



**READI 2.0**  
**2026 ARTS & CULTURE AWARDS**

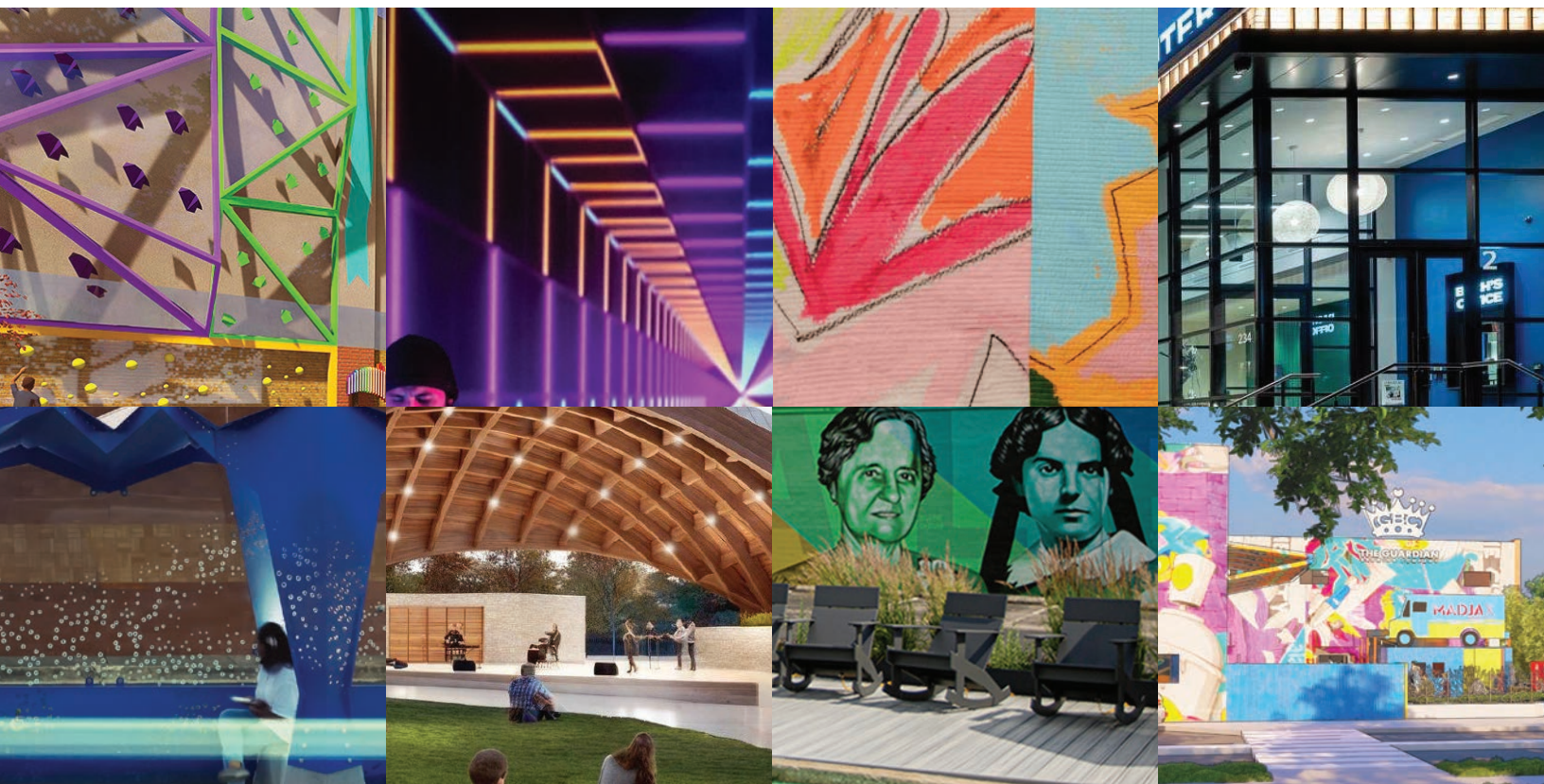
# INVESTING IN INDIANA'S CREATIVE ECONOMY

**READI**

REGIONAL ECONOMIC ACCELERATION  
& DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

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# ARTS & CULTURE AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Indiana is making a historic \$1.25 billion investment in its regions through the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), strengthening communities and creating more opportunities for Hoosiers to prosper for years to come.

Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded a \$250 million grant to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to help bolster quality of place efforts through READI 2.0. Of that funding, \$65 million supports the READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative – a first-of-its kind, statewide initiative recognizing arts and culture as powerful drivers of regional growth.

Each of Indiana's 15 READI regions developed a regional arts and culture plan to identify opportunities that reflect local strengths while advancing shared economic goals. Funding applications were reviewed by

the IEDC and the Indiana Arts Commission, along with an international team of experts to identify projects that have the greatest opportunity to positively impact Hoosiers and the region's economy.

The projects selected for funding represent a diverse mix of public art, historic preservation, performance venues, creative workforce development, cultural destinations and community spaces that will advance Indiana's arts and culture sector and create vibrant places where people want to live, work, visit and invest.



# A STATEWIDE INVESTMENT IN CREATIVITY

From urban centers to rural communities, READI 2.0 Arts & Culture investments are strengthening every corner of Indiana. Together, these 49 projects span all 15 READI regions, reflecting each region's unique identity while advancing a shared vision for stronger communities, vibrant places and long-term economic growth.

**49**

**PROJECTS FUNDED**

across all 15 Indiana regions

**\$62.3 M**

**IN GRANTS AWARDED**

**\$369.9 M**

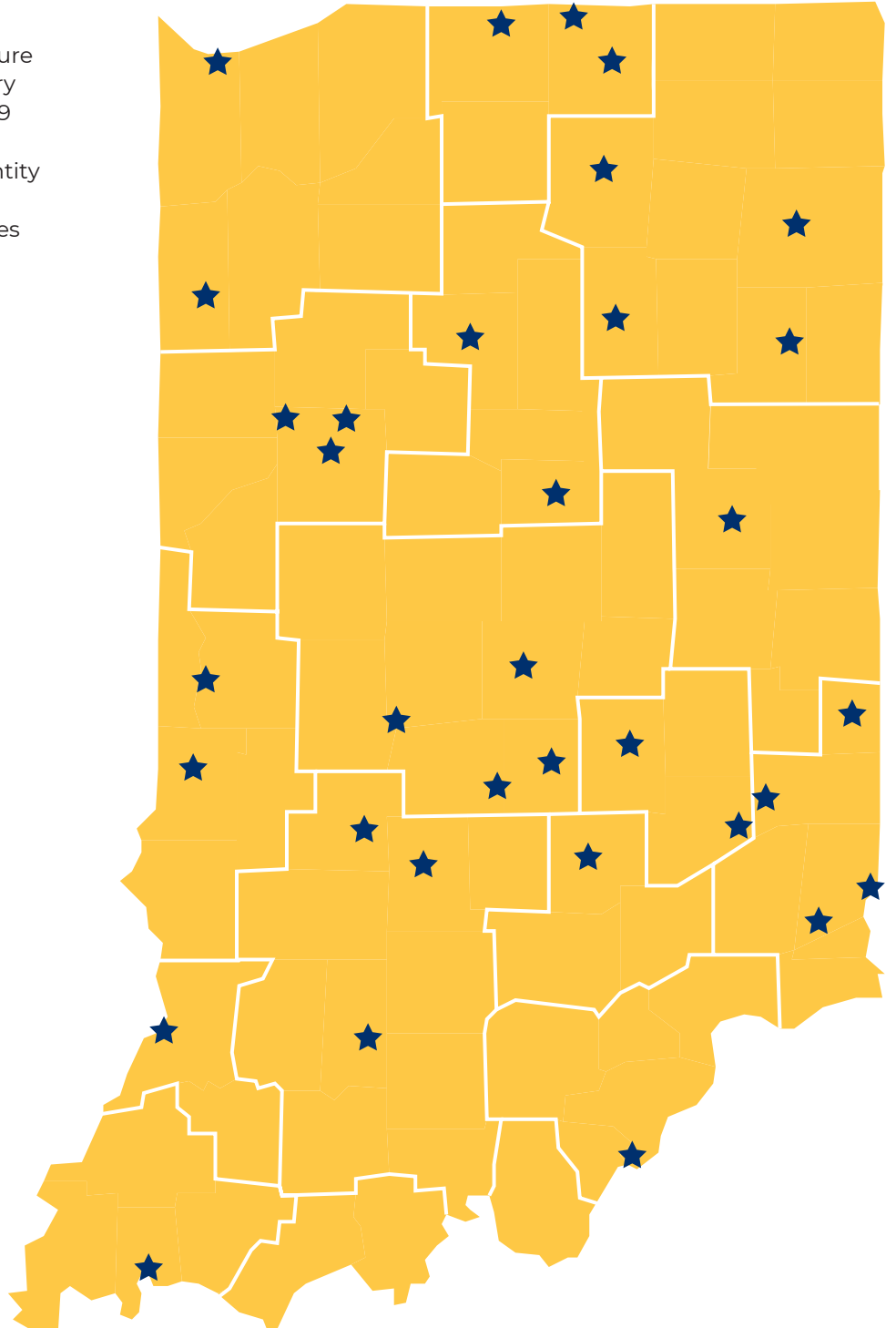
**TOTAL EXPECTED  
INVESTMENT**

(cash and in-kind contributions)

**15**

**CAPACITY  
BUILDING GRANTS**

across 9 regions



# CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

15 projects across nine regions were selected for READI 2.0 Arts & Culture capacity building grants. These creative initiatives were recognized by the state and the review committee as projects that would have a long-term, positive impact on their

communities. These capacity building grants will enable organizations to access additional support, such as professional services and planning assistance, to further bring these arts and culture project visions to life.

| PROJECT                                                                             | ORGANIZATION                           | REGION                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Art Barn School of Art Capital Campaign and Expansion                               | Art Barn School of Art Inc.            | Northwest                |
| Circus City Expansion & Revitalization                                              | Circus City Festival Inc.              | North Central            |
| Common Ground Arts Council                                                          | Knox County Life Enrichment Foundation | Indiana First            |
| Indy Jazz Expansion Project                                                         | Indianapolis Jazz Foundation           | Central Indiana          |
| Ohio Theatre Revitalization                                                         | Friends of the Ohio Theatre Inc.       | Our Southern Indiana     |
| Park Theater and Civic Centre Renovation and Enhancement                            | Park Theater and Civic Centre          | South Central            |
| Reimagining Indianapolis Artsgarden                                                 | Arts Council of Indianapolis           | Central Indiana          |
| Shelby County Pride in Place Expansion                                              | Blue River Foundation Inc.             | Accelerate Rural Indiana |
| Tell City Regional Arts Center                                                      | Tell City Regional Arts                | Indiana First            |
| The Integrated Arts Creative HUB                                                    | Pillar Arts                            | Indiana Uplands          |
| The STEAMery Creative Campus: Arts, Education and Cultural Tourism in Rural Indiana | The STEAMery                           | Indiana Uplands          |
| Times Theater Art Center & Art Alley                                                | The Times Theater                      | North Central            |
| Valparaiso Creative Station and Satellite Center                                    | Valparaiso Creative Council Inc.       | Northwest                |
| Warrick County Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study                             | Warrick County School Corporation      | Southwest                |
| Warrick County Public Art Master Plan                                               | Visit Warrick County Tourism           | Southwest                |

# THINGS ARE MADE HERE

## A REGIONAL STEAM DISCOVERY CENTER

Kids Discovery Factory (KDF) is completing construction of a permanent three-story STEAM discovery center in downtown Batesville, which is set to open in early 2027.

READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding will support the implementation of four key priorities: 1) permanent placemaking and public art, including a downtown Music Trail connecting KDF to the Batesville Memorial Public Library; 2) “Things Are Made Here” heritage exhibits celebrating Indiana’s manufacturing and craftsmanship; 3) build out of the ArtWorks Studio, Spark!Lab, and Purdue IN-MaC Design & Innovation Studio for youth; and 4) a regional marketing and visitor tracking initiative.

Once complete, KDF’s 12 interactive galleries and school outreach programs will serve more than 40,000 annual visitors, more than 10,000 K-8 students, and communities across the Accelerate Rural Indiana and Southeast Indiana regions. The project is expected to have an annual economic impact of more than \$12 million, while fostering public art and education.



Organization: **KIDS DISCOVERY FACTORY**

READI Award: **\$500,000**

Total Project Expense: **\$5.96 MILLION**



# WORTMAN FAMILY CIVIC THEATRE TECHNOLOGY EXPANSION

The Shelby County Players' Wortman Family Civic Theatre phase two project will strengthen the theatre's role as a lasting community institution, expanding it beyond a single-organization venue into a welcoming, multi-use civic and cultural hub for residents, schools, nonprofits and organizations from multiple counties. The project provides permanent infrastructure that supports collaboration, access, and arts and culture as essential elements of long-term regional vitality.

Equipping the auditorium and community spaces with professional-grade lighting, sound, audio-visual and networking technology will make it possible to host performances, meetings, festivals and hybrid events that previously required travel outside the region. These upgrades address a critical need for accessible, affordable and technically capable space, opening the door for greater participation by rural residents, working families, seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Phase two also deepens the theatre's community impact through hands-on learning and workforce development, allowing students, volunteers and emerging professionals to gain real-world experience with industry-standard production systems while supporting local talent retention and strengthening the region's creative and technical workforce.



Organization: **SHELBY COUNTY PLAYERS**  
 READI Award: **\$1 MILLION**  
 Total Project Expense: **\$7.89 MILLION**



# THE CREATIVE CAMPUS FOR CABARET & PIANO

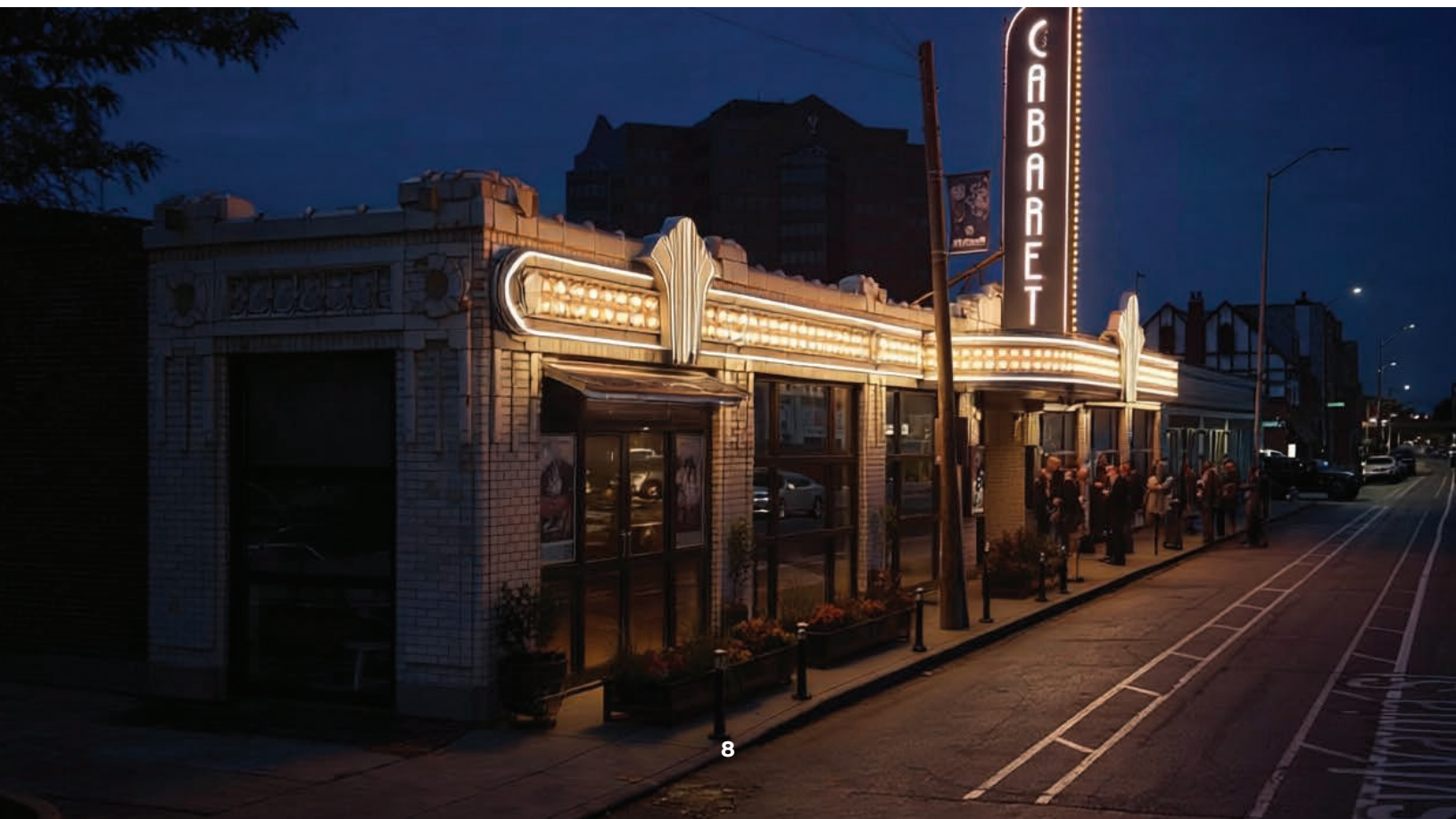
The Cabaret, Indiana's only nonprofit organization dedicated to the cabaret art form, is expanding its venue in the historic Metzger building in Indianapolis into a new Creative Campus for American Cabaret and Piano—a national creative hub advancing cabaret and classical/jazz piano through artist development, innovative performance and educational engagement.

The expansion will repurpose the 110-year-old building into a cultural anchor and destination at the intersection of several Indianapolis cultural districts and the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. The expansion will house the headquarters for both The Cabaret and the American Piano Awards, increase The Cabaret's award-winning indoor theater by 45%, create a new outdoor public/performance plaza, and establish The Cabaret Museum and Listening Room as free public amenities all while retaining the historic Pennsylvania Street marquee.

Organization: **THE CABARET**

READI Award: **\$1 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$8.9 MILLION**



# THE ATHENAEUM LAB

The Athenaeum Lab expands and formalizes a long-standing collaborative arts ecosystem at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis, transforming the historic Basile Theatre into a shared hub for performance, education and creative development in Central Indiana.

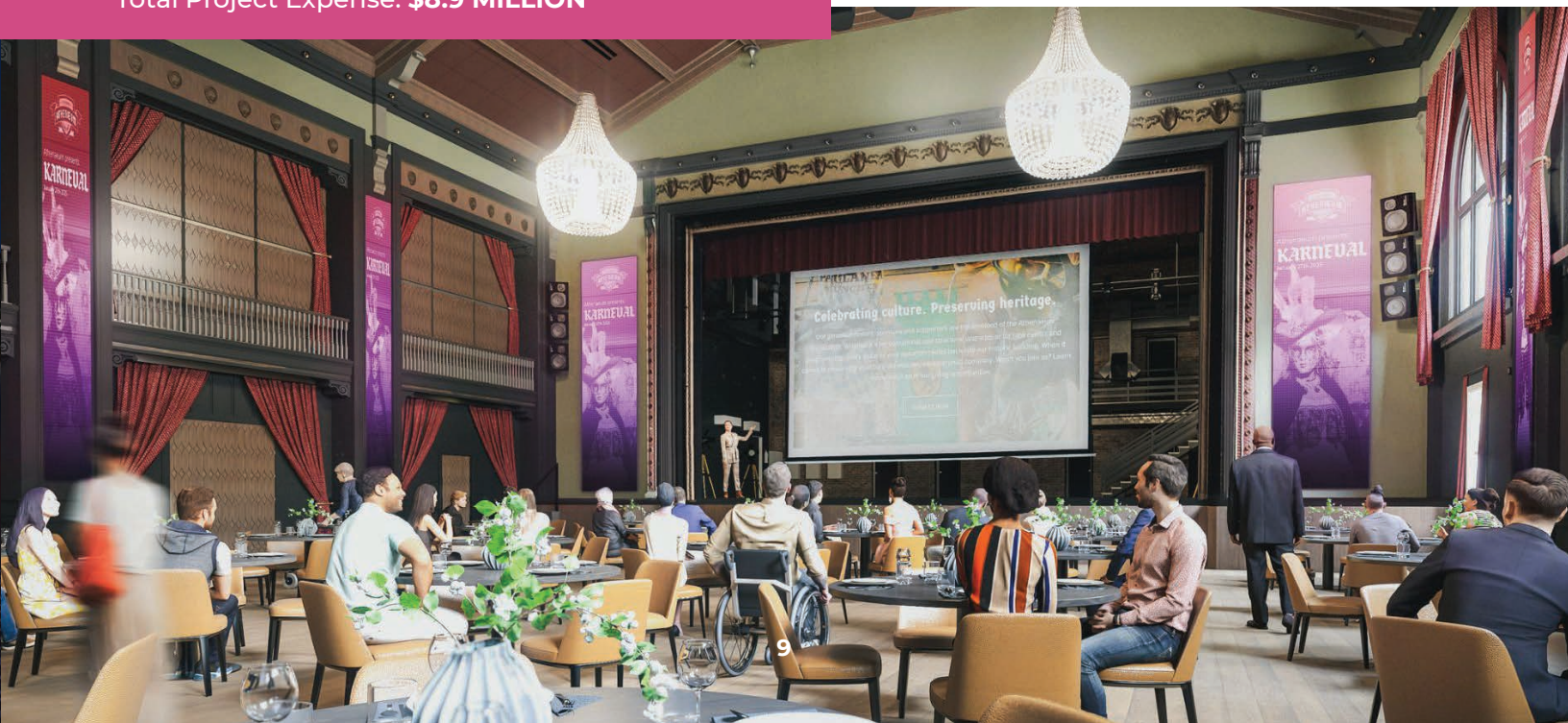
The Athenaeum Foundation envisions the renewed Basile Theatre becoming a catalyst for artistic excellence, creative collaboration, and community connection. Designed to support ambitious performances, emerging artists, arts education, and cross-disciplinary partnerships, the theatre will empower multiple organizations to expand what is possible on stage and beyond. As one of the only mid-sized performance venues in Indianapolis, it will strengthen the region's cultural ecosystem, attract new audiences, inspire artistic innovation, and ensure that transformative arts experiences are accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds for generations to come.

Anchored by Asante Art institute, React Theatre and NoExit Performance, The Athenaeum Lab also connects school-day learning, youth-driven creative work, and professional production into a unified pipeline, engaging students in immersive experiences and connecting developing artists to career pathways within the local creative economy.

Organization: **ATHENAEUM FOUNDATION INC.**

READI Award: **\$1.5 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$8.9 MILLION**



# CAMI CREATIVE CAMPUS

## BOOSTING REGIONAL CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

The Indianapolis-based arts and placemaking organization, Big Car Collaborative, is furthering work on its five-acre adaptive reuse cultural campus on the city's near Southside. The Contemporary Art Museum of Indianapolis (CAMi) — owned and operated by Big Car — will expand artist production and education spaces; enhance public access to Bean Creek through new decks, landscaping and removal of barriers; and improve site connectivity, parking and wayfinding to support increased visitation and public use.

The project also continues development of affordable artist housing, including sustaining improvements to existing artist homes, a new accessory dwelling unit prototype, and three more housing units for artists. Additional efforts will support activation of a performance and event venue, growth of creative businesses, and expansion of culinary and workforce development programs. Together, these investments complete a decade-long transformation into a nationally relevant creative campus that supports artists, attracts visitors and advances quality of place for Central Indiana.



Organization: Big Car Collaborative  
READI Award: \$1.5 MILLION  
Total Project Expense: \$8.74 MILLION



# CREATIVE ECONOMY ACTIVATION INITIATIVE

The Creative Economy Activation Initiative is a multi-phase effort to strengthen Johnson County's creative economy, building a more connected and visible creative ecosystem, supporting small business growth and enhancing quality of place by making arts and culture a more active part of daily life for residents and visitors alike.

The project includes the launch of a regional speaker series at the Historic Artcraft Theatre featuring nationally recognized creatives, along with workshops and scholarships designed to help artists and aspiring creatives build sustainable careers. It also includes the development of the DO ART Cart, a mobile gallery that will bring rotating exhibitions into public spaces, festivals and community events, creating new opportunities for artists to showcase and sell their work.

Additionally, the initiative establishes the Department of Art as a central resource for public art facilitation, connecting artists, businesses and local government to bring impactful projects to life across the region.



Organization: **Department of Art**  
READI Award: **\$250,000**  
Total Project Expense: **\$315,200**



# HI-FI ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

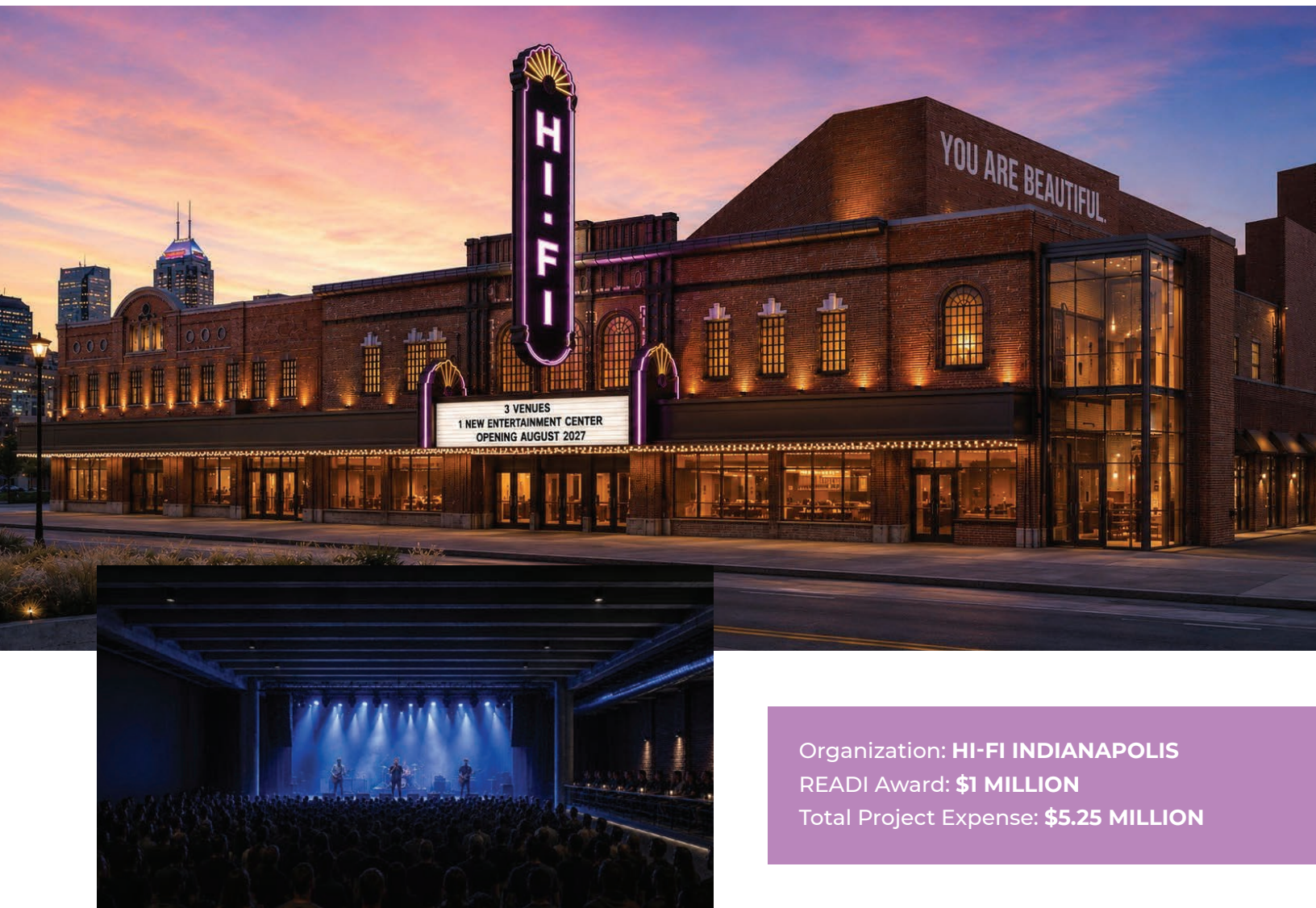
## VENUE EXPANSION

The HI-FI Arts & Entertainment venue expansion will result in a new all-weather entertainment complex in Indianapolis's Fountain Square neighborhood, marking a transformational investment in Indiana's live music and cultural economy.

The development includes a new 1,100-capacity performance space, a 200-capacity artist development room, and the expansion of the existing HI-FI venue, forming a connected campus that supports artists at all stages of growth. Located within one of Indiana's most active arts and entertainment districts, the project

builds on a strong existing foundation as a hub for live performance and cultural activity.

With more than 15 years as an independent, Indiana-grown business, HI-FI has helped attract national touring artists to Indiana through its flagship venues in Indianapolis and relationships with partners in Fort Wayne, Bloomington, Fishers, Plainfield and Terre Haute. This expansion will create jobs, support local artists and small businesses, increase community access, and attract regional and national visitors—strengthening Indiana's competitiveness as a destination for live music and cultural experiences.



Organization: **HI-FI INDIANAPOLIS**  
 READI Award: **\$1 MILLION**  
 Total Project Expense: **\$5.25 MILLION**

# THIS IS THE PLACE

## ACTIVATING CENTRAL INDIANA'S CULTURAL CORRIDOR

The project outlines three components to uplift arts and culture across the region and activate the Central Indiana creative economy. First, an expanded Indianapolis Cultural Trail wayfinding system that helps people discover place-based arts and culture experiences. Second, a multi-faceted public art initiative that highlights both the city and emerging Indiana artists, and gateway artworks. Third, an arts and culture

festival that showcases Indianapolis talent and brings the Cultural Corridor to life along the 10-mile linear park that serves as the downtown hub for the region's trail network.

Together, these efforts will redefine how residents, visitors and students experience and see downtown Indianapolis as a connected cultural corridor. The project expands access to arts and culture and showcases uniquely Indianapolis experiences, with the Cultural Trail acting as the connector that drives visitation, supports local artists and businesses, and attracts people to live, work and spend time in the city and central Indiana region.



Organization: **INDIANAPOLIS CULTURAL TRAIL**

READI Award: **\$2 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$9.6 MILLION**

# COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING ARTS & CULTURE RESILIENCY HUB

For over two decades, the Kheprw Institute has built community on Indianapolis's near north side — nurturing intergenerational leadership, supporting working artists and entrepreneurs of color, and creating spaces where people come together to develop their own solutions. The Alkhemy Community Wealth Building (CWB) Center at 38th and Illinois streets has become a hub for this work, hosting the Cafe Creative's artist community, the Alkhemy Social Enterprise Accelerator, Inspire Music Collective's youth music mentorship, and cultural programming from partners like GangGang, the Indianapolis Arts Council, and Butler University.

The CWB Arts and Culture Resiliency Hub will expand this infrastructure through three capital improvement investments: rehabilitation of the basement into community art studios for 8-12 resident artists annually; a rooftop solar array with battery backup covering 100% of building electricity; and performance space upgrades for readings, screenings, concerts and community gatherings. The project will also create dedicated staff, including an event and arts programming coordinator and a studio coordinator, as well as provide artist stipends, supporting the people who keep the space activated and accessible.



Organization: **KHEPRW INSTITUTE**  
READI Award: **\$250,000**  
Total Project Expense: **\$1.25 MILLION**

# KIDS DANCE OUTREACH CENTER

The KDO Center is an 11,000-square-foot arts and education facility purpose-built for Kids Dance Outreach (KDO) in Indianapolis. READI 2.0 funding will help close the gap in arts infrastructure and support key elements of the buildout, including professional-grade studios and performance space, ensuring the space is equipped for year-round arts education and community engagement.

The KDO Center, located at 30th and Meridian streets, is part of the NOVA mixed-use development led by New City Development, which will bring new life and opportunity to a currently underutilized site near The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis.

Construction is expected to begin in 2027. Once complete, the KDO Center will expand access to high-quality arts education for thousands of children and families each year, while creating new opportunities for artists, educators, students and community partners to collaborate and build pathways into the creative workforce. The new space will strengthen the region’s cultural landscape, expand access to the arts, and help develop the next generation of creative talent in Central Indiana.



Organization: **KIDS DANCE OUTREACH**  
 READI Award: **\$1.3 MILLION**  
 Total investment: **\$4.64 MILLION**

# PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL DRUM & PERCUSSION CENTER

The Percussive Arts Society (PAS), the world's leading organization dedicated to percussion education and performance, is transforming an existing building on Indianapolis's Meridian Street Corridor into its permanent global headquarters. With READI 2.0 Arts & Culture support, PAS will purchase and renovate the site into a vibrant cultural center featuring a multipurpose performance space, a digital media studio, an exhibit gallery, a library and research room, and administrative offices.

PAS serves more than 7,300 members across 68 chapters worldwide and anchors an estimated \$7.2 million in annual regional economic impact through PASIC, its flagship convention. The project supports Central Indiana's Arts and Culture plan, which identifies nationally headquartered music nonprofits as strategic assets and calls for investment in sound recording infrastructure.

Upon opening in mid-2028, the new headquarters will offer year-round public programming to 20,000 visitors in Indianapolis annually, while providing shared infrastructure for partner organizations, including Music for All, Drum Corps International, the Indiana Arts Education Network, and the Indiana Percussion Association.



Organization: **PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY**

READI Award: **\$1.3 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$4.87 MILLION**

# ANCHORING A MID-NORTH ARTS CORRIDOR

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis will complete a public art and placemaking project to expand its ability to provide exhibition space for local arts partners in both indoor and outdoor sections of its campus. The project will result in new groundwork for a walkable and highly visible arts corridor within Mid-North Indianapolis, as well as the designation of new galleries for visual arts display, education and collaboration on the Museum's main level.



Organization: **THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF INDIANAPOLIS**  
READI Award: **\$1 MILLION**  
Total Project Expense: **\$6 MILLION**



# CREATIVE TRADES, FABRICATION & WORKFORCE LEADERSHIP HUB

Latinas Welding Guild (LWG) is developing a Creative Trades, Fabrication & Workforce Hub on the west side of Indianapolis that connects design, hands-on fabrication and workforce pathways. The Hub builds on LWG's existing facility to create a public-facing, community-centered space that provides accessible pathways for creatives, makers and aspiring tradespeople to move from concept to production while connecting to real career and economic opportunities.

READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funds will support space buildout, equipment expansion and program activation to establish a design-to-fabrication pipeline. Participants will develop ideas and bring them to life through hands-on processes including welding, CNC and multi-material construction, alongside complementary practices such as blacksmithing and metalsmithing. The Hub will also feature an exhibition and retail space and provide broader professional development, expanding both creative and technical capacity while increasing access to paid work.



Organization: **LATINAS WELDING GUILD INC.**

READI Award: **\$500,000**

Total Project Expense: **\$875,000**



# DOWNTOWN RENEWAL

## CREATIVE CORRIDOR AND CONNECTIONS

This project builds on community planning and infrastructure investments to activate a defined Creative Corridor anchored by Cornerstone Center for the Arts, Muncie Civic Theatre, MadJax Maker Force and the Carnegie Branch of the Muncie Public Library. The Creative Corridor will strengthen downtown Muncie as a shared arts and culture destination for East Central Indiana.

With support from READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding, this project will initiate phase three, transforming vacant and underutilized spaces into welcoming places for artists, creative entrepreneurs, residents and visitors; create collaborative branding and wayfinding to reinforce regional connectivity; and strengthen the Corridor's gateways and anchors.

Planned capital improvements include reactivating the Commercial Club Building to serve as a home for MuncieArts, creating space for Muncie Civic Theatre's program growth and preparing for future commercial investment; reopening public entrances at Cornerstone and the Carnegie Library; courtyard and entrance enhancements at MadJax; public art and interactive improvements at the Washington Square Plaza; and planning and infrastructure for a trail connection to Minnetrista Museum & Gardens.



Organization: **THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MUNCIE AND DELAWARE COUNTY**

READI Award: **\$4 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$29.48 MILLION**

*Drawings are concept only*



# HISTORIC LAFAYETTE THEATER RESTORATION

The City of Lafayette, in partnership with the local and regional arts and culture community, is undertaking a comprehensive restoration and renovation of the historic Lafayette Theater in downtown Lafayette.

This \$20 million project will restore the theater's historic Art Deco architecture while transforming the facility into a state-of-the-art performing arts venue serving the community and the Greater Lafayette region. The renovated theater will function as an anchor institution in downtown Lafayette, contributing to ongoing revitalization efforts and strengthening the area's cultural and economic vitality.

In addition to adding much-needed performance space, the theatre will serve as home to Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette. The new facility will enable the organization to grow its offerings and meet increasing demand for live plays, musicals, and its rapidly expanding youth theatre programming. This strategic public and private investment will ensure long-term sustainability, maximize regional return on investment, and position the Lafayette Theater as a local and regional hub of cultural, economic and community activity for decades to come.



Organization: **CITY OF LAFAYETTE**  
READI Award: **\$3 MILLION**  
Total Project Expense: **\$19.42 MILLION**

# WABASH WALLS

Wabash Walls is a large-scale public art project that aims to increase county and regional vitality by developing, executing and installing pieces of public art across the Greater Lafayette, North Central and Northwest Indiana regions. By engaging artists, stakeholders such as building owners, and young people, Wabash Walls demonstrates how public art can unite communities and activate spaces.

The Arts Federation, which serves Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren and White counties, will lead the installation of public art, including murals and/or sculptures, in all 14 of these counties. The project will support Indiana communities by removing blight, creating tourist destinations, increasing property values in adjacent areas, providing community pride and ownership, improving quality of life and increasing workforce recruitment and retention.



Organization: **THE ARTS FEDERATION INC.**  
 READI Award: **\$250,000**  
 Total Project Expense: **\$680,000**

# MULTIGENERATION ARTS

## ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP & CULTURE OF PLACE

Led by Wabash College, this project brings artists-in-residence, Art Department faculty, students and community partners together through free and accessible arts experiences across Montgomery County and the Greater Lafayette region.

Resident artists will connect to Wabash classrooms and community organizations as well as collaborate with local artists, teachers and college students to offer art-centered K-12 summer camps. The College will also offer two additional art courses annually on community-engaged art and art leadership, focusing on the ways arts activities and historical preservation bring people together and forge a shared culture of place.

More broadly, the project creates a scalable regional model for making arts programming more accessible across counties and age groups, especially in areas beyond larger population centers. It will expand and promote high-quality arts experiences, strengthen collaboration between Wabash and community organizations, and give K-12 students more opportunities to visit galleries and take part in multigenerational maker spaces. Just as important, it will create a replicable structure that rural partners can continue using long after the grant ends.



Organization: **WABASH COLLEGE**  
 READI Award: **\$1.24 MILLION**  
 Total Project Expense: **\$2.48 MILLION**

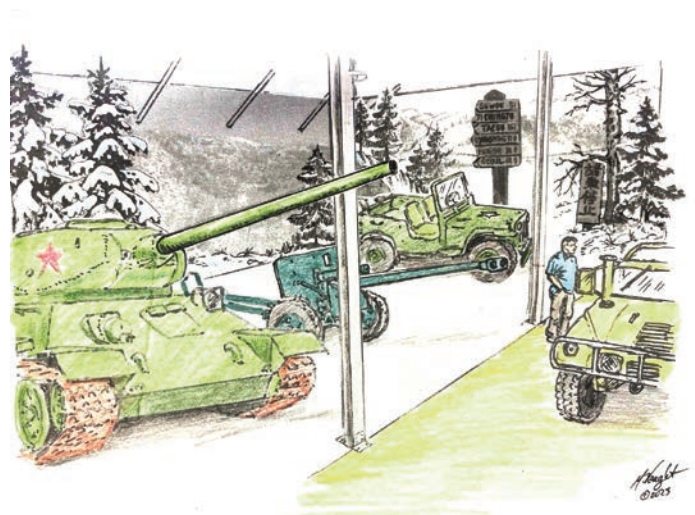
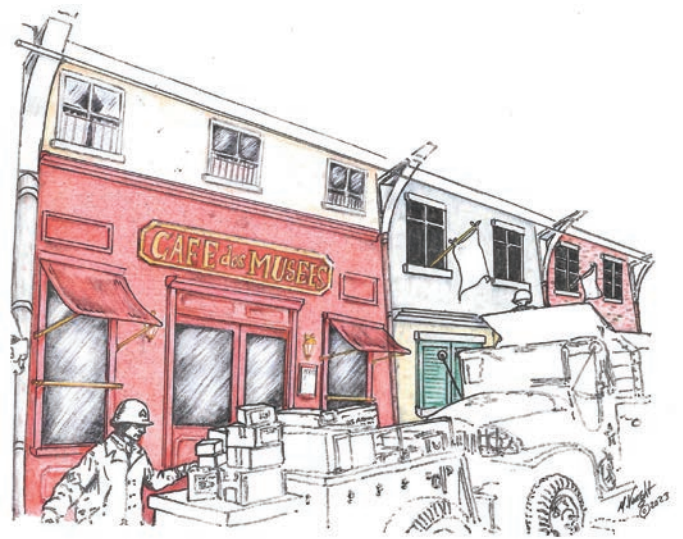
# INDIANA MILITARY MUSEUM SCENIC DIORAMA ENHANCEMENT

The Indiana Military Museum in Vincennes is launching an initiative to enhance three new immersive exhibits featuring large-scale scenic dioramas designed to bring to life historic battlefront street scenes from World War II and the Korean War. These custom-built backdrops will enhance the museum's wall-sized displays by adding depth, realism and storytelling, allowing visitors to experience pivotal moments in military history in a more engaging and educational way. The project combines historical research, artistic design and community collaboration to create a dynamic interpretive environment that honors the service and sacrifice of American veterans while strengthening cultural tourism in southwest Indiana.

Organization: **INDIANA MILITARY MUSEUM INC.**

READI Award: **\$295,996**

Total Project Expense: **\$314,000**



# MUSIC FOR HUMANITY

## ANNUAL MULTI-COUNTY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL TOURS OF THE UPLANDS



Organization: **AMERICAN CELLO INSTITUTE**

READI Award: **\$17,250**

Total Project Expense: **\$69,563**



Music for Humanity Festival Tours – a project of the non-profit, the American Cello Institute – are free and open to the public. Led by cellists Emilio and Cara Colón, with Emilio having lived and worked in the Uplands community for over 30 years, the events include high-energy performances for communities and interactive educational programs for children, designed to make classical music approachable and engaging for audiences of all ages.

Tour events feature renowned teaching artists alongside emerging young artists, creating opportunities for mentorship, artistic excellence and workforce development. Young artists and interns gain hands-on experience in performance and community engagement while learning to use the arts as a tool for social change.

Supported by READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding, the project connects children and communities with the transformative power of music. Music for Humanity will expand access to the arts, and contribute to a more vibrant, inclusive, and resilient regional arts ecosystem across the Indiana Uplands region.



# RURAL PLACEMAKING STUDIO EXPANSION



The IU Rural Placemaking Studio is strengthening the vitality of rural Indiana by equipping local leaders with the skills, design support, and collaborative networks needed to transform public spaces. Co-led by the Center for Rural Engagement and the Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design at Indiana University Bloomington, the studio builds rural capacity through peer learning, creating a community of practice grounded in creative placemaking, design thinking and community-led planning. For IU students, the studio offers professional development and community-engaged learning in comprehensive design, providing unique experiences to help them stand out in their field.

READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funds will be used to purchase an industrial printer that can produce both signage and panels, cover some material costs and support faculty oversight of student fabrication. This will enable rapid, cost-effective production of highly visible projects, such as signage and murals. Partner organizations will be able to install the signs and murals at reduced costs, enhancing efforts to build regional identity, support tourism and branding, and raise awareness of cultural heritage assets. Rural Placemaking Studio combines the efforts of local rural leaders, IU students, faculty and staff to enhance community desirability, vibrancy, and livability through the stewardship of public spaces.

Organization: **INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR RURAL ENGAGEMENT**

READI Award: **\$158,413**

Total Project Expense: **\$397,496**



# UPLANDS REGIONAL CREATIVE ECONOMY COMMONS

The Uplands Regional Creative Economy Commons is an economic development initiative that centers on arts and culture. It establishes a regional creative economy ecosystem along Bloomington's B-Line Trail and a regional arts website to connect creatives in the 11-county Indiana Uplands region to support opportunities across a range of artistic disciplines.

The B-Line is already the spine of significant new investment in the regional economy, but it lacks an intentional system to boost the regional arts sector along with broader economic growth. This project will develop three linked sites dedicated to pipeline, production and performance, and a regional digital platform to foster a creative economy engine running the length of the corridor.

Initiatives include a three-story arts incubator in Bloomington's Trades Administration Building (pipeline); transformation of a 10,000-square-foot Secretary Canadian warehouse – home to the region's premier record label – into a regional production hub (production); a concert series, arts market, open studio tours and performance venues at Switchyard Park (performance); and a regional arts community website to make the full ecosystem visible and accessible (platform).

Organization: **INDIANA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH**

READI Award: **\$3 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$7.12 MILLION**



# SWEET OC ARTS PARK

The Sweet Owen County (Sweet OC) Arts Park will transform an underused Spencer riverfront into a vibrant cultural destination that celebrates local art, history and nature. READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding will support the foundational phase of the project, establishing the park's core amenities, including the Arts Market Pavilion, MyPath Trailhead featuring a bird sculpture garden, and a Follow the River-themed playscape. Together, these elements will create the framework for a destination that connects art, recreation and community while laying the groundwork for future phases of development.

In addition to these physical assets, the project prioritizes entrepreneurship programming designed specifically for local artists, equipping them with the skills and resources needed to generate income and build sustainable creative businesses. Artists will also have opportunities to lead workshops and mentor younger generations, creating pathways

for knowledge-sharing and long-term community engagement.

Built through broad public-private partnerships and community input, the park will boost tourism, support local artists, enhance environmental stewardship, and provide a gathering space for all ages. Serving as a regional cultural gateway, it strengthens connections between Spencer, McCormick's Creek State Park, and the Uplands arts corridor, bringing economic and cultural benefits to the wider South Central Indiana region.

Organization: **SPENCER-OWEN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

READI Award: **\$1 MILLION**

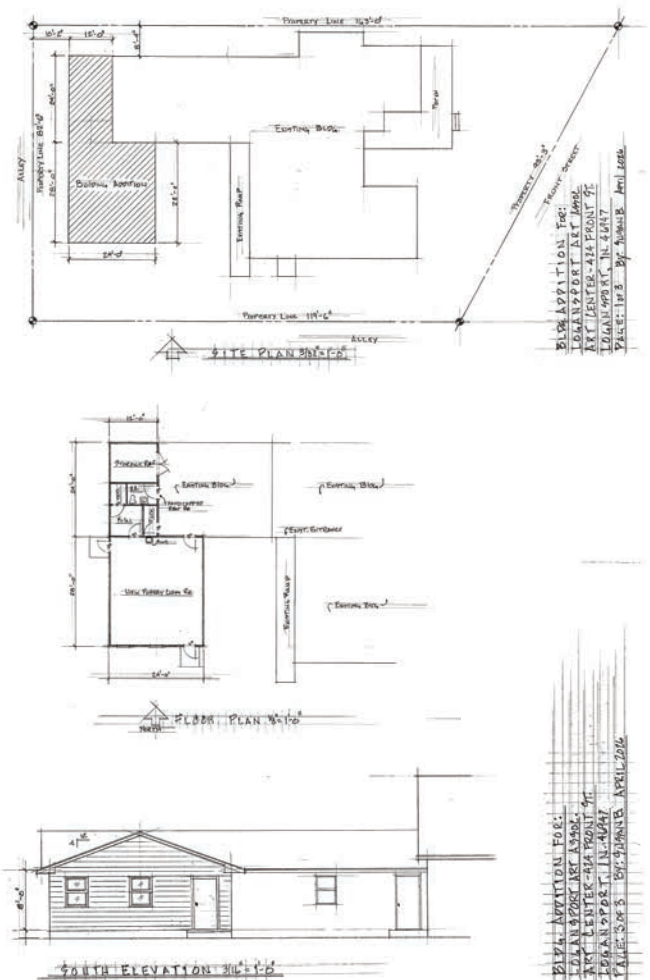
Total Project Expense: **\$6.7 MILLION**



# THE MARY ASPLET POTTERY BARN REVITALIZATION

This project centers on revitalizing a community landmark: the Mary Asplet Pottery Barn in Logansport. Originally a modest garage studio dedicated to the memory of Mary Asplet—a prolific and beloved local artist—the structure has served as a cornerstone for local makers.

The facility, however, has reached a state of critical deterioration. This project will transform a failing structure into a vibrant regional hub for ceramic and glass arts located within the Logansport Art Association. In addition to receiving updated HVAC and plumbing systems, the space will be ADA accessible, removing physical barriers to the arts and creating a premier regional center for ceramic arts and community involvement. With the new space, the Pottery Barn will be able to provide comprehensive instruction for artists of all ages, specializing in foundational and advanced techniques including wheel throwing, slab construction and pinch pot clay methods, glass fusing and bead making.



Organization: **LOGANSPORT ART ASSOCIATION**

READI Award: **\$375,000**

Total Project Expense: **\$375,000**

# DIANA THEATRE

## ADAPTIVE REVITALIZATION

Tipton Main Street Association (TMSA) is leading the acquisition, revitalization and adaptive reuse of the historic Diana Theatre, a 100-year-old landmark in the heart of downtown Tipton. Long a shared community touchstone, the theatre's future was uncertain when its longtime owners retired—prompting a community-driven effort to preserve and reimagine this iconic space.

An Indiana Accredited Main Street organization, TMSA brings a decade of experience in downtown revitalization, placemaking, and programming. Following feasibility analysis and stakeholder engagement, TMSA launched a \$2.5 million initiative to support acquisition and phased improvements, collaborating with key partners and businesses.

READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding will support critical upgrades to modernize the facility while maintaining operations, setting the stage for broader rehabilitation. The Diana will continue as a cinema while expanding into a flexible cultural venue for live music, other performances, and exhibits and community events. Once complete, the theatre will serve as a regional destination and community hub, preserving a treasured asset while boosting foot traffic, supporting local businesses and strengthening Tipton's cultural and economic vitality.

*Rendering is concept only*



Organization: **TIPTON MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION**  
 READI Award: **\$1.5 MILLION**  
 Total Project Expense: **\$2.54 MILLION**



# PARLOR CITY DIGITAL PROJECTION

## MAPPING & REGIONAL ARTS PLATFORM

The City of Bluffton will install a permanent 3D projection mapping system in its downtown, transforming a historic building façade into a dynamic platform for digital art, storytelling and community programming. Located across from the Wells County Courthouse and Parlor City Plaza, the installation will activate Bluffton's central civic space with immersive visual experiences that highlight local history, celebrate seasonal events and showcase regional creative work. The project will help draw residents and visitors throughout downtown while enhancing existing community gatherings.

As the first permanent installation of its kind in northern Indiana, the project will serve as a regional platform for artists, designers and students across Northeast Indiana. Through rotating content and ongoing artist participation, the system will provide a highly visible venue for digital expression and shared cultural experiences. By combining technology, public art and placemaking, the initiative expands access to the arts, supports the regional creative economy, and strengthens Bluffton's role as a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike.



Organization: **CITY OF BLUFFTON**  
 READI Award: **\$354,062**  
 Total Investment: **\$478,062**

# ARTS (260)

PBS Fort Wayne will launch Arts (260)—a portfolio of media productions, cultural storytelling and workforce development programs that elevate the arts in Northeast Indiana. Building on the organization's capacities, regional reach and educational mission, it will amplify stories, institutions and individuals shaping the creative ecosystem.

The project will feature live multi-camera broadcasts of regional theatrical productions, performances and concerts; storytelling about the arts on the new weekly life and culture program "The 260" along with profiles and conversations with artists, entrepreneurs, policymakers and cultural leaders; and investment in the next generation of regional media storytellers through video production apprenticeships, a documentarian in residence and the Northeast

Indiana Creative Innovation Incubator to equip filmmakers, content creators and media entrepreneurs with tools and connections to build sustainable creative businesses.

Arts (260) expands access to music and cultural programming, promotes the region's cultural assets and economic value, and supports workforce development, creative entrepreneurship and cultural tourism across Northeast Indiana and beyond.

Organization: **PBS FORT WAYNE**

READI Award: **\$750,000**

Total Project Expense: **\$1.1 MILLION**



# THE SURACK CITY THEATRE & PEARL ARTS CREATIVE TALENT ACADEMY PROGRAM

The Pearl Arts Creative Talent Academy Program is expanding to meet Northeast Indiana's growing need for skilled talent in music technology, stage production and live event operations. Chuck Surack's transformative vision—creator of Sweetwater, The Clyde Theatre, Pearl Arts and the Surack City Theatre—shapes this initiative to create a powerful placemaking engine and strengthen the region's cultural and creative infrastructure.

The initiative includes two capital improvement projects in Fort Wayne: the renovation and expansion of the blighted and vacant historic Surack City Theatre, transforming the space into a fully equipped training venue for stage production, music technology and live event operations; and the renovation and expansion of the Pearl Arts Training Facilities, which currently houses the Innovation Institute, to expand classrooms, rehearsal spaces, instructional labs and a recording

studio. Together, these venues create an immersive, real-world learning environment guided by industry professionals.

Additionally, the initiative will support the Pearl Arts Innovation Institute, in partnership with Fort Wayne Community Schools, by expanding a successful 2025 pilot training program that provides a project-based curriculum for high school students. The program will expand to adult learners seeking to upskill or reskill for creative and technical careers.



Recipient: **PEARL ARTS INC.**  
READI Award: **\$4 MILLION**  
Total Project Expense: **\$55.59 MILLION**



# THE CANAL STREET ARTIST COLLECTIVE

The Canal Street Artist Collective is a transformative arts and culture project designed to strengthen Northeast Indiana's creative economy through talent retention, workforce development, placemaking and cultural tourism. The project will establish a mixed-use, live-work creative hub in downtown Wabash, activating vacant Canal Street properties within the Indiana Arts Commission-designated Wabash Cultural District.

The project will create subsidized artist housing, art studio and instructional space, and public-facing arts experiences. The Collective will launch with three-to-four full-time resident artists, expanding to six in future years, who will live, work and earn income through Honeywell's Arts in Education, Arts for All, and community programming. In return, they will provide music instruction, visual arts and theatre workshops and arts programming for youth, families, older adults and individuals of all abilities.

Developed through a shared vision and partnership between The Honeywell Foundation Inc., Community Foundation of Wabash County, Wabash County Development Corporation and The Arc of Wabash County, the Canal Street Artist Collective will create a connected ecosystem of arts, education and tourism, advancing long-term cultural and economic vitality across Northeast Indiana.



Organization: **THE HONEYWELL FOUNDATION**

READI Award: **\$4 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$18.7 MILLION**



# BUILDING A RURAL-CONNECTED WORKFORCE-DRIVEN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE

The University of Saint Francis is launching a workforce-driven music technology collaborative that will engage rural high schools, regional arts partners and arts industry to create a workforce pipeline with upskilling opportunities for the Northeast Indiana region. This partnership will be made accessible to rural communities through low barrier to entry processes, student underground-style workshops, high school counselor workshops, dual credit curriculum development, and ArtVanGo, a mobile arts van providing transportation to campus and bringing the arts to rural communities.

Curriculum will be co-designed with industry partners to meet the needs of regional employers, integrating stackable credentials that can serve traditional and non-traditional students and creating a framework for students to follow from high school through employment. The collaborative will be reinforced through an all-ages performance venue that will serve as a music business training and experiential learning studio. The studio will offer high school residency days and first track/first show challenges to provide students with a safe space for performance.



Organization: **UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS  
CREATIVE ARTS AND DIGITAL MEDIA PATHWAY**

READI Award: **\$125,000**

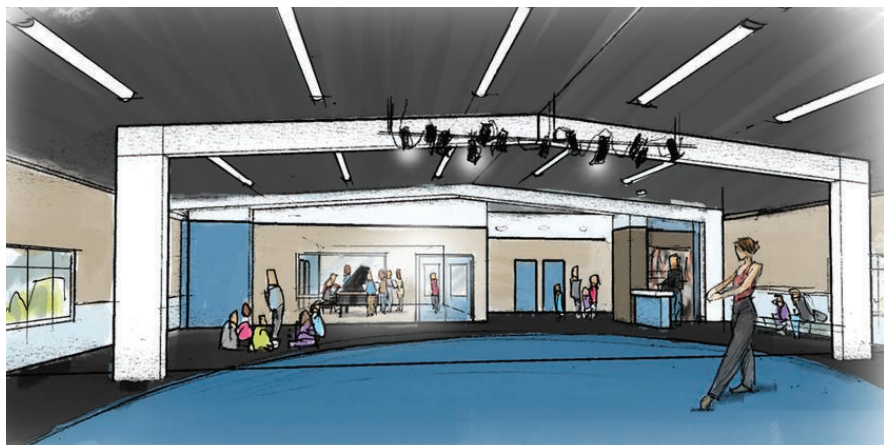
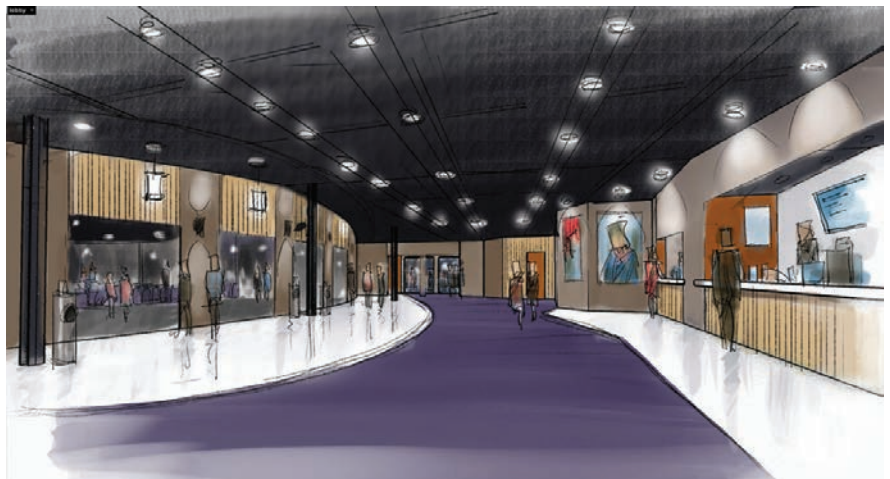
Total Project Expense: **\$414,897**

# WAGON WHEEL

## AMPLIFYING A REGIONAL CULTURAL ANCHOR TO POWER NORTHEAST INDIANA'S CREATIVE ECONOMY

Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts in Warsaw is launching a transformative capital improvement and programming expansion project at its historic campus to improve theatre and conservatory facilities and expand arts education through full implementation of the Artist-in-Residence and Broadway 360 pilot programs and the addition of a vocal instruction track. It will also allow for the return of the Wagon Wheel Concert Series.

This investment will strengthen Wagon Wheel's role as a regional cultural anchor by increasing its capacity to serve the region, expanding access to high-quality arts experiences and arts training, and deepening its pipeline for emerging creative talent. This pipeline connects Northeast Indiana to an impressive roster of alumni who have performed on Broadway, on national tours, in top regional theatres, and in prominent TV roles, and who continue to maintain relationships with Wagon Wheel. The project strategically positions Wagon Wheel to serve the region's next generation of audiences and artists while supporting workforce attraction and retention efforts and helping grow Northeast Indiana's creative economy.



Organization: **WAGON WHEEL  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
READI Award: **\$1.4 MILLION**  
Total Project Expense:  
**\$2.66 MILLION**

# BROOK CARNEGIE CULTURAL EXPANSION PROJECT

The Brook Carnegie Cultural Expansion Project will expand the Brook Iroquois Washington Public Library to increase access to arts and cultural programming in rural southern Newton County. As the only provider of consistent arts programming outside of the school system, the library offers weekly arts programs for young children and monthly programs for teens, adults and seniors.

The expansion will create flexible space for visual and performing arts, workshops, exhibits and artist-led instruction, enabling larger class sizes and expanded creative disciplines to meet growing community demand. Additionally, READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding will support programming led by local and regional

artists, including sewing, painting, photography, culinary arts and performance-based experiences.

By expanding access to free, high-quality arts programming and supporting artists, the project will strengthen cultural opportunities, enhance quality of place, and serve as a regional hub for arts engagement in an underserved rural area.



Organization: **BROOK IROQUOIS WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

READI Award: **\$1.9 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$3.87 MILLION**

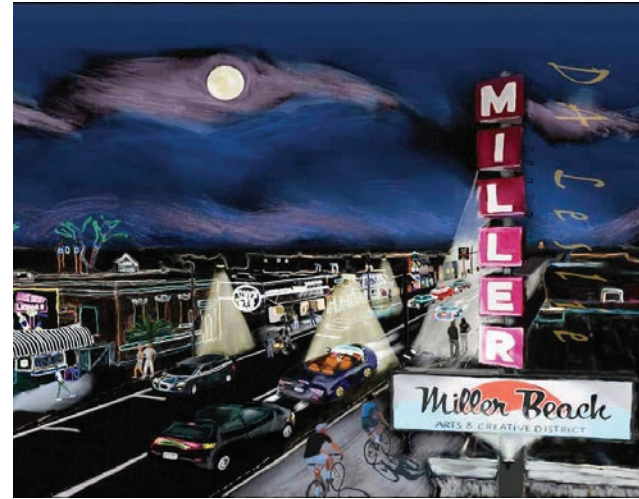


# BUILDING CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE FUTURE

The Miller Beach Arts & Creative District (MBACD) has become a dynamic hub of cultural and economic activity, helping to transform the unique environment of Gary's Miller neighborhood into a vital part of the city and surrounding region. This project will ensure the longevity and usability of the district's historic buildings and support programming to sustain a vibrant arts community.

Capital improvement projects include critical safety and efficiency upgrades to the 70-year-old Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts as well as a renovation at The Annex that will create an arts learning space to house two artist studios, a large arts education classroom and a conference room for community use.

Additionally, the project will support the Lake Effekt ArtsFest in June 2027. The event will showcase the production of more than 20 murals by Indiana's Latinx artist cooperative, CISA (Crazy Indiana Style Artists), and serve as a key cultural placemaking event for the region.



Organization: **MILLER BEACH ARTS & CREATIVE DISTRICT CDC**

READI Award: **\$172,756**

Total Project Expense: **\$255,191**



# KENTUCKIANA UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PROJECT

The Kentuckiana Underground Railroad Project is a multi-organizational initiative to create a light-based art installation interpreting and acknowledging the history of the Underground Railroad in the Falls of the Ohio region with accompanying free and educational community events. Organizations from across the region are partnering on this effort to shine light on the region's unique history and the pathway to freedom across the Ohio River that many brave souls embarked upon over 150 years ago.

This semi-permanent installation will utilize light as its primary medium, will span the Ohio River from Indiana to Kentucky, and will be displayed over the course of multiple months with its "unveiling" slated for the second half of 2027. The installation will speak to all ages and origins and enshrine the stories of Southern Indiana and Louisville's history. The impact will inspire regional pride, increase access to the arts, and create a placemaking destination that solidifies the region as a hub for arts and culture.



Organization: **FALLS OF THE OHIO FOUNDATION**

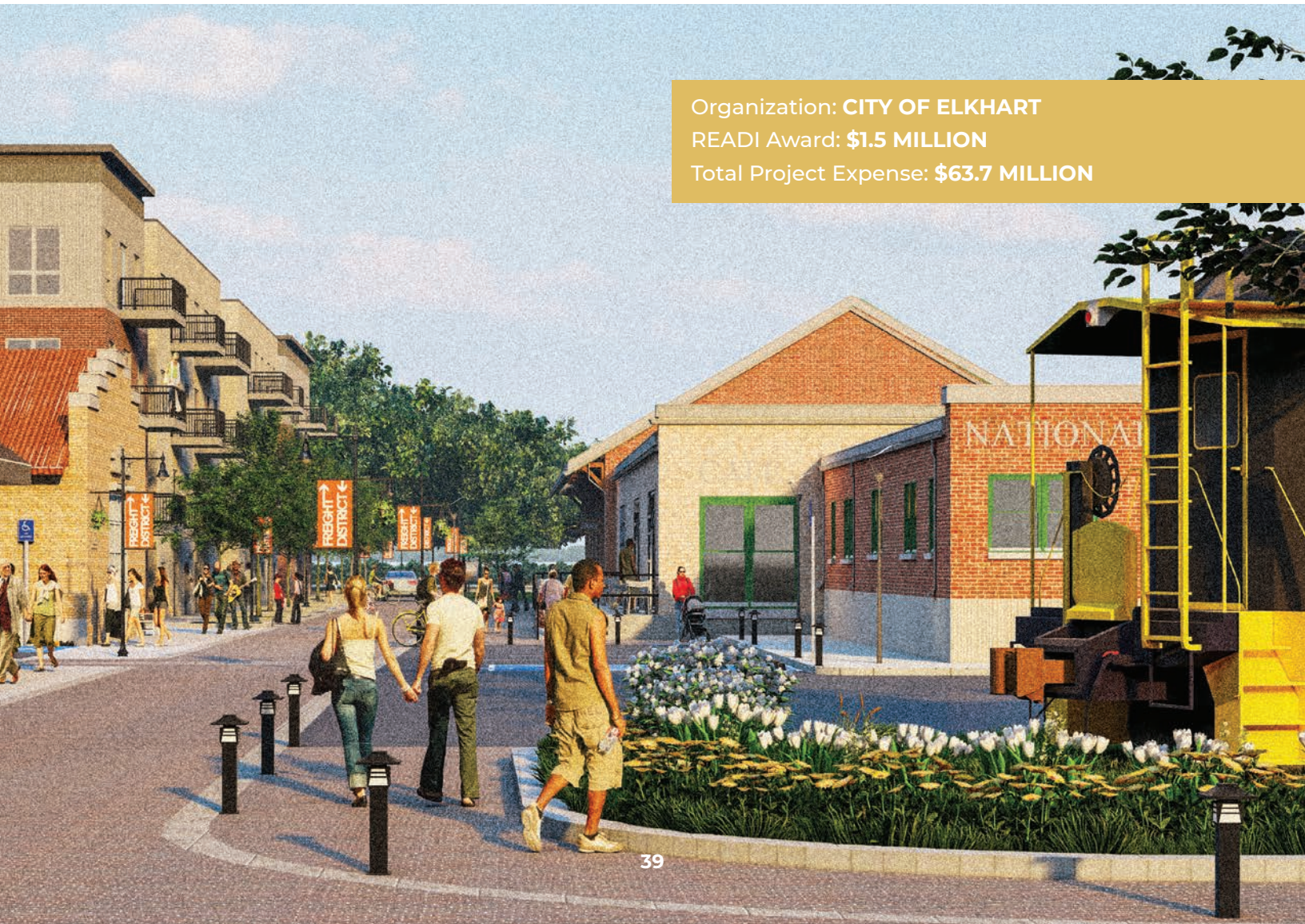
READI Award: **\$204,000**

Total Project Expense: **393,000**



# FREIGHT STREET DISTRICT INITIATIVE

In south Elkhart, where rail lines once defined the city's identity, a new cultural district is taking shape. The Freight Street District Initiative combines mixed-use redevelopment along historic Freight Street with two signature public investments: Love Plaza, a vibrant gathering space anchored by a three-dimensional sculptural recreation of Kelby Love's beloved 1996 mural, and capital improvements to the National New York Central Railroad Museum. Together, these investments represent an unprecedented expansion of downtown Elkhart's Main Street corridor beyond the railroad tracks that will transform a historically underutilized corridor into a walkable, culturally rich destination.



Organization: **CITY OF ELKHART**  
 READI Award: **\$1.5 MILLION**  
 Total Project Expense: **\$63.7 MILLION**

# HOWARD PARK BANDSHELL

Located in the heart of South Bend, Howard Park is poised to become a regional hub for arts and culture. The Howard Park Bandshell project will transform the city's premier park into a year-round destination for performances and signature festivals, filling a regional gap for a high-quality outdoor performing arts venue capable of supporting multi-day events.

The project includes a 2,000-square-foot stage and essential supporting infrastructure, such as restrooms, green rooms, state-of-the-art AV control, electrical systems, and performance lighting.

Aligned with the Downtown South Bend 2045 Plan, the South Bend–Elkhart Regional Arts and Cultural Plan, and the Howard Park Neighborhood Plan, the bandshell advances shared regional goals around placemaking, cultural access and economic vitality. By strengthening connections between artists, audiences and surrounding neighborhoods, the Howard Park Bandshell will deliver long-term cultural and economic benefits at both the local and regional level.

Organization: **CITY OF SOUTH BEND**

READI Award: **\$3 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$6 MILLION**



# HISTORIC STATE THEATER TRANSFORMATION

This project will transform the persistently blighted, historic State Theater in downtown South Bend into a multi-screen, multipurpose cinema and performing arts venue. The redevelopment will preserve the building's historic exterior while fully rebuilding the interior to create a modern, flexible cultural facility designed to support a range of uses.

The reimagined State Theater will include five theaters of varying sizes, enabling simultaneous programming across film, live performance, lectures, educational programming and community events. Year-round programs will include classic, independent, international and documentary films, along with performances and classes, filling a gap in available cultural programming in the South Bend-Elkhart region.

The project includes the implementation of a sustainable, long-term operating model to support consistent programming, utilization and financial stability, establishing the State Theater as a permanent cultural asset in the region.

Organization: **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**

READI Award: **\$4 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$27.8 MILLION**



# MUSIC TOWN

Music Town began as a pilot to help create more year-round live music experiences and support connected, thriving communities. The organization launched in Elkhart in 2025, where it has doubled the number of music shows, and expanded to South Bend and Goshen in 2026.

Music Town supports the live music ecosystem as a whole, connecting artists, venues and residents in a mutually supportive network. It helps residents find shows on a community-wide local music calendar and learn about and interact with bands as they are playing. It coordinates venue schedules to keep offerings fresh and avoid both redundancies and empty periods while

encouraging novelty, experimentation and community feedback. And it sponsors novel live music shows with both established and emerging artists, including local talent.

READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding will support more shows at more venues, increase coordination between towns, and work with bigger venues to bring touring shows to the region. This effort will enhance a sense of place in the region, stimulate the local arts community and drive economic activity and tourism.

Organization: **SOUTH BEND REGIONAL CHAMBER – VISIT SOUTH BEND**

READI Award: **\$350,000**

Total Project Expense: **\$1.47 MILLION**



# NORTHERN INDIANA CLAY CENTER

Organization: **NORTHERN INDIANA CLAY ALLIANCE**  
READI Award: **\$300,000**  
Total Project Expense: **\$1.5 MILLION**

The Northern Indiana Clay Center will establish a permanent, public-facing ceramics facility in the heart of downtown Goshen, bringing professional studio infrastructure, arts education and creative community programming to the South Bend-Elkhart region for the first time. READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding will support the interior renovation of the facility – an historic 8,000-square-foot building at 118 S. Main Street with direct access to Goshen's Art Alley – and acquisition of professional equipment, completing the critical final step in bringing this long-planned community resource to life.

The center will offer open studio memberships, workshops and classes for all ages, artist residencies, exhibition programming and a retail clay supply operation. Programming partnerships with Goshen Community Schools, Goshen College, the Boys and Girls Club of Elkhart County and local retirement centers will ensure the center serves residents across generations and backgrounds, including the region's significant Spanish-speaking population. The project builds on over 200 years of ceramics history and 15 years of programming led by the Northern Indiana Clay Alliance that has established Goshen as a recognized national destination for ceramic arts.



# A PLACE BETWEEN PLACES

## SCULPTURAL BUS SHELTERS

The City of Columbus is partnering with Indiana University's J. Irwin Miller Architecture Program and Ignition Arts to develop, build and implement sculptural bus shelters. The project aims to improve quality of place by embedding design excellence within the city's transit infrastructure and making public artworks accessible to communities across a wide socio-economic range.

Through a unique experiential learning approach, Indiana University students have already completed extensive community and stakeholder engagement, participated in the design and fabrication of an initial prototype, and will develop a second prototype in collaboration with the public art fabrication company Ignition Arts near the city's popular Visitor's Center. READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding will support three more shelters along the public transit routes, supporting the unique identity for the ColumBus transit system and enhancing the city's reputation for architectural innovation.



Organization: **CITY OF COLUMBUS**

READI Award: **\$329,940**

Total Project Expense: **\$740,209**



# HISTORIC CRUMP THEATRE RESTORATION AND EXPANSION

This project will establish the Crump Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) in downtown Columbus's historic Crump Theater, which opened in 1889 and is the oldest remaining theater in Indiana. The renovation and expansion will preserve this important historic and cultural asset while expanding access to programming across the region.

The project reflects years of community effort to preserve and revive the theater, including more than 6,000 volunteer hours from local businesses, organizations and residents. Grassroots momentum has grown as the public recognizes the venue's potential to expand regional arts and cultural capacity.

The project includes renovation of the original theater, an addition to provide accessibility, as well as functional improvements, building upgrades and updated equipment to support modern performance.

Once open, CCPA will host live entertainment, educational programming and community events serving residents, artists and visitors from across South Central Indiana. This transformation represents a public-private partnership that preserves Indiana history, expands regional arts access and supports downtown revitalization, cultural tourism and regional quality of place.

Organization: **CRUMP CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS**

READI Award: **\$6.1 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$21.85 MILLION**



# ARI INTEGRATED CULTURAL CAMPUS INITIATIVE

The Archaeological Research Institute (ARI) in Lawrenceburg is transforming its downtown campus into a fully integrated, publicly accessible cultural destination through a three-project initiative – an outdoor Cultural Gardens featuring public art, a large-scale augmented reality mural and 24/7 interpretive installations; an interior facility renovation creating ADA-accessible labs, immersive technology zones and expanded educational capacity; and a comprehensive immersive exhibit design and development program engaging Indiana artists, designers and technology professionals. Together, these investments create a seamless visitor journey rooted in the cultural history of the Ohio River Valley, activating downtown Lawrenceburg, supporting the local creative economy, and establishing ARI as a regional leader in innovative public archaeology and cultural education.



Organization: **ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE INC.**

READI Award: **\$424,545**

Total Project Expense: **\$1.4 MILLION**

# START LOCAL

## DILLSBORO STUDIO RESIDENCY: MENTORING INDIANA ARTISTS



The Dillsboro Arts Friendship Gallery in Dearborn County will create the Dillsboro Studio Residency, a community artist in residence program for young artists that supports the local creative economy while expanding access to the arts. By adding new artists to the space, Dillsboro Arts will be able to expand hours of operation, add new patron contacts, and increase arts programming for the community.

Dillsboro Arts will expand into its second-floor space, completing renovations to provide individual studios for three or more emerging artists to connect and work in a shared environment. These artists will present an exhibition of their work at the completion of the residency and will have opportunities to earn money through teaching or performances. Along the way, with continuing mentorship from established artists, they will develop their studio work, learn curating and gallery operation skills and, most importantly, add new voices and energy to an already strong arts community.



Organization: **DILLSBORO ARTS  
FRIENDSHIP GALLERY**

READI Award: **\$40,300**

Total Project Expense: **\$48,800**

# OLDENBURG MAIBAUM

## PAVILION & ARTISTIC WALL MURAL

Inspired by 50 years of volunteer-driven success at Freudenfest, the town of Oldenburg will create a vibrant new cultural tradition: the Oldenburg Maibaum Celebration, a spring festival honoring the community's German heritage through music, dance, storytelling and shared artistic expression. The Maibaum Celebration will complement Oldenburg's heritage, enrich community life and invite visitors to experience Oldenburg's authenticity in a fresh, joyful and enduring way.

The community will also develop Maypole Heritage Park, investing in the creative infrastructure needed

to support the Maibaum Celebration as well as year-round concerts, performances and arts and culture programming. READI 2.0 Arts & Culture funding will support construction of the Maibaum Performing Arts Pavilion and a new 195-foot, hand-painted mural that will transform the park into a dynamic gathering place for artists, residents and visitors. Together, these enhancements will strengthen Oldenburg's identity as a place of authentic celebration, expand opportunities for local artists and musicians, and create a welcoming destination for year-round cultural activity.



Organization: **OLDENBURG FREUDENFEST INC.**

READI Award: **\$148,000**

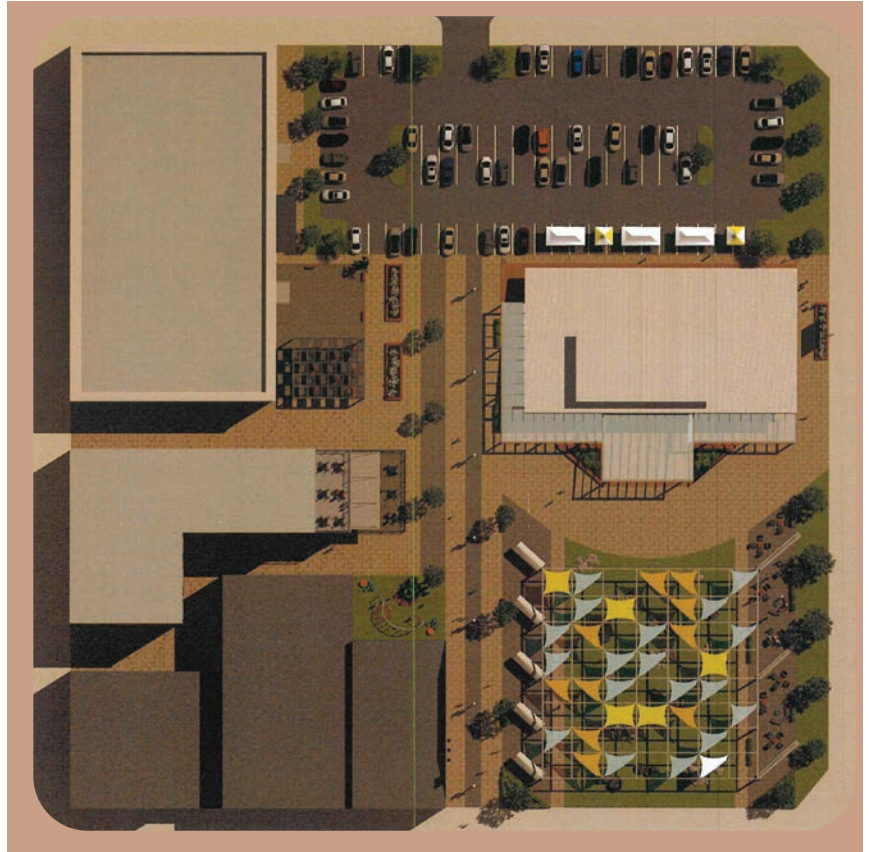
Total Project Expense: **\$296,000**



# UNION SQUARE PAVILION

The Union County Foundation is leading a transformative arts and culture initiative in Liberty through the development of an open-air pavilion and a companion documentary series highlighting local creative entrepreneurs. Located at 22 E. Union Street in downtown Liberty, the pavilion will serve as a year-round hub for concerts, markets, performances, fitness programming and community events, building on the success of initiatives like the Live in Liberty music festival and Historic Waterworks artisan markets.

As part of the regional Heritage and Harmony Music Trail, the project strengthens Southeast Indiana's connected arts network by attracting visitors, encouraging cross-county collaboration and supporting the creative economy. The documentary series will feature established local creatives, showcasing the viability of creative careers in a rural community and helping position Union County as a place where artists and entrepreneurs can live, work and thrive. Together, this project enhances quality of place, expands access to arts and culture and drives continued downtown revitalization.



Organization: **UNION COUNTY FOUNDATION**

READI Award: **\$1 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$4 MILLION**



# EVANSVILLE FAMILY ARTS

## CORRIDORS & REGIONAL CREATIVE LEARNING INITIATIVE

The Evansville Family Arts Corridors & Regional Creative Learning Initiative expands arts access for children and families through two complementary strategies: 1) Programmatic Arts Access— including internships, artist-in-residence, youth art showcases, STEAM-based arts experiences and performances— and 2) Creative Placemaking Infrastructure— including sidewalk murals, enhanced outdoor music experiences, a signature lobby mural and an accessible rooftop cultural space.

Built in response to the need for more everyday, low-barrier arts opportunities, the initiative activates the arts both within the Children's Museum of Evansville (cMoe) and throughout the broader community. Families engage in artist-led workshops, exhibits, performances, and maker experiences within the museum, while cMoe to Go: Creative Arts Pop-Ups bring hands-on arts experiences to parks, schools, festivals, and community spaces across Southwest Indiana. Key partners include University of Evansville,



University of Southern Indiana, Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, Earth Charter Indiana, local artists, parks departments, and other arts and culture organizations. Together, these efforts strengthen quality of place, support the creative workforce, and increase community engagement with arts and culture.



Organization: **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF EVANSVILLE**  
 READI Award: **\$1.5 MILLION**  
 Total Project Expense: **\$4.84 MILLION**

# EVANSVILLE MUSEUM SCULPTURE GARDEN

The Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science, a premier cultural institution in the Southwest Indiana region, will transform its outdoor lawn into a vibrant public sculpture garden, building on its mission to provide diverse cultural experiences. The space will blend art, nature and community, creating an inviting destination where visitors can experience sculptures from the Museum's collection in a scenic, accessible setting. Improvements such as seating, lighting and clear pathways will make the garden more welcoming and easier to navigate, while also supporting a variety of events and programs.

The sculpture garden will extend the Museum beyond its walls, attract more visitors to the Museum and the Ohio River riverfront, create a flexible space for community events and celebrations, and increase awareness of public art. Designed to benefit residents, families, students, artists and visitors alike, the project strengthens the Museum's role as a cultural anchor while contributing to a more vibrant, connected and creative community.

Organization: **EVANSVILLE MUSEUM  
OF ARTS, HISTORY & SCIENCE**

READI Award: **\$310,000**

Total Project Expense: **\$3.36 MILLION**



# WABASH VALLEY ARTS ACCESS & TOURING INITIATIVE

The Wabash Valley Arts Access & Touring Initiative will bring performances, exhibitions and hands-on arts programming to libraries across Vigo, Clay, Parke, Vermillion and Sullivan counties in the Wabash River region, expanding access to arts experiences in rural communities while supporting local artists and strengthening regional collaboration.

Arts Illiana will partner with leading regional arts organizations to develop and deliver a coordinated series of touring programs, including presentations on visual arts, chamber music and small ensemble performances, artist talks, hands-on workshops, youth arts education activities, and presentations on creative aging.

The project will serve residents of all ages, with a focus on increasing access for rural populations, families and youth. By leveraging existing institutions and fostering collaboration among arts organizations, this initiative will create a sustainable framework for continued arts programming, strengthen regional identity, support local artists, and enhance quality of life throughout the Wabash Valley.

Organization: **ARTS ILLIANA**

READI Award: **\$52,000**

Total Project Expense: **\$173,500**

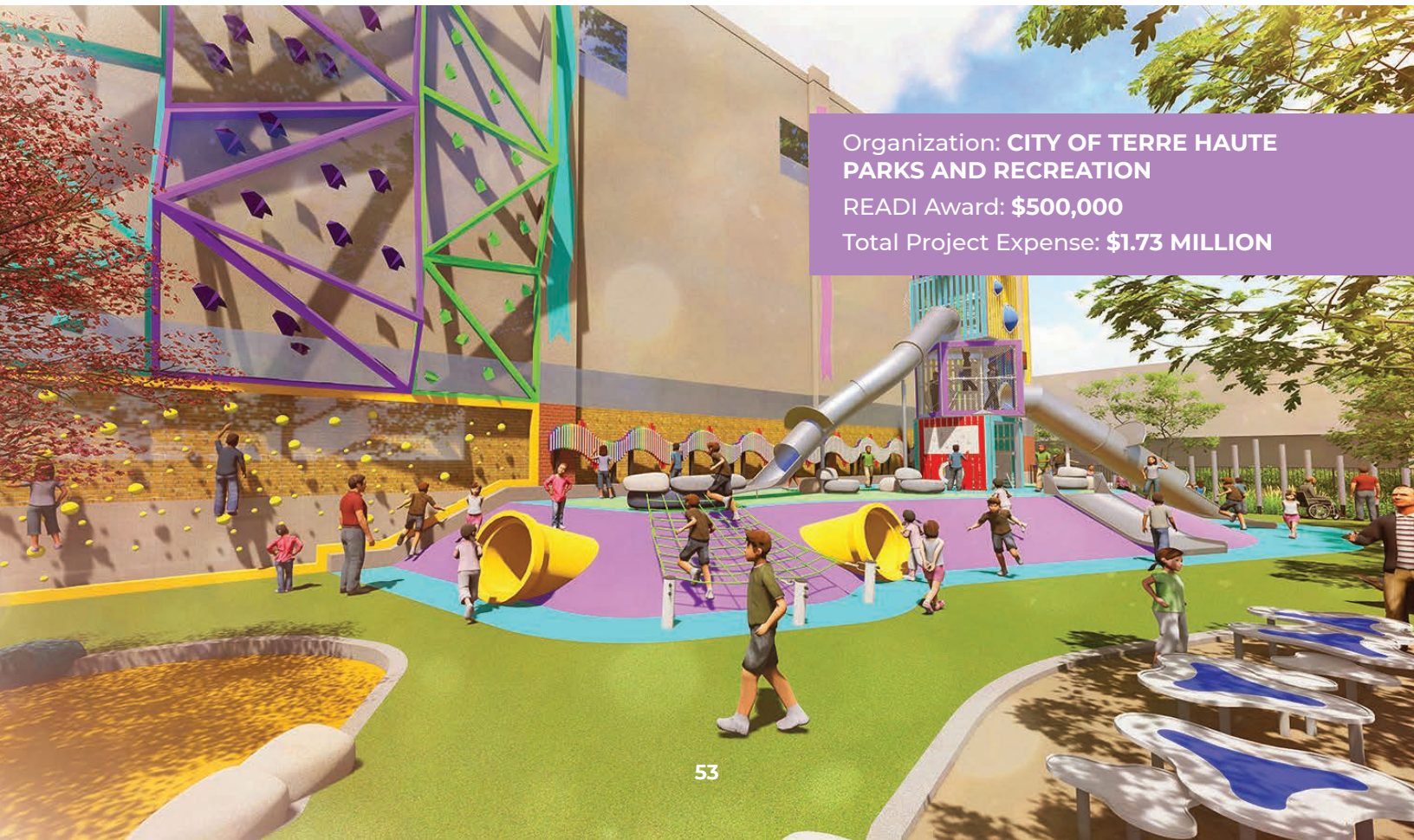


# 8TH STREET PLAYScape & CITY PARK EVENT LAWN

The City of Terre Haute, in partnership with the Terre Haute Children's Museum (THCM), is developing a dynamic, outdoor arts, culture and play destination. Shaped by extensive community input and strategic planning, the project will transform the street adjacent to THCM into a vibrant, accessible hub designed to bring children and adults together through creativity and play.

The project centers on three key elements: a signature climbable art installation, an interactive sound and music exhibit, and a flexible performance stage with an event lawn. Local artists will design a large-scale, community-informed art piece that serves as both a visual landmark and an interactive play experience. A curated music exhibit will invite visitors to explore rhythm and sound through hands-on engagement. And the performance stage will host live music, dance, theater and community programming.

Expected to launch in 2028, the project will enhance quality of life, expand access to arts and culture, and create a welcoming destination that celebrates creativity, community and the unique identity of the Wabash River region.



Organization: **CITY OF TERRE HAUTE  
PARKS AND RECREATION**

READI Award: **\$500,000**

Total Project Expense: **\$1.73 MILLION**

# ARTS COLLABORATIVE HUB AT THE INDIANA THEATRE

This project will establish the Arts Collaborative Hub at the Indiana Theatre, transforming a historic Terre Haute landmark into a vibrant, year-round center for arts, culture and community engagement.

The Hub will bring together organizations such as Arts Illiana, the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, ArtSpaces, the Swope Museum, Indiana Landmarks, the Vigo History Center, and local higher education institutions, creating a centralized destination for performances, exhibitions, arts and cultural programming, and creative collaboration. By co-locating partners and offering flexible, accessible space for artists and arts organizations, the project will reduce barriers for artists and organizations while expanding cultural opportunities for residents and visitors.

The Indiana Theatre – located in the 41/40 Arts & Cultural District, adjacent to the Swope Art Museum, and surrounded by public art and historic assets – will serve as a gateway to arts and cultural experiences across the Wabash River region. The Arts Collaborative Hub will create a lasting community asset, increasing visitation, supporting talent development and strengthening Terre Haute's role as a regional hub for arts and culture.

Organization: **VIGO COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

READI Award: **\$2 MILLION**

Total Project Expense: **\$4.23 MILLION**



**READI 2.0 ARTS & CULTURE AWARDS**



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