



Arts for Learning Indiana

The Indiana Affiliate
of Young Audiences

STRATEGIC PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2025-2028

A little background

Since 1961, Arts for Learning Indiana has been a leading force in arts education, enriching the lives of young people across the state through powerful, imaginative, and engaging arts experiences. We seek to ignite creativity and inspire learning by connecting youth with the transformative power of the arts.

Each year, our roster of more than 70 talented teaching artists brings performances, workshops, and artist residencies to schools, libraries, and community organizations—reaching thousands of youth across Indiana.

In addition to student programming, we offer professional development opportunities that foster meaningful collaboration between classroom teachers and teaching artists. These sessions equip educators with tools to seamlessly integrate the arts into diverse learning environments.

As one of over 30 affiliates of Young Audiences Arts for Learning—the nation’s largest arts-in-education network—Arts for Learning Indiana is proud to be part of a national movement that champions access to quality arts learning for all.

Discover more about our work at ArtsForLearningIndiana.org.

Mission

Arts for Learning Indiana brings the arts to your school community to champion creative learning, innovative education, and transform lives.

Strategic Plan Vision

Arts for Learning is the recognized educational leader in ensuring youth in Indiana have access to an education made whole by the arts. As the leader we will empower youth through arts integration and creating measurable improvements in overall well-being and academic success.

Our Planning Process

In December 2024, Arts for Learning Indiana embarked on a dynamic strategic planning journey rooted in creativity, collaboration, and community insight. Through thoughtful engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, we gathered invaluable perspectives to deepen our understanding of the current landscape—along with the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Guided by this collective wisdom, our board and staff came together to shape a forward-looking, mission-driven strategy. The result is a vibrant and comprehensive roadmap designed to propel Arts for Learning over the next three years.

At the heart of this plan shine five Rays of Impact—each a beam of purpose and possibility, guiding our journey and igniting our mission to uplift education through the transformative power of the arts.



Strategic planning is not just about setting goals—it’s about listening deeply to our community, reflecting on our impact, and imagining what’s possible. Through this process, we’ve reconnected with our mission, clarified our vision, and charted a bold path forward that will allow us to amplify the role of the arts in education and empower the next generation of creative thinkers.

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President & CEO,
Arts for Learning Indiana





Reach

Arts for Learning is dedicated to expanding access to high-quality, engaging arts education for youth across Central Indiana, prioritizing under-resourced communities. By leveraging opportunities with current partners and forming new strategic collaborations, we will deepen our reach and diversify how we engage young people in meaningful, creative learning experiences.

Our goals focus on growing both partnerships and learning hours annually, building strong new partnerships, and retaining our existing relationships to ensure long-term impact. We're also investing in the professional development of youth workers, reducing barriers for classroom educators, and exploring innovative programming models. From low-pressure events that build trust with educators, to partnerships with schools, homeschool networks, STEM and sports organizations, and community venues, our strategies are designed to meet young people where they are. By celebrating student progress through public events and prioritizing equity in everything we do, we're making sure the transformative power of the arts is accessible to all youth.

Teaching Artists

We are deeply committed to cultivating and celebrating our diverse roster of Teaching Artists, recognizing them as essential partners in fulfilling our mission. We are proactively building a roster that reflects the range and depth of our programming, while investing in the professional growth and financial well-being of our artists. This includes implementing structured pay increases and launching a Master Teaching Artist Certification program to honor excellence, encourage ongoing development, and ensure program quality. Through intentional talent cultivation, community engagement, and visibility at local arts events, we aim to support Teaching Artists not only as educators but as cultural leaders who bring creativity, relevance, and inspiration to every student they reach.

Relevance

To advance our commitment to relevance, Arts for Learning is focused on ensuring that our programming has a measurable, positive impact on youth—supporting not only their academic success but also their overall well-being. We believe the arts are essential to helping young people thrive, and we're continuously evolving our approach to meet the real and pressing needs of the students and communities we serve.

We are refining and expanding our program offerings to ensure they are culturally relevant, inclusive, and aligned with state educational standards. Through intentional work in Access, Belonging, Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity (A.B.I.D.E.), we are building a framework to measure how students, teaching artists, staff, and board members perceive their sense of belonging—and setting goals for continuous improvement in that area. Our efforts also include developing bilingual programming, updating materials for greater accessibility, and ensuring our board reflects the diversity of the youth we serve.

To evaluate and improve our impact, we're implementing robust systems to measure how our programs influence both student well-being and academic outcomes. This includes incentivizing schools and community partners to share impact data, encouraging teaching artists to apply student-focused assessment tools, and learning from best practices used by other leading arts and educational institutions. We're also proactively identifying gaps in arts education—not just in access, but in content and engagement and generating new program models to close those gaps. By pursuing strategic partnerships, we are reinforcing the role of arts education, as a critical tool for building connection, resilience, and lifelong success.

Leadership

To solidify our role as a regional leader in arts-in-education, Arts for Learning will focus on increasing visibility, deepening strategic partnerships, and demonstrating the transformative power of the arts in youth development. Our leadership strategy is grounded in meaningful collaboration. We are dedicated to forming annual partnerships with priority organizations and schools to co-create impactful programming that meets local needs and extends our reach. By also engaging in high-impact conferences and launching an annual signature event that celebrates student achievement, we will reinforce our brand and mission while positioning ourselves as a trusted and essential resource.

We will invest in tools to communicate our value clearly and effectively. Through customized annual report cards for stakeholders, compelling case studies from long-term residencies, and targeted outreach campaigns, we will showcase the outcomes and lasting benefits of our work. By aligning with nationally recognized initiatives like Harvard's Project Zero and serving as a facilitator for best practices in arts education, Arts for Learning will strategically strengthen our credibility and influence. These efforts ensure that funders, community leaders, and youth-serving organizations see us not just as a service provider—but as a vital leader shaping the future of equitable, arts-integrated education in Central Indiana.

Financial Sustainability

To ensure long-term financial sustainability, Arts for Learning is strengthening its foundation through diversified revenue streams, strategic donor engagement, and innovative program development. Building on a strong history of grant success and sound financial modeling, we are implementing a revised pricing structure that better reflects the true value of our programs. At the same time, we're focused on increasing support from grants, individual donors, and corporate partners by 5% annually, while launching a comprehensive strategy to grow major gifts and planned giving.

In parallel, we're exploring scalable, market-ready program packages—such as literacy-focused modules and high school credit options—that can be offered to both school and non-school entities as fee-based services, with potential for sponsorship to ensure equitable access for all. We're also expanding our after-school and out-of-school offerings, and enhancing data systems to improve outreach. Together, these strategies aim to build a more resilient, mission-driven organization—ensuring Arts for Learning can continue delivering transformative arts education to Indiana youth for years to come.



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our
Mission!**



Visit Us!



More Information

For more in-depth information about Arts for Learning's strategic plan or organizational initiatives, please contact us—we'd love to share our vision and impact.

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Board Executive Committee

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