

South Central Indiana Talent Region Planning Grant Proposal

The South Central Indiana Talent Region (SCITR) has interwoven arts and culture throughout the regional READI activities and this plan will be an extension of our vision and belief that arts and culture are key drivers of economic growth, community engagement, and regional identity. By embedding arts and culture more formally into the forward looking READI strategy, SCITR aims to further improve the ways it can transform its communities into attractive, dynamic places to live, work, and play.

Benefits Expected

A coordinated and focused attention on arts and culture will enhance the quality of life and place in our region. We recognize that a thriving cultural scene not only enriches the lives of residents but also serves as a powerful tool for economic development. By investing in cultural projects, SCITR will aim to create a unique and compelling identity that distinguishes the region, attracts new talent, and stimulates economic activity.

The SCITR Arts & Culture Planning Initiative will be designed to:

- Strengthen Regional Identity: Develop distinctive cultural landmarks such as public art installations, museums, and performance spaces that celebrate the region's heritage, creativity, and forge a path forward.
- Drive Economic Revitalization and Boost the Creative Economy: Utilize arts and culture as a catalyst for economic renewal, and influence job growth in the creative sectors.
- Foster Community Engagement and Inclusivity: Ensure that arts and cultural initiatives are accessible and engaging for all segments of the population.
- Create Sustainable Cultural Assets: Establish a shared framework for maintaining and expanding cultural amenities, ensuring they continue to benefit the region for years to come. In that process, the region will identify pathways to strengthen the local creative ecosystem and ultimately provide resources, professional development opportunities, and funding to artists and arts organizations, while further embedding innovation and sustainability regionally.

Regional Vision

The South Central Indiana Talent Region (SCITR), consisting of Bartholomew, Jackson, and Jennings Counties, and the town of Edinburgh is dedicated to building powerful technologies, prosperous communities, and a resilient future.

Track Record of Success

The South Central Indiana Talent Region (SCITR) has a strong history of collaboration, is well positioned to execute the planning grant, and has a track record of mobilizing resources that bring important projects to fruition.

Benefits Expected

- Strengthening regional identity
- Driving economic revitalization
- Fostering community engagement and inclusivity
- Creating sustainable assets

Partners

- Region Nine - Indiana Arts Commission
- Local Artists and Culture Creators
- Community Foundations
- Governments
- Economic Development Organizations

Readiness Assessment

- A survey of regional arts and culture leaders validates our belief that SCITR has the capability to execute a planning grant and projects resulting from the grant
- Capacity building will be needed for long term regional coordination and sustainability improvements

Partners and Regional Capacity

SCITR's arts and culture plan will be supported by a diverse network of partners with deep expertise and commitment to arts and culture development. These partners include:

- Region Nine - Indiana Arts Commission: Offers strategic guidance and support for developing impactful cultural projects within the framework of IAC best practices.
- Local Artists and Culture Creators: Play a central role in executing projects that reflect the community's unique character and values.
- Community Foundations and Local Governments: Provide critical funding, infrastructure, and policy support to ensure the success of arts and culture initiatives.
- Local Economic Development Organizations: Ensure that project work is closely tied to economic development by connecting initiatives to regional future growth and needs.

The region's capacity to implement ambitious plans is well-established. SCITR has a strong history of collaboration, capital mobilization, and successful project execution. The region has demonstrated strong success in READI work and continues to be a leader in execution and project development.

Execution and Management

The execution and management of SCITR's arts and culture projects will be overseen by a steering committee composed of regional leaders, including representatives from local government, economic development organizations, and the arts community. This committee will be responsible for ensuring that projects align with the region's strategic goals and are implemented effectively. The committee will also work closely with the IEDC and the Indiana Arts Commission to secure additional resources and technical assistance as needed.

In summary, SCITR's arts and culture initiatives are integral to its broader READI vision. With strong regional capacity and committed partners, the region is well-positioned to enhance its cultural landscape, driving long-term economic and community benefits. By working to coordinate and prioritize arts and culture efforts, SCITR is positioning itself to become a more vibrant, creative, and economically thriving region, where culture drives not only community engagement but also sustained economic success.