



## Why Indiana has the biggest high school gyms in the U.S.

SPORTS, 1B

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MARTINSVILLE, IND. | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Program gives struggling artists \$1,000 a month



A few commissions, contracts, sales or cancellations can dramatically change what artists earn in a given year.

GETTY IMAGES

### The result: freedom and time to focus on their art

**Joanna Woronkovicz**  
Indiana University  
**and Doug Noonan**  
Indiana University Indianapolis  
THE CONVERSATION

Though artificial intelligence is making it easier than ever to produce images, music and text, the technology is also making it harder for the people who have traditionally produced this work to earn a living.

A photographer who once was commissioned to make art for an advertising campaign is now competing with graphics produced by the AI image generator Midjourney. A novelist who used to make money on the side as a technical writer is seeing that work be replaced by a series of prompts in ChatGPT.

The extent to which AI will upend creative work remains unsettled. But that uncertainty has made guaranteeing income for creatives a more viable policy idea.

In fact, creatives in New York recently participated in the largest basic income program for artists in U.S. history,

**The program selected artists through a weighted lottery. It adopted an expansive definition of "artist." Anyone engaged in artistic, cultural or community-centered creative practices – such as musicians, storytellers or muralists – was eligible to apply.**

the Guaranteed Income for Artists initiative.

Spearheaded by Creatives Rebuild New York and primarily funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program gave 2,400 artists across New York state \$1,000 a month beginning in June 2022. There were no work requirements and no restrictions on how the money could be spent. The program sought to improve the financial stability of artists and encourage the public to

see them as workers who deserve a stable income and social support.

As researchers who study artists, cultural work and public policy, we evaluated this program to see whether it achieved its stated goals. Our main finding was simple: Artists did not stop working. Instead, they changed the kind of work they did.

### Cash buys time

Artists often make choices that look strange in standard economic models, which typically assume workers will prioritize higher wages while balancing work against leisure time.

Artists, on the other hand, may stay in poorly paid, unstable arts work, even when other work pays more. Economists have long described this as a "work-preference" model. Put plainly, they argue that artists get value from the work itself, not just from the paycheck.

The guaranteed-income program, which was geared toward low-income artists, offered a rare chance to see how a financial cushion would influence the kind of work they focused on,

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### NATIONAL PUZZLERS' LEAGUE

## Will Shortz brings convention to Indiana University

**Carol Kugler**  
The Herald-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

New York Times crossword editor Will Shortz, an Indiana University graduate who the New York Magazine calls "a philosopher of puzzles," is visiting his alma mater along with more than 200 other members of the National Puzzlers' League for its 186th annual convention, July 9-12.

The National Puzzlers' League's convention visits a different city each year. It's been in Indianapolis before but this is the first time in Bloomington. The league was founded in 1883 and is the world's oldest puzzlers' organization.

Shortz is excited to share Bloomington with his colleagues. When talking

See CONVENTION, Page 2A

**On the Menu**  
Carol Kugler  
Guest columnist

## New summer cocktails at Cardinal Spirits

Cardinal Spirits has 19 new summer cocktails and mocktails at its distillery at 922 S. Morton St. Patrons can choose from bubbly patio sippers, seasonal favorites that contain summer ingredients or something new.

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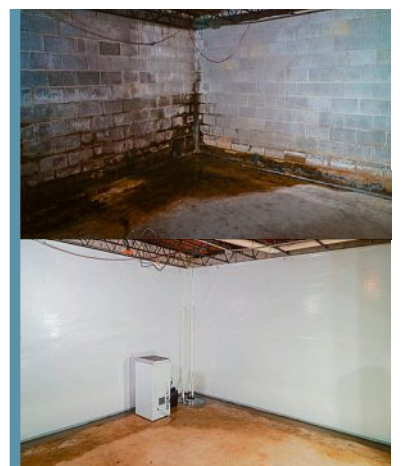
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