

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

November 21, 2025

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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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PLEASE NOTE: NO COMMUNIQUE NEXT WEEK

Communique Online will not be published on Friday, Nov. 28. Regular issues will resume on Dec. 5. Thank you for reading!

Updates from Local History Services



[Electric League Kitchen Exhibit, 1938](#) (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Missed our fall virtual brown bag series? You can now view the recordings from each presentation:

[Developing Meaningful Local Programming for the U.S. 250th](#)

Tips for developing meaningful local programming around the U.S. 250th.

[Getting People to Love Our History Organizations](#)

How we can consider our core purpose and get our communities to care about our local history organizations and the work we do.

[Interpreting Complex Histories](#)

Interpreting and sharing complex histories and how staff and volunteers can talk to visitors about those stories.

[Stop Yelling at Kids to Care!](#)

What your organization can do to get young people involved with and interested in your mission.

[Intro to A.I. for Museums and History](#)

The basics of A.I. (just what is it, and how does it function?), tools for our work, and how A.I. is being used in the history and museum fields.

Around Indiana



*[Southern Christian Leadership Conference Operation Breadbasket Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, 1972](#)
(Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)*

NEWS

Applications are due today, Nov. 21 to host an author through the [Indiana Authors Awards Speaker Program](#). (Indiana Authors Awards; Indiana Humanities)

Recent Indiana listings on the National Register – in September 2025, Indiana [added 12 listings to the National Register of Historic Places](#). (Indiana DHPA)

The Indiana Arts Commission is seeking local hosts for the [On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator](#), a business training program for artists. Interested parties should submit the On-Ramp Expression of Interest Form **by Dec. 19**. (IAC)

Pulaski County Courthouse saved – The community of Winamac gathered in September to mark [the completed rehabilitation of the once-threatened Pulaski County Courthouse](#). (Indiana Landmarks)

The Chief Richardville House, built in 1827, is the oldest house in Fort Wayne and is [a testament to both American history and the enduring presence of the Miami Tribe](#) in northeast Indiana. (21 Alive News)

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.

[Holiday Artisan Fair](#)

Nov. 22, La Porte – There will be local artisans offering unique holiday gift items. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[Holiday Open House at the Museum](#)

Nov. 23, Paoli – Tour the museum and shop the history mart at this annual event. (Orange County Historical Society)

[2025 Festival of Gingerbread](#)

Nov. 28-Dec. 21, Fort Wayne – See this year's new creations crafted by gingerbread artists of all ages and skill levels. (The History Center)

[Toys Through Time Holiday Tours](#)

Nov. 29-Dec. 30, Elkhart – See toys from 1875 through today, covering 150 years of children's play, in themed rooms decorated by local designers and organizations. (Ruthmere)

[Old Fashioned Christmas](#)

Nov. 29, Syracuse – This evening tradition brings joy to all ages with a magical tree lighting, Santa visits, wagon rides, and festive activities. (Chautauqua-Wawasee; event at Oakwood Resort)

[Snowflakes and Storefronts: Holiday Shopping Magic in Muncie](#)

Dec. 3, Muncie – This program explores the history and experiences of holiday shopping in the "Magic City." (Ball State Alumni Center)

[The Thursday Parlay: When Once Destroyed](#)

Dec. 4, Wabash – Sid Shroyer, author and local historian, will discuss his upcoming book, *When Once Destroyed*, about the small town of Old Somerset. (Wabash County Museum)

[Christmas in New Harmony](#)

Dec. 5-7, New Harmony – Walk from shop to shop, enjoying the sounds of carolers in the streets and sampling the tasty treats of the holidays. (Visit New Harmony)

[Holidays at the Museum: Visit with Santa](#)

Dec. 6 and 13, Franklin – Meet Santa and get one free 4x6 photograph with him, and enjoy a free craft activity. (Johnson County Museum of History)

[Indianapolis Holiday Church Tour](#)

Dec. 6, Indianapolis – Explore historic churches in and around Indianapolis's Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood. (Indiana Landmarks)

[Roots of Wisdom: Stories of Strength, Seeds of Community](#)

Dec. 7, South Bend – This special program features clips of interviews with Jewish women who led the way in Michiana. (Michiana Jewish Historical Society; event at the History Museum, South Bend)

[Christmas Open House](#)

Dec. 13, Greensburg – Tour the museum and enjoy holiday decorations from yesteryear, with live musical performances, tasty treats, and more. (Historical Society of Decatur County)

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 to confirm open dates and times.

The Great War: From Ration Lines to the Front Line

Through Dec.17, Upland ([Upland Historical Society](#))

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

NEW UNBOXED EPISODE

[Exploring the Outside with Science Books](#)

These picture books tell us important information about the world we live in and allow readers to identify plants, animals, and stars they may encounter.

UNBOUND PODCAST

[There's More Than Just Corn in Indiana...There's Also Soy: Indiana Agriculture](#)

In this episode, Casey and Regan look at Indiana's agricultural history.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[2025 Festival of Trees](#)

Now Open – This year's Festival of Trees will feature a winter wonderland of more than 80 trees.

[Holiday Cookie Decorating](#)

Nov. 22 – Sip a warm beverage while the whole family decorates holiday cookies together.

[Holiday Big Band Concert](#)

Dec. 3 – The evening includes a program of sacred music, carols, popular Christmas songs, and seasonal hits, all performed in the jazz style by the *Starlighters*.

[2025 Holiday Author Fair](#)

Dec. 6 – Mix and mingle with more than 60 authors of books about everything from sports and biographies to fiction, children's books and politics, along with – of course – a lot of Indiana history.

U.S. 250 News From the Field



[*Strickland's Grocery, ca. 1900*](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0003)

INDIANA PROGRAMS

[The American Revolution in West Lafayette](#)

Nov. 22, West Lafayette – This special program will explore themes of civic roles and understanding American history, as well as offering a place for community members to reflect on their American heritage together. (West Lafayette Library and partners)

INDIANA FUNDING AVAILABLE

[Indiana Arts Commission Accepting Applications for America250 Grant Program](#)

Due Dec. 15 – Applications are open for arts projects, in any discipline, that celebrate American history and connect participants to that history. Applicants can request up to \$5,000. No matching funds are required. (Indiana Arts Commission)

RECENT NEWS & RESOURCES

Museums lead the way for the nation's 250th – [the upcoming 250th anniversary is an opportunity](#) for history organizations and art museums to reflect on the country's past, present, and future. (New York Times; apologies if blocked by a paywall)

UPCOMING TRAINING & PROGRAMS

[250 by 2026 Wiki Scholars Courses](#)

AASLH is offering three courses in early 2026 to help you disseminate the history of your community, state, or region to a global audience through Wikipedia. **Register by Dec. 1.** Free to attend. (AASLH)

What We're Reading This Week



[YMCA cooking class, 1910](#) (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

RESOURCES AND NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Museum Store Sunday is Nov. 30 – You can [register your museum store](#) on the official event map and [download the participant tool kit](#) for tips on marketing your event. (Museum Store Association)

A new podcast series, [Rural Food Traditions](#), shares the stories of foods that unite communities, families, and friends across a diverse, rural America. (Rural Assembly)

How museums make their fake foods using real recipes – at Colonial Williamsburg, [creating historic food scenes](#) is a team sport. (Atlas Obscura)

AAM has released its 2025 Annual Snapshot of U.S. Museums – [here are some key figures from the results](#), and explore [more insights in this blog post](#) from AAM's Center for the Future of Museums. (Museum 411; AAM)

Enrollment is now open for the [2026 Annual Survey of Museum-Goers](#), which provides data-driven insights, helping you make more confident, informed decisions. The Early Bird rate is \$1,250 for enrollment by Dec. 1. (AAM)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Sensory friendly museums: [a guide for inclusive experiences](#). (Sensory Friendly Solutions)

AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY

How to create a viral video for a museum – [social media experts from museums share the strategies](#) that have helped their videos reach millions. (MuseumNext)

FUNDRAISING

Giving Tuesday is Dec. 2 – [explore these tools, resources, and tips to make your campaign a success](#). (Giving Tuesday)

Further reading to prepare for Giving Tuesday:

- [FAQ + how to create a smash campaign in 16 steps](#) (Wild Apricot)
- [An essential Giving Tuesday checklist for year-end success](#) (GoFundMePro)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

New guide: [writing professional memos](#) for museum work. (Engaging Places)

Stop overloading [the wrong part of your brain at work](#). (Harvard Business Review)

NEED A BREAK?

Vintage Thanksgiving side dishes we definitely shouldn't bring back – [some culinary creations are best left in the past](#). (Mental Floss)

On the other hand, here are [13 retro Thanksgiving recipes that are making a well-deserved comeback this year](#). (Delish)

Retro kitchens of yesteryear that will [make you feel nostalgic](#). (Laura Anderson)

A brief history of the Crock Pot – more than eighty years after it was patented, [the Crock Pot remains a comforting presence](#) in American kitchens. (Smithsonian Magazine)

Once-popular kitchen tools [that have basically disappeared](#) over the past 50 years. (Buzzfeed)

Learning Opportunities



[Nursery at St. Rita's Catholic Church, 1967](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

[Archives Basics](#)

Nov. 24 – Learn about basic actions an archivist can take in building a strong foundation for a new (or new to them) archival collection. (Backlog)

[AASLH History Hour: Internships](#)

Nov. 25 – This month, the discussion will dive into the best practices of internship program management. (AASLH)

[Simplified Fundraising Planning for Small Nonprofits](#)

Nov. 25 – Learn about actionable steps you can take to make your organization's planning process more effective and efficient. (Productive Fundraising)

[What's Up Wednesday – Indiana State Data Center Programs](#)

Nov. 26 – Learn about the State Data Center at the Indiana State Library, and how to be ready for demographic questions. (Indiana State Library)

[Building Resilience through Adaptive Management](#)

Dec. 1 – Learn practical approaches to creating feedback loops, fostering a "test and learn" mindset, and making smart adjustments while staying mission-focused. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

[Beyond Survival: Building a Sustainable Nonprofit Model](#)

Dec. 3 – Learn how to create stability, strengthen leadership, and align mission with long-term goals. (GrantStation)

[How a Conservator Looks at Works on Paper](#)

Dec. 4 – Join a conservator for a presentation on close looking skills for appreciating works on paper. (CCAHA)

[Don't Touch the Thermostat!: Temperature and Climate Control for Historic Buildings and Collections](#)

Dec. 4 – Join staff from the House of the Seven Gables as they share the success and challenges in managing temperature and humidity at a historic site. (New England Museum Association)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

[Deaccessioning Deep Dive](#)

Dec. 2 – This virtual workshop will provide an in-depth review of the process from start to finish: inventorying, deaccessioning, documenting, processing, and final object transfers. \$150; \$100 members. (AASLH)

[10 Practical Steps for Getting Started with Digital Preservation](#)

Dec. 4 – Learn about 10 tips to help move your program and its practices forward. \$110. (NEDCC)

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

Dec. 11 – 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)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Reminder! Session proposals are due Dec. 5 for the [2026 AASLH and NCPH Joint Conference](#) to be held in Providence, R.I. (AASLH and NCPH)

Funding Available



[Standard Grocery, 1941](#) (Gift of Reba A. Weaver, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[Greenways Foundation Grant Funding for Trails \(Indiana\)](#)

Due Nov. 30 – Funding is available for the development, improvement, maintenance, accessibility, and sustainability of trails in Indiana. (Greenways Foundation, Inc.)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[Indiana Arts Commission – America250 Grant Program](#)

Due Dec. 15 (Indiana Arts Commission)

[Pacers Foundation Grants for Indiana Communities](#)

Due Dec. 15 (Pacers Foundation)

[Historic Fraternal Lodges Grants \(Indiana\)](#)

Applications reviewed quarterly, starting January 2026 (Indiana Landmarks)

[National Digital Newspaper Program](#)

Due Jan. 15 (NEH and the Library of Congress)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[*Boys Working in the Kitchen at the Gibault Home. 1940*](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Cultural Care & Repatriation Specialist](#)

Indianapolis – Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

[Exhibition Manager & Incoming Loans Registrar](#)

Indianapolis – Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

[Curatorial Assistant](#)

Indianapolis – Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

[Exhibit Fabricator / Carpenter](#)

Indianapolis – Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

REGIONAL

[Director of Development and Membership](#)

Evanston, Ill. – Evanston History Center

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.

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