

BLOOMINGTON
Indiana



lotus

education & arts foundation

2025

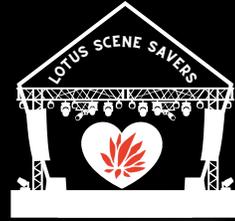
impact report



presented by:



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON



"it creates a vibrant, diverse, and extraordinary celebration of the arts in the heart of downtown." - Elizabeth

"It adds tremendously to the character of Bloomington and is part of what makes me love living here." - Marcia

"Every year I get to volunteer with a good group of people and experience new music. Every year I look forward to volunteering for lotus festival." - Jennifer

"Widens global musical knowledge, makes us see that humans love music in all its forms and on many different kinds of instruments. We heard many different accordians!" - Rita

"Lotus Fest makes Bloomington have more of its own individual sense of place, and it clearly drew people from so many places; I met people from all over the US and the world there!" - Dahlia

"I look forward to the festival every year. It brings friends together, creates an exciting and lively atmosphere downtown, and opens our eyes to new cultures and sounds." - Kelly

"I really enjoyed volunteering! It was a good opportunity to get to know people who had different life experiences from myself. They helped me form new perspectives in life!" - Yu-Hsin

"I used the phrase "community crown jewel" earlier and I think it remains apt. To me it is an annual highlight of life in this town. It still has a great communal ambience. Nothing would please me more than to see crowds grow again to the more robust levels seen pre-Covid. I imagine it is tougher to publicize the event these days, given the diminishment of our local newspaper in recent years. I dearly hope the event survives and thrives. There are not many places in this country, not many cities our size, that have elite indigenous musicians from cultures spanning the globe coming to play pretty much right on the doorsteps. Long live Lotus." - Andrew



Our Mission

To create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the world's diversity through music and the arts.

OUR TEAM

STAFF

Executive Director: Katarina Koch
 Artistic Director: Tamara Loewenthal
 Associate Director: Kirsten Payton
 Administrative Assistant: Jenny Whittington
 Volunteer Coordinator: Todd Riggins
 Production Manager: Aniah Navarro
 Marketing Specialist: Yash Rajore
 Web Manager: Jon Pieczynski
 Digital Communications Specialist: Kathleen Clark-Perez

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erica Penna, Daniel Reed, Kathleen Hugo, Connie Cook-Glen, Camryn Greer, Mark Hurley, Wayne Jackson, Yael Ksander, Brigitt Nasby

STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Development: Tanner Crawford
 Community Engagement: Gladney Hall
 Visual Arts & Events: Katsiaryna Naumovich
 Artist Liaison: Courtney Sloma
 Arts Village Liaison: Sarah Fazni

ADVISORY BOARD

Scott Burgins, Jane Clay, Doug Eibling, Bob Flynn, Candice Foss, Kim Gray, Heidi Harmon, Brandi Host, Jillian Kinzie, Jim Krause, Laura Plummer, Jennifer Riley Simone, Bridget Rinehimer, Michael Shermis, Peg Stice, Annie Stowers, Michael Valliant





Your never-ending support is what fuels our future

Lotus went through another series of seasons - let's recap our impact and what we accomplished together in 2025.



Katarina Koch
Executive Director

As challenging as 2025 was for so many nonprofits, there was still so much to celebrate! Lotus saw the community show up in our Matching Campaign and felt so much gratitude for caring donors who want to see our festival and education programs thrive. Engaging in Lotus events helps us focus on the important things in life like joy, connecting to the world around us, celebrating differences, and fellowship around music and art. Thank you to everyone who demonstrated support for phenomenal music, engaging visual art and hands-on learning experiences, and all who care deeply to gift us your support!

We are looking forward to creating more opportunities for everyone to experience the diversity of the world's cultures through music and the arts, for many years to come.

**LOTUS THANKS
YOU FOR AN
AMAZING 2025!**

LOTUS 2025

World Music & Arts Festival
September 25 - 28, 2025

About Lotus Fest

The Lotus World Music & Arts Festival is an annual downtown Bloomington event celebrating global music and arts. Featuring 20-25 artists from diverse genres and countries, it turns local venues into performance and workshop spaces. Lotus fosters cultural exchange, attracts a broad audience, builds community, and supports local businesses.

Festival Impact

- 8500+** people impacted
- 20** featured artist groups
- 21+** countries & cultures represented
- 38** festival sponsors + grantors
- 20** community & business partners

Community Arts Engagement

- 25** free events
- 60+** hours of free programming
- 2500+** individuals engaged
- 20** arts partners

Festival Volunteers

450 volunteers
2047 volunteer hours
36 committee members



Festival Media

60,000+ digital outreach
12+ sources of press coverage

Indiana University Engagement

12 IU dept/program sponsors
150 attended Lotus Late Nite
40 attended lecture demos by festival artists on campus
2 free events on the IU campus

Lotus Blossoms 2025

Lotus Blossoms is a four-week outreach and education program bringing global music and arts to South-Central Indiana. Since its start, it has reached over 220,000 students and community members, prioritizing underserved urban and rural areas. Its World Bazaar offers free multicultural performances and activities that foster understanding and appreciation.

3

Countries Reached

6,420

Individuals Engaged

Total Amount of Scholarships

\$3,050.00

**6 Public
Performances**

**16 School
Performances**

6 Residency Hours

4

**Performances at
Title I Schools**

388

**Audiences at Public and
Broadcast Performances**

14 Artists

5 Artist Groups

**5 Cultures
Represented**

Lotus Blossoms

World Bazaar

Event Attendance

4th Grade Day

850 youth

100 adults

Community Day

130 youth

110 adults

Arts Partners

14 Community Partners

14 IU Partners

5

New Arts Partners

Blossoms/Bazaar Volunteers

75 Community Volunteers

45 IU Volunteers

Community Sponsors

\$12,250

IU Sponsorship

\$17,750

**Total of Sponsorships,
In-kind Contributions,
& Grants**

\$85,400

7 Performances

30 Interactive
Activities





OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



4th Street Festival



Volunteer Fair



Fiesta de Otoño



The Quilt from Bandanas

Check out this quilt designed by YOU and artist Heidi Mariam Fitzgerald from @lotusstudio212. This quilt was one of a kind and a feat like no other! Thank you Heidi for your beautiful work. Each square comes from an artist that visited our Artist Camp this 2025 Lotus Fest. Can you find your square?

2500+
People Engaged
at Outreach Events



Other Events Attended



Bloomington Farmer's Market



Pridefest



Fourth & Rogers Block Party



IU Student Involvement Fair



First Thursdays

Thank you note to our community
Every summer it takes many special volunteers to help table outreach events in order to spread the word about Lotus Fest and how to get involved. Thank you for all your hard work!



SEEDS OF MEMORY

Led by volunteer, LuAnne Holladay, Lotus collaborated with Arkansas-based Little Mountain Bindery to offer Matchbook Memoirs, a creative activity for its ongoing Seeds of Memory collaborative history project. Thank you to all who shared your Lotus memories and your imagination!



About Little Mountain Bindery:

At Fayetteville, Arkansas -based Little Mountain Bindery, Lesha Shaver specializes in custom book binding, repair, and restoration; in book arts workshops; and in producing Fillions, a high-quality refillable notebook system. Lesha designed the Matchbook Memoir Project “based on the idea that we can develop community by sharing our stories with one another in anonymous-optional yet public format: a miniature book that looks like a matchbook.”



LOTUS FIREBAY



2600 Patrons Served
50 Rental Days
3 Concerts presented



ALASH PERFORMANCE



SUMMER NIGHT OF LOTUS



*Featuring
Alejandro Brittes*



\$2,000+
in Donations &
Raffle Entries

100+ Attendees

\$5,500
in Ticket Sales

WORDS FROM OUR BOARD

“

The good news is that the current Lotus staff features a superstar mix of non-profit expertise, Lotus experience and creative energy! Executive Director Katarina Koch has infused LEAF with her skillful leadership, positive spirit and love of enhancing community health and vibrancy. Artistic Director Tamara Loewenthal draws on decades of Lotus experience and international artistic networks to select an exciting slate of performers year in and year out. Associate Director Kirsten Payton joyfully engages our festival committees and uses her technical media background to run logistics for all venues, visual arts elements, and more. Rounding out the permanent staff is Administrative Assistant Jenny Whittington, whose positive, can-do attitude supports all staff in pursuing the LEAF vision. Add in part-time seasonal festival staff, interns from Indiana University and our hundreds of volunteers, and you get a sum that is even greater than its parts: the Lotus that has become an inextricable part of Bloomington community life.

- Erica Penna, Lotus Board Chair and Daniel Reed, Lotus Board Vice Chair



Erica Penna
Lotus Board Chair



Daniel Reed
Lotus Board Vice Chair



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



Katarina Koch
Executive Director

Volunteers mean everything to us. You are the heart and soul of the Lotus. Without your support, we simply could not continue bringing global music and arts to our community and beyond. From the bottom of our hearts, all Lotus staff and board members, thank you sincerely.



We are so grateful to you for generously lending your time, talent, and dedication to help bring world music and culture to Bloomington. For ensuring our events and operations run smoothly. For being the champions of this wonderful program and keeping it alive for over 32 years! Your generosity keeps the spirit of Lotus alive and thriving year after year.



SPirit OF LOTUS
Daniel Reed
Laura Plummer



THE GOLDEN LOTUS - "Fan Lotus"

20 Lotus volunteers were randomly selected to receive a Golden Lotus in the mail along with a gift in appreciation for their support. The "Fan Lotus" was originally part of the design element suite that Julie Barnett created for Edible Lotus.



25 Volunteers reached milestone awards for their years of contribution to Lotus.

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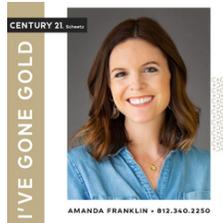
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