

THE PLATFORM

for CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT



AIMING TO WIN

THE PLATFORM

for CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT

Together, we will make Northeast Indiana a national destination for arts and culture by building a creative community that is collaborative, inclusive and innovative.

“To ensure Northeast Indiana is attractive to a smarter, more creative, and more global workforce, we must commit ourselves to building the kind of inclusively dynamic community in which people of diverse generations, nationalities, cultures, interests and lifestyles want to live, work and play.”

CHUCK SURACK

Chair, Cultural Advancement Committee
Founder, Sweetwater Sound

ANDREW BOXBERGER

Chair, Arts United Board of Directors
Partner, Carson Boxberger LLP



The Platform is informed by and impacts:

- Strategic plans for major arts and cultural organizations
- Fort Wayne Cultural District
- City of Fort Wayne *Downtown 2020 Plan*
- City of Fort Wayne *Riverfront Development Plan*
- Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership *Vision 2020*
- Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership *Our Story Project*
- Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership *Road to One Million Plan*
- Indiana Economic Development Corporation *Regional Cities Initiative*
- Greater Fort Wayne Inc.'s inter-community visit plans and quality of life initiatives
- Knight Foundation *Soul of the Community Survey*
- Federal Reserve Bank *Industrial Cities Initiative*

**WE ASKED.
YOU ANSWERED.**

2,000+ participants.
One Platform.



Meet the Cultural Advancement Committee

We're a 39-member committee of community leaders in Northeast Indiana organized by Arts United to help you integrate The Platform with your strategic plan for the next five years.

We created this strategy using ideas and feedback gathered in community surveys and reports from more than 2,000 Northeast Indiana residents. Now we need your help to bring this strategy to life.

From 2016-2020, Northeast Indiana's overall progress on our artistic imperatives will be annually evaluated and reported back to the community.

Please use The Platform as a resource as you plan the next five years, so we can align our efforts and build a stronger creative sector.

CHUCK SURACK
Cultural Advancement
Committee Chair,
Sweetwater Sound

ANDREW BOXBERGER
Arts United Board Chair,
Carson Boxberger LLP

AL MOLL
Fort Wayne Parks
and Recreation

ANGIE GARCIA
Carson Boxberger LLP
and YLNI

BILL BROWN
Downtown Improvement
District

BRUCE HAINES
WFWA PBS39

CHARLES SHEPARD
Fort Wayne Museum of Art

CHRIS CATHCART
Ivy Tech

COLLEEN HUDDLESON
University of Saint Francis
School of Creative Arts

DAN ROSS
Arts United

DAN SWARTZ
Wunderkammer Company

DEREK REEVES
Fort Wayne Philharmonic
and Unity Performing Arts
Foundation

DOUG WOOD
PNC North America

ERIC DODEN
Greater Fort Wayne Inc.

HEATHER CLOSSON
Fort Wayne Youththeatre

IRENE WALTERS
Community leader

JEANNE MIRRO
Community leader

JERRILEE MOSIER
Ivy Tech

JIM COOK
Chase Bank

JOHN O'CONNELL
IPFW College of Visual
and Performing Arts

JOHN SAMPSON
Northeast Indiana
Regional Partnership

JUSTIN SHURLEY
TinCaps

KARL BANDEMER
City of Fort Wayne

KELLY UPDIKE
Embassy Theatre

KRISTEN GUTHRIE
Visit Fort Wayne

LYNNE GILMORE
AWS Foundation

MADELANE ELSTON
Community leader

MARSHALL WHITE
Unity Performing Arts
Foundation

MIKE GALBRAITH
ARCH and Fort Wayne
Philharmonic

MIRIAM MORGAN
Arts United

NANCY STEWART
Indiana Arts Commission

PAM HOLOCHER
City of Fort Wayne

PAT PASTERICK
Design Collaborative

PHILLIP COLGLAZIER
Fort Wayne Civic Theatre

RENA BURDEN
Arts United

RICK CARTWRIGHT
University of Saint Francis
School of Creative Arts

RYAN TWISS
Northeast Indiana
Regional Partnership

SISTER ELISE KRISS
University of Saint Francis

SUSAN MENDENHALL
Arts United

Our artistic imperatives:

1	2	3
ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE by staking our claim as a national destination for creative business, nonprofits and professional artists.	IMPROVE ACCESS to the arts so everyone can engage in diverse, relevant and compelling creative experiences.	ADVANCE REGIONAL PRIORITY for arts and culture by positioning the creative sector as a thought-leader in local decision-making.
DESIRED OUTCOME Consistent national and international recognition for excellence in our creative sector.	DESIRED OUTCOME All members of our community measurably increase their participation in arts and culture.	DESIRED OUTCOME Business, economic and elected leaders value and support the creative sector with funding and influence.
EVALUATION A "Brag Sheet" report, including national rankings, regional rankings, awards and other accomplishments.	EVALUATION A "State of the Creative Sector" report, including attendance, accessibility, diverse and inclusive programming, community investment and other factors.	EVALUATION A citizen survey, gauging participation and barriers to participation, as well as perceived quality of life and attachment.

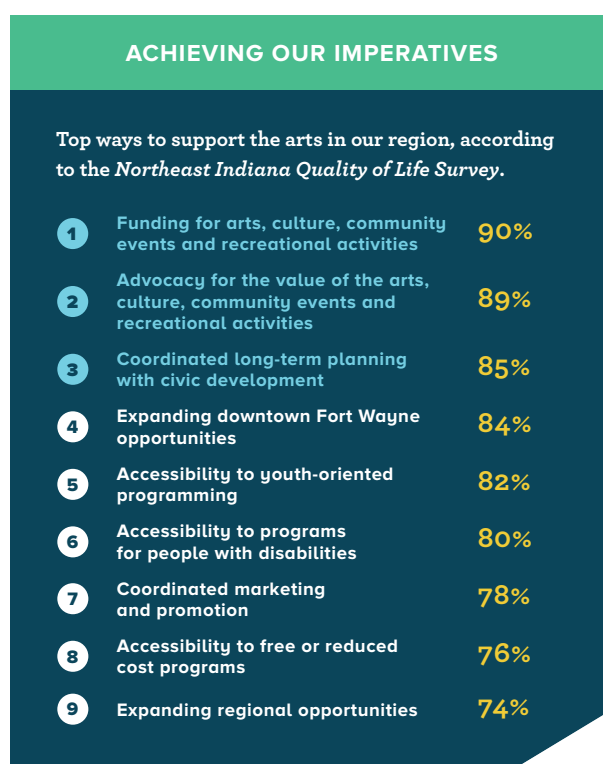
To see a full list of strategies and tactics, visit ArtsUnited.org.

Our Findings



18,541 WORKERS IN NORTHEAST INDIANA'S CREATIVE SECTOR

represent 4.6% of the region's jobs, earning more than \$430 million in total wages.



FUNDING, ADVOCACY AND COORDINATED LONG-TERM PLANNING

are seen as the most important assets for supporting regional arts and culture.



Overall Priorities

The following themes consistently emerged as priorities in regional surveys, focus groups, interviews, committee meetings and town halls with residents and leaders. These priorities should guide us as we pursue our artistic imperatives.

- **Earning recognition as a national arts destination** to build our reputation as a Midwest “creative hub.”
- **Ensuring equal and affordable access to arts and culture** for all people and making sure every student pre-K–16 has continuing education in the arts.
- **Communicating the value of creative businesses** and workers.
- **Attracting and retaining professional talent** with family-supporting wages.
- **Providing quality development** in corridors and neighborhoods.
- **Impacting regional development** with arts and culture.
- **Enhancing capacity and encouraging programmatic risk-taking** in organizations.
- **Supporting a strong, integrated downtown** as the cultural and creative centerpiece of greater Fort Wayne.

Learn more about our research.

Arts United is the fulcrum, tipping ideas into action. For the full report we used to develop The Platform, visit [ARTSUNITED.ORG](https://artsunited.org).





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The development of The Platform was made possible by:



ENGLISH BONTER
MITCHELL FOUNDATION