

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

August 22, 2025

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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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Updates from Local History Services



[Indianapolis Public Schools Francis W. Parker Elementary No. 56 Students, 1983](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

IT'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIME

Break out those fun school supplies, backpacks, and textbooks! It's time to go back to school with these resources for how museums can engage students and teachers.

Books from our Lending Resource Center

Indiana history organizations and historians can borrow these and other books from our [Lending Resource Center](#). Here's a selection to get you started:

- *Bringing Teachers to the History Museum: A Guide to Facilitating Teacher Professional Development*
- *Educational Programs: Innovative Practices for Archives and Special Collections*
- *Finding History Where You Least Expect It: Site-Based Strategies for Teaching About the Past*
- *In Principle, In Practice: Museums and Learning Institutions*
- *Making History: Makerspaces for Museums and Historic Sites*
- *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*
- *Telling Children About the Past*

Further Reading

[How Do You Pitch Your Museum Programs to School Teachers?](#) (LinkedIn)

[Building the Future of Education: Museums and the Learning Ecosystem](#) (AAM)

[Excellence in Practice: Museum Education Principles and Standards](#) (AAM)

[Giving School Groups A Place to Sit – Tips for Creating Museum Field Experiences from a Teacher's Perspective](#) (AAM)

[Educator Resources: Organizing Content](#) (Cuberis)

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE FREE VIRTUAL U.S. 250 MEETINGS

Join us on Zoom for two FREE virtual meetings on the upcoming U.S. 250th.

- **Sept. 29** – [Meet the Indiana U.S. 250 Commission](#)
- **Oct. 6** – [Developing Meaningful Local Programming for the U.S. 250th](#)

Around Indiana



[*Children on Playground Equipment, 1970*](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0572)

NEWS

Indiana Landmarks has announced the 2025 list of the [10 Most Endangered historic places in Indiana](#).

North Vernon and Pendleton have been [named as the finalist communities for the PreservINg Main Street program](#). (Office of Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs)

The Center for Rural Engagement is [seeking applicants to be the next Sustaining Hoosier Community](#). The program partners one rural Indiana community with Indiana University faculty, students, and staff to advance community-identified projects. **Applications are due Oct. 1.** [Find the complete Request for Proposals here](#). (IU Bloomington)

The [Indiana READI program](#) is developing comprehensive arts and culture plans for each region of the state. Over the next few months there will be [opportunities to participate in focus groups, community meetings and surveys](#) all designed to strengthen arts and culture across Indiana.

IN-PERSON EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

PLEASE NOTE: For in-person programs, please check with the hosting organization to confirm date, time, location, and any restrictions and/or requirements.

[Historical Marker Dedication: Elizabeth Eaglesfield](#)

Aug. 26, Brazil – The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for a new Indiana

State Historical Marker commemorating Eaglesfield's work as a pioneering lawyer. (Clay County Historical Society; The Brazil Times)

[Indiana Land Records Orientation](#)

Aug. 26, Frankfort – Learn about field notes, plat maps, and tract books preserved at the Indiana Archives and Records Administration. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

[Indiana State Library Bicentennial Architectural Tour](#)

Aug. 26, Indianapolis – Discover the architectural wonders of the building, including its impressive Neoclassical Revival style with Art Deco influences. (Indiana State Library)

[Mansion After Hours: Literary Ladies Night](#)

Aug. 27, Michigan City – Author Sandra L. Young will discuss her creative work and the historical walk that helped shape it, followed by a group discussion. (The Barker Mansion)

[The Women of Bracken Library: Celebrating 50 Years of Women at Ball State University Libraries](#)

Sept. 2, Muncie – This program will highlight stories of librarians, archivists, catalogers, and other staff and some of the unique resources they curated and preserved. (E.B. and Bertha C. Ball Center)

[The Thursday Parlay: Stories From the Armory](#)

Sept. 4, Wabash – Enjoy coffee and conversation then listen as Jeff Galley shares stories from the Museum's armory. (Wabash County Museum)

[Miami Indian Heritage Days – Lacrosse and Other Miami Games](#)

Sept. 6, Fort Wayne – Doug Peconge will present Lacrosse and Other Miami Games at this month's event. (Chief Richardville House, or *akima pinšīwa awiiki*)

[Pancake Breakfast and Historical Tour and Lecture](#)

Sept. 6, Indianapolis – Join the Marion County Historical Society for a pancake breakfast followed by a lecture and tour of the Millersville Masonic Lodge. **Please RSVP by Aug 29.** (Marion County Historical Society)

[Midwest Archives: Worthy of More than Just a Flyover](#)

Sept. 13, Frankfort – Presenter Amber Oldenburg will explore important Midwest archives while highlighting select records found within each repository. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

[Storytellers from the Past: James Whitcomb Riley](#)

Sept. 13, Franklin – Danny Russel will bring Riley's iconic verses to life in a performance brimming with heart and true Hoosier charm. (Johnson County Museum of History)

[Historical Cruise on Lake Michigan](#)

Sept. 13, Michigan City – Learn more about Lake Michigan, Washington Park, Long Beach, and so much more during this sightseeing historical cruise. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[Constitution Day Trivia](#)

Sept. 17, Indianapolis – Enjoy a fun and fast-paced trivia game focused on the U.S. Constitution, American history and civics. (Indiana State Library)

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

LIVING LEGENDS

Learn about this year's Living Legends honorees and their impact on Indiana in a [series of short YouTube videos](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[The Big Band Concert](#)

Sept. 8 – Join us as we celebrate a bygone era with music from the golden age of movies and TV.

[Fun on the Farm \(Early Childhood Program\)](#)

Sept. 4, 6, and 12 – Plant the seeds of learning and watch your child's curiosity grow! Join Ms. Beth as we harvest the fun of agriculture in Indiana.

[Author Talk and Signing – “Indianapolis in 1854” presented by Dr. James Glass](#)

Sept. 9 – Join us for an illustrated lecture presented by Dr. James Glass, architectural historian and historic preservation and heritage consultant.

[Mid-Century Modern Open House](#)

Sept. 18 – Join us for a step back in time for a special tour of an Avriel Shull home built in 1960.

U.S. 250 News From the Field



[*Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Presenting Certificates to Junior Hostesses at the Phyllis Wheatley Branch*](#)

[YMCA, Washington, D.C.](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS & RESOURCES

On Nov. 16, 2025, PBS will premiere [THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION](#), a six-part film from Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt. PBS has launched a multi-year initiative for PBS member stations across the country to build community partnerships to develop local engagement plans, centered around the film. **If your organization is interested in learning more about the film and potentially partnering with a PBS member station, [fill out this form](#).**

UPCOMING GRANT DEADLINES

[Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition Grants](#)

Due Sept. 4 (NEH)

[Public Humanities Projects – U.S. 250th Projects](#)

Due Sept. 10 (NEH)

What We're Reading This Week



[Boys in Cathedral High School Library, 1942](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0569)

RESOURCES AND NEWS FROM THE FIELD

[Museum materials hacks](#): when Home Depot meets high-touch design. (ExhibiTricks)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Envisioning [the future of museum accessibility](#) through artificial intelligence. (Carnegie Mellon University)

AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY

When every visitor has a camera: designing [exhibitions that promote themselves](#). (Museum 411)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The best leaders [edit what they say](#) before they say it. (Harvard Business Review)

Great leaders are inspirational. [4 ways you can be too](#). (Forbes)

NEED A BREAK?

People are remembering the [weird little facts they learned](#) in elementary school. (Buzzfeed)

11 cool, funny or just plain strange [patents for back to school](#). (Smithsonian Magazine)

The interesting long [history of colorful crayons](#); plus, travel back in time with a [vintage Sesame Street video](#) to see how Crayola crayons were made.
(The Strong National Museum of Play; Crayola)

Why are erasers [pink](#)? (Artsy)

Learning Opportunities



[*Fairbanks School-Children Teacher and Globe, 1944*](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

[AASLH History Hour: Historic House Interpretation](#)

Aug. 26 – Meet with colleagues from across the country to discuss findings from the summit on historic house interpretation. (AASLH)

[Small Museum Activities on a Budget](#)

Aug. 26 – Join a discussion on activities that will attract visitors to our small museum without breaking our budget. (New England Museum Association)

[From Awareness to Action: Advocating for Integrated Pest Management in Cultural Spaces](#)

Aug. 27 – This webinar will provide a brief overview of IPM and focus on how to build support for it within your institution. (Connecting to Collections Care)

[Storytelling That Sticks – How to Inspire Action Through Volunteer Narratives](#)

Sept. 4 – This session will guide volunteer managers through the art and science of telling compelling stories that inspire, recruit, and retain volunteers. (Civic Champs)

[Preserving the Greatest Generation: World War II Genealogy at National Museum of the Pacific War](#)

Sept. 16 – Learn about an initiative that honors, preserves, and shares the stories of America's "Greatest Generation." (Texas Historical Commission)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

[Prove It: Designing Evaluations That Show Real Impact](#)

Aug. 25 – Learn how to link your activities to measurable outcomes in a grant proposal –

helping you prove your organization's ability to assess and communicate its impact. \$39. (GrantStation)

[Ask the Expert: Collections Insurance](#)

Aug. 28 – Bring your questions about risk management, policy types, valuations, and more. \$25; free for members. (AAM)

[Strengthening History Communication: Reframing the Value of History and Your Institution](#)

Sept. 24 – This half-day virtual workshop will help history practitioners at institutions of all types and sizes learn how to communicate about their work more effectively. \$150; \$100 members. (AASLH)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

[Preserving Historic Places, Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference](#)

Sept. 30–Oct. 3, Fort Wayne – The conference offers inspiring lectures, educational sessions, tours, and networking opportunities. Cost varies. (Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, and Indiana University)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

AASLH and NCPH have opened the [Call for Session Proposals](#) for the 2026 AASLH and NCPH Joint Conference to be held in Providence, R.I. **Proposals are due Dec. 1, 2025.**

Funding Available



[Paper Drive, 1951](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0569)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[Two for the Trails Grants](#)

Due Sept. 4 – These grants are intended to help organizations offset the costs of trail maintenance, waterway protection, urban greenspace improvement, and overall environmental preservation to create equitable outdoor access for all. Grants are also available to fund broader environmental protections like invasive species removal, beach clean-ups and native plant/animal habitat restoration. (Athletic Brewing Co.)

[2025-26 GIG Fund](#)

Intent to Apply due Sept. 15 – Through this grant, Midwestern organizations can request up to \$15,000 to bring a professional artist into their community and host creative, engaging public activities. Final applications are due Sept. 29. (Arts Midwest)

[Teaching with Primary Sources Regional Grants](#)

Applications accepted on a rolling basis – School districts, universities, cultural institutions, library systems and other educational organizations may apply for grants of up to \$25,000 to incorporate Library of Congress TPS materials and methods into their existing education and professional development programs for teachers, librarians, community members, and students. (Library of Congress)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[The Bolger Foundation Capital Grants](#)

Due Sept. 1 (The Bolger Foundation)

[Robert Lehman Foundation Grants for Visual Arts](#)

Due Sept. 15 (Robert Lehman Foundation)

[Historic Preservation Education Grants](#)

Due Sept. 30 (Indiana Humanities)

[CSA Small Museum Collection Care Grant](#)

Due Oct. 15 (Costume Society of America)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[Kindergarten, Madison, Indiana, Circa 1898](#) (Indiana Jewish Historical Society Collection of the Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

[Associate, Visitor Services](#) (part-time)

Indianapolis – Indiana Historical Society

[Learning and Community Engagement Manager](#)

Bloomington – Indiana University Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology

[Archivist for Metadata & Discovery](#)

West Lafayette – Purdue University

REGIONAL

[Archivist](#) (term)

Fort Mitchell, Ky. – Museum & Collector Resource

[Digital Preservation Specialist](#)

Saint Paul, Minn. – Minnesota Historical Society

PAID INTERNSHIPS

[Hourly Digital Projects Intern](#)

Indianapolis – Indianapolis Public Library

FELLOWSHIPS

Applications for the [Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program](#) are now open. The program offers in-resident opportunities for independent research or study related to Smithsonian collections, facilities, and/or research interests of the Institution and its staff. **Applications are due Oct. 15.**

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!

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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](#)

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