

A Safer City

WHY SUPPORT THE ARTS IN INDIANAPOLIS?

The Arts enrich us, bring us together and provide a form of expression that lends meaning to our lives, individually and as a community, in ways we wouldn't have otherwise.

The Arts are also leading community development within Indianapolis. A recently released Economic Impact Study from the Arts Council of Indianapolis illustrated the increasingly important and valuable role the Arts play as a contributor to the economy of Indianapolis. Nonprofit arts organizations in Indianapolis generate nearly half a billion dollars to the city's economy each year. \$52 million of that activity is realized in state and county tax revenue. The Arts are also responsible for more than 15,000 full-time jobs.

According to reports from Harvard University, the Urban Institute, RAND Corporation and others, the Arts lead community development in Indianapolis in other significant ways – including improving public safety, reducing crime, and increasing literacy, job skills, and graduation rates. Through community-wide outreach programs, low- and no-cost performances and exhibits, and instructional courses provided in venues around the city, nonprofit arts programs in Marion County serve more than 2 million children, students, and senior citizens each year.

Taken all together – the Arts' intrinsic value, its growing economic importance, and the invaluable role it plays in community development, improving public safety, and reducing crime – there really isn't any question about what the Arts mean to the City of Indianapolis.

The Arts Mean... A Safer City.



The Arts Council of Indianapolis exists to advance and promote the Arts through funding, advocacy, business, artistic and technical assistance, public and private support, and technology.

For additional information about the Arts Council of Indianapolis or for more information about how the Arts Mean a Safer City for Indianapolis,

please visit

WWW.INDYARTS.ORG

The **ARTS** mean...



A Safer City



★ The Arts Mean... A Safer City

The Arts Improve Public Safety, Enhance Community Development, and Build a Stronger Community.

The Arts are helping to address the public safety issues affecting our city by providing positive alternatives through extensive community arts programs and services, outreach activities, and educational initiatives.

★ Arts And Cultural Organizations In Indianapolis Are Playing An Important Role In Addressing Public Safety Concerns By:

- ★ Providing direct arts programming to more than 1.6 million students every year
- ★ Reaching more than 475,000 senior citizens through hands-on experiences and activities
- ★ Helping guide youth from gangs, drugs, and the juvenile justice system
- ★ Reducing truancy and improving academic performance
- ★ Building critical self-discipline, communication, and job skills

Strong evidence exists that when we invest in the Arts, we support programs that help address crime prevention and provide alternatives for our youth and community citizens.

The Arts Are Helping Make Indianapolis A Safer Place To Live And Work...

★ The Arts: Crime Prevention That Works

- ★ ENHANCING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
"In most communities, sustainable gains in public safety depend on broader efforts at community development..."
- **The Community Security Initiative: Lessons Learned, Harvard University**

- ★ BUILDING CIVIC PRIDE
Participation in the Arts "supports vitality of community spaces...strengthens social ties...encourages children and youth to participate in activities...and supports major institutions that are sources of community pride."
- **The Urban Institute**

The Arts lead to "expanded capacity for empathy," "creation of social bonds" and "expression of communal meanings" whose shared effects "are instrumental in that they can open people to life and create the fabric of shared values and meanings."

- **The RAND Corporation**

★ The Arts Make A Real Difference:

- ★ REDUCED JUVENILE CRIME (STARS, a Ft. Myer's-based program for at-risk youth, reported a 27% drop)
- ★ IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (a study of 25,000 revealed arts programs led to greater success in school – including lower drop-out rates – regardless of socio-economic background)
- ★ HIGHER GRADUATION RATES (the Boys Choir of Harlem reports 98% of its members graduate from high school and go to college) – From The Institute for Community Development and the Arts

★ The Arts Make Our City Safer

In Indianapolis, nonprofit arts organizations provide programming to 1.6 million students, including at-risk and underserved children, each year in a variety of accessible, neighborhood-oriented venues, keeping them active and busy in positive ways, reducing crime and truancy, enhancing communications skills, and improving literacy and graduation rates. They also provide vital programming to 475,000 senior citizens, and help build a stronger, healthier community.

★ City Funding Is A Vital Source Of Support For Programs Such As:

- ★ Free concerts in neighborhood parks and community centers
- ★ Arts programs in juvenile justice centers, correctional facilities, community centers, neighborhood youth clubs, women's and homeless shelters, and health care facilities
- ★ Mentorships and workshops for inner-city youth at day camps and after-school enrichment programs
- ★ Educational experiences for youth that use the Arts to build skills such as self-esteem and self-expression, self-confidence, anger management, empathy, and communication

★ Arts Organizations In Indianapolis Are Making A Difference And Building A Safer Community.

- ★ The CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF INDIANAPOLIS partners with the Indianapolis Police Department to help eliminate neighborhood crime. Additionally, the museum provides low-cost admission to more than 17,500 at-risk families and offers reduced admission to more than 59,000 students each year
- ★ THE INDIANAPOLIS ART CENTER provides year-round community-based arts education programs to more than 550 youth ages 5-18 through the ArtReach program and the SMART program, a collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana
- ★ DANCE KALEIDOSCOPE, in collaboration with the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility, works with female inmates to write, tell, and dance their personal stories to create "positive forms of expression" as a deterrent to future negative behavior
- ★ THE INDIANA REPERTORY THEATRE's Overcoming Barriers program connects artists with Marion County schools for in-classroom programs examining tolerance and conflict resolution to more than 900 students annually
- ★ YOUNG AUDIENCES OF INDIANA provides arts programming including the Summer Arts for Youth program, the ArtsKids after-school program and the Inside Arts program at the city's Juvenile Detention Center to more than 4,348 of the most at-risk youth in our community
- ★ THE MADAME WALKER THEATRE CENTER reaches more than 5,570 youth ages 5-13 through after-school and summer programs providing arts exposure and training opportunities
- ★ CLOWES MEMORIAL HALL reaches more than 50,000 students annually via low-cost matinees, including more than 16,000 students and teachers from Title I (predominantly at-risk population) schools from 188 Marion County schools
- ★ ART WITH A HEART serves more than 1,200 children in area schools, community centers, and safe havens through visual art instruction, adult mentoring, and arts-integrated academic programs
- ★ FREETOWN VILLAGE offers programs on African-American history and culture to more than 5,250 youth through a year-round children's ensemble afterschool program and a nine-week summer day camp
- ★ INTERACTION THEATRE creates interactive performances for 10,915 students annually in correctional facilities, domestic violence shelters, and high schools on topics such as relationship violence, justice, substance abuse, and conflict resolution

These are just highlights of the many arts programs making a difference in Indianapolis. Visit WWW.INDYARTS.ORG for more information and other examples.