



► FISCAL YEAR 2023

Return on Investment Report Illinois



I want to express my sincere thanks for your continued partnership with Arts Midwest to amplify creativity across Illinois.

Fiscal Year 2023 was full of growth for Arts Midwest. We unveiled a new brand, website, and strategic direction that envisions Midwestern creativity powering thriving, entrepreneurial, and welcoming communities.

Our work, the results of which you'll see reflected throughout this report, takes place across three pillars:

- **Support:** We invest in efforts that use creativity to connect people, ideas, and solutions.
- **Inform:** We share data and ideas to support Midwestern communities in being more visible, sustainable, and interconnected.
- **Celebrate:** We honor the people, places, and creative organizations that compose the Midwest.

In FY2023, we funded Illinoisan arts organizations through grant programs like the GIG Fund and resumed in-person World Fest tours for the first time since the pandemic. We convened Folk and Traditional Arts practitioners, State Arts Agency leaders, and provided the field with free, practical resources through our online Ideas Hub. We launched the Creativity News Desk, amplifying stories about arts and creativity in the Midwest, and announced our first set of awards for Midwestern creatives.

Looking back at FY2023, we're proud to report a 318% return on investment to Illinois. We thank you for your support and look forward to our continued journey together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Torrie Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Torrie Allen
President & CEO, Arts Midwest

Illinois At A Glance

FY23: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



35
Grants Awarded



19
Communities Reached



\$66,200
State Dues



\$276,670
Returned

318%
Return On Investment

See the last page of this report for a full breakdown of our FY23 investment in Illinois.

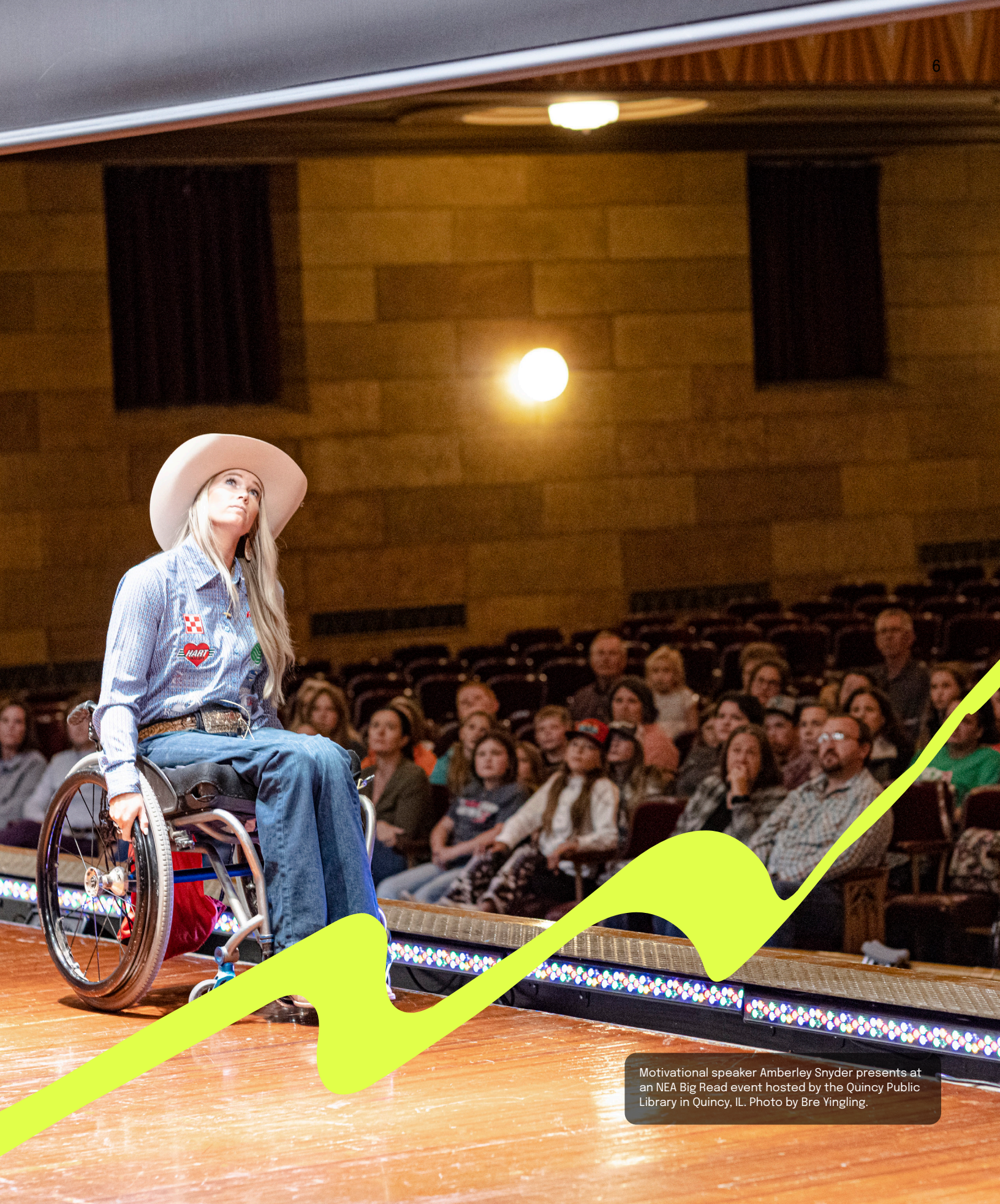


Japanese sumi-e workshop hosted by the University of Illinois Japan House in Urbana, IL, supported by the GIG Fund. Photo by Diana Liao.

We invest time, funds, and resources in organizations that advance creativity in Illinois.

<h3>GIG Fund</h3> <p>We distribute grants through the GIG Fund that support creative projects and educational events in the Midwest. These flexible funds help organizations present artists in their community by supporting programming and touring costs.</p>	29 Organizations Supported	\$92,000 Awarded	35,100 Participants in Illinois
<h3>NEA Big Read</h3> <p>We partner with the National Endowment for the Arts to deliver the Big Read. The Big Read provides grants to organizations that bring communities together to read and discuss a book.</p>	4 Organizations Supported	\$50,700 Awarded	3,464 Participants in Illinois
<h3>Special Initiatives - Regional</h3> <p>The Midwest Arts XPO is a new arts conference created by Heartland Performing Arts, Inc., a coalition of Midwest arts presenters, agents, managers, and artists, following the discontinuation of the Arts Midwest Conference. To support the work of Heartland Performing Arts, Arts Midwest supported the organization with a one-time grant as start-up funding.</p>	1 Organization Supported	\$13,889* Awarded	

* Represents 1/9th of a \$125,000 grant



Motivational speaker Amberley Snyder presents at an NEA Big Read event hosted by the Quincy Public Library in Quincy, IL. Photo by Bre Vingling.

We support convenings, community artist residencies, and resource sharing opportunities in Illinois.

<h3>World Fest</h3> <p>Through World Fest, we tour musicians to Midwestern communities to foster an understanding of and appreciation for global uniqueness and differences. In FY23, World Fest artists engaged with communities in Wisconsin through in-person residencies and a one-time grant.</p>	22 Events	3,002 Participants	\$10,000 Awarded
<h3>Creativity News Desk</h3> <p>The Creativity News Desk amplifies stories about the power of arts and creativity in the Midwest. We commission stories from writers, photographers, videographers, illustrators, and podcasters across our region. We also support partnerships, grants, and learning opportunities for the media field.</p>	2 Stories Featuring Illinois	3,045 Users in Illinois	
<h3>Ideas Hub</h3> <p>We added eight new resources to the Ideas Hub, an online collection of free, curated articles and tools that help creative leaders foster growth within their organizations.</p>	8 Resources Added	2,682 Users in Illinois	
<h3>Filling the Well</h3> <p>We launched five new episodes of Filling the Well, a podcast created to nourish, provoke, and inspire artists and arts leaders. Season Two features creatives and culture bearers living and working in rural areas.</p>	4,200 Listeners Across Region		

We support convenings, community artist residencies, and resource sharing opportunities in Illinois.

<p>National Leaders of Color Fellowship</p> <p>We partnered with the other United States Regional Arts Organizations for this transformative leadership development experience that aims to establish multicultural leadership in the creative and cultural sector.</p>	<p>1 Illinois Participant</p>
<p>Peter Capell Award</p> <p>This \$2,500 award recognizes Midwesterners whose work demonstrates entrepreneurial thinking and business acumen. Over nine years, the award will recognize an individual located in each of Arts Midwest's nine member states. The 2022 award went to Tyrone Phillips from Chicago, Illinois.</p>	<p>1 Individual Supported</p> <p>\$2,500 Awarded</p>

We provide opportunities for staff at our partner State Arts Agencies to connect, learn, and give feedback.

State Arts Agency Connections

We hold semi-annual SAA Executive Director summit meetings, bi-monthly video calls, and regular check-ins about our programs and grants. These conversations invite our members to discuss challenges and opportunities facing them, share ideas and resources, and consider future strategies for action.

Folk and Traditional Arts Activities

We held a virtual networking session and invited representatives from each of our states to connect with peers and access professional development at South Arts' Folklife in the South Conference. We plan to continue inviting feedback from our State Arts Agency partners as we build future Folk and Traditional Arts opportunities.

Accessibility Support

We provide State Arts Agency accessibility coordinators with funding to attend the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD®) conference.



Greek god Zeus makes an appearance at the Orland Park Public Library's NEA Big Read event in Orland Park, IL. Photo by Maurya Orr.

FY23 Grants Awarded

Grant Opportunity	Grantee	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	About Face Theatre	Chicago	9	\$4,000
World Fest	Artspace 304	Carbondale	12	\$10,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Black Alphabet NFP	Chicago	7	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Cedarhurst Center for the Arts	Mt. Vernon	12	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Champaign-Urbana Folk and Roots Festival	Urbana	13	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	Chicago	7	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Columbia College Chicago	Chicago	7	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Columbia College Chicago	Chicago	7	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	DuPage Children's Museum	Naperville	11	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Elastic Arts	Chicago	3	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Fresh Press	Champaign	13	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	Galesburg Public Library	Galesburg	17	\$10,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Harris Theater for Music and Dance	Chicago	7	\$4,000
Special Initiatives - Regional	Heartland Performing Arts	N/A	N/A	\$13,889
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	High Concept Laboratories	Chicago	4	\$2,500
NEA Big Read	Illinois Humanities	Chicago	7	\$18,900
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Korean Performing Arts Institute of Chicago	Skokie	9	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Lynx Project	Chicago	5	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Museum of Contemporary Art	Chicago	5	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	National Museum of Mexican Art	Chicago	4	\$2,500
NEA Big Read	Orland Park Public Library	Orland Park	6	\$10,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Princeton Theatre Group	Princeton	16	\$2,500

Grant Opportunity	Grantee	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Quad City Arts	Rock Island	17	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Quad City Arts	Rock Island	17	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	Quincy Public Library	Quincy	15	\$11,800
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Sandwich Opera House	Sandwich	14	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Side Street Studio Arts, NFP	Elgin	3	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Sixty Inches From Center	Chicago	7	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	South Side Projections	Chicago	1	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Southland College Prep Charter High School	Richton Park	2	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	The 16th Street Theater, NFP	Berwyn	4	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	The Hub - Arts & Cultural Center	Rushville	15	\$2,500
Peter Capell Award	Tyrone Phillips	Chicago	1	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	UIS Performing Arts Center	Springfield	13	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Unity Temple Restoration Foundation	Oak Park	7	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Urbana	13	\$4,000
35 Grantees		19 Communities		\$169,089

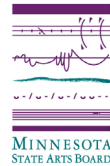
Arts Midwest leverages public and private dollars to bring services to our states.

Grants + Investments	GIG Fund	\$92,000
	NEA Big Read	\$50,800
	Special Initiatives - Regional	\$13,889
Programs	World Fest	
	Programming Costs	\$71,264
	Grants	\$10,000
	Creativity News Desk	\$28,202
	National Leaders of Color Fellowship	\$2,243
	Peter Capell Award	\$2,500
Services	SAA Summits	\$2,373
	Folk and Traditional Arts	\$0 Illinois did not attend the Folklife in the South Conference
	Accessibility Support	\$3,500
Total services and grants		\$276,670
FY23 State Dues		\$66,200
Services and grants in excess of dues		\$210,470
Return on Investment		318%

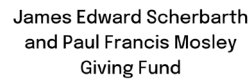
National Endowment for the Arts



State Arts Agencies



Foundations, Corporations, and Other Government Funders



Arts Midwest's activities are made possible by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature general fund.

Thank You

If you have questions about the information in this report, or if you would like more information about Arts Midwest's programs and services, please contact:

Anne Romens

Vice President

anne.romens@artsmidwest.org

Cover: Ezra Collom at CANJE Critique Session 2: Collaborative Art Exhibition & Open Mic in Peoria, IL, supported by the GIG Fund. Photo by Alexa Cary, courtesy of Peoria Guild of Black Artists.