



## Funding Your Event

Festival events do **not** need big budgets to be meaningful. Many successful Spirit & Place partners get creative by leaning into relationships, shared resources, and what they already do well.

### Skill for Support

*Trade what you do best for what your event needs.*

One past partner worked with their venue to offer free meditation sessions for members, which helped secure a reduced venue rate. Non-members were charged a small fee.

Think about a small fund-raising effort, especially if that feels more natural than asking for cash.

- A short class, workshop, or preview experience
- A performance, talk, or guided experience
- A service or expertise you already offer

### Right-Size Support

*Small contributions add up.*

Some partners have found success by approaching people and places they already know—like a favorite local shop, neighborhood business, or even a trusted professional connection. One classical music partner secured support from her dentist and local music store, each contributing a modest amount.

Support doesn't need to be formal or large to make a difference.

### In-Kind Support

*Ask what others might offer.*

In-kind contributions can significantly reduce costs and may be easier for partners to provide than cash. Think:

- Venue discounts, equipment use, or staffing support
- Printing or design help
- Food or refreshments

You must ask for these things though! As you approach collaborating partners, get **specific** regarding your needs.

### Collective Cost Sharing

*Share resources with other festival partners.*

Collaborating partners sometimes split costs or share logistics, such as:

- Co-hosting a speaker or performer
- Sharing a venue, equipment, or tech setup
- Coordinating marketing or printed materials

This approach strengthens collaboration while keeping budgets manageable.

### Community Circles

*Invite a small group to help bring the event to life.*

Some partners host an informal gathering—like a dinner conversation, salon-style discussion, or creative preview—where attendees are invited to contribute modestly toward the upcoming festival event.

These gatherings center relationships, not pressure, and often deepen community investment in the event itself.

#### Remember

- Spirit & Place values **intentionality and quality over scale**. Your event does not need to be expensive to be powerful.
- **Grant opportunities exist!** Humanities events might be eligible for “mini grants” from Indiana Humanities. The Indy Arts Council’s project grants fund art activities in public spaces.