



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Big Car receiving big support from foundations and companies

Funds to help community arts organization reach more neighborhoods

INDIANAPOLIS (July 5, 2010) — The Indianapolis-based nonprofit arts organization Big Car announced the recent receipt of \$50,000 from the Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate and \$30,000 from the locally based Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation. These grants will help Big Car continue its eclectic arts programming in Fountain Square and expand efforts to bring creative experiences to youth and adults across the city.

Big Car also finished 10th in the nationwide Pepsi Refresh grant competition in June. The top 15 receive \$25,000 from Pepsi. Big Car will use these funds to further support its efforts at Service Center for Culture and Community in the Lafayette Square area. This space, located in a former Firestone tire center donated by Lafayette Square Mall, will offer creativity classes for kids and adults as well as arts events and programs. Service Center opens to the public with regular hours in August.

Service Center also recently received grants from Indianapolis LISC for new signage and from the Eagledale Lafayette Square Area Weed & Seed for a new creativity and publishing program for young people. For its garden on top of the parking lot at Service Center, Big Car has received sponsorships from PNC Bank, Ursula David Homes, Georgetown Market and New Belgium. In February of this year, Big Car also received a 3-year \$50,000-per year commitment from the Efroymsen Family Fund, a CICF affiliate. Big Car also received an annual operating grant from the Arts Council of Indianapolis.

“The outpouring of support for Service Center and all we’re doing has been incredible,” said Big Car founder and executive director Jim Walker. “We’re excited about being able to bring the joy of creativity to more people. We love Indianapolis and want to do all we can for our city.”

Big Car, which formed in 2004, sparks creative ideas and produces cultural events and projects that help make Indianapolis a better place. At its spaces in the Fountain Square,

Lafayette Square and Near Eastside neighborhoods and in other locations around the city, Big Car boosts the cultural landscape by working in all genres of art and combining them whenever possible. Also a collective of artists, Big Car's work is collaborative and explores the notions of people and place, and the unique aspects of community that connect them.

Through its CreateIndy initiative, Big Car is teaming up with community groups and cultural organizations to provide children and adults access to art and beauty in neighborhoods most lacking in these. Its projects engage people from idea to creation to celebration — sharing with them the joy of making art together.

Big Car works to challenge and surprise audiences with its visual art, public art, literary, musical, film and performance events. Big Car frequently partners with organizations such as the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Spirit & Place Festival, Indiana History Center, Indianapolis-Marion County Library, iMOCA, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library, and many others who share its passion for this city.

In 2010, Big Car served 10 neighborhoods, worked with six schools, presented 37 art exhibits and 26 other cultural events, partnered with 24 organizations, supported 675 professional and amateur artists and reached more than 20,000 people.

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