



March 14, 2024

Jennifer Messer, Executive Director
Central Indiana Regional Development Authority (CIRDA)
1 Municipal Drive
Fishers, IN 46038

Dear Ms. Messer:

I am writing on behalf of the Indy Art Center, an Indianapolis-based creative destination for nearly 200,000 visitors annually, offering access to 6 public art galleries, 17 university-quality studios, and a 9.5-acre ARTSPARK. Access is always open, free, and accessible to all. The campus serves as a cultural community hub, architectural landmark, and home to contemporary art exhibitions, all with no admission fees.

The Indy Art Center supports and commits to collaborating with the Central Indiana Regional Development Authority (CIRDA) and its member communities on its proposed CPRG funded regional programs, including the Regional Building and Asset Modernization Program and the Regional Open Space Revitalization and Connectivity Program. The Indy Art Center's Board of Directors, administration, and staff will work with CIRDA and its member communities to advance project implementation and program execution where possible and appropriate.

In 2023, the Art Center launched the *Building Community Through Art* Campaign, an \$8.8 million project focused on enhancing the relationship between people, art, nature, and community. One of the key priorities of this campaign includes revitalizing the Art Center's 9.5-acre ARTSPARK as a premier gateway to the White River and the Monon Trail.

This plan actively invites the community onto the Art Center's open and accessible 12-acre campus and into ARTSPARK with the addition of accessible trails throughout the campus and native plant material within the floodplain, creating an unique outdoor gallery, performance, and event space within a natural setting. It will repair the critical riparian system and develop a natural ecosystem for carbon capture. Stabilization practices to restore and reinforce the White River riverbank along the property's northern edge to address and prevent erosion and protect the natural amenities above and the removal of invasive species from the Art Center's campus will be part of the restoration of the riparian system.

Additionally, a renovation is planned to the Marilyn K. Glick School of Art at the Indy Art Center with a focus on energy efficiency. The plan will accelerate efforts in modernizing the building's infrastructure by replacing the outdated, inefficient HVAC systems and controls, exterior windows &

Indy Art Center

Marilyn K. Glick School of Art

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doors, and adding a robust solar array on the nearly 35,000 square feet of available rooftop to reduce our energy footprint further.

The opportunity to work with CIRDA and its member communities on the CPRG grant implementation would further allow the Art Center to support regional collaboration in Central Indiana and establish the programmatic infrastructure to generate long-term funding of projects related to energy efficiency and revitalization of green infrastructure in our communities. The proposed regional programs not only provide an opportunity to fund transformational projects in Central Indiana, but also provide an opportunity to align our private, public, and nonprofit sectors on the environmental, economic, and public health challenges facing our region.

Indy Art Center is excited to participate in this opportunity for our region and looks forward to the transformative impact to come.

With gratitude and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Williams | President + Executive Director

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