

Spring 2025 Capstone: INSPIRE Music Collective

The Capstone client for this course is INSPIRE Music Collective, an Indianapolis-based nonprofit organization that (1) offers resources to creatives to allow them to continue to fuel their passion for creating art; (2) provides educational programming for youth and adults who wish to grow their music and digital media knowledge; and (3) embraces a social justice mission to make music and arts education accessible to all, while fostering opportunities to sustain the livelihoods of musical and visual artists.

This Capstone project will support INSPIRE Music Collective's efforts to support the livelihoods of Indianapolis-based musical and visual artists by developing, piloting, and administering a survey to assess the financial stability of Indianapolis-based artists. The survey will include questions regarding income from musical or artistic gigs or engagements, as well as questions regarding whether artists need to work multiple jobs. Capstone students will use the survey results to inform a two-pronged strategic plan to (1) expand the economic support structures available to musical and visual artists in Indianapolis; and (2) ensure the long-term financial sustainability of INSPIRE Music Collective. To support its social justice mission, INSPIRE Music Collective is particularly interested in opportunities to foster multisector collaborations that would enable artists to supplement their incomes through music and visual arts-related service. Opportunities to expand music or visual education programs in public schools, as well as the potential for music or visual education programs to serve as diversion programs for juvenile justice-involved youth or adults facing incarceration are of particular interest to INSPIRE Music Collective.

This Capstone project will be of particular interest to students interested in arts administration, nonprofit management, social justice, education policy, and criminal justice reform, and will provide students with opportunities to acquire or showcase skills in survey research, multisector collaboration, and financial planning for nonprofits.