

ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL FOUNDATION

A Component Unit of the State of Illinois

STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION

For the Two Years Ended June 30, 2025

**Performed as Special Assistant Auditors
For the Auditor General, State of Illinois**



ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL FOUNDATION
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STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION
For the Two Years Ended June 30, 2025

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FOUNDATION OFFICIALS

Executive Director	Mr. Joshua Davis-Ruperto
Deputy Director	Mr. Encarnacion Teruel
Chief Financial Officer (10/16/23 – Present)	Ms. Sandra Velazquez
Chief Financial Officer (07/01/23 – 10/15/23)	Ms. Yazoo Hall

FOUNDATION OFFICER

Chair of the Board	Ms. Nora Daley
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GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Vice-Chair	Ms. Rhoda Pierce
Member	Mr. Les Begay
Member	Ms. Joan Clifford
Member	Mr. Michael Conn
Member	Mr. Richard Daniels
Member	Mr. Henry Godinez
Member	Ms. Sarah Herda
Member	Ms. Vicki Heyman
Member	Ms. Jodie Kavensky
Member	Ms. Valarie King
Member	Ms. Shirley Madigan
Member	Mr. Robert Maguire
Member	Ms. Peggy Montes
Member	Mr. Pemon Rami
Member	Ms. Hedy Ratner
Member	Ms. Marsha Ryan
Member	Ms. Christina Steelman

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Member (08/16/24 – Present)

Ms. Maria Childress

Member (08/16/24 – Present)

Ms. Amy Eshleman

Member (09/13/24 – Present)

Mr. John Groh

FOUNDATION OFFICE

The Illinois Arts Council Foundation's primary administrative office is located at:

115 S. LaSalle Street
Suite 2202
Chicago, IL 60603-3804



JB Pritzker
Governor

Nora Daley
Board Chair

Joshua Davis-Ruperto
Executive Director

MANAGEMENT ASSERTION LETTER

03/06/2026

West & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants
919 E. Harris Avenue
Greenville, IL 62246

Ladies & Gentlemen:

We are responsible for the identification of, and compliance with, all aspects of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements that could have a material effect on the operations of the State of Illinois, Illinois Arts Council Foundation (Foundation). We are responsible for and we have established and maintained an effective system of internal controls over compliance requirements. We have performed an evaluation of the Foundation's compliance with the following specified requirements during the two-year period ended June 30, 2025. Based on this evaluation, we assert that during the years ended June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the Foundation has materially complied with the specified requirements listed below.

- A. The Foundation has obligated, expended, received, and used public funds of the State in accordance with the purpose for which such funds have been appropriated or otherwise authorized by law.
- B. The Foundation has obligated, expended, received, and used public funds of the State in accordance with any limitations, restrictions, conditions, or mandatory directions imposed by law upon such obligation, expenditure, receipt, or use.
- C. The Foundation has complied, in all material respects, with applicable laws and regulations, including the State uniform accounting system, in its financial and fiscal operations.
- D. State revenues and receipts collected by the Foundation are in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and the accounting and recordkeeping of such revenues and receipts is fair, accurate, and in accordance with law.

- E. Money or negotiable securities or similar assets handled by the Foundation on behalf of the State or held in trust by the Foundation have been properly and legally administered, and the accounting and recordkeeping relating thereto is proper, accurate, and in accordance with law.

Yours truly,

State of Illinois, Illinois Arts Council

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Mr. Joshua Davis-Ruperto, Executive Director

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Ms. Sandra Velazquez, Chief Financial Officer

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Ms. Nora Daley, Board Chair

ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL FOUNDATION
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STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION
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STATE COMPLIANCE REPORT

SUMMARY

The State compliance testing performed during this examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Illinois State Auditing Act (Act); and the Audit Guide.

ACCOUNTANT’S REPORT

The Independent Accountant’s Report on State Compliance and on Internal Control over Compliance does not contain scope limitations, disclaimers, or other significant non-standard language.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Number of	<u>Current Report</u>	<u>Prior Report</u>
Findings	-	-
Repeated Findings	-	-
Prior Recommendations Implemented or Not Repeated	-	-

EXIT CONFERENCE

The Council waived an exit conference in a correspondence from Sandra Velazquez, Chief Fiscal Officer, on February 25, 2026. The responses to the recommendations were provided by Sandra Velazquez, Chief Fiscal Officer, in correspondence dated March 5, 2026.



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Greenville, Illinois 62246

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
ON STATE COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

Honorable Frank J. Mautino
Auditor General
State of Illinois

and

Governing Board
State of Illinois, Illinois Arts Council Foundation

Report on State Compliance

As Special Assistant Auditors for the Auditor General, we have examined compliance by the State of Illinois, Illinois Arts Council Foundation (Foundation) with the specified requirements listed below, as more fully described in the *Audit Guide for Financial Audits and Compliance Attestation Engagements of Illinois State Agencies (Audit Guide)* as adopted by the Auditor General, during the two years ended June 30, 2025. Management of the Foundation is responsible for compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Foundation's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

The specified requirements are:

- A. The Foundation has obligated, expended, received, and used public funds of the State in accordance with the purpose for which such funds have been appropriated or otherwise authorized by law.
- B. The Foundation has obligated, expended, received, and used public funds of the State in accordance with any limitations, restrictions, conditions, or mandatory directions imposed by law upon such obligation, expenditure, receipt, or use.
- C. The Foundation has complied, in all material respects, with applicable laws and regulations, including the State uniform accounting system, in its financial and fiscal operations.
- D. State revenues and receipts collected by the Foundation are in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and the accounting and recordkeeping of such revenues and receipts is fair, accurate, and in accordance with law.
- E. Money or negotiable securities or similar assets handled by the Foundation on behalf of the State or held in trust by the Foundation have been properly and legally administered and the accounting and recordkeeping relating thereto is proper, accurate, and in accordance with law.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Illinois State Auditing Act (Act), and the *Audit Guide*. Those standards, the Act, and the *Audit Guide* require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Foundation complied with the specified requirements in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Foundation complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance with the specified requirements, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Foundation's compliance with the specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Foundation complied with the specified requirements during the two years ended June 30, 2025, in all material aspects.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing and the results of that testing in accordance with the requirements of the *Audit Guide*. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Management of the Foundation is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the specified requirements (internal control). In planning and performing our examination, we considered the Foundation's internal control to determine the examination procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the Foundation's compliance with the specified requirements and to test and report on the Foundation's internal control in accordance with the *Audit Guide*, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our examination we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with the specified requirements on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material noncompliance with the specified requirements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

As required by the *Audit Guide*, immaterial findings excluded from this report have been reported in a separate letter.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the *Audit Guide*. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Greenville, Illinois
March 6, 2026