



► FISCAL YEAR 2024

# Return on Investment Report Ohio





I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued partnership with Arts Midwest. Together, we are amplifying creativity across Ohio and beyond.

In FY2024, we took steps to make the arts more inclusive. We launched the Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities, giving \$3,000 awards to support visual artists and help them build their careers.

Our Creativity News Desk shared stories about the power of Midwestern creativity, focusing on Native, rural, and communities of color. We published 120 stories from across the region and brought together the Creative Midwest Media Cohort for an in-person learning retreat.

We also advanced our shared commitment to building new partnerships with federal agencies. In FY24, we connected with organizations like USDA Rural Development and Health and Human Services, working to identify new opportunities for the Midwest's creative sector.

Throughout our grants, programs, and other services, we're proud to support creativity, arts, and culture in Ohio, delivering a 437% return on investment to your constituents in FY24. We're excited for what lies ahead.

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

FY24: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



27  
Grants Awarded



16  
Communities Reached



\$62,242  
State Dues



\$336,058  
Returned

437%

Return On Investment

See the last page of this report for a full breakdown of our FY24 investment in Ohio.



Joleanne Bare's mural of dogs up for adoption at the Franklin County Humane Society in programming presented by the Gahanna Area Arts Council in Gahanna, Ohio, supported by Arts Midwest's GIG Fund. Photo courtesy of Gahanna Area Arts Council.

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

<p><b>Creative Midwest Media Cohort</b></p> <p>We supported organizations in producing media projects that cover stories of Midwestern creativity through the Creative Midwest Media Cohort. This year-long pilot program included grants for storytelling projects and an in-person cohort convening in May 2024.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Organization Supported</p>	<p><b>\$15,000</b> Awarded</p>	<p><b>1</b> Participant in Ohio</p>
<p><b>GIG Fund</b></p> <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>	<p><b>18</b> Organizations Supported</p>	<p><b>\$67,700</b> Awarded</p>	<p><b>29,595</b> Participants in Ohio</p>
<p><b>Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities</b></p> <p>We support accessibility in the arts and celebrate Midwestern creativity through the Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities. Awardees receive \$3,000 and are encouraged to use it toward growing their artistic career.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Artist Supported</p>	<p><b>\$3,000</b> Awarded</p>	
<p><b>NEA Big Read</b></p> <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>	<p><b>3</b> Organizations Supported</p>	<p><b>\$40,100</b> Awarded</p>	<p><b>8,325</b> Participants in Ohio</p>

We invest time, funds, and resources in organizations and individuals that advance creativity 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>	<p><b>3</b> Organizations Supported</p>	<p><b>\$71,500</b> Awarded</p>	<p><b>10,694</b> Participants in Ohio</p>
<h3>Special Initiatives - Ohio</h3> <p>We provided support for the 2023 Ohio Arts Professionals Network Conference in Columbus. 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><b>1</b> Organization Supported</p>	<p><b>\$30,000</b> Awarded</p>	



Performance of "Be's" by Stevie Lamblin, presented by Mam-Luft and Company Dance in Cincinnati, Ohio, supported by Arts Midwest's GIG Fund. Courtesy of Mutual Dance Theatre.

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

<p><b>Creativity News Desk</b></p> <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.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Stories Featuring Ohio</p> <p><b>10,989</b> Readers in Ohio</p>
<p><b>Ideas Hub</b></p> <p>We added ten 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>	<p><b>1,239</b> Readers in Ohio</p>
<p><b>National Leaders of Color Fellowship</b></p> <p>We partnered with the other United States Regional Arts Organizations on this professional development and networking initiative that aims to support multicultural leadership in the creative and cultural sector.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Ohio Participant</p>
<p><b>World Fest</b></p> <p>Through World Fest, we tour musicians to Midwestern communities to foster an understanding of and appreciation for global uniqueness and differences. In FY2024, World Fest artists engaged with communities in Ohio through weeklong in-person residencies.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Events</p> <p><b>5,874</b> Participants in Ohio</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 summits, bi-monthly video calls, regular check ins about our program and grants, and we gather when able at events like the NASAA Assembly. These conversations invite our members to discuss challenges and opportunities facing them, share ideas and resources, and consider future strategies for action. Our Board of Directors includes two SAA Executive Directors, who bring their expertise to Board meetings and discussions.

---

## Federal Agency Work

Arts Midwest partners with the Midwest state arts agencies to build relationships with representatives of federal agencies. In FY24, this work included continued research into federal funding opportunities throughout the year; planning meetings to determine next steps with federal agencies; meetings with representatives of the National Endowment for the Arts, USDA Rural Development, Health & Human Services, and Economic Development Administration; and presenting on Arts Midwest and the Midwest State Arts Agencies to the Chicago Federal Executive Board.

---

## Accessibility Support

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

---

## Site Visits

Our staff visited Ohio for 8 days this year for Arts Impact Ohio and grantee, board, and SAA visits.

---

We collaborate with a network of writers, photographers, videographers, and illustrators to amplify impactful stories of arts, culture, and creativity in the Midwest.



## April Sunami's Portraits Honor Creative Women of Color

By Kate Mothes

A mixed-media celebration of art and family at the Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center.



## Ohio is Getting a Much-Needed State Park

By Mandy Shunnarah

The new Great Council State Park, complete with educational exhibits on the Indigenous people expelled from Ohio over 200 years ago, is an essential step in righting historical wrongs.



## How Ohio Funk Changed the World of Music

By Jay Gabler

In the 1970s and '80s, artists like Ohio Players, Zapp, and Lakeside came out of the Buckeye State and brought funk into the mainstream of American music.



A Moving Sound member Mia Hsieh leads a movement workshop during the band's World Fest residency in Portsmouth, Ohio. Photo by Lynnsey Williams Photography.

# FY24 Grants Awarded

Grant Opportunity	Grantee or Awardee	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
GIG Fund	Actors' Summer Theatre Company	Columbus	15	\$2,500
Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities	Andrea Sosa Fontaine	Cleveland Heights	11	\$3,000
GIG Fund	Art Possible Ohio	Columbus	15	\$3,200
GIG Fund	Bi-okoto Drum & Dance Theatre	Cincinnati	1	\$4,000
Shakespeare in American Communities	Cincinnati Shakespeare Company	Cincinnati	1	\$25,000
GIG Fund	Cleveland Classical Guitar Society	Cleveland	11	\$4,000
Shakespeare in American Communities	Columbus Children's Theatre	Columbus	3	\$21,500
GIG Fund	DANCECleveland	Cleveland Heights	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund	FVRC	Stewart	12	\$4,000
Shakespeare in American Communities	Great Lakes Theater	Cleveland	11	\$25,000
GIG Fund	Healing Broken Circles Inc	Columbus	3	\$4,000
GIG Fund	Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center	Cleveland Heights	11	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	Kent State University	Kent	13	\$14,100
GIG Fund	Kingdom Image Arts	Columbus	3	\$4,000
GIG Fund	Lake Erie Ink - A Writing Space for Youth	Cleveland Heights	11	\$4,000
GIG Fund	Legacy Arts	Lima	4	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	Massillon Museum	Massillon	7	\$20,000
GIG Fund	McConnell Arts Center	Worthington	3	\$2,000
GIG Fund	Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers	Cincinnati	2	\$4,000
GIG Fund	NAC	Norwalk	5	\$4,000

# FY24 Grants Awarded

Grant Opportunity	Grantee or Awardee	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
Special Projects	Ohio Arts Professionals Network Conference	Columbus	3	\$30,000
GIG Fund	OhioDance	Columbus	3	\$4,000
GIG Fund	Opera Western Reserve's Emerging Artists: Educational Outreach	Youngstown	6	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	Pickerington Public Library	Pickerington	12	\$6,000
Creative Midwest Media Cohort	The Buckeye Flame	Cleveland	11	\$15,000
GIG Fund	The Gahanna Area Arts Council	Gahanna	3	\$4,000
GIG Fund	WIR	Cleveland	11	\$4,000
<b>27 Awardees</b>				<b>\$227,300</b>

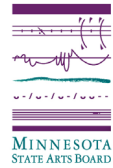
Arts Midwest leverages public and private dollars to bring services to Ohio.

<b>Grants + Programs</b>	<b>GIG Fund</b>	\$67,700
	<b>NEA Big Read</b>	\$40,100
	<b>Shakespeare in American Communities</b>	\$71,500
	<b>Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities</b>	\$3,000
	<b>World Fest</b>	
	Programming Costs	\$61,407
	<b>Creativity News Desk</b>	
	Programming Costs	\$38,585
	Grants	\$15,000
	<b>National Leaders of Color Fellowship</b>	
	Programming Costs	\$2,113
<b>Special Projects</b>	\$30,000	
<b>Services</b>	<b>SAA Summits</b>	\$3,451
	<b>Accessibility Support</b>	\$1,333
	<b>Total services and grants</b>	<b>\$336,058</b>
	<b>FY24 State Dues</b>	\$62,242
	<b>Services and grants in excess of dues</b>	\$273,816
	<b>Return on Investment</b>	<b>437%</b>

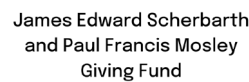
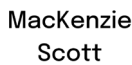
## National Endowment for the Arts



## 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](mailto:anne.romens@artsmidwest.org)

Cover: Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Cincinnati, Ohio, supported by Shakespeare in American Communities. Photo by Mikki Schaffner.