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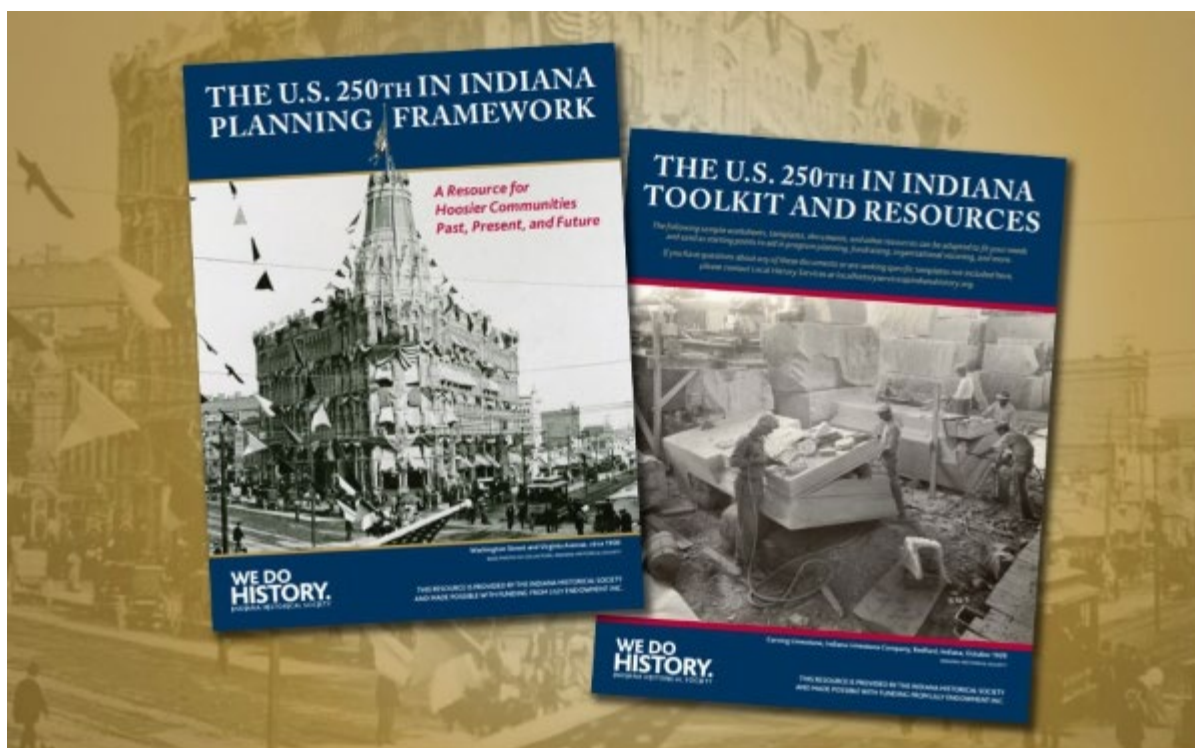
[Local history services](#)



Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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Updates from Local History Services



The U.S. 250th in Indiana Planning Framework and Toolkit. Background Image: [Washington Street and Virginia Avenue, circa 1900](#) (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society, edited, cropped)

NEW! THE U.S. 250TH IN INDIANA PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND TOOLKIT

We have created a [set of resources](#) for organizations and communities across Indiana to use in planning programs and initiatives for the U.S. 250th anniversary in 2026.

The Planning Framework

The Planning Framework was recently mailed to history organizations, libraries, and county historians across Indiana, and is available for free online. The booklet contains historical information, resources, and programming ideas for exploring and commemorating Indiana's past, celebrating Indiana's present, and aspiring towards Indiana's future, as well as tips for creating legacy projects. [Download the free Planning Framework here](#), or contact us at localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org if you would like to have a physical copy.

Toolkit and Resources

The online Toolkit contains sample worksheets, templates, documents, and other resources that can be adapted to fit your needs and used as starting points to aid in program planning, fundraising, organizational visioning, and more. [Download the free Toolkit and Resources here](#).

This resource is provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Around Indiana



[Washington Street, Delphi, Indiana, undated](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0411)

NEWS

Applications are due Dec. 18 for the [2026 Rural Placemaking Studio](#), which facilitates partnerships with expert Indiana University faculty and students in comprehensive design, creative placemaking, and community arts engagement. (IU Center for Rural Engagement and IU Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design)

Honoring Fort Wayne's Santa – On Dec. 4, the History Center hosted the reading of [a proclamation from Mayor Sharon Tucker honoring Phil Steigerwald](#), who was the longtime Santa Claus at the historic Wolf & Dessauer department store in downtown Fort Wayne for over 40 years. (Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly)

A team of Purdue students and faculty [recommends ten holiday gifts that will 'make kids think.'](#) (Smithsonian Magazine)

Southern Indiana's Colgate Clock [shines brightly for 101st year celebration](#). (WHAS 11)

Greenlawn Cemetery: archaeologists in Indianapolis [finish the excavation](#) of more than 1,700 graves. (Mirror Indy)

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.

[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)

[Christmas at the Canal](#)

Dec. 6, Delphi – Visit a winter wonderland of yesteryear, where the sights, sounds, and scents of an old-fashioned Christmas come to life. (Wabash & Erie Canal Park)

[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)

[Indianapolis Then and Now](#)

Dec. 7, Indianapolis – An in-person local history lecture with historians Nelson Price and Joan Hostetler. (Indianapolis Public Library)

[Civil War Era Christmas at the Farmhouse](#)

Dec. 7, Paoli – The historic farmhouse will be decorated in part to reflect an 1860s Christmas, with period music and light refreshments. (Historic Lindley House, Orange County Historical Society)

[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)

[Holiday Concert: Norell Piano Duo](#)

Dec. 11, Elkhart – Enjoy music from the Nutcracker Suite and other holiday inspired duets. (Ruthmere)

[Carols at the Canal](#)

Dec. 12, Delphi – Join the singing fun and learn the fascinating history behind cherished Christmas classics of the canal era. (Wabash & Erie Canal Park)

[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)

[Rockne Lecture Series: “American Coach: Frank Leahy”](#)

Dec. 14, South Bend – Guest speaker Ivan Maisel is the author of the newly-released book *American Coach: The Triumph and Tragedy of Notre Dame Coach Frank Leahy*. (The History Museum)

[Night at the Giese Church](#)

Dec. 20, La Porte – See this amazing mechanical church that has been a holiday tradition in La Porte since 1947. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

FROM THE BLOG

[Flavors of the Heartland – Holiday Edition](#)

See how we make a historical gingerbread recipe from 1874!

UNBOUND PODCAST

[Saving Lives in Record Time: Indiana's First Responders](#)

The newest episode dives into the world of emergency services.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[2025 Festival of Trees](#)

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

[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.

[Nutcracker Vignettes by The Dance Refinery](#)

Dec. 13 – Join The Dance Refinery for special vignette performances of *The Nutcracker*, featuring local dancers and your favorite storybook characters.

U.S. 250 News From the Field



[Capitol Avenue and Ohio Street, 1929](#) (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

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)

NATIONAL FUNDING

[Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition Grants](#)

Due Jan. 15 – This program supports activities to preserve and improve access to primary source materials – including archival records; documents and rare publications; art and material culture; and photographs and sound recordings that document: 1) The history of American independence and establishment and/or expansion of the nation; or 2) The history of American government in federal, state, and local contexts. (NEH)

NEWS & RESOURCES

The National Archives Museum opened the doors to a [new immersive exhibition, *The American Story*](#), which captures the full range of the American experience throughout 250 years of history. (National Archives)

What We're Reading This Week



[*Children Making Snowballs. ca. 1950*](#) (Indiana Historical Society, M0513)

AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY

Giving thanks in your museum – [ideas for installations](#) to thank our donors, community supporters, and stakeholders. (ExhibiTricks)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Diversify your volunteer pipeline: [practical steps museums can use](#). (Museum 411)

FUNDRAISING

How nonprofits can earn the trust of the [next generation of donors](#). (Forbes)

Six simple steps to [build an annual fundraising calendar](#). (GoFundMePro)

Fundraising consultants – [top questions to ask](#) before hiring a prospective consultant. (Gail Perry Group)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Stop forcing functional experts into people leadership: [3 mistakes to avoid](#). (Suzi McAlpine Leadership)

Management tips for [leading when you're overwhelmed](#). (Harvard Business Review)

MUSEUM MARKETING

Pitching your museum story to the news media – [five tips to deliver the best story possible](#). (AAM)

NEED A BREAK?

The first film of a snowball fight – [watch as snowballs fly in this lively 1897 French short silent film](#) produced by the Lumière brothers. (Everything Has Its First Time)

Snowball fights in art – [explore a fun collection of snowball fights across history](#). (Public Domain Review)

17 surprising facts about snow – [a blizzard of brrrilliant snow-driven facts](#). (BBC Earth)

Bundle up for fun with these [20 winter traditions in Indiana](#); plus explore these [festive holiday traditions across the Hoosier state](#). (Visit Indiana)

Learning Opportunities



[Bert Carpenter with his nieces Elinor and Louise \(standing\) Carpenter. 1906](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0236)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

[Record Lifecycle](#)

Dec. 8 – This webinar will walk through the lifecycle of an information record and how it ends up in an archive or not. (Backlog)

[Some Good \(Museum\) News – Holiday Edition](#)

Dec. 9 – Your six regional museum associations are teaming up to spotlight the inspirational and uplifting stories and programs of our nation's museums. (Council of Museum Regional Associations)

[Indiana Data Users Group \(IN-DUG\) Quarterly Meeting](#)

Dec. 9 – This meeting will provide valuable support and training for anyone working with data or Geographic Info. (Indiana State Library)

[Museum Career Maintenance: Winterize Your Job Search](#)

Dec. 10 – A live webinar with museum career coach Alli Schell. (MuseumExpert)

[Stronger Together: Building Meaningful Communities of Practice for Museum Teams](#)

Dec. 11 – This webinar will provide practical insight and inspiration for creating your own network of support within your community. (Texas Historical Commission)

[From Numbers to Narratives: Exploring the Annual Snapshot Survey](#)

Dec. 18 – Learn about key findings from the 2025 Annual National Snapshot of United States Museums. (AAM)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

[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)

[Youth250 and the Power of Teen Partnership in Cultural Spaces](#)

Dec. 11 – This webinar will introduce the Youth250 Teen Toolkit, a practical resource born from learning science and direct co-creation with young people. \$15; \$10 members. (AASLH)

[Modern Fundraising: Adapting to Millennial Giving](#)

Dec. 11 – Learn how best to develop long-term donor relationships with millennials. \$19.74. (The Fund Raising School)

[Caring for Scrapbooks](#)

Dec. 16 – Learn all about scrapbooks and how to provide the best level of care for them. \$80. (NEDCC)

[Museum Forecast Summit](#)

Dec. 17-18 – The summit brings together leading thinkers, creators, and changemakers to explore what lies ahead for museums in 2026 and beyond. \$172. (MuseumNext)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

The Society of Indiana Archivists invites [proposals for the 2026 Annual Meeting](#), *Prioritizing Well-Being: Helping Yourself Help Others*. **Proposals are due Jan. 2, 2026.** (SIA)

The Indiana Association of Historians has opened the [call for papers for the 46th Annual Conference](#), “History in Unexpected Places – Rethinking and Reimagining History in the Early 21st Century.” Paper proposals are due Jan. 16. (IAH)

Funding Available



[Jameson Park, ca. 1920](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0004)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[SAA Foundation Catalyst Grants](#)

Due Jan. 31 – This grant program supports complex, carefully planned projects such as the processing, cataloging, and digitization of archival collections or the creation of new or further development of existing guidelines and best practices that benefit the archival field. (Society of American Archivists)

[The Virginia Savage McAlester Preservation Fellowship](#)

Due Feb. 13 – Advanced undergraduates, graduate students, or recent grads (up to five years) can apply for a \$2,500 fellowship to help in their study of historic preservation practices, topics, and case studies. (Architecture and Design Foundation)

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



[*Ohio River in the Winter, Rising Sun, 1909*](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0236)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Director, Central Regional Office](#)

Indianapolis – Indiana Landmarks

[Program Manager](#)

Lafayette – Tippecanoe County Historical Association

REGIONAL

[Education Associate](#)

Chicago, Ill. – Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

[Executive Director](#)

Chicago, Ill. – Illinois Labor History Society

[Administrative and Outreach Specialist](#)

Des Plaines, Ill. – Des Plaines History Center

[Assistant Director](#)

La Salle, Ill. – Hegeler Carus Foundation

[Archivist](#)

Frankfort, Ky. – Kentucky Historical Society

[Director of Engagement](#)

Louisville, Ky. – Historic Locust Grove

[Interpretive Manager, Tour Services](#)

Akron, Ohio – Historic Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

PAID INTERNSHIPS

[2026 Junior Fellows Program](#)

Washington, D.C. – Library of Congress

[America250 Intern](#)

Quincy, Mass. – Adams National Historical Park

[Spring 2026 Archival Intern](#)

Union, N.J. – Liberty Hall Museum

[History Fellowships](#)

New York, N.Y. – The New York Historical

[Research Intern](#)

Charleston, S.C. – Preservation Society of Charleston's Black Burial Grounds Project

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](#)

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