

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

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## **Mayor Joe Hogsett announces grant recipients of the Music Cities Strategy Recovery Program**

*17 live venues receive funds totaling \$121,675*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Today Mayor Joe Hogsett announced the recipients of the Music Cities Strategy Recovery Program, a grant program aimed at helping independent music venues impacted by Public Health Orders surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As we navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must protect our live music venues and the continued vibrancy of our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Hogsett. “The success of these establishments will be key pieces of our return from the public health crisis and the comeback of our local economy. The Music Cities Strategy Recovery Program will help support venues during this difficult time and allow them to begin planning for the future.”

The program was open to independent music venues located within Marion County. Grants are to be used for overhead costs, which may include monthly rent or mortgage payments and utility payments. The program was funded by federal CARES Act dollars approved by the City-County Council on June 8. Musical Family Tree, the administrator of the grant, reviewed 17 applications. All 17 applicants received funding, averaging \$7,398, for a total of \$121,675.

“We are honored to have been able to distribute these grants to independent venues to provide some relief in the hope that they can be there for us on the other side of this,” said Jim Rawlinson, Board Chair of Musical Family Tree. “Thank you to the Mayor's Office for valuing local music in Indianapolis.”

“We are thankful for a city that recognizes the cultural importance of independent live music venues. The Indiana Independent Venue alliance has been working hard to provide impact data that supports important grant programs like the Music Strategy Recovery Program,” said Josh Baker, IIVA Founder and Executive Director. “We have a long road ahead, but these opportunities provide hope and instill confidence that these independent businesses are valued contributors to our local economy. ”

“We’re honored and grateful to the City and MFT for awarding AJ’s Lounge this much needed grant during this difficult business environment,” stated Gwen Robinson, grant recipient and owner of AJ’s Lounge. “A huge thanks to the generosity to the Mayor’s Office and MFT. This is a great show of support for Indy’s Music scene.” Said David Allee, Grantee and owner of the Jazz Kitchen. “On behalf of our staff, patrons, and myself – we can’t thank you enough.”



Below is a list of the grant recipients:

<b>Venue Name</b>	<b>Neighborhood/Cultural District</b>
AJ's Lounge	Old Southside (Babe Denny)
Black Circle	Keystone Monon
Burnside Inn	Massachusetts Ave.
Chatterbox Jazz Club	Massachusetts Ave.
Duke's Indy	Germania Creek
HI-FI Indy & Hi-Fi Annex	Fountain Square
Hoosier Dome	Fountain Square
Melody Inn	Butler Tarkington
Mousetrap	Lake Maxinhall
Radio Radio	Fountain Square
Slippery Noodle Inn	Wholesale District
Square Cat Vinyl	Fountain Square
State Street Pub	Arsenal Heights
The Jazz Kitchen	Meridian Kessler
The Patron Saint	Wholesale District
The Vogue	Broad Ripple
White Rabbit Cabaret	Fountain Square

Grant review team members included Rawlinson; Alan Bacon (United Way of Central Indiana, musician); Stacia Murphy (Indy Chamber, MFT Board Member, musician); Susanna Taft (Indy Chamber Indy Music Strategy); and Andy Duncan (Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis, musician, MFT Board Member).

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