Each year, the Indiana Historical Society recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations whose efforts have enriched the lives of others by conveying awareness and appreciation of Indiana’s history on local, regional and statewide levels. IHS encourages organizations, individuals and communities across the state to nominate deserving projects and individuals for their efforts to promote the preservation, awareness and appreciation of state and local history.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Hubert Hawkins History Award is made annually to a local historian for his or her distinguished service and career in local history. Hubert Howard Hawkins was executive secretary of IHS and director of the Indiana Historical Bureau. He was instrumental in increasing membership through visits around the state and with the Indiana Junior Historical Society.

Willard C. Heiss Family History/Genealogy Award is awarded to a family historian for his or her distinguished service and career in Indiana family history, helping genealogists discover connections between themselves and their ancestors through source material, family records, and well-documented stories. Presentation may include articles, books, use of materials, preservation, workshops and lectures, or it may include work in a library or archive, helping the public with questions about genealogy and family history over a long career. Willard C. Heiss was a preeminent authority on Indiana Quaker history and genealogy, and is credited with bringing order to the archives of Indianapolis.

Eli Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions over an extended period of time to a) the field of history and/or b) the affairs of IHS. This award is named after philanthropist Eli Lilly, a lifelong leader of the Indiana Historical Society.

Caleb Mills Indiana History Teacher of the Year is awarded to a teacher (grades 4 through 12) currently teaching American or Indiana history and recognized by his or her colleagues as making a significant contribution to the understanding of these two fields by his or her students. This award is named in honor of Caleb Mills, the father of Indiana’s common schools.

Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award recognizes a historian who has made distinguished contributions to a) the field of historical scholarship, including presentation, use of materials, and preservation, or b) the affairs and activities of IHS. Dorothy Riker was a 50-year employee and editor for the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau from 1929 to 1979.

Indiana History Outstanding Event or Project Award recognizes an organization for an exceptional educational event or history project implemented during the past year, either one-time or ongoing, which relates to that organization’s mission. Examples include reenactments, publications, innovative media usage, exceptional teacher training and displays/exhibitions.

Outstanding Collaborative Project recognizes an exceptional project by a historical or heritage organization with one or more partners implemented during the past year. Projects must be a history-based event or project, either one-time or ongoing. Special consideration will be given to projects that share county or regional history.

Outstanding Historical Organization Award is presented to a local or county historical society, organization or site in Indiana which has demonstrated remarkable service to and programs for its community, and has demonstrated excellent application of professional standards and best practices. Consideration will also be given to nominations that demonstrate organizational transformation within two years preceding the nomination deadline.
Entry guidelines

• Nominations must pertain to some aspect of Indiana history – state or local.
• A completed nomination form, including the nomination narrative, must accompany each submission.
• All nominations must be submitted with at least two letters of support.
• Articles, brochures, and other supporting documents are encouraged.
• Nominations must be completed online or postmarked by August 1, 2023 to be considered.
• Late nominations will not be accepted.

Award categories (please check one):

☐ Hubert Hawkins History Award  ☐ Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award
☐ Willard C. Heiss Family History/Genealogy Award  ☐ Indiana History Outstanding Event or Project Award
☐ Eli Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award  ☐ Outstanding Collaborative Project Award
☐ Caleb Mills Indiana History Teacher of the Year  ☐ Outstanding Historical Organization Award

Nominee:
Name: ________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: __________
Phone: (____) __________ Email address: __________________________

Nominator:
Name: ________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: __________
Phone: (____) __________ Email address: __________________________
Nomination Narrative:
Introduce the project, organization, or individual and describe the achievements and impact on the community served. (Max. 350 words)
• For nominated projects and organizations, highlight how the work supports the organizational mission, increases engagement with history, and, if applicable, encourages community collaborations.
• For nominated individuals, highlight their achievements and their contributions to the field of state and/or local history.

Submit nominations by mail to:
Annual Awards Committee
Indiana Historical Society
Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Submit nominations online at www.indianahistory.org/awards

Awards will be presented in the fall of 2023.

Direct questions to:
Tamara Hemmerlein, Local History Services director
themmerlein@indianahistory.org
(317) 234-0170
CHECKLIST

Required:

☐ Completed nomination form
☐ Two letters of support

Additional supporting documents:

☐ Additional letters of support
☐ Articles
☐ Brochures
☐ Photographs
☐ Book title pages
☐ Mission statements
☐ Project summaries
☐ Resumes

Please ensure that supporting documents are printed on 8 ½ x 11 paper.

All nominations must be submitted online or postmarked by August 1, 2023. Submitted material will not be returned.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

The Awards Committee is composed of IHS staff and Trustees, and community members as appointed by IHS. The Awards Committee reserves the right to move nominees into different categories, award multiple nominees within a category, or decline granting of an award within a category, as appropriate.

All nominators will receive notice of results, and award winners will be contacted in September 2023. Awards will be presented in-person at local community sites.

The Indiana Historical Society collects and preserves Indiana’s unique stories; brings Hoosiers together in remembering and sharing the past; and inspires a future grounded in our state’s uniting values and principles. IHS is a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.