



BRINGING ART TO PEOPLE  
AND PEOPLE TO ART.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Big Car Collaborative receives \$100,000 grant from Andy Warhol Foundation  
and \$150,000 from Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation  
*Funds will support nonprofit FM radio station, exhibits, and artist residency***

*Indianapolis* — Big Car Collaborative has started 2018 with renewed support from a national arts funder, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and a large grant from the Indianapolis-based Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation.

The New York-based Andy Warhol Foundation has awarded Big Car Collaborative a \$100,000 grant over two years for program support — with a focus on its work at Tube Factory artspace, Big Car’s contemporary art museum and community center in the Garfield Park neighborhood south of downtown. This is Big Car’s second grant from the Warhol Foundation, making it the first organization in Indiana to receive a second round of funding from the entity that began in 1987 after the death of artist Andy Warhol. In 2014, Big Car received an \$80,000 grant from Warhol, a foundation that supports “a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practices” around the U.S.

Additionally, the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, a long-time supporter of Big Car’s work, has granted \$150,000 toward the organization’s houses adjacent to Tube Factory that serve as temporary residency locations for artists interested in connecting with community members through projects and events. The grant also supports a recording and broadcast studio at Big Car’s Listen Hear location, also near Tube Factory. The studio will be used for 99.1 WQRT, Big Car’s new FCC-licensed cultural and community radio station. WQRT, which began broadcasting in 2017, is developing into an outlet for a variety of local programs related to art, music, and community. The non-commercial station reaches most of the Indianapolis city limits.

Big Car, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, is an artist-led nonprofit arts and placemaking organization that often involves people in participatory projects. Big Car works as artists embedded in the Garfield Park neighborhood and downtown — and also helps further activate places and spaces throughout Indianapolis and Indiana. Big Car’s work has been featured in books published internationally, and its CEO and co-founder, Jim Walker, frequently presents at conferences around the country. In 2017, Walker presented at Placemaking Week in Amsterdam and at the University of Brighton in the United Kingdom.

“The continued support of both the Andy Warhol Foundation and Allen Whitehill Clowes means so much to us and will make a major difference in our work,” Walker said. “The Andy Warhol Foundation really knows contemporary art on a national level. And we’re thrilled to again be



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included among many institutions and organizations around the country that inspire us. Big Car's inclusion in their funding is also really great national exposure for our city."

Big Car will use Andy Warhol Foundation funds — matched by dollars from other supporters — to help commission work that explores the philosophy and history of utopian societies, contemporary approaches in social design, and the future of these ideas. This work will be connected to Tube Factory, Listen Hear and the radio station, the Wagon of Wonders, and in public places. These projects — which will unfold over the course of several months — will define and guide Big Car's programming for the next two to three years.

Warhol funds will also help Big Car explore the idea of a Midwest coalition of organizations and artists that could, someday, work to share resources (including marketing and art criticism) and centralized funding. Big Car will figure this out through collaborations, conversations, and exchange visits. As part of exploring this idea, it will use the artist residency houses adjacent to Tube Factory to both host commissioning artists while they are working in Indianapolis and offer this home as a free place to stay for artists, critics, curators, and other arts leaders who may be visiting from other Midwestern cities.

With the support of both grants, Big Car will expand its work at Listen Hear to commission additional sound-art projects and program the radio station as a broadcasting art museum and ongoing socially engaged art project. And it will add an Internet streaming function and robust archive to the station to allow access to it from all over the world. Big Car will also continue to bring its mobile art museum, the Wagon of Wonders, to locations around Indianapolis and beyond to reach new audiences with this interactive and ever-evolving art project.

In all of its work, Big Car strives to reach both Indianapolis residents who don't have easy access to art and the audience of artists and patrons it has built with a variety of programs and projects since opening as a gallery in Fountain Square in 2004.

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**About Big Car:** *An Indianapolis-based 501c3 nonprofit, Big Car uses creativity as a catalyst to a better city. By providing and supporting unique, educational, participatory, playful and personal experiences, Big Car engages people of all ages and backgrounds in art making and creative problem-solving — inspiring them to be creative thinkers and involved, connected citizens. Learn more at [www.bigcar.org](http://www.bigcar.org).*

**About The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts:** *The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts was established in 1987. In accordance with Andy Warhol's will, its mission is the advancement of the visual arts. The Foundation's objective is to foster innovative artistic expression and the creative process by encouraging and supporting cultural organizations that in turn, directly or indirectly, support artists and their work. The Foundation values the contribution*



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*these organizations make to artists and audiences and to society as a whole by supporting, exhibiting and interpreting a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practice. Learn more at [www.warholfoundation.org](http://www.warholfoundation.org).*

**About Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.:** *This private foundation was established by Allen W. Clowes, a leading philanthropist in Indianapolis, Indiana, who during his life made major contributions to various charitable organizations that promoted or preserved the fine arts, music, literature, education, science and history. Most of these organizations are located in Central Indiana. The primary mission of the foundation is to support charitable organizations that promote or preserve the Arts and Humanities and to support charitable organizations that were supported by Mr. Clowes during his life or are similar to those supported by Mr. Clowes. Learn more at [www.awclowescf.org](http://www.awclowescf.org)*