

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

June 6, 2025

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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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Updates from Local History Services



[*Scottie craft motorboat. with people. n.d.*](#) (Bass Photo Co Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

CONSIDERING PLASTICS

Plastics and synthetics of all types have been around for a long time. In our museums, they can often be found in historical collections, storage materials, fabrics, and other everyday objects. Here are some tips and resources for working with plastics and caring for collections that contain them.

Collections Advisors

- [Plastic – Part of American Life for More Than 150 Years](#)
- [Synthetic Fibers in Textiles](#)
- [Fun with Fosshape!](#)
- [Timely Tips: Short, Mid, and Long-Term Storage](#)

Further Reading

- [Care and Identification of Objects Made from Plastic](#) (National Park Service Conserve O Gram)
- [Looking at Plastics: An Introduction to Caring for Plastics](#) (Connecting to Collections Care)
- [Can Museums Reduce Their Use of Single-Use Plastic?](#) (MuseumNext)
- [A Brief History of Plastic's Conquest of the World](#) (Scientific American)

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.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2025 IHS AWARDS

Do you know an individual or organization who does outstanding work in Indiana's state and local history? Nominations are open for the 2025 Indiana Historical Society Awards. **The nomination deadline is July 1, 2025. [Start your nomination today!](#)**

Around Indiana



[Pal Porter. n.d.](#) (Madam C.J. Walker Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

Ancora Partners LLC has [won Indiana Landmarks' 2025 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration](#) for its \$286 million revitalization of Fort Wayne's former General Electric plant. (Indiana Landmarks)

Get a [sneak peek at this year's Exhibit Columbus](#), when the city will transform into a playground of creativity and design beginning Aug. 15. (Visit Columbus)

The City of Gary and Notre Dame's Housing and Community Regeneration Initiative [announced a vision and action plan for downtown Gary](#). (Notre Dame News)

After years dormant, the [Nappanee Historic Preservation Commission has been revived](#). (Ink Free News)

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.

[Miami Indian Heritage Days – Cookware from Local Clays](#)

June 7, Fort Wayne – Erik Vosteen will offer a demonstration on Cookware from Local Clays: Making and Using Replica Native-Style Pottery. (Chief Richardville House, or *akima pinšiwā awiiki*)

[Back to the Future: A Mid-Century Modern Home Tour](#)

June 7, Fort Wayne – See five outstanding Mid-Century Modern homes showcasing the period's open designs, soaring ceilings, and nature-infused spaces. (Indiana Modern; Indiana Landmarks)

[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)

[Spring Artisan Fair & Tractor Show](#)

June 7, La Porte – Over 40 artisans will be at the Museum selling their unique pieces. The fair is the same day as the Old Tractor Show. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[Final Kindness: The Rituals & Meaning of Jewish Burial](#)

June 8, Mishawaka – Rabbi Kuppel Lindow and Bekki Lindow will help us understand the origin of practices concerning Jewish death and burial rituals. (Michiana Jewish Historical Society and the Elkhart History Museum; event at the Hebrew Orthodox Cemetery)

[Skyscrapers in Indianapolis](#)

June 10, Indianapolis – Join author Dr. James Glass for a talk tracing the development of skyscrapers in Indianapolis from the 1890s through the 1980s. (Indiana Landmarks)

[Fairland Walking Tours](#)

June 13-14, Fairland – During the Fairland Volunteer Fire Department's Fish Fry, the Fairland Historical Society will offer free walking tours of Fairland. (Fairland Historical Society)

[Indiana's America 250 Kick-off](#)

June 14, Indianapolis – Indiana's Semiquincentennial Commission will hold a program to begin Indiana's celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The program will begin at 11 a.m. (Event in the Pershing auditorium at the Indiana War Memorial)

[Summer Lecture Series: Unlock the Power of Using DNA to Enhance Your Genealogy](#)

June 14, Indianapolis – In three sessions, you will learn how to leverage DNA to uncover your family history. (Indiana State Library)

[Kick-off America's Semiquincentennial – Starke County](#)

June 14, North Judson – Speakers will share information about local plans for the semiquincentennial, and there will be music, a historic trivia walk, and more. (Starke County Historical Society; event at the North Judson-Wayne Township Public Library)

[Global Beatles Day Celebration & Indiana Music History Project Lounge Grand Opening](#)

June 25, Indianapolis – The event will feature live Beatles music from Wendy Reed and Tim Brickley and exhibits from Tom Fontaine's collection. (Indiana Music History Project; event at Flanner Buchanan)

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.

Auto Indiana

Through June 30, Bristol ([Bristol Public Library](#))

Groundbreaking Black Hoosiers

Through June 30, Mishawaka ([Mishawaka Penn-Harris Public Library](#))

From Pencils to Pixels: Hoosier Cartoons and Comics

Through July 1, La Porte ([La Porte County Public Library](#))

Going Pro, Basketball Origins in Indiana

Through July 6, Merrillville ([Merrillville History Museum](#))

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

NEW UNBOXED EPISODE

[Unboxed: Hoosier Motorist Club](#)

Join us as we share items from the Hoosier Motor Club, which was founded in 1902 and today has hundreds of thousands of members across the state.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Flavors of the Heartland – Jess Baloun, Sharing How to Make Popcorn and Blackberry Lemonade Using Native Indiana and Foraged Plants](#)

June 11 – Take a break and enjoy the stories and smells of the dishes that make up our food heritage.

[Concerts on the Canal – The Beatless](#)

June 12 – Spread out your summer fun by immersing yourself in music at the Kruse Family Stardust Terrace!

[Courage in the Face of Hate: Hoosiers Who Stood Against the Klan in Indiana](#)

June 17 – Join us for a thought-provoking evening with James H. Madison exploring the history of Hoosiers who resisted the Klan.

[Walking the Electric Rail](#)

June 20 – Join us on a walk along the interurban lines that connected key locations through Indianapolis.

What We're Reading This Week



[William H. Block Building, ca. 1911](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0160)

RESOURCES AND NEWS FROM THE FIELD

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts has announced the launch of [the new Preservation Glossary](#), a searchable database of over 400 terms with images and simplified definitions. (CCAHA)

The Library of Congress has [selected 25 songs, albums and sounds](#) that are at least ten years old to preserve for posterity, including the Windows 95 Jingle, 1960 World Series Broadcast and Other 'Audio Treasures.' (Smithsonian Magazine)

The Guardian [view on a new era for museums: letting the public take control](#) – an editorial on how the V&A East Storehouse and the award-winning Manchester Museum show radical ways forward. (The Guardian)

U.S. 250 NEWS AND RESOURCES

PBS has announced the launch of [PBS America @ 250](#), a multiyear celebration of U.S. history, culture, and children's programming, from spring 2025 through America's Semiquincentennial in 2026 and beyond. (PBS)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Tips for creating accessible museums: [universal design and universal design for learning](#). (AAM)

[Designing an accessible exhibition](#): *Operation Ouch! Brains, Bogies and You*. (Science Museum Group)

AUDIENCE AND COMMUNITY

[Member surveys](#): how to assess and improve satisfaction. (Ohio Museums Association)

How [user centered design](#) can help museums put people at the center of the exhibition design process. (MuseumNext)

FUNDRAISING

Would you donate to you? Try this 5-step approach to [see your organization the way your supporters do](#). (Clarification)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

How nonprofit professionals can [effectively prioritize their mental health](#). (Forbes)

Great leaders [make people feel noticed](#). (Harvard Business Review)

NEED A BREAK?

This fall, [600+ objects spanning Wes Anderson's career](#) will go on view at the Design Museum. Plus, here's how you can [make your home feel like a Wes Anderson Movie](#). (This is Colossal; Lick)

Go on a [gorgeous color journey](#) with this digital collection of art and artifacts. (Smithsonian)

Check out this [fabulous retrospective of graphic design through the decades](#), from the 1960s to the 1990s. (99designs)

Explore a collection of photos that show [the beauty of well-planned infrastructure](#), compiled from a popular Reddit community. (Bored Panda)

Learning Opportunities



[Choir on stage. 1951](#) (Bass Photo Co Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

[Nonprofit Governance Training 101 – Live Q&A](#)

June 12 – Learn about the essential governance topics like board structure, legal compliance, and best practices. (Blue Avocado)

[Say What? Demystifying Preservation and Conservation Terms with CCAHA's New Glossary](#)

June 18 – Join Preservation Specialist Katie Lowe for a tour of CCAHA's new Preservation Glossary. (CCAHA)

[NAGPRA Steps to Repatriation-Summaries](#)

June 20 – This is part of a series of 10 webinars on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. (National Park Service)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

[Building Stable Resources in Tough Economic Times](#)

June 10 – The class will introduce you to a strength-based approach to resources - the economic principle of Collective Enoughness. Pay what you can; suggested \$99. (Creating the Future)

[Environmental Monitoring: Next Steps](#)

June 10 – Learn about the analysis of environmental monitoring data and how to make improvements to the environment. \$110. (NEDCC)

[Creating an Integrated Pest Management System](#)

June 12 – Learn about the phases of IPM, including prevention, monitoring, identification, and intervention. \$55. (NEDCC)

[Power Writing for Grants and More](#)

June 12 – Learn simple, powerful techniques that can help you write more clearly, quickly, and confidently, right away. \$69. (GrantStation)

[Winter Holidays with Your Community](#)

June 12 – Learn how history organizations can transform the holiday season into a powerful opportunity for community engagement, inclusivity, and innovation. \$45; \$25 members. (AASLH)

[Handling Book and Paper-Based Collections: A Primer for Staff, Interns, & Volunteers](#)

June 24 – Learn about the proper care and handling techniques for a wide variety of collections materials. \$55. (NEDCC)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

[Indiana Main Street 101 Trainings](#)

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

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

AASLH has partnered with the National Council on Public History to invite [proposals for an NCPH-sponsored Poster Session](#) at the 2025 AASLH Annual Conference in Cincinnati.

Proposals are due June 13. (AASLH)

The Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists is accepting [proposals for Poster Sessions](#) for the 2025 St. Louis Conference. **Proposals are due June 15.** (ARCS)

Funding Available



[117 East Washington Street. ca. 1970](#) (City of Indianapolis, Department of Metropolitan Development, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[Levitt Music Series Grants](#)

Due June 30 – U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible to receive a three-year matching grant of up to \$40K/year (up to \$120K total) to bring 7-10 free concerts to your community each year. (Levitt Foundation)

[The Winning Grant Proposal Competition](#)

Due June 30 – If you recently received a grant between \$25,000 and \$1,100,000 that was funded in 2024-2025, you submit your winning grant proposal to enter to win a \$500 cash prize, a subscription to GrantStation, and other resources. (GrantStation)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[Wyeth Foundation for American Art Grants](#)

Due June 15 (Wyeth Foundation for American Art)

[Rural Youth Leaders Initiative](#)

Due June 16 (Partners for Rural Impact and Clear Creek Creative)

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

Due June 17 (NEH)

[2025 AASLH Annual Conference Fellowships and Scholarships](#)

Due June 27 (AASLH)

[THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Library Microgrant Opportunity](#)

Due July 7 (PBS)

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

Applications accepted on a rolling basis (NEH)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[*Burger Chef, 6 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, 1965*](#) (Bass Photo Co Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Manager of Collections and Registration](#)

Fishers – Conner Prairie

[Exhibits Designer](#)

Fishers – Conner Prairie

REGIONAL

[Executive Director](#)

Chicago, Ill. – Friends of Historic Second Church

[Executive Director](#)

Des Plaines, Ill. – Des Plaines History Center

[Government Records Specialist](#)

St. Paul, Minn. – Minnesota Historical Society

[Partnership Program Manager: Archive Development and Oral History Training](#)

Winona, Minn. – Winona County Historical Society

[Museum Specialist Natural History Collections](#)

Appleton, Wis. – History Museum at the Castle

PAID INTERNSHIPS

[Ohio History Service Corps Members](#)

Various Sites, Ohio – Ohio History Connection

[Summer 2025 Internship Stipends Available](#)

For Summer 2025, ARCS will be offering a \$1,000 stipend plus an annual membership to four applicants pursuing internships in registration and/or collections management. Applicants should already have been accepted into an unpaid internship program. **Apply by June 20.** (Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists)

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

