and aligning them with state priorities. The state funding not only helps them accomplish local and regional projects to attract population and improve quality of life, but increases their regional capacity for economic development.

◉ Unprecedented Scale, Results

To our knowledge, there is no precedent for a state making this level of investment into quality of life focused programs at this scale. With an expected total economic impact above $20 Billion, READI is the national model for regional investments of this type. Furthermore, READI serves as a driver for regional collaboration, and economic development capacity building.

READI 2.0

South Bend–Elkhart
Regional Dev. Authority
$45M

Northwest
Indiana
$45M

Northeast
Indiana
$45M

North Central
Indiana Planning
Council
$35M

Greater Lafayette
$35M

East Central Indiana
Regional Partnership
$35M

Central
Indiana
$45M

Wabash River Regional
Dev. Authority
$10M

Accelerate Rural
Indiana
$30M

Indiana Uplands
$30M

Southeast Indiana READI
$10M

South Central Indiana
Talent Region
$30M

Indiana First
$15M

Our Southern Indiana
Regional Dev. Authority
$45M

Southwest Indiana
Regional Dev.
Authority
$45M

- ❑ **15 regions applied**
- ❑ **All 92 counties in the state represented**
- ❑ **2 rounds of funding have been awarded, $500M each round**
- ❑ **IEDC contracts with regional partners for project selection and management**
- ❑ **Requires 1:1 public match / 3:1 private match**
- ❑ **Have seen closer to 19:1 match overall, tracking over $50 BN impact statewide**
- ❑ **Nearly 700 projects underway, with more coming**
- ❑ **Managed through custom Grants Management Tool**
- ❑ **indianareadi.com**
- ❑ **REIMBURSEMENT GRANT**

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Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Targets
Population growth	• Increase the rate of the state's population growth from historical average of 20,000 people per year to 24,000 people per year
Per capita income growth	• Increase per capita income (wage growth) by $2,750 per year
Growth in employment opportunities	• Reduce skills gap by 20% • Projected growth in target industries of 10,769 new jobs by 2032
Educational attainment	• Increase of 3.5% in share of population 18 and over with bachelor's degree or higher
Housing units developed	• Develop and rehabilitate a total of 6,000 units • Increase number of new rental units by 4,200 • Increase number of units for sale by 2,800
Childcare capacity	• Lower the percentage of childcare deserts by 10% • Increase the level of quality at existing centers
Innovation activities	• Increase number of patent filings • Increase research and development spending • Increase number of new business start-ups
Private investment	• 4 to 1 leverage ratio • 25% of total investment is in rural and rural-mix communities • 25% of total investment is in disadvantaged communities

READI

Lilly Endowment Inc Award - $250 M
Blight Remediation
Arts & Culture

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BLIGHT REDUCTION & REDEVELOPMENT

Program Structure
- Identify vacant or blighted properties ready for redevelopment in conjunction with READI plan
- Same match required as READI, but required on a project-by-project basis
- $185 M available for initiative overall
- $134M awarded to date

Grant Process
- Funding comes from IEDC to the projects directly, LEI not involved in selection or contracting
- All funding must protect charitable cause requirements

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ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM

Advance REGIONAL CREATIVE TRANSFORMATION through investment in public art & cultural amenities

Projects

The funds will provide support to regions as they work with a broad cross-section of regional and community residents to envision and develop arts and culture projects that align with their strategic plans, such as:

- Public art and placemaking
- Cultural facilities and creative campuses
- Festivals and public programs
- Arts education and lifelong learning
- Creative workforce development
- Digital and hybrid arts innovation
- Cultural tourism and regional storytelling
- Feasibility studies and adaptive reuse

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ARTS & CULTURE PLANS:

In conjunction with the Indiana Arts Commission, IEDC made funding available to all 15 regions to conduct their own Arts & Culture Strategic Plan adjacent to READI. All plans are finalized and available at indianareadi.com. As a result of the planning process, regions:

- Developed a vision, goals and strategies for arts and culture in their region
- Identified additional stakeholder groups that might not be in the READI discussion
- Coalesced around priorities for funding
- Better aligned arts and culture within their existing economic development plans
- Identified opportunities for funding beyond READI / LEI
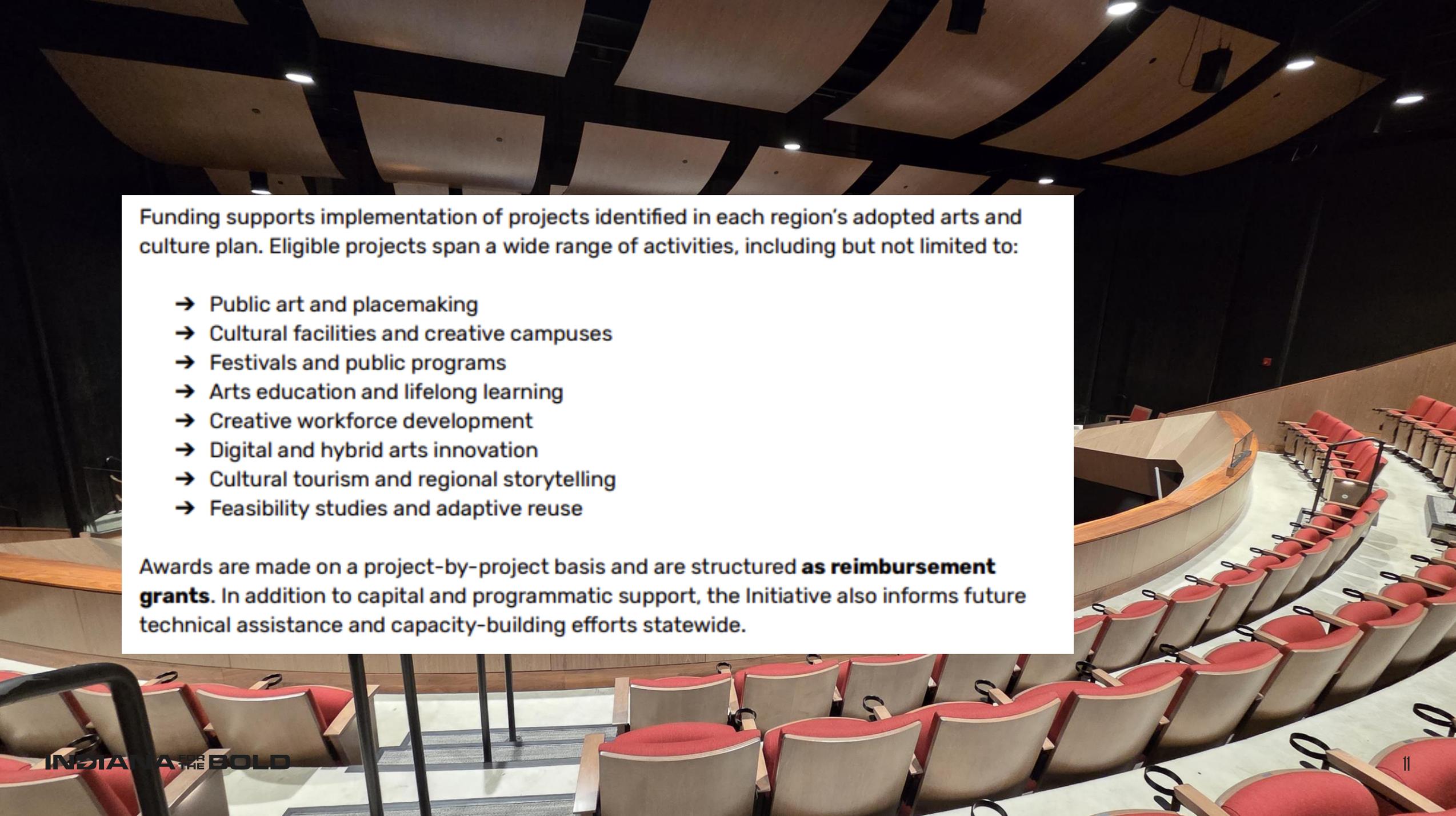- Gained insight into long term maintenance / programming costs of the arts and culture sector

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ARTS & CULTURE PROJECT FUNDING

indianareadi.com

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Funding supports implementation of projects identified in each region's adopted arts and culture plan. Eligible projects span a wide range of activities, including but not limited to:

- → Public art and placemaking
- → Cultural facilities and creative campuses
- → Festivals and public programs
- → Arts education and lifelong learning
- → Creative workforce development
- → Digital and hybrid arts innovation
- → Cultural tourism and regional storytelling
- → Feasibility studies and adaptive reuse

Awards are made on a project-by-project basis and are structured **as reimbursement grants**. In addition to capital and programmatic support, the Initiative also informs future technical assistance and capacity-building efforts statewide.

Eligible Applicants
Applications must be submitted by an eligible Applicant of Record, which may include:
➔ Nonprofit arts and culture organizations (501(c)(3))
➔ Local or regional government entities
➔ Main Street, downtown, or place-based organizations (including 501(c)(6))
➔ Colleges and universities proposing community-facing cultural projects
➔ Consortia led by an eligible nonprofit or public entity

Individuals and for-profit businesses may not apply directly but may participate as partners when an eligible entity serves as the Applicant of Record.

All applications must be submitted by an eligible entity that is located within, or clearly serves, one or more READI 2.0 regions. Proposed projects must demonstrate a clear public and cultural benefit and align with priorities identified in the region's adopted arts and culture plan.

Each application must also designate a single Applicant of Record, who will be responsible for grant compliance, reporting, and the management of funds. Applicants are not required to have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) to apply.

Review process

Application submission

Feb 16* - Apr 15:
Application period

*online info session Feb 10

Pre-review for eligibility and completeness

Regional review

May 5: Step 1

Review projects in alignment with regional plan

State review

May 15: Step 2

Projects evaluated against statewide scoring rubric

Projects awarded

Jul 1:
Award notification

Section 1: Applicant of Record Information
This section identifies the eligible organization that will serve as the Applicant of Record and be legally, financially, and administratively responsible for the project if awarded.

Information provided here is used to confirm eligibility, determine regional alignment, and establish accountability for grant management, compliance, and reporting. Applicants should ensure all organizational and contact information is accurate and current, particularly for consortium applications where multiple partners are involved.

Section 2: Project Description
This section provides an overview of the proposed project and serves as the foundation for the application.

Applicants should clearly describe what the project is, why it matters, how READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funds will be used, and who will benefit.

-Project Title
-Start/Completion Dates
-Project Timeline
-Detailed Summary
-Brief Description for Publication
-Project Website
-Project Type (Creative Workforce, Capacity building, Public Programs, Capital projects, Other…)

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Section 3: Project Impact

Applicants use this section to describe the difference the proposed project is expected to make for the community and region.

Responses should explain why the project matters, who stands to benefit, and how it responds to identified needs or opportunities.

-Regional / Community Impact
-Long-term Impact – beyond the life of the project
-Geographical Reach

Section 4: Regional Cultural Plan Alignment

Alignment with the region's adopted arts and culture plan is a key consideration in review.

Applicants should identify relevant priorities, goals, or strategies within the plan and describe how the proposed project supports or advances those areas.

Section 5: Partnerships & Engagement

Collaboration and community involvement are addressed here.

Applicants should outline project partners, their roles, and the level of commitment involved, as well as describe how artists, residents, and other stakeholders will be meaningfully engaged throughout planning and implementation.

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Section 6: Project Management & Sustainability

Project readiness and organizational capacity are the focus of this section.

Applicants should address the current status of the project, identify the team responsible for implementation, and explain how activities will be managed during the grant period.

If the project continues beyond grant period, applicants need to describe long-term operational and financial plans for sustaining the project.

Budget Template: Applicants will be required to fill in a budget template providing the total project cost, including request for READI 2.0 Arts and Culture funding, outlining all funding sources (READI 2.0, public, private, philanthropic, in-kind, etc).

Reminder: READI requires public / private match. The goal is for the program as a whole to meet the READI requirements, projects that receive public / private match will be prioritized.

Section 7: Technical Assistance, Evaluation & Key Performance Indicators

Information provided here helps inform future technical assistance and capacity-building support. Applicants may identify anticipated needs, describe how project success will be evaluated, and note potential connections to READI 2.0 Key Performance Indicators. Responses are collected for planning purposes only and are not considered in application evaluation.

-Outline technical assistance you anticipate needing to strengthen this project
-Describe how you will evaluate the project's impact and effectiveness in achieving the goals stated
-Explain how this connects with READI Key Performance Indicators. You are not required to address all/any, this is a non-evaluated question intended to help IEDC understand potential alignment

Applicants will be required to upload materials to support their project or program. Uploads include:

- **Project Budget -** *Upload a complete .xlsx project budget.*

- **Budget funding mix documentation -** *If your project includes a mix of funding, attach documentation verifying committed or pending funds (e.g., bank letter for loan approval, grant award letters, investor commitments, or other financial verification).*

- **In-kind support documentation -** *Provide written confirmation of any in-kind contributions, such as letters from partners detailing donated space, materials, services, or volunteer time. If you do not have in-kind support for this project, upload a document stating so.*

- **Letters of support and partnership documentation -** *Upload letters of support from partners or collaborators. Projects with partners are prioritized; please include MOUs or follow the provided partnership letter guidance.*

- **Visual Materials -** *Include renderings, site photos, design drafts, concept drawings, or other visuals that help reviewers understand the proposed project.*

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Eligibility and Completeness Review
All applications first undergo an administrative pre-review to confirm applicant eligibility and verify that required materials have been submitted and are complete. Only applications that meet these baseline requirements advance to the subsequent review stages

Regional Review
In the second stage, applications are reviewed by the READI 2.0 region or regions in which the proposed project will take place. This regional review focuses on how closely the project aligns with the priorities and strategies outlined in the region's adopted arts and culture plan. Reviewers use a standardized alignment scale to assess relevance and fit. These regional assessments are shared with the state review panel and help inform the second stage of review.

State Panel Review
In the final stage, applications are evaluated by a statewide review panel convened by IEDC. Using a 100-point weighted scoring rubric, panelists assess the clarity, feasibility, and impact of each proposal

Application submission

Pre-review for eligibility and completeness

Regional review

Step 1

State review

Step 2

Projects awarded

in.gov/arts/grant_portal

Logon

Email Address*

[   ]

The Email Address* field is required.

Password*

[   ]

The Password* field is required.

[Log On] (Create New Account)

Forgot your Password?

Welcome to the Indiana Art Commission's online grants system!

First time here?
Click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials. Please be sure to keep this login information for your records.

Returning applicant?
Enter your credentials and log in. Forgot your password? Please use the "Forgot your Password" link to reset it.

Not Sure?
If you think that you, or someone at your organization, might have already registered in the system, **please do not** create a new account.
Contact Austin Hendricks, at auhendricks@iac.in.gov, for assistance.

INDIANAREADI.COM/RESOURCES

Where can I get help?
Program and eligibility questions can be sent to nkouton@iedc.in.gov
& heyoung@iedc.in.gov .

Technical support with the IAC online grants system can be directed to
grantsadmin@iac.in.gov

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Q&A