

Call for Artists: Artwork for Bankers Life Fieldhouse

Indianapolis, Indiana

Commission fee: varies; total art budget \$350,000

Eligibility: Indiana artists

Application Deadlines:

- For Team Store graffiti mural: **September 26, 2021** (please see separate RFQ, [here](#))
- For proposed purchases or licenses of existing work: **October 10, 2021**
- For new, commissioned work: **October 31, 2021**

*Please note that **proposed purchases and licensed works have an earlier application deadline** than interest in commissioned artwork!*

- If you want to be considered for both purchases/licenses and commissions on the same application using the same images, please apply by the **EARLIER** deadline for maximum consideration
- **You may also choose to apply TWICE**--one application with your suggestions for purchased or licensed artworks, and one application later with different images for consideration as a commissioned artist

Artist Application Workshops:

- **Team Store Graffiti Mural:** Monday, September 13, 2021, 6:00-7:00 p.m. ([register here](#))
- **All other opportunities:** Thursday, September 16, 2021, 6:00-7:00 p.m. ([register here](#))

These are virtual workshops conducted via Zoom.

- Each workshop will also be livestreamed to the [Arts Council's Facebook page](#) and a recording available there
- The recording of each workshop will also be available at the program webpage 48 hours after the live session
- Additional personalized application support is available: please call (317) 624-2556 or [set up an appointment](#)

How to Apply: [Online application form](#)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Bankers Life Fieldhouse, located in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana and the home of the Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever basketball teams, is consistently recognized as one of the most iconic and best facilities in the NBA, as well as a world-class sports and event venue that hosts nearly 2 million visitors each year. The three-year Fieldhouse of the Future renovation project preserves what fans love about the building while upgrading technology, enhancing its exterior and interior, providing amazing outdoor gathering spaces for year-round events and indoor areas for fans to socialize, and creating a “premium for everyone” fan experience for now and into the future. The Fieldhouse of the Future project began in 2020 and is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2022.

ARTWORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The artwork program for The Fieldhouse of the Future includes up to 22 locations on 3 levels. The artwork budget for the new fieldhouse is approximately \$350,000.

The artwork program’s intention is to tell key stories about Indiana basketball, Indianapolis, the Pacers and the Fever, and Bankers Life Fieldhouse. The following specific stories will be told through the artwork (more information will be provided to the selected artists):

INDY PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Indianapolis has become a dynamic international city through intentional investment and real leadership at all levels of civic, healthcare, education, business, and philanthropic life. The city has many assets that contribute to the excitement of experiencing sports and other events here.

INDY’S RISE AS THE AMATEUR SPORTS CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Indianapolis’ development is in no small part due to its leading role as the center for all things amateur sports. Although many credit the NCAA’s relocation from Kansas City to Indy in the late 1990s as kicking it off, the story actually starts in the 1970s.

THE MILAN MIRACLE

The Milan High School basketball story from the 1950s resonates because it captures so well how many Hoosiers see themselves and think about their own experiences. A team of boys from a tiny school in rural Indiana makes their way to the capital city to take on the big schools and bring home the title--it is a dream that often enough turns to reality. The Milan story was recounted (and considerably dramatized, of course) in *Hoosiers*, one of the most famous basketball-themed movies of all time.

CRISPUS ATTUCKS AND THE DUST BOWL

Since the 1930s, Lockefield basketball court, sitting on what is now part of the IUPUI campus, had been a gathering place for Black basketball players from near-Westside neighborhoods eager to prove themselves. The so-called “Dust Bowl” became a place where Black youngsters could gather, compete, and socialize, and where the neighborhood could come out to support them and watch some of the most competitive basketball around, culminating in a late-summer citywide tournament. In 1955 Ray Crowe’s Crispus Attucks team rose out of this environment to become the state’s first all-Black boys basketball championship team, led by the legendary Oscar Robertson.

INDIANA FEVER 2012 RUN

The WNBA Indiana Fever team has qualified for the postseason in 13 of its 21 seasons, including a 12-year stretch from 2005-16 that ended in the playoffs each season. But what every Fever fan remembers most is the incredible run the team enjoyed on their way to the 2012 WNBA Championship. On October 21, 2012, the Fever defeated the Minnesota Lynx to win its first and only WNBA Finals in franchise history.

THE PACERS: ABA CHAMPIONS

Between 1970 and 1975, the Pacers averaged 51 wins a year, and Coach Slick Leonard and his teams brought home three ABA championships, in 1970, 1972, and 1973. Mel Daniels, George McGinnis, and Roger Brown are all in the Naismith Hall of Fame, and these legends, along with their incredible teammates, made the franchise one of the most successful in the ABA. The Pacers would join the NBA in 1976 as a result of the merger between the two leagues.

THE PACERS 2000 SEASON

The 1999-2000 Pacers team came within two games of the franchise’s first NBA championship. It was a talented group under a legendary coach playing out a season with considerable ups and downs and, ultimately, becoming one of the most revered teams in franchise history. Everything came together in 2000, when Reggie Miller, Jalen Rose, Mark Jackson, Dale Davis, Rick Smits, and others advanced to the very first NBA Finals in team history.

BANKERS LIFE FIELDHOUSE: SO MUCH BIGGER THAN BASKETBALL

Indianapolis is synonymous with basketball, but with more than 550 events and 2 million visitors each year, Bankers Life Fieldhouse is much more than an exciting basketball arena. The Fieldhouse has hosted 22 years of concerts, programs, events, and competitions including the Harlem Globetrotters, rodeos, WWE bouts, Cirque du Soleil, Ariana Grande, Cher, Cardi B, Katy Perry, NKOTB, and Wiz Khalifa.

THE MOMENTS THAT SAVED THE PACERS

In 1977 the Indiana Pacers were struggling to recover financially following the move from the ABA to the NBA a year earlier. In stepped Slick and Nancy Leonard with the idea of holding a telethon, selling more than 8,000 seats to the community to raise the necessary cash to sustain the franchise. Similarly, in 1983, brothers Melvin and Herbert Simon, successful real estate moguls and businessmen who had made Indianapolis their home, stepped in to keep the team

in Indianapolis when the out-of-town owners wanted to sell it. The Pacers since have become a model franchise, with a commitment to the community and a proud working relationship with city and state government.

HALL OF FAMERS AND RETIRED NUMBERS

The Pacers and Fever are fortunate to have solid representation in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. The individuals so honored cut across eras and are a testament to the rich basketball tradition that defines our state. These individuals include:

- Mel Simon
- Reggie Miller
- George McGinnis
- Mel Daniels
- Coach Lin Dunn
- Coach Bobby "Slick" Leonard
- Tamika Catchings
- Roger Brown

HOOSIER HYSTERIA - IN 49 OTHER STATES, IT'S JUST BASKETBALL ... BUT THIS IS INDIANA

HOOSIER HYSTERIA - THE FANS

HOOSIER HYSTERIA - HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

In suburban driveways, city parks, and on the sides of barns in rural counties, hoops pepper the Indiana landscape and have for decades provided people here with a sense of identity and pride. And while Hoosiers love their professional and college teams, nothing brings out the passion of hoops fans here like Hoosier Hysteria – the name we use for Indiana high school basketball and the state high school tournament. For many years, single-class basketball meant the excitement of little David taking on big Goliath, with small rural schools battling those in large urban core areas. The experience has since transitioned to class basketball, but the cultural memory remains.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISTS

We are looking to involve artists to tell these Hoosier stories, and more, in the following ways:

- Purchases of existing, original artwork for installation
- License fees for high-quality images of existing artwork (physical or digital), to be reproduced at varying scales or incorporated into larger compositions
- Commissions of new artwork, to be created on a moderate scale and licensed for exact reproduction at large scale
- Commissions of new, original artwork intended to be framed and installed
- Commissions of new, site-specific mural artwork to be executed onsite by the artist

This opportunity is best suited for artists with 2D and graphic experience and skills.

- Approaches that include original, mixed media artworks with limited (less than 3” depth) 3D elements may be acceptable for some locations. Other locations may be able to accommodate elements up to 5” depth. *However, this is not primarily an opportunity for sculptural work.*

Artworks included in the program will be:

- Contemporary in feeling
- Primarily representational and narrative in nature

Photographic approaches may be appropriate for some stories and locations.

Framed print suites may be appropriate for some stories and locations.

Highly representational or interpretive portraiture of players, coaches, and other key figures may be appropriate for some stories and locations.

ARTWORK LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS

Locations for artwork include:

- **TEAM STORE GRAFFITI MURAL.** A very special graffiti mural in the team store will include elements that convey the excitement of being in Indiana, basketball in general, and the Pacers specifically (without visual representation of Indianapolis, any specific player, or any player number). ***This mural will be hand-painted by the commissioned artist directly on a brick wall*** and will be the first commission awarded, for creation on-site as soon as possible. There is a separate application process for this opportunity: [learn more here.](#)
- **LOWER SUITES.** The corridor outside the suites on the Key Bank suite level is best suited for framed artwork that can be hung on the wall in a traditional manner, with total depths of 3 inches or less. Up to 30 artworks of varying scales will be purchased or commissioned for this level. ***Purchased artwork for this level will not exceed 48” h. (framed)***
- **MAIN CONCOURSE.** The primary public passageway around the “bowl” includes large areas high up on the wall above key wayfinding locations: restrooms, concessions areas, and elevators. Up to 12 very large, mural-style artworks will be identified for this level.
- **BALCONY.** The highest level of seating includes very large areas ideal for mural-style treatments of the “Hoosier Hysteria” storylines, around the elevators and above the two large concessions areas. Five key locations have been identified for this large-scale treatment.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Purchased artworks and artist commissions will be identified starting in November, 2021 and continuing into early spring, 2022.

- Application deadlines are as follows:
 - **September 26, 2021:** Team Store Graffiti Mural (a commissioned, hand-painted mural)
 - **October 10, 2021:** Proposed purchases and licenses of existing work
 - **October 31, 2021:** Proposed commissions of new work
 - If you are applying for multiple opportunities on the same form, upload your application by the EARLIEST deadline given
- The first commission to be identified and executed will be the team store graffiti mural, in late fall 2021, to be completed before the end of 2021. ***This project is on an expedited timeline and has a [separate call](#).*** Please do not identify yourself for this opportunity unless you can follow this very aggressive schedule!
- Contracts for purchases will require delivery well before the end of 2021. Do not propose artworks for purchase unless they are immediately available and ready for delivery!
- If awarded a commission for new work, the resulting work must be completed (including any necessary production time after the artist's work) and installed within six months of the artist signing an agreement.

All artwork in the program will be completed and installed prior to September, 2022.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Artists participating in this program must have a strong connection to Indiana, in one or more of the following ways:

- Live in Indiana at the time of application, with the reasonable expectation of continuing to live in Indiana for at least one year after being identified for the project
- Born and/or raised in Indiana, if not living in Indiana currently
- Educated at an Indiana-based college or university

Artists must be able to legally enter into an agreement for services. Agreements with artists under 18 will require a parent or legal guardian to sign the agreement and be responsible for performance. Agreements must be signed using the artist's legal name, but we will use a preferred artist name or alias on signage and when publicly crediting the artist.

Artists who prefer to contract under their entity name (LLC, Inc., etc.) must ensure that the entity is [legally registered with the state of Indiana](#) prior to signing an agreement.

Non-US citizens must be legally-established permanent residents or otherwise certified as able to work in the US. A SSN or [ITIN](#) will be required for tax reporting purposes.

Depending on the nature of the commission, artists may be required to hold significant amounts of insurance. [Review the sample commissioning agreement here.](#)

SELECTION PROCESS

A panel of arts professionals and project stakeholders, which includes representatives from the Arts Council, Capital Improvements Board, and Pacers Sports and Entertainment as well as community members and artists, will identify artworks and/or artists for each story opportunity. For some locations and stories, several finalist artists may be identified for a further concept proposal process prior to commissioning work: in this case, artists will be compensated and provided with additional information in order to create a proposal.

HOW TO APPLY

Any eligible artist wishing to have their work considered for purchase, license, or commission may apply online using [this form](#). The form is accessible via a smartphone or iPad as well as a traditional computer.

- ***Interested in the Team Store graffiti mural?*** More information and separate application instructions are [here!](#)
- ***Can't apply online?*** Contact Julia Moore, jmoore@indyarts.org or (317) 624-2556 to discuss other ways for us to become familiar with your work.

Our curatorial team is also networking across the state to find and identify potential artists--***but if you want to be considered--you should tell us!***

This is what the online application will ask for. You will be able to start your application, save it, and come back to finish if you need to make changes before uploading it.

- **Your name, any working names you use, and your preferred contact information.** Make sure it's current and reliable.
 - An email address is preferred, but if the best way to reach you is via a phone number, be sure to provide it
- **Information about your experience as an artist**
 - You can upload a document with a formal resume if you have one
 - If you don't have a resume, you can cut and paste information from any digital source, or you can just type text into the form
- **Information about your connection to Indiana**
- If you have a website or other online presence and would like us to check it out, provide the full URL.
 - If you do not have a website but you have an Instagram or other social media account that is ***dedicated exclusively to your artwork***, you may provide a link

to that account. Ensure that permissions are set to “public.” *Do not include a link to your personal Instagram account!*

- Even if you have listed a website, **you MUST upload at least one image.**
 - If you are proposing artworks for purchase or license, upload the exact artworks you would like us to consider.
 - You can upload anywhere from 1 to 10 images using the form. *More images are preferred!*
 - File types accepted are: JPG, JPEG, BMP, PNG, TIF, PDF, DOC, DOCX
 - Images attached to the form must ***total*** no more than 25 MB.
 - We recommend that each image not exceed 1MB in size.
 - If you need to upload more than 10 images to show us the range of your work, we recommend attaching a single document (up to 25 MB in size) containing all the images and information, instead of uploading individual images. *Word or PDF are the preferred formats for this document.*
 - If you find that you must send more than 10 photos in order to provide a full range of images as you are applying for the various opportunities, consider making a separate application for each type of opportunity and attach different images for each opportunity.
 - Applying separately for each type of opportunity means that you can show us up to 10 images for each!
 - *Try not to duplicate images if you apply several times.*
 - If uploading images through the form is just not possible for you, please email jmoore@indyarts.org or call (317) 624-2556 to discuss alternatives.
- For each uploaded image, you will be asked to indicate if you would like it to be considered for purchase, for image licensing, or as an example of your style for a future commissioned artwork (or all of the above)
 - **For proposed artwork for purchase as-is:** include an image of each artwork you would like us to consider and indicate the prices for which you are willing to sell them; also indicate whether it will arrive framed or unframed
 - Any artwork indicated as proposed for purchase must be in your physical possession and available immediately
 - Images suggested for purchase CAN be a joint production with another artist or artists; please let us know if that’s the case. If it’s selected, we will need to contact the additional creators.
 - **For proposed licensed artwork:** provide images of existing artworks you would like us to consider for licensing and reproduction.
 - Please indicate on the form if you have an existing high-resolution (>300dpi and >10% scale) image of this artwork
 - Images suggested for licensing CAN be a joint production with another artist or artists; please let us know if that’s the case. If it’s selected, we will need to contact the additional creators.

- **For consideration for commissioning new work:** provide images of past artwork in the style or aesthetic that you would execute for Bankers Life Fieldhouse. *(yes, you may show artworks in a variety of styles!)*
 - Artworks that give an idea of your style do not have to have anything to do with basketball, but they should give a good idea of your typical color sense, line work, movement, and energy
- **Demographic information:** Providing this information is OPTIONAL.
 - We want to make sure that all the artwork for Bankers Life Fieldhouse is commissioned equitably, and fully represents the amazing diversity of our state and city.
 - We encourage you to provide as much information as you feel comfortable disclosing.
 - **The information you provide is confidential.** However, aggregated information about the demographics of the applicant pool may be disclosed publicly in the interest of transparency, with no individually identifiable information attached.

HOT TIP: Plan to attach your images just before you press “Submit”. Otherwise, ***if you save and come back to finish, whatever you uploaded previously will have vanished.*** Save yourself the aggravation and upload at the end!

- For more hot tips, [attend the application workshop](#)

Questions?

Email or call Julia Mune Moore, Director of Public Art, Arts Council of Indianapolis: jmoore@indyarts.org or (317) 624-2556. Or set an appointment with Julia by [reviewing her calendar](#) and choosing your best time and location.

Note to Applicants

This Request for Qualifications does not constitute an offer to contract or a promise for remuneration, recognition, or any other benefit to the applicant. Provision of materials in response to this Request for Qualifications does not constitute an express or implied contract. The information provided, and/or any program or event described, may be changed, amended, modified, or canceled at any time and for any reason. The Arts Council of Indianapolis reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses received, or to purchase or license an artwork or commission an artist through another process, with the goal of accomplishing the best result possible.

Arts Council of Indianapolis Equity Statement

The Arts Council of Indianapolis is committed to working with the arts and cultural community to cultivate a sector that serves, celebrates, and values every resident of Indianapolis. In pursuit of this vision, we do not predetermine participation on the basis of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, or religion. We see a successful arts and cultural community as one where all artists have full access to the robust creative arts resources of our city and in which their varied histories, voices, and life experiences are honored. Our goal is to ensure that at least 39% of Arts Council commissions, artist payments, and contracted services, by both numbers and dollars spent, are directed towards BIPOC artists and service providers. Recent projects have approached and exceeded 50%.

To read the full Arts Council Equity Statement, [click here](#). If you need assistance or an accommodation due to a disability, please contact Julia Moore at jmoore@indyarts.org or call 317-624-2556.

Arts Council Fair Pay Statement

The Arts Council of Indianapolis values the experience and the skilled work created and completed by artists of all disciplines. As such, we are committed to providing fair and equitable compensation for the artists who participate in all of our projects, programs, partnerships, and collaborations. We also advocate that others in the community provide similarly fair and appropriate compensation when working with artists.