



COMMUNITY IMPACT INITIATIVE

2025 GRANTEE

PROJECT

Madam Walker Rooftop



GRANTEE

Madam Walker Legacy Center



INVESTMENT

\$7,500

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Madam Walker Legacy Center (MWLC) converted the Walker Theatre rooftop into a vibrant skyline cultural gathering space, continuing its work to restore the nearly 100-year-old building into an equitable, outdoor storytelling venue. As a national historical landmark established in 1927, MWLC preserves the legacy of Madam C.J. Walker and serves as a hub for cultural arts, community engagement, and education.

The rooftop project created a one-of-a-kind outdoor destination, enhancing the building's historic Art Deco and Moorish architecture while offering breathtaking views of Indianapolis. The space has enabled MWLC to host a range of cultural programming—from performances and storytelling to heritage tours—welcoming youth, residents, and visitors to experience the legacy of Madam Walker in an inspiring setting.

Key outcomes included expanding MWLC's mission by providing a dynamic outdoor resource, visually reflecting the community's history in the design, and generating sustainable revenue to support ongoing history and heritage programming. The rooftop now strengthens MWLC's role as the anchor of the revitalized Indiana Avenue Cultural District and a signature destination for arts and culture in Indianapolis.

IMPACT METRICS:

- Improves Quality of Life
- Creates Active, Vital Destinations
- Promotes Cultural Opportunities
- Increases Community Engagement
- Increases Access to Public Arts
- Fosters Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
- Creates a Regional Tourist Destination
- Increases Tourism Opportunities
- Promotes Unique Visitor Experiences
- Provides Additional Amenities to Attract New Visitors

