

READI 2.0

Arts & Culture Planning Grants

Overview

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) will award up to \$1.5 million to READI 2.0 regions to support strategic planning efforts focused on arts and culture projects that enhance quality of place in Indiana communities. Regions will be eligible to receive planning grants of up to \$100,000 and will receive support from providers identified by the Indiana Arts Commission who have expertise the variety of ways that arts and culture efforts strengthen communities.

These planning efforts will further momentum of Indiana's nationally recognized READI program and position regions to better access and utilize additional grant funding allocated by the Lilly Endowment Inc. (LEI) for quality of place and quality of life projects in their communities. In January 2024, Gov. Holcomb announced a \$250 million grant from LEI — the largest award in the organization's history — to build on the momentum of READI. Approximately \$65 million of that funding is being allocated to support this first-of-its-kind statewide arts and culture initiative to enhance quality of life and build vibrant communities across Indiana.

Arts & Culture Projects

This arts and culture initiative aims to engage with residents and communities across boundaries of creative disciplines, geography and demographics to unleash regional creative transformation through investment in public art

and cultural amenities that are accessible to the entire community, complementing the other quality of place investments being made through READI to elevate their impact on Indiana's cities and towns. This initiative will build a critical mass of authentic, yet bold, artistic and cultural assets with a long-term plan for their maintenance and expansion.

Types of projects may include:

- Creation of public art, including murals, sculptures and installations
- Development or improvement of museums, performing arts venues or other culturally significant attractions
- Establishment of arts and culture competitions or festivals
- Attraction of nationally and internationally recognized arts and culture performances
- Development of visual architectural design elements that are unique to local communities

Strategic Plans

Arts and culture planning efforts should supplement each region's existing strategic plan that was developed for its READI 2.0 application.

When READI 2.0 was launched, regions were encouraged to include arts and culture initiatives in their long-term plans, to help arts and culture groups know how to work proactively with these economic development groups, and to help prepare Indiana's creative economy to be better able to access READI funding and support opportunities as well as others that may arise in the future. Ideally, these plans will guide regions and other stakeholders to potential projects for funding in future rounds of grant awards that are included in the READI process.

Each region's arts and culture plan should include:

- A robust stakeholder engagement process that includes groups representing its various arts communities;
- A regional arts and culture needs assessment;
- Asset mapping and identification;
- Identification and alignment with other existing local and regional plans and initiatives that focus on quality of life and arts and culture;
- An outline of long term regional priorities that includes suggested projects identified by the region through an examination of READI 1.0 and READI 2.0 projects, as well as through a broad solicitation of ideas from regional stakeholders;
 - Including the creation of an evaluation framework the region and its partners will use to intake, review and recommend projects for funding;
- Identification of local partners for collaboration;
- Ongoing sustainability plans for any assets, projects or initiatives recommended for funding;
- And an implementation plan and responsibility matrix.

Timeline

The IEDC aims to have these plans inform READI Arts & Culture project funding. As such, plans should be delivered by Q1 2025. Studies may extend beyond this timeline, but initial plans should be delivered by early 2025 with a phased approach to allow for project input as soon as possible.

Planning Grant Applications

To apply for an arts and culture planning grant and to receive support from industry leaders identified by the IEDC, Indiana Arts Commission and our respective networks, please submit a one-page proposal (to [Jim Rawlinson](#), IEDC READI Director) that outlines your existing READI 2.0 plan and how your region and its long-term vision will be enhanced by arts and culture. Outline what goals your region hopes to achieve through this process, what existing partners are available to assist with arts and culture planning, what your region's capacity is to implement these plans, and who will be tasked with executing and managing the region's arts and culture projects and initiatives.

Proposals should be submitted to the IEDC by Sept. 1, 2024.

Following submissions, the IEDC and the Indiana Arts Commission will schedule time to meet with each regional lead and provide a pre-selected group of arts and culture consultants who can assist with the creation of the plan.