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Indy Art Center launches largest capital campaign in its nearly 100-year history

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Indy Art Center launches largest capital campaign in its nearly 100-year history

Building Community Through Art invites the community to contribute

Today the Indy Art Center launched the public phase of an \$8.8 million capital campaign that will fund renovations to its Marilyn K. Glick School of Art, designed by internationally renowned architect and Indianapolis native Michael Graves; enhance its outdoor ARTSPARK and expand its endowment. The campaign, called *Building Community Through Art*, is the largest fundraising campaign in the nonprofit’s 91-year history.

The quiet phase of the campaign was launched in 2023, and funders have already committed \$8.5 million toward the \$8.8 million goal. Lead gifts have come from Lilly Endowment Inc., Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, and Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

To urge the campaign to its close, the Indy Art Center Board of Directors has committed to match every dollar up to \$100,000. Individuals may give at indyartcenter.org/campaign.

“Since we were founded in 1934, the Indy Art Center has been all about community,” said Mark Williams, president and executive director of the Indy Art Center. “Whether you’ve taken classes, enjoyed exhibitions, visited ARTSPARK, attended art fairs, or even

been married here, now's your opportunity to give back. Every gift is important, and by donating, you can be part of the exciting developments happening at the Art Center, positioning it for success over our next 90 years."

Funds raised will support three key priorities:

- Renovate the Art Center's main building, the Marilyn K. Glick School of Art;
- Improve ARTSPARK and enhance its connection to the White River and the Monon Trail; and
- Grow the endowment fund.

RENOVATE MAIN BUILDING

Because of growth in the number of classes offered and heavy use over 30 years, it's time for building renovations. Improvements include:

- Replacing the outdated HVAC system with an energy-efficient one, and improving ventilation for student safety.
- Remodeling restrooms and repaving parking lots.
- Repairing classroom studios to enhance student experiences in clay, drawing, fibers, glass, jewelry, metals, painting, photo, digital, print, book arts, sculpture and wood artistic mediums.
- Installing new studio equipment to expand fiber and glass classes.
- Improving the Basile theater with new seating, AV, flooring and stage upgrades.

ENHANCE ARTSPARK

The Art Center's 9.5-acre outdoor art and nature park, known as ARTSPARK has become a magnet destination for Indy residents and visitors to engage with art, explore nature and experience the joys of creative inspiration. A gateway to the White River and the Monon Trail, ARTSPARK improvements will include:

- A new trail system consisting of a fully accessible boardwalk and walkways through the ARTSPARK and along the White River.
- New landscaping, terraces and planting beds.
- Stabilization practices to reinforce the riverbank, and address and prevent erosion. Native species will be planted along the slopes from the water's edge to the top of the embankment.
- Additional signage to support improved wayfinding.
- A grand staircase to greet Monon Trail users and lead them onto the Art Center campus.

EXPAND ENDOWMENT

The campaign has earmarked \$2 million toward an endowment expansion to fund ongoing maintenance.

"We are proud to support the creative, multigenerational work of the Indy Art Center," said Gene D'Adamo, president and CEO of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. "Not only is the center a place for children and their families to learn, but it is also leading the way in connecting nature and art to communities along the White River."

Dr. James Lemler, president of the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, said, “The Indy Art Center is a vital institution of artistic and creative learning and expression, offering great opportunities for people of all ages. The Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation offers support for its development and future as it continues to serve this city and metropolitan area with vision for and commitment to the power of art to transform and strengthen human spirit and community.”

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