

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

December 12, 2025

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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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Updates from Local History Services



[*Christmas Gifts and Groceries. ca. 1950s*](#) (Madam C.J. Walker Collection, Indiana Historical Society, cropped)

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 HERITAGE SUPPORT GRANTS

Heritage Support Grants 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.

[Mini Grants](#) (\$500 to \$4,999)

Applications due March 30

[Project Grants](#) (\$5,000 to \$50,000)

Summaries of Proposal due April 30

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

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

Around Indiana



[Sleigh Rides in Elkhart, Indiana, 1905](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0411)

NEWS

Nominations are due Jan. 9 for the [2026 Indiana Authors Awards](#). Books written by Indiana authors that were published in 2024 or 2025 are eligible. (Indiana Humanities)

The Indianapolis Public Library has unveiled a [new digital collection of Arts Insight and Arts Indiana magazines](#), celebrating more than 20 years of Indiana's vibrant arts history. (Indianapolis Public Library Digital Collections)

Riley Children's Foundation has launched an Open Access free online version of [*Cherishing Each Child: Riley Hospital for Children, 1924–2024*](#) by Candace O'Connor, the first comprehensive history of the hospital. It is also available in an e-book version. (Riley Children's Foundation and Indiana University Press)
<https://publish.iupress.indiana.edu/projects/cherishing-each-child>

Reminder! Applications are due Dec. 18 for the [2026 Rural Placemaking Studio](#). (IU Center for Rural Engagement and IU Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design)

U.S. 250 PROGRAMS

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

[Better Together: Celebrating US](#)

Jan. 31, Indianapolis – Through hands-on activities, storytelling, artmaking, and conversation, we'll reflect on our nation's history and imagine our collective future. (WFYI and Indiana Humanities with partners; event at the Indianapolis Public Library)

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.

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

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

[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)

[Holiday Open House with Matinee Musicale](#)

Dec. 20, Franklin – Matinee Musicale will perform a selection of holiday favorites and cookies and punch will be served. (Johnson County Museum of History)

[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)

[Santa Saturday](#)

Dec. 20, Wabash – Hang out with Santa and an elf, play an indoor snowball game, and enjoy other holiday activities. (Wabash County Museum)

[Day After Christmas Walk](#)

Dec. 26, Delphi – Take a guided walk along the historic canal towpaths and enjoy a selection of hot drinks and refreshments after the walk concludes. (Wabash & Erie Canal Park)

[Experiencing the West: The Journey of Burmese Immigrants and Refugees in Indiana](#)

Jan. 4, Fort Wayne – Minn Myint Nan Tan will discuss the successes and challenges faced by Burmese immigrants and refugees from Myanmar (Burma) as they pursue the American Dream. (The History Center)

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

UNBOUND PODCAST

[In The Sky And In The Stacks: Hoosier Mysteries](#)

On this episode, Casey and Regan are putting on their deerstalker caps and grabbing bubble pipes for two unsolved Hoosier mysteries.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[2025 Festival of Trees](#)

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

[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.

[Holiday Cookie Decorating](#)

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

[Global New Year: Traditions Around the World \(Family Workshop\)](#)

Dec. 30 – This workshop will explore how families celebrate the Lunar New Year from various parts of East Asia, Nowruz from the Middle East, Diwali (Festival of Lights) and Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

What We're Reading This Week



[Christmas Cards, 1930-1939](#) (Indiana Historical Society, M1028)

U.S. 250 NEWS

The Youth250 Toolkit is [free downloadable resource](#) to help organizations reach, understand, and empower today's youth. (Made By Us)

RESOURCES AND NEWS FROM THE FIELD

AASLH is now accepting nominations for the [2026 Leadership in History Awards](#). Nominations are open to everyone and **due March 1**. Learn more about the nomination process during a [free webinar on Jan. 22](#). (AASLH)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has [reinstated all federal grants](#). (IMLS)

A history podcast wins big – [and offers clues for museums' future](#). (Engaging Places)

On the charm of history: if the future looks bleak, then [a different look into the past](#) could help. (American Historical Association)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Autism and public spaces: features and benefits of [autism-friendly museums](#). (Golden Steps ABA)

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MARKETING

Five ideas museums can use to [transform their social media](#). (MuseumNext)

FUNDRAISING

Five specific and actionable strategies to [increase your nonprofit's corporate giving](#) in 2026. (Nonprofit Tech for Good)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

How to engage and retain volunteers: [five steps](#) to build connection, motivation, and belonging. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

14 activities professionals can use to [center themselves](#). (Forbes)

NEED A BREAK?

Fascinating facts about the magical animation of [Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer](#). (Smithsonian Magazine)

Sending cheer: [a brief history of the holiday card](#). (JSTOR Daily)

“Keep winter from your heart” with the [whimsical, quirky, and cheerful handmade holiday cards](#) from the Smithsonian collections and the [delightful Victorian Holiday Cards](#) from the RISD Fleet Library collection. (Smithsonian; JSTOR Daily)

The surprising history of December: Beyond our cherished traditions, the month also boasts [tales of meteorites, ancient winter rituals and even a giant Swedish goat made of straw](#). (History.com)

Learning Opportunities



[Holiday Mart Booth, Circa 1988](#) (Indiana Historical Society, M1530)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

[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

[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)

[Moving and Renovating: Collection Concerns](#)

Dec. 18 – Learn the most common risks for collections and personnel, strategies for risk mitigation, and issues with temporary storage. \$110. (NEDCC)

[AASLH Core Issues Briefing Series](#)

Jan. 7-Feb. 11 – This set of webinars offers consolidated access to the latest research, insights, and guidance on how to respond to the history sector's most pressing issues. Cost varies; register for [individual webinars](#) or a [bundle of all six sessions](#). (AASLH)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

The Association of Midwest Museums is [seeking proposals for sessions, workshops, posters, and conversation stations](#) for the 2026 AMM Conference. **Proposals are due Jan. 23.** (AMM)

Funding Available



[Little Girl Mailing A Letter to the Christmas Seal Association, 1970](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[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)

[Pacers Foundation Grants for Indiana Communities](#)

Due Dec. 15 – Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to Indiana-based 501(c)(3) organizations working to create brighter futures for young people by improving education, health, and safety. (Pacers Foundation)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[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)

[SAA Foundation Catalyst Grants](#)

Due Jan. 31 (Society of American Archivists)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[Winter Scene, Arcadia, Indiana, 1913](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0391)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Program Manager](#)

Lafayette – Tippecanoe County Historical Association

REGIONAL

[Assistant Director](#)

La Salle, Ill. – Hegeler Carus Mansion

[Curator III – Senior Curator](#)

Frankfort, Ky. – Kentucky Historical Society

[Museum Educator I](#)

Frankfort, Ky. – Kentucky Historical Society

[RFPs for Content Developer for Exhibits](#) (Contract; Consulting)

Oberlin, Ohio – Wilson Bruce Evans House

[RFPs for Exhibit Designer](#) (Contract; Consulting)

Oberlin, Ohio – Wilson Bruce Evans House

[Education Director](#)

Nashville, Tenn. – Lane Motor Museum

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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[Local History Services](#)

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