



► FISCAL YEAR 2023

Return on Investment Report Ohio



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

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 Ohioan 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 581% return on investment to Ohio. 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 extending to the right.

Torrie Allen
President & CEO, Arts Midwest

Ohio At A Glance

FY23: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



57
Grants Awarded



17
Communities Reached



\$62,242
State Dues



\$423,985
Returned

581%
Return On Investment

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



Great Lakes Theater's production of Romeo and Juliet at the Hanna Theatre, Playhouse Square, in Cleveland, OH, supported by Shakespeare in American Communities. Photo by Roger Mastroianni, courtesy of Great Lakes Theater.

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

<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>	48 Organizations Supported	\$154,840 Awarded	21,392 Participants in Ohio
<h3>NEA Big Read</h3> <p>We partner with the National Endowment for the Arts to deliver the NEA Big Read. The NEA Big Read provides grants to organizations that bring communities together to read and discuss a book.</p>	5 Organizations Supported	\$66,633 Awarded	16,071 Participants in Ohio
<h3>Shakespeare in American Communities</h3> <p>We partner with the National Endowment for the Arts to deliver Shakespeare in American Communities. Grants support performances of and workshops about Shakespeare's plays in schools, community centers, and the juvenile justice system.</p>	2 Organizations Supported	\$50,000 Awarded	14,524 Participants in Ohio

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

<h3>Special Initiatives - Ohio</h3> <p>We provided support for the 2022 Ohio Arts Professionals Network Conference held in Toledo, Ohio. The OAPN Conference provides a platform for connecting, developing, and creating business relationships between performing arts organizations, performers, arts service organizations, and artist management agencies.</p>	<p>1 Organization Supported</p> <p>\$20,000 Awarded</p>
<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>	<p>1 Organization Supported</p> <p>\$13,889* Awarded</p> <p>* Represents 1/9th of a \$125,000 grant</p>



Speaker Rithik Sinhasan at a Cincinnati Song Initiative event in Cincinnati, OH, supported by the GIG Fund. Photo by Margaret Eilert, courtesy of Cincinnati Song Initiative.

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

<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>	28 Events	6,971 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>	4 Stories Featuring Ohio	2,805 Users in Ohio	
<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	1,837 Users in Ohio	
<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		
<h3>National Leaders of Color Fellowship</h3> <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>	1 Ohio Participant		

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.



Attendees at Columbus Music's 2023 Hilltop Spring Jamboree in Columbus, OH contributing to a community mural inspired by the event. Photo by Tiera Suggs.

FY23 Grants Awarded

Grant Opportunity	Organization	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	A Mindful Moment	Cincinnati	1	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Abrepaso Flamenco	Rocky River	7	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	ARTFUL Ohio, Inc.	Cleveland Heights	11	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Ashtabula Arts Center	Ashtabula	14	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Cincinnati Museum Center	Cincinnati	1	\$2,500
Shakespeare in American Communities	Cincinnati Shakespeare Company	Cincinnati	1	\$25,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Cincinnati Shakespeare Company	Cincinnati	1	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Cincinnati Song Initiative	Cincinnati	1	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	CityMusic Cleveland	Cleveland Heights	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Cleveland Classical Guitar Society	Euclid	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Cleveland Modern Dance Association	Cleveland	11	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Cleveland Modern Dance Association	Cleveland	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Columbus Center for Human Services, Inc.	Columbus	15	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Columbus Music Commission	Columbus	15	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Community Food Initiatives	Athens	12	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Contemporary Arts Center	Cincinnati	1	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Cuyahoga Community College Foundation	Cleveland	11	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Cuyahoga Community College Foundation	Cleveland	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Darke County Center for the Arts	Greenville	8	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Dick and Jane Project	Columbus	15	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	East Cleveland City Schools	East Cleveland	11	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati	Cincinnati	1	\$14,250

Grant Opportunity	Organization	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Federal Valley Resource Center	Stewart	12	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	FireFish Arts Inc.	Lorain	5	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	FRONT Exhibition Company	Cleveland	11	\$2,500
Shakespeare in American Communities	Great Lakes Theater	Cleveland	11	\$25,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	GroundWorks DanceTheater	Cleveland	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Hancock County Performing Arts Center	Findlay	5	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Healing Broken Circles, Inc.	Columbus	3	\$4,000
Special Initiatives - Regional	Heartland Performing Arts	N/A	N/A	\$13,889
World Fest	Holland Theatre	Bellefontaine	4	\$10,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Jazz Arts Group of Columbus	Columbus	3	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center	Cleveland	11	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Kent State University	Kent	14	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Kent State University at Tuscarawas	New Philadelphia	6	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Les Délices	Cleveland	11	\$2,500
NEA Big Read	Library Foundation of Cincinnati & Hamilton County	Cincinnati	1	\$20,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Majestic Galleries	Nelsonville	12	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Marietta College	Marietta	6	\$2,840
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Maroon Arts Group	Columbus	3	\$2,500
NEA Big Read	Massillon Museum	Massillon	6	\$20,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Middletown Fine Arts Center	Middletown	8	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Mojuba! Dance Collective	Cleveland	11	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland	Cleveland	11	\$4,000

Grant Opportunity	Organization	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
NEA Big Read	Oberlin College	Oberlin	5	\$4,008
Special Initiatives - Ohio	Ohio Arts Professionals Network Conference	Columbus	3	\$20,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Opera Association of Central Ohio	Columbus	15	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	ORMACO	Homerville	7	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Refresh Collective	Cleveland	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Shawnee State University	Portsmouth	2	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	Stage Left Players Community Arts Center	Kensington	6	\$8,375
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	The Children's Museum of Cleveland	Cleveland	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity	Akron	13	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Wave Pool Corp.	Cincinnati	1	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Wexner Center Foundation	Columbus	3	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	WordPlay Cincy	Cincinnati	1	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Writers in Residence	Cleveland	11	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Writers in Residence	Cleveland	11	\$4,000
	57 Organizations	17 Communities		\$280,522

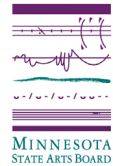
Arts Midwest leverages public and private dollars to bring services to our states.

Grants + Investments	GIG Fund	\$154,840
	Special Initiatives - Ohio	\$20,000
	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
Services	SAA Summits	\$2,553
	Folk and Traditional Arts	\$862
	Accessibility Support	\$3,500
	Total services and grants	\$423,985
	FY23 State Dues	\$62,242
	Services and grants in excess of dues	\$361,743
	Return on Investment	581%

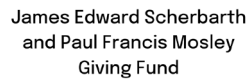
National Endowment for the Arts



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:

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Vice President

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Cover: Author Rebekah Taussig with an attendee at an NEA Big Read event hosted by the Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati in Cincinnati, OH. Photo by Mikki Schaffner.