



Arts & Culture Plan

2025 – 2035

We Grow from Deep Roots | Appendix

TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES. ART
through the power of arts and culture

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Still Pointe Art Studio & Gallery, Rising Sun

A. Data Tables

Overview

This section provides detailed data and context aligned with discussion in the body of the plan. They are included to help the region with benchmarking and case-making with leaders. At the same time, they provide support for the regional overview, the State of the Arts assessment, goals, and strategies overall. Finally, it provides a quick recap of related investments for planning purposes.

List of Data Tables

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Note to the Reader

SEI READI- or SIRPC-provided numbers may vary ones in this document when: 1) the counties assessed vary (6 vs 9); or 2) numbers lean on estimates for different years.



Happy Valley Bluegrass Festival, Batesville

1. Livability Index (AARP, 2024)

	Regional Average	Union	Ohio	Reg Median Franklin	Reg Median Dearborn	Ripley	Switzerland	U.S. Median
Overall Score	50 =	55	52	51	49	48	45	50
1. Opportunity	72 +22	83	74	76	74	57	68	50
2. Environment	60 -1	65	64	64	42	61	64	61
3. Housing	57 -2	58	57	57	55	61	54	59
4. Engagement	45 -2	56	49	46	44	41	33	47
5. Neighborhood	41 +5	46	43	36	43	40	35	36
6. Transportation	40 -4	40	42	40	41	41	37	44
7. Health	35 -5	35	36	41	43	34	22	40



Green boxes highlight each county's highest score.

Pink boxes highlight each county's lowest score

Plus/minus numbers under regional average are the difference between the region and U.S. overall.

Index Scores are based on 61 Indicators (including 40 metrics and 21 policies – details at [/livabilityindex.aarp.org/methods-sources](https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/methods-sources).)

	Opportunity	Environment	Housing	Engagement	Neighborhoods	Transportation	Health			
METRICS	Income inequality Jobs per worker Age diversity Local government creditworthiness	Drinking water quality Regional air quality Near-roadway pollution Local industrial pollution Household transportation costs	Zero-step entrances Housing costs Housing cost burden	Broadband cost/speed Voting rate Social involvement index Cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions	Access to grocery stores/farmers' markets ... to parks ... to libraries ... to jobs by transit Destinations diversity Activity density Crime rate Vacancy rate	Local transit service freq. ADA-accessible stations and vehicles Walkability index Congestion Access to jobs by auto Speed limits Crash rate	Smoking prevalence Obesity prevalence Access to exercise opp. Healthcare prof. shortage areas Preventable hospitalization rate Patient satisfaction			
POLICIES	State & Local Min. wage inc.	Local Plans Multi-hazard mitigation	State & Local Inclusive design laws Housing trust funds	Municipal Laws LGBTQ+ anti-discrimination	State & Local TOD programs	State & Local Policies Complete Streets State Human services transport coordination Volunteer driver policies	State & Local Laws Smoke-free			
		State Policies Utility disconnection Energy efficiency scorecard	State Manufactured protections Foreclosure prevention and protection Acc. dwelling unit support	State Voter participation support laws						

2. Technology & Broadband

This page provides additional detail aligned with the discussion on page 21.

Purdue University Center for Regional Development

	No Internet			Cell Data Only			Mobile Dev. Only			No Computing Dev.		
	2017	2022	Diff.	2017	2022	Diff.	2017	2022	Diff.	2017	2022	Diff.
Dearborn	17.6	8.3	(6.8)	6.8	10.5	3.6	8.9	12.8	4.1	12.3	7.6	(4.6)
Franklin	26.6	16.4	(10.2)	15.0	22.5	7.5	10.2	17.6	7.4	19.7	11.1	(8.5)
Ohio	23.8	14.7	(9.1)	12.3	12.0	(0.3)*	6.5	17.0	10.6	22.3	11.4	(11.0)
Ripley	21.2	14.4	(6.8)	11.2	17.2	6.0	9.2	16.9	7.7	15.8	10.4	(5.5)
Switzerland	30.6	23.6	(7.0)	13.7	18.3	4.6*	13.7	21.8	8.0	22.8	18.2	(4.7)
Union	26.8	11.4	(15.4)	9.7	10.6	1.0*	9.5	17.0	7.5	18.8	7.0	(11.7)
Regional Average *	24.4	14.8	(9.2)	11.5	15.2	5.7	9.7	17.2	7.6	18.6	11.0	(7.7)

<https://pcrd.purdue.edu/analyzing-indianas-digital-landscape-bridging-gaps-and-unveiling-trends-in-internet-access-and-device-usage/>

* Each of the differences measured in this study were deemed to be statistically significant EXCEPT for those with stars.
Regional averages were calculated as part of this plan, not the underlying research.



Check out [A Practitioner's Guide to Rural Digital Inclusion](#)

Center for Rural Innovation Blog (October 8, 2025)

Rural communities must pair broadband expansion with affordable devices, hands-on training support, and AI literacy—to turn connectivity into jobs, entrepreneurship, and long-term local prosperity.

“ Rural people need to see themselves as **creators** and not just consumers of technology.

Shaniqua Corley-Moore,
Head of Tech Talent Development at CORI

Digging Deeper into Internet Benchmarks

Indiana

	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Total
No Internet				
2017	19.5	17.3	24.5	20.2
2022	9.8	10.2	14.6	10.6
<i>Difference</i>	(9.7)	(7.1)	(9.9)	(9.6)
Cellular Data Only				
2017	11.7	8.5	4.5	8.9
2022	11.9	13.2	17.7	13.0
<i>Difference</i>	0.2	4.7	13.2	4.1
Mobile Devices Only				
2017	10.3	8.9	10.4	10.1
2022	17.6	15.9	17.9	17.2
<i>Difference</i>	7.3	7.0	7.5	7.1
No Computing Device				
2017	14.2	11.9	17.2	14.5
2022	6.9	6.8	9.8	7.3
<i>Difference</i>	(7.3)	(5.1)	(7.4)	(7.2)

United States

	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Total
No Internet				
2017	16.2	18.7	24.7	17.6
2022	8.0	9.8	13.8	9.0
<i>Difference</i>	(8.2)	(8.9)	(10.9)	(8.6)
Cellular Data Only				
2017	6.9	8.1	10.5	7.5
2022	10.5	11.5	15.2	11.2
<i>Difference</i>	3.6	3.4	4.7	3.7
Mobile Devices Only				
2017	8.9	8.7	10.0	9.0
2022	14.1	14.8	17.4	14.6
<i>Difference</i>	5.2	6.1	7.4	5.6
No Computing Device				
2017	14.2	11.9	17.2	14.5
2022	6.9	6.8	9.6	7.3
<i>Difference</i>	(7.3)	(5.1)	(7.6)	(7.2)

[Analyzing Indiana's Digital Landscape \(January 2024\)](#)

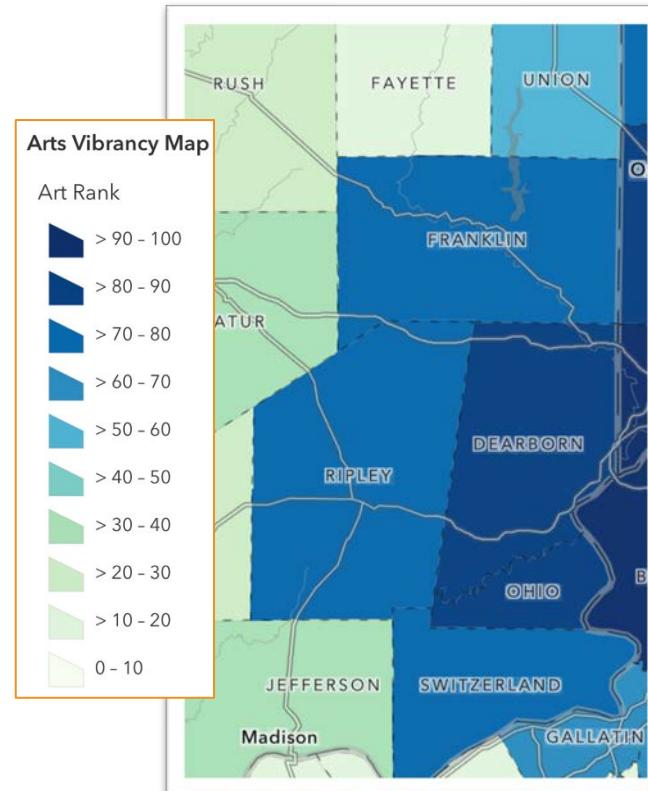
3. Arts Vibrancy (SMU DataArts, 2024)

Some Indiana communities use the Arts Vibrancy Index in their benchmarking and communications. It is both an imperfect measure, particularly as it gives funding greater weight than arts organizations or activity. Even so it is useful in highlighting the differences among the region's counties. As such, it tells a compelling story of have vs have-not in arts vibrancy.

Indices (Percentile)	Dearborn	Ohio	Ripley	Switzerland	Franklin	Union
Arts Vibrancy	85	84	75	73	72	55
Arts Providers	69	74	45	61	41	63
Arts Dollars	87	89	72	72	58	49
Public Support	90	90	81	49	43	45

Source: <https://dataarts.smu.edu/ArtsVibrancyMap/>
<https://culturaldata.org/arts-vibrancy-2024/executive-summary/> and <https://culturaldata.org/arts-vibrancy-2024/methodology/>

Index scores show how a county performs relative to other counties nationally (3,143 counties) on a 0-100% scale. For example, a county scoring 85 would be performing better than 85% of other counties, while one scoring 15 would be performing worse than 85% of others. All measures are calculated on a per capita basis.



Variables & Weighting Used for Calculating Arts Vibrancy

WT	(aggregated at X level)	DESCRIPTION	SOURCES
21%	Arts Providers		US Census Bureau, IRS 990s
7%	Artists (zip code)	Freelance artists primarily engaged in performing in artistic productions, in creating artistic and cultural works or productions, or in providing the technical expertise necessary for these productions	
5%	Employees (county)	Number of employees (salaried and contract) by the museum, historical site, theater, dance, music, opera, and other performing arts sectors	
2%	Organizations (zip code)	Number of nonprofit organizations in the museum, arts education, community, dance, music, opera, performing arts center, orchestra, theater, multidisciplinary performing arts, or arts alliance and service organization sectors	
7%	Firms (zip code)	Number of arts, culture, and entertainment firms, weighted for size. Includes museums, theaters, dance companies, opera companies, music groups and performers, music producers and presenters, fine arts schools, and recording, motion picture, and video production companies	
22%	Arts Dollars		IRS 990s, SMU DataArts' Cultural Data Profile, Theatre Communications Group
3%	Program revenue	All revenue earned due to people participating in the activities of nonprofit arts and culture organizations *	
7%	Contributed revenue	All revenue from contributions to nonprofit arts and culture organizations (includes public funding) *	
7%	Total expenses	All expenses of nonprofit arts and culture organizations *	
5%	Total compensation	All payment to staff and artists by nonprofit cultural organizations *	
56%	Gov. Arts Support		National Endowment for the Arts, Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
12%	\$ State DOLLARS	All state arts dollar funding in the community *	
12%	# State GRANTS	Number of state arts grants awarded in the community	
11%	\$ Federal DOLLARS	All NEA and IMLS dollar funding in the community *	
10%	# Federal GRANTS	Number of NEA and IMLS grants awarded in the community	
11%	\$ Total Government	All government dollar funding in the community (federal, state, and local)	

* Adjusted by a cost-of-living index

4. The Asset Inventory

Both the region and the individual counties will have received the complete cultural asset inventories as collected by the end of this work. They will also have access to mapped versions online via Felt.com. It is everyone's hope that local leaders will add to the inventories and maintain them over time; use them in planning, outreach, program delivery, and advocacy; develop public maps from them; and use them in implementation of this plan. The detail is included here for ease of access and as back up to numbers in the body of the document.

		D	F	O	R	S	U	Total
Art in Non-Art Spaces N = 55	Local art, in business	4	5	1	1	1	—	12
	Programs, in k12 or higher ed	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
	Programs, in local gov	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Programs, in non-art NPO	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
	Programs, in public library	4	2	1	4	1	1	13
	Venue, in bar etc.	1	1	2	6	1	1	12
	Venue in business	1	1	2	—	1	—	5
	Venue in church	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Venue, in k12 or higher ed	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Venue, in local gov	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Artist / Creative Industry N = 206	Venue, in non-art NPO	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Artists, Coop/Guild	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Community Art Ctr/School	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Design, Various	3	—	1	—	2	6	12
	Folk/Traditional Arts	—	1	3	5	2	—	11
	Literary Arts, Author & Publisher	17	1	—	8	2	1	29
	Performing Arts, Dance	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Performing Arts, Music	—	1	1	5	1	—	8
	Retail, Books	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
	Retail, Fiber	2	1	1	2	1	1	8
	Retail, Framing	1	—	—	1	—	1	3
	Retail, Gallery	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
	Retail, Music	4	—	—	1	1	—	6
	Retail, Other	1	—	1	1	1	—	4
	Studio, Dance	1	—	—	2	—	1	4
	Studio, Music Mixing/Recording	2	—	—	—	—	1	3
	Venue (Music)	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
	Visual Arts	4	2	4	7	7	3	27
	Visual Arts, Ceramics	1	3	—	—	1	—	5
	Visual Arts, Fiber	2	1	—	2	1	5	11
	Visual Arts, Glass	1	1	1	—	1	1	5



The cultural asset inventory is a compilation of as many of the arts and culture assets as possible within the project's desk research and crowdsourcing. ***It is not about "regional" assets but rather assets in the region.***

It is incomplete, and that is okay. Errors are a byproduct. Almost by definition, any asset inventory like this will be incomplete. Information is always incomplete; someone is always moving; something is always changing. Someone (or several ones) will be missing and may even be wrong.

Readers may argue with categories. That's okay too. ***The purpose is less about perfection than about identifying opportunity to build from.***

With that in mind, the cultural asset inventory should be considered ***a living, working tool for communities and the region.***



		D	F	O	R	S	U	Total
Arts / Informal Group N = 18	Visual Arts, Jewelry	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
	Visual Arts, Metal	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Visual Arts, Photography	11	8	4	6	1	2	32
	Visual Arts, Tattoo	1	—	1	—	1	1	4
	Visual Arts, Wood	2	1	—	1	4	—	8
	Artists, Coop/Guild	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
	Folk/Traditional Arts	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Literary Arts	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
	Multidisciplinary	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Performing Arts, Music	1	2	—	—	—	1	3
Arts Nonprofits N = 21	Programs, in k12 or higher	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
	Visual Arts, fiber	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Visual Arts, painting/drawing	3	—	—	—	—	1	4
	Arts Council or Assoc, NPO	4	1	—	1	—	—	6
	Community Art Ctr/School	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
	Folk/Traditional Arts	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Performing Arts, Dance	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Performing Arts, Music	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Performing Arts, Theater	1	—	—	1	1	—	3
	Venue, Theater	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Former Asset N = 5	Visual Arts, Fiber	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Visual Arts, Wood	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Venue, Theater	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Visual Arts	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	Visual Arts, Photography	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
History & Heritage N = 92	Venue, Sculpture	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	Historic Building/Site/NRHP	24	14	4	15	6	3	66
	Historic Society (not w/ Museum)	3	3	—	1	—	1	8
	Museum	4	—	2	6	5	—	17
	Other	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Public Art N = 153	Barn Quilt	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	Mural	25	13	23	24	7	7	99
	Other	1	2	—	4	2	—	9
	Sculpture	5	20	2	14	3	—	44
Misc.	Events & Traditions	22	20	11	17	7	7	84
	Civic	31	18	9	31	12	7	108

If the region or individual counties maintain their online asset inventories or maps, these numbers will continue to evolve.

Digging Deeper into Cultural Assets – What are they?



PUBLIC ART

Murals or sculptures designed to enhance or beautify a space (usually not monuments without sculpture)

CREATIVE INDUSTRY

Artists earning income from their craft as a business (with an online or built presence) as well as for-profit entities like a gallery, design or architectural firm, musical group, etc.

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Nonprofits dedicated to the arts (e.g., museums, theaters, performance venues, arts councils, arts education entities)

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Historic sites and history-focused organizations (but usually not historic markers)

ART IN NON-ART SPACES

Places like bars, libraries, or parks that regularly host arts activities, creative groups, or rotating art displays

INFORMAL GROUPS

A collective that meets regularly, such as quilting circles or history clubs

EVENTS & TRADITIONS

Those signature gatherings, festivals, celebrations unique to every community

5. Natural Assets – The Big Stuff

Natural assets are a cornerstone of southeastern Indiana's identity and recreation. The detail is included as context for Goal 2 and Big Idea #1.

	Dearborn	Franklin	Ohio	Ripley	Switzerland	Union	Extends Beyond Reg.
Ohio River	X		X	X	X		X
• Laughery Creek (88.6 mi)	X		X	X			
o Bushing Covered Bridge				X			
o Triple Whipple (Laughery Creek) Bridge (1878)	X		X				
• Ohio River Scenic Byway & Extension (1992 and 2025)	X		X		X		X
Versailles State Park (9.5 sq mi) – 2ND LARGEST INDIANA STATE PARK				X			
• 3 Trails 1.5-2.75 miles in length				X			
• Versailles Lake (230 acre) & Dam				X			
• Fallen Timber Creek & Bridge				X			
Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (2000, 78 sq mi, access to 6.25) – LARGEST OF 3 IN INDIANA				X			X
• Old Timbers Lake (145 acres), Collin's Ford Bridge, Marble Creek Bridge, Old Timbers				X			
Brookville Lake-Whitewater Memorial State Park Complex			X				X
<i>Brookville Lake</i> (Reservoir) & Dam (1974) (8.2 sq mi)		X					X
• 11 Trails 0.7-16.5 miles in length		X					
• Templeton Creek		X					X
• Mounds State & Quakertown State Recreation Areas		X					X
Whitewater Memorial State Park (1949) (36 sq mi)							X
• 6 Trails 1-9 miles in length							X
• Whitewater Lake (200 acre)							X
Whitewater River (191 mi)	X	X					X
• Whitewater Canal (1836-47) (76 mi)	X	X					X
• Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway (2008, plus 3 loops 2011)	X	X		X			X
• Dubois Creek, Laurel Feeder Dam, Metamora Roller Mill, Duck Creek & Aqueduct		X					X
Other	X						
• Oxbow Inc. (1985) owning/protecting over 1,600 acres	X						X
• Historic Michigan Road Byway (2011)	X			X			X
• Indiana's Historic Pathways (2004, national byway in 2009)	X	X		X			X
• Wolf Creek Habitat & Rescue		X					
• Red Wolf Sanctuary (1979), Monarch Meadows Nature Preserve (80.6 acres), & The Sunflower Field at Fox Farms			X				
Land Area (sq. mi., rounded)	307	391	87	448	223	165	Sum = 1,621 sq. mi
• Land + Water	305 + 2	384 + 7	86 + 1	446 + 2	221 + 3	161 + 4	= 1,602 + 19
• Forest Cover & Ranking Among Indiana Counties	47% #13	42% #18	48% #9	36% #27	52% #8	21% #46	= 41%

6. Recent Arts & Culture Funding State & Federal Grants *

One of the important stories to tell in this work is the wide variation in resources that have been available to each county in the region. This data makes that case from the perspective of government (state and national) arts grant programs.

Of the total funding, 80% came from covid-related programs. Only \$410,194 came from regular agency programs.

Grant Programs	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	Total
Indiana Arts Commission							
Ripley	\$14,071	\$10,356	\$7,062	\$19,464	\$16,691	\$46,201	\$113,845
Dearborn	\$6,383	\$8,383	\$7,228	\$12,255	\$9,822	\$15,814	\$59,885
Switzerland	\$5,000	\$4,164	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$7,800	—	\$26,964
Franklin	—	—	\$2,000	—	—	\$7,000	\$9,000
Ohio	—	—	—	—	\$5,000	—	\$5,000
Union	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ARPA & CARES via IAC							
Ripley			\$58,486	\$6,000			\$64,486
Dearborn			\$24,296	\$3,000			\$27,296
Franklin			\$25,858	—			\$25,858
Ohio			\$24,860	—			\$24,860
Switzerland			—	\$3,000			\$3,000
Union			—	—			—
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant							
Dearborn			\$1,570,503				\$1,570,503
Franklin			\$85,888				\$85,888
National Endowment for the Arts							
Franklin		50,000					\$50,000
Ripley		See Franklin					See Franklin
National Endowment for Humanities							
Institute of Museum & Library Services							
SEI READI Region Totals	\$ 28,454	\$ 22,903	\$1,811,181	\$ 48,719	\$ 39,313	\$ 69,015	\$2,019,585
	1.4%	1.1%	89.7%	2.4%	1.9%	3.4%	

* Counties may also have received arts related grants from other state or federal agencies and budgets that we did not research.

7. SEI READI Projects Completed, In Progress, or Approved

These details are included to continue to make those variations plain, while simultaneously highlighting projects (green rows) – already funded or complete – within the READI initiative that support goals or strategies in this plan.

Given the ongoing nature of this work, the status of projects or their numbers may have changed since this document.

			READI	Public	Private	Total	READI multiplier
1.0 IEDC							
Dearborn	Lawrenceburg	South Dearborn Regional Sewer	2,486,633	26,010,000	291,200,000	319,696,633	129
	Lawrenceburg	Liberty Theater	600,000	16,576,510	18,735,286	35,911,796	60
	Aurora	North Dearborn Water Authority Expansion	3,070,000	3,278,089	300,000	6,648,089	2
		Aurora Housing: Kopp Farm	215,000	1,602,455	—	1,817,455	8
Franklin	Brookville	Franklin County Sewer Extension for New Housing	4,464,107	—	36,000,000	40,464,107	9
	Brookville	Golden Road Infrastructure	250,000	250,000	864,000	1,364,000	5
Ohio	Rising Sun	Ohio Co Pop-up Pavilion	50,000	—	—	50,000	1
Ripley	Sunman	Sunman Sewer Extension	500,000	1,008,563	20,000	1,528,563	3
	Versailles	Versailles Pocket Park	86,000	111,962	220,006	417,968	5
	Milan	Milan Street Lights	100,000	6,550	40,000	146,550	1
Switzerland	Vevay	Switzerland County Workforce Housing	1,263,754	55,000	—	1,318,754	1
	Vevay	Switzer Square	346,128	880,726	50,000	1,276,854	4
	Vevay	Switzerland County TEC Center	100,000	187,040	37,700	324,740	3
Union	Liberty	Union County Water and Sewer Extension	200,000	1,100,000	—	1,300,000	7
	Liberty	Union County Historic Water Works	38,000	—	84,814	122,814	3
		Lil Patriots Preschool	—	—	—	—	—
Region	—	SEI Broadband Clearinghouse	102,978	139,800	—	242,778	2
—	—	United Way Early Childhood Education	140,000	—	95,150	235,150	2
—	—	SR 1 Corridor Plan	87,400	—	17,500	104,900	1
Region	—	Local Admin	450,000	—	—	450,000	1
State	—	State Admin	450,000	—	—	450,000	1
		Totals	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 51,206,696	\$ 347,664,456	\$ 413,871,151	28

appendix

READI		
2.0 IEDC		
Dearborn	The Enclave of Greendale	2,000,000
West Harrison	I-74 West Harrison Business Park	250,000
Franklin	Home Grown Food Hub	200,000
Ohio	Rising Sun	1,500,000
Ripley	Versailles	3,000,000
	Versailles	TBD
	Osgood	500,000
Switzerland	Osgood Beautification Committee Infill Housing Prog.	400,000
Vevay	Switzerland County Housing 2.0	1,500,000
Region --	Local Admin	300,000
State --	State Admin	250,000
Totals		\$ 9,900,000



2.0 L.E.I. Blight		
Franklin	Brookville	Brookville Renovate to Eliminate
Region --		2,000,000
State --		TBD
Totals		\$ 2,000,000

		READI	Public	Private	Total	READI multiplier
ARI Batesville						
1.0	Kids Discovery Factory	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000	5
	Skate Park	50,000	289,625	160,034	499,659	10
	Crestview Estates	100,000	100,000	28,200,000	28,400,000	284
	Lakeshore Village	500,000	500,000	65,000,000	66,000,000	132
	Ivy Tech Dual Credit Program	500,000	500,000	—	1,000,000	2
	Ivy Tech Welding Program	400,000	2,692,550	150,000	3,242,550	8
2.0	Arts & Innovation Hub	2,000,000	LEI \$500,000	5,967,066	8,467,066	4
	Industrial Park Road	2,000,000	1,100,000	30,000,000	33,100,000	17
	Trails & Gathering Space @ Margaret Mary Health	2,000,000	1,000,000	115,000,000	118,000,000	59
LEI Blight	Rural Schools Reimagined	TBD				
	Totals	\$8,550,000	\$7,682,175	\$247,477,100	\$263,709,275	31

B. Methodology

1. Process

This plan emerged from a community-driven, asset-based approach to arts and culture planning. It used a wide range of engagement modalities including:

- **A Website** for transparency and to ensure that anyone in the region could participate.
- **Desk & Field Research** to collect and assess available information about the region.
- **Crowdsourcing** to fill gaps, connect with residents and encourage participation.
- **In-Person Engagement** to develop trust while truly listening to residents and leaders.
- **Deep Follow Up** to test ideas, explore new avenues, and develop the plan itself.

This ground-up approach, this allowed for deep and diverse participation across sectors and communities. Work progressed in three parts as depicted here.

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Pre-Work February – April										
Initial Meetings										
Key Assessment Interviews										
Logistics & Design										
Part 1 March – June										
Asset Inventories										
Doc. Review / Opportunity Research										
Analysis & Project Recs. from Doc.										
Part 2 May – October										
Visioning in Counties										
Focus Groups										
Steering Committee Work										
Synthesis & Drafting										
Project Coordination Ongoing										

Methodology Sections

1. Process
2. Engagement Summary & Detail by Interaction
3. Goal Prioritization Survey Results
4. Documents, Projects & Plans Reviewed

A Note on Batesville

1 City, 2 Counties, 2 READI Regions... But 1 Future

Batesville is the region's largest city. Its footprint lies primarily in Ripley County but crosses into Franklin County. The population is split roughly 75/25 between the two.

While both counties are included in the SEI READI region, the City of Batesville joined the Accelerate Rural Indiana region when it formed. This overlap led to a number of questions for this plan and its process.

In the end, all decided that there was no credible way to complete this plan without Batesville. From a process perspective that meant ignoring the regional overlap and including Batesville, its assets, its residents, and its needs just like any other city or town in the region.

The one exception to this was that the consultant teams for both regions remained in close conversation throughout to coordinate engagement efforts.

Specific tasks focused on the development of a forward-looking regional arts and culture strategy for Southeast Indiana that reflects the diversity and cultural aspirations of the region's residents. Using those tools and the principles on page 16 the process included:

- An inventory of existing arts, cultural, and creative assets
- Engagement with local artists, cultural institutions, local leaders, and the public
- Alignment with existing plans for assets, stakeholders, and strategic opportunities
- Facilitated sessions in each county to envision a vibrant, authentic future
- Follow up with focus groups, interviews, and benchmarking – testing and review
- Online survey for the region to prioritize and comment on vision, goals, and strategies

Readers may notice overlaps between the Arts & Culture Plans for SEI READI and Forge ECI. This was a product of the process and of the team's intent to have both plans speak to each other.

First, these adjacent regions share key elements of geography and history. As largely rural areas, they share challenges best addressed with like strategies. In fact, their regional development plans are similar as well.

Not only did the regions follow similar processes, but participants often shared the same ideas. This was true across all 14 counties in these regions. The creative sector in both share capacity needs – needs heard by all of the consulting teams across the state. The differences here came from the intensity and uneven impacts of those needs. When that is the case, best practices from the field take hold.

Most importantly, in drafting the plans we found them talking to each other. When we learned something in one region, it informed how we thought about the other. An idea heard in one was shared or tested in the other. Just as The Big Ideas amplify core goals in each plan, this dialogue amplified the good of regionalism across a larger footprint.

All of that said, there are significant differences between the plans. The regions start with different strengths, funding profiles, and density of arts and culture assets. After that, the nuance and details matter. They can be found throughout. Certainly, in the flavor of each region, its geography, its history, its leaders – its identity – and the big ideas that resulted.

Digging Deeper into Community Visioning

County by county and then together, this process asked the region to imagine a *Vibrant Arts & Culture Future* for itself. One that embraces an *"Arts and" approach* and through which Southeast Indiana's:

Arts & Culture have been Transformed with:

Resident engagement across boundaries, amenities that are accessible to the entire community, and a critical mass of authentic, yet bold, sustainable assets.

AND Have Transformed the Region in return – elevating quality of place across cities and towns

What emerged as Southeast Indiana's Vision for the Future describes 2035 where *Arts are a Driving Force in Shaping a Thriving, Connected, & Resilient Region*

What is a "Vision"?

“ ... a description of what it should look like once it has successfully implemented its strategies and achieved its full potential. This is [its] “vision of success.” OR ... “visioning” exercises... develop enough of a consensus on purposes and values to guide ... strategy formulation...

John Bryson. Strategic Planning for Public & Nonprofit Organizations (1995)

Inevitably, readers come to this with different expectations for a “vision.” We lean toward:

1. Success of Plan or “What will we have achieved?”
2. Ideal for the Future or “How __ should look when it is working extremely well” (Bryson)

2. Engagement Summary

In total, **over 230 individuals** participated in or provided information to the project including:

Kickoff Webinar	72 individuals participated live, and 34 viewed the recording at a later date.
Community Visioning	120 individuals participated in total across the region, 33% of whom were from the Creative Sector
Other	Dozens reached out in other ways to ask a question or suggest an asset (e.g., emails, website contact forms, asset submissions, focus groups)
Website	150 unique visitors to project-specific pages <i>Any number of these may be in addition to the 230+ participants we tracked.</i>
Contact Generation	Along the way we expanded project contacts from <225 to >645. The final list included >34% arts and culture focused individuals. And the list – aka interest in this work – keeps growing. 75+ NEW emails came from the prioritization survey.

Breaking down that participation by county and by sector:

Participation vs 2020 Pop		
Dearborn	28%	40%
Franklin	24%	18%
Ohio	8%	5%
Ripley	23%	23%
Switzerland	8%	8%
Union	4%	6%
Multi/Other	4%	--

Two members of the Indiana State Legislature also participated in the process.

* Other includes media, extension, and misc.

Sector	Participation
Arts, Culture & History	30%
City/County Government	16%
Libraries & Other *	14%
Foundations / Funders	9%
Chambers & Main Streets	6%
Economic Dev. & Related	5%
Tourism / Attractions	4%
Business & Manufacturing	3%
Education (K12 and Higher)	3%
Finance & Professional Services	2%
Health & Social Services	< 1%
Unknown	9%



Detail by Interaction

= count of events/items

N = number of participants/attendees

Personal	Digital
Public (# = 6) <p>Community Visioning Sessions all from 4:30-6:30 pm</p> <p>Dearborn, Jun 12 Ivy Tech Riverfront Campus, Lawrenceburg (N = 21)</p> <p>Franklin, Jun 24 Franklin County Public Library, Brookville (N = 36)</p> <p>Ohio, Jun 11 Heritage Hall, Rising Sun (N = 17)</p> <p>Ripley, Jun 18 The Tanglewood, Versailles (N = 28)</p> <p>Switzerland, Nov 14 County Tech & Education Center, Vevay (N = 11)</p> <p>Union, Jun 4 Whitewater Valley REMC, Liberty (N = 7)</p>	Group (# = 7) <p>2 Focus Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Tourism Leaders: Aug 13 virtual (N = 4) — Arts & Culture: Aug 14 virtual (N = 7) <p>5 Regional Leaders Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Local Economic Development Group calls (#3): Mar 11 (N = 8), Oct 30 (N = 7), Jul 29 (N = 8) — Economic Development & Community Leaders: Apr 15 (N = 16) — Strategy Workshop: Aug 26, Versailles (N = 12) — SEI READI Board of Directors: Nov 6 and Dec 9 <p>Individual (# = 29)</p> <p>18 Arts & Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Dillsboro Arts, Franklin County Arts Council, SEIMA, Project Hope — Iron Timbers, musicians, visual artists — Damm, Liberty, and Historic Hoosier Theatres — Freudifest — Hillforest House Museum, Musee de Vonage, Switzerland County Historical Society <p>6 Funders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Franklin, Ripley, Switzerland, and Union Community Foundations — Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation — Gilmore & Golda Reynolds Foundation <p>5 Local Government & Civic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Tourism (Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland) — Ripley Economic Development — Town of Versailles
	Webinar (# = 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Kickoff : May 2 (N = 72 + 34) <p>Website Interactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 138 Google Form Submissions from >20 — Numerous Website Contacts — Project-Specific Web Pages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 150 Unique Visitors ○ 453 Sessions ○ 1,262 Page Views <p><i>Web analytics through 11/16/2025</i></p>
	Prioritization Survey (# = 1, N = 128) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — N = 39 Dearborn — N = 33 Franklin — N = 8 Ohio — N = 34 Ripley — N = 10 Switzerland — N = 4 Union
	Misc. (# = 2) <p>Additional surveys in preparation for focus groups with tourism and arts leaders</p>

3. Goal Prioritization Survey Results

Items were randomized in the survey to increase the quality of response.

VISION	5 Really Exciting!		4		3 Pretty Good		2		1 Needs Help		Score	N
Dearborn	15		11		10		—	—	2	—	4.0	79% 38
Franklin	12		9		7		3	—	—	—	4.0	79% 31
Ohio	3		1		2		—	—	—	—	4.2	83% 6
Ripley	13		10		6		2	—	—	—	4.1	82% 31
Switzerland	3		4		2		1	—	—	—	3.9	78% 10
Union	2		2		—		—	—	—	—	4.5	90% 4
Total Response	40%	48	31%	37	23%	27	5%	6	2%	2	4.0	81% 120
Balanced Score												4.10

GOALS	1 2 3 4 5 6										Rank	Score	N
	Top												
Arrange in priority order, top = most important													
1. Activate the Region	39%	49	25%	32	14%	18	9%	22	7%	17	6%	14	1 4.6 127
2. Connect Communities	12%	15	24%	30	17%	21	17%	22	13%	17	17%	22	2 3.5 127
3. Cultivate Next Generation Roots	9%	12	13%	17	17%	22	20%	26	20%	26	19%	24	5 3.2 127
4. Generate Creative Opportunity	13%	17	23%	17	19%	29	20%	26	20%	25	10%	13	3 3.5 127
5. Mobilize, Collaborate, & Communicate	17%	22	14%	18	15%	15	20%	25	18%	23	19%	24	4 3.4 127
6. Formalize Sustainable Commitments	9%	12	10%	13	17%	22	13%	16	21%	27	29%	37	6 2.9 127

STRATEGIES for...	1 2 3						Rank	Score	N		
	Top				Bottom						
GOAL 1: Activate the Region											
1. Amplify & Celebrate Distinct Assets	54%	49	46%	39	—	—	3	1.5	85		
2. Activate with Public Art & Programming	24%	45	35%	66	—	—	2	1.4	85		
GOAL 2: Connect Communities											
1. Amplify & Activate Natural & Cultural Assets	57%	37	43%	28	—	—	1	2.3	65		
2. Build Regional Tourism	43%	28	57%	37	—	—	2	1.4	65		
GOAL 3: Cultivate Next Generation Roots											
1. Empower Civic Engagement	28%	27	40%	39	32%	31	2	2.0	97		
2. Expand Arts Opportunity	48%	47	21%	20	31%	30	1	2.1	97		
3. Build Creative Career Pathways	30%	52	37%	65	34%	59	1	1.9	97		
GOAL 4: Generate Creative Opportunity											
1. Empower Creative Capacity	30%	29	42%	41	29%	28	2	2.0	98		
2. Expand Access to Space for Creatives	37%	36	33%	32	31%	30	1	2.1	98		
3. Grow Teaching & Learning	34%	33	26%	25	41%	40	3	1.9	98		

STRATEGIES for...	1 Top	2		3 Bottom		Rank	Score	N	
		26%	47%	27%	28%				
GOAL 5: Mobilize, Collaborate & Communicate									
1. Mobilize Creative Networks	26%	27	47%	49	27%	28	2	2.0	104
2. Expand Implementation Capacity	26%	31	31%	32	31%	30	2	1.8	104
3. Catalyze a Regionwide Arts & Culture Movement	44%	46	22%	23	41%	40	1	2.1	104
GOAL 6: Formalize Sustainable Commitments									
1. Build Support for Arts & Culture Strategy	26%	49	39%	75	35%	68	2	1.9	94
2. Build a Supportive Public Policy Infrastructure	26%	49	39%	75	35%	68	2	1.9	94
3. Secure Sustainable Funding	41%	72	29%	51	30%	53	1	2.1	94

BIG IDEAS...	1 Top	2		3 Bottom		Rank	Score	N	
		26%	49	39%	75				
1. INDIANA'S MUSIC CORRIDOR									
1. INDIANA'S MUSIC CORRIDOR	14%	15	58%	61	29%	29	2	1.9	105
2. INDIANA'S FOLK SCHOOL REGION	8%	8	28%	29	65%	68	3	1.4	105
3. DISCOVER SOUTHEAST INDIANA ARTS & NATURE	78%	82	14%	15	8%	8	1	2.7	105

COMMENTS CODED BY TYPE		
Substantive	11	
• Suggestions	5	
• Skepticism	4	
• Language Critique	2	
Supportive	12	
• Simple Thanks	2	
• Thanks + Suggestion	4	
• Comment	6	
Total	23	

A few of the open-ended responses to this survey are embedded in the body of the document.

All of the responses were provided to SEI READI as part of project documentation

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS	Complete	Partial
Dearborn	39 30%	18
Franklin	33 26%	14
Ohio	8 6%	2
Ripley	34 27%	5
Switzerland	10 8%	3
Union	4 3%	3
N =	128	45

Comments re Vision

The 16 comments received can be categorized as follows:

5 Positive

- 4 praised the vision and its crafting
- 1 praised the vision but was skeptical re its achievability

5 Negative

- 2 thought it was too long or wordy
- 2 found it too buzzy or jargony
- 1 apparently misunderstood it as describing current conditions

6 Neutral

- 3 emphasized the importance of one of the vision's parts
- 3 more made comments tied to goals or strategies
- 1 made a text suggestion (a word here or there)

4. Documents, Projects & Plans Reviewed

In addition to asset mapping and public engagement, existing plans in the community informed goals and strategies, including the following 33 documents and the same number again in tangential plans and studies:

Location	Year, Title, & Hyperlink
Dearborn	2024 One Dearborn Strategic Investment Plan 2024 Greendale Economic Development Strategy 2023 Dillsboro Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan 2023 Dillsboro 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan 2023 Greendale Preservation & Main Street Development Plan 2023 Greendale Trails Action Plan: Greendale Redevelopment Commission 2022 Economic Contribution of Tourism in Dearborn County 2021 Aurora River Town Review: Ohio River Recreation Trail Team
Franklin	2024 Batesville Downtown Visioning Plan 2019 Pain Our Downtown: My Community, My Vision, Batesville, IN 2024 Batesville Arts & Innovation Hub
Ohio	2025 Ohio County Strategic Investment Plan
Ripley	2024 Ripley County Community Foundation Strategic Plan 2023 Sunman Comprehensive Plan
Switzerland	2024 Switzerland County GIFT VIII 2023 Switzerland County Community Profile & Visioning
Union	2024 Comprehensive Assessment & Visioning 2024 Union County GIFT VIII 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment 2020 Union County Comprehensive Plan 2020 Union County Community Needs Assessment (GIFT VIII) 2019 Town of Liberty Comprehensive Development Plan <i>See also County Document Repository https://ucdc.us/union-county-town-of-liberty-studies/</i>
SEI Region	2024 IU East Regional Business Confidence Index & East-Central IN Business Survey 2023 Indiana's Rural Economic Development Model – I-74 Corridor Region" + related 2021 SEI Regional Development Plan and 2024 Update 2023 State Road 1 Corridor Plan <i>See also Regional Document Repository https://www.sirpc.org/resources</i>



Location	Year, Title, & Hyperlink
State Arts & Culture	<p>2024 Embracing a Culture of Creativity: IN's Overlooked Economic Engine (Study)</p> <p>2024-2028 Indiana Arts Commission Strategic Framework</p> <p>2023-24 Indiana Arts Commission Artist Needs Assessment</p> <p>2022 Planning with Arts & Culture: How Indiana Municipalities Are Utilizing... (Study)</p> <p>See also IAC Research Repository https://www.in.gov/arts/programs-and-services/research/</p>
State Tourism	<p>2024 Indiana Destination Development Corporation Strategic Plan</p> <p>2024 Indiana Destination Development Corporation Future Asset Study</p> <p>2024 Tourism at Work: The Impact of Travel & Tourism in Indiana (Study)</p> <p>See also IDDC Research Repository https://www.visitindiana.com/about-iddc/tourism-research/</p>

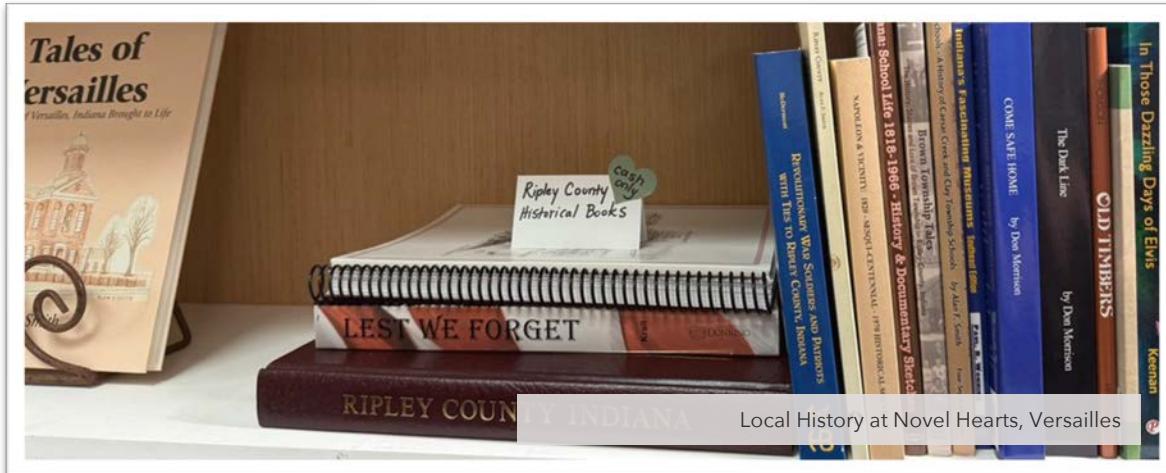


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 page 63 "Small Decisions" Cartoon, Guy Downes, [available for purchase](#)
 page 114 "Careers in the Arts" Poster, [Vincent Hofer](#) (2024) for Arts South Dakota, [available for download](#)
 page 115 "We Believe in Art" Poster, [Sayuri Sasaki Hemann](#) (2019), [available for purchase](#)

Digging Deeper into Document Design

For those curious about the unusual colors or fonts in this document. It deliberately combines SEI READI's official branding / style guide with that of the consultant team as described here.

SEI READI

Designed by

Header Font

Accent Font

Hex Colors

White

Blue

Green

Green Gradient 1ad104 to 88e77d

Mike Pearleberg & Kiley Sparks

Impact (Regular)

Impact (Regular)

Each with lighter/darker variations

ffffff

102c5b

1ad104

TransformingCommunities.art

Designed by

Body Font

Sara A. Peterson & Paige Sharp

Avenir Next

(Ultra Light, Reg, Med, & Demi Bold)

Special Thanks to Avery Eberle
for design assistance along the way.



Why include this?

Because we want to walk the talk from the beginning – not just giving credit to the creators but making that credit transparent to all.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the hundreds of community members who participated in this process.

You took our calls, completed surveys, shared information, came to meetings, and beta-tested ideas.

Your communities graciously hosted us when we were in town. You made the plan happen!

Your commitment to community and to a *Vibrant Arts & Culture Future for Southeast Indiana* has been a joy to see.

Sara & Paige

Project Made Possible by –

Initiative Funder



Lilly Endowment Inc.

A private foundation since 1937

Initiative Partners

Jim Rawlinson
Indiana Economic
Development Corporation



Miah Michaelsen
Indiana Arts
Commission



Consultant Team

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in collaboration as



