

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

May 16, 2025

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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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Updates from Local History Services



[Edward Medina Graduation, 1948](#) (Michaelene Olguin-Rivera, Indiana Historical Society)

INTO THE FUTURE

In the midst of graduation season, it's a great time to look forward. Get inspiration for the

future of your organization with these and other books from our [Lending Resource Center](#). Indiana history organizations can borrow books at no charge, and we'll even ship them to you. To borrow a book, email localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org.

- *Building Smart Nonprofits: A Roadmap for Mission Success*
- *Engagement and Access: Innovative Approaches for Museums*
- *Museum Education for Today's Audiences: Meeting Expectations with New Models*
- *Museum Membership Innovation: Unlocking Ideas for Audience Engagement and Sustainable Revenue*
- *New Voices at the Table: Welcoming the Next Generation of Board Leaders*
- *Strategic Thinking and Planning*
- *The Digital Future of Museums: Conversations and Provocations*

Additional Resources

[AAM's Center for the Future of Museums](#) shares resources to help museums explore the challenges facing society and devise strategies to shape a better tomorrow.

[AASLH publishes reports and resources](#) on a variety of topics that provide insight on issues important to the history field.

[Made By Us](#) brings history to younger generations in innovative and meaningful ways so they have more fuel to power the future.

MINI GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 31

[Heritage Support Mini Grants from \\$500 to \\$4,999](#) are available for projects that will help Indiana's local history organizations meet high-priority needs in areas of: Collections Stewardship; Capacity Building; Sustainability; and Planning.

Heritage Support Grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Around Indiana



[Wiley High School Students, 1942](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

Apply by May 31 to become a speaker for the [Civics and Democracy Speakers Bureau](#) to travel the state and engage with Hoosier audiences on topics related to civics, democracy, and American history. (Indiana Humanities)

The **2025 Blue Star Museums** program opens tomorrow, May 17, offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, through Labor Day. See the [list of participating Indiana museums](#), or sign up your museum [here](#). (National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families)

A researching nerd Super Bowl moment: How a new \$102 million home will elevate Indiana archives [when the new Indiana State Archives Building opens](#) late in the summer of 2026. (Indy Star)

Schimpff's Confectionery in Jeffersonville is [in the running to be the best candy story in the country](#) in USA Today's contest. The confectionery opened in 1891 and is one of the oldest, continuously operated, family-owned candy businesses in the United States. (WKDQ)

A historic southern Indiana [bell tower from George Rogers Clark Elementary School](#) has been relocated to a permanent spot in Colgate Park in Clarksville. (WDRB)

IN-PERSON EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

PLEASE NOTE: For in-person programs, please check with the hosting organization regarding any COVID-19 restrictions and/or requirements.

[Exhibit: Flora & Fauna Juried Art Show](#)

Opening May 17, Zionsville – See works by 34 artists from across the state celebrating the beauty and diversity of the natural world. (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)

[Etiquette Tea](#)

May 18, Elkhart – Enjoy an afternoon tea and learn etiquette from DaVonne Kramer, founder of Regality, Inc. (Ruthmere)

[Historic Marker Celebration](#)

May 20, Fairland – The Fairland Historical Society is pleased to install two historical markers to share the history of Fairland, the schools, and the railroad. (Fairland Historical Society)

[Historical Society Meeting with Local Author James P. Barber](#)

May 20, La Porte – Local author James P. Barber will be giving a talk on his fascinating books, which focus on his family members that lived in La Porte County. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[Genealogy for Night Owls](#)

May 21, Indianapolis – This free genealogy research event features extended hours and one-on-one consultation sessions. (Indiana State Library)

[Greenwood Cemetery Tour](#)

May 24, Michigan City – Take a walking tour through the scenic cemetery and hear the stories of ten monuments and the people they commemorate. (La Porte County Historical Society)

[National Historic Preservation Celebration](#)

May 29, Zionsville – Learn about the Century Structure Walking Tour, historical homes and historical markers, and more. (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)

[Fort Wayne's Cultural Landscape Reports](#)

June 1, Fort Wayne – Learn about the Kessler Parks and Boulevard Plan, and the role of landscape architects in the Fort Wayne Park System and the city as a whole. (The History Center)

[Living History Show & Tell](#)

June 7, Knox – Living history interpreters will bring a variety of historical trades to life – hands-on activities will include rope making, printing, needlecrafts, and more. (Starke County Historical Society)

[Making the Most of the County Histories](#)

June 17, Frankfort – Learn how the Indiana State Library County History Collection can be useful for finding biographical sketches of your ancestors. (Clinton County Genealogical Society; event at the Frankfort Community Public Library)

TRAVELING EXHIBITS

Indiana organizations can borrow professional-quality [traveling exhibits](#) from the Indiana Historical Society. You can visit exhibits at the sites below. Please check with the hosting organization regarding any on-site COVID-19 restrictions.

From Pencils to Pixels: Hoosier Cartoons and Comics

Through May 30, Princeton ([Princeton Public Library](#))

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

NEW UNBOXED EPISODE

[Unboxed: Hoosier Japanese American Citizens League](#)

Join us as we unbox a scrapbook from the Hoosier JACL capturing activities from 1976 to 1981.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Amalia Kussner, the Gilded Age Miniature Painter: Book Talk with Kathleen Langone](#)

May 17 – Learn about Amalia Kussner, the famed Gilded Age artist who gained notoriety for her miniature paintings of social elites in the 1890s.

[Homeschool Workshop Celebrating America at 250: Civics](#)

May 27 – As we prepare for our nation's semiquincentennial in 2026, Hoosiers are invited to reflect on how we civically engage in our communities. (suggested for grades 5-12)

[Concerts on the Canal – The Cool City Band](#)

May 29 – Spread out your summer fun by immersing yourself in music at the Kruse Family Stardust Terrace!

What We're Reading This Week



[Alpha Kappa Mu Sorority, Brotherhood Poster Contest, 1974](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

RESOURCES AND NEWS FROM THE FIELD

[Innovations in museum audio tours](#) – learn about recent examples of interesting museum audio guides, plus what your team might take away from each approach. (Museum 411)

10 no-cost (or low-cost) [ideas to spark change](#) in your museum. (ExhibiTricks)

Reminder – Nominations are due May 23 for the 2025 [Association of Midwest Museums Awards](#). (AMM)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Museums and mental health: [a mindful photography project for young people](#). (MuseumNext)

AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY

7 ways to [foster active engagement](#) on guided experiences. (Thinking Museum)

How does your nonprofit [involve the local community](#) in its programs and initiatives? (Blue Avocado)

The dos and don'ts for [driving community-led impact](#). (Candid)

FUNDRAISING

Nonprofit ask strategy: an [easier way to get donations](#). (Gail Perry Group)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Empowering your people: [6 transformative tips](#) to inspire future leaders. (Goodwin University)

[Use experiential learning](#) to transform your next board retreat. (Bloomerang)

How to get inspired: [15 ideas](#) to help you reach your potential. (BetterUp)

NEED A BREAK?

The history behind [‘Pomp & Circumstance’ and 8 other graduation traditions](#). (History.com)

The story of how [those dorky ‘90s motivational posters](#) invented internet memes and changed the way we make fun of work – and eventually inspired these [hilarious demotivators](#). (Quartz; Despair.inc)

And, take a gander at these [1920s workplace motivational posters](#). (Duke University Libraries)

Where does the expression [‘pull out all the stops’](#) come from? (Mental Floss)

Learning Opportunities



[PROJECT LEAD. Circa 1985](#) (Indiana Historical Society, M1530)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

[Some Good \(Museum\) News - Spring 2025 Edition](#)

May 21 – Hear inspirational and uplifting stories and programs of our nation's museums.
(Council of Regional Museum Associations)

[No Budget Preservation Tips](#)

May 22 – Learn about methods and projects that require no additional funding or supplies.
(NEDCC)

[AASLH Solidarity Hour](#)

May 22 – Meet others in the national history community and share how your work is being impacted. (AASLH)

[Preserving Legacy: A Decade of HOPE Crew](#)

May 29 – Learn about this groundbreaking initiative at the intersection of historic preservation, skilled trades, and community empowerment. (National Trust for Historic Preservation)

[A Conversation about Curating Digital Collections](#)

July 23 – This 45-minute conversation will cover the theories and thoughts about building a digital collection. (Indiana State Library)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

[Putting It All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations](#)

May 20 – In this virtual workshop, learn about the Making History at 250 field guide and how to effectively apply these tools to your site or organization. \$65; \$45 members. (AASLH)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

[Preserving History Networking Seminar](#)

May 29, Cedar Lake – Join professionals and volunteers from preservation and historical organizations to learn, brainstorm, and network. (Cedar Lake Historical Association)

[Indiana Main Street 101 Trainings](#)

June 5, Plymouth; June 23, Ellettsville; July 23, Indianapolis – Learn about the Indiana Main Street program as well as application information for prospective communities. Free. (OCRA)

Funding Available



[*Gamma Phi Delta Scholarships, 1983*](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[Backing Historic Small Restaurants Grant Program](#)

Due May 30 – Across the country, 50 small or independently owned restaurants that contribute to their neighborhood's unique history and identity will receive \$50,000 in funding to help them improve their businesses and positively impact their communities. (National Trust for Historic Preservation)

[THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Library Microgrant Opportunity](#)

Due July 7 – This microgrant opportunity offers public, academic, and specialty libraries \$750 in funding to support community programming and engagement tied to the themes of *THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION* documentary series. (PBS)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[Exhibit Professionals Fellowship to Attend the AMM Conference](#)

Due May 19 (AMM and Museum EXP)

[Costume Society of America Stella Blum Student Research Grant](#)

Due June 1 (CSA)

[Preservation and Access Education and Training Grants](#)

Due June 17 (NEH)

[Celebrate America! Grants in Honor of America's 250th Anniversary](#)

Applications accepted on a rolling basis (NEH)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[Wiley High School Graduating Seniors, 1933](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Production Coordinator](#)

Fishers – Conner Prairie Museum

[Archaeology Administrator](#)

Indianapolis – Indiana Department of Transportation

REGIONAL

[Director of Development](#)

Chicago, Ill. – The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center, Inc.

[Collections Curator](#)

Grand Haven, Mich. – Tri-Cities Historical Museum

[Curatorial Supervisor](#)

Madison, Wis. – Wisconsin Veterans Museum

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The [Purdue Ag Alumni Association](#) is **seeking proposals from qualified consultants or firms** to conduct a detailed inventory (Phase 1) and cataloging/evaluation (Phase 2) of their collection of antique farm equipment. Proposals are due June 4. Contact Danica Kirkpatrick at dkirkpat@purdue.edu for the complete Request for Proposal.

Orphans Corner

Do you have an item you would like to donate to an Indiana museum or nonprofit? We'll list it here! Email us at col@indianahistory.org and we'll list it for you!

This is a free publication. Anyone may subscribe.

To submit a news release, email col@indianahistory.org by noon Wednesday for same-week publication. Some exceptions may apply.

We'd love your input on this e-newsletter! [Use this form](#) to give us your feedback.

[Local History Services](#)

(317) 232-1882 | localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org

