

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

January 16, 2026

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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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Updates from Local History Services



[Washington Street and Virginia Avenue. circa 1900](#) (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society, cropped)

PREPARING FOR THE U.S. 250TH

The U.S. Semiquincentennial year has arrived, and we will be sharing news, events, and resources all year to help you prepare.

Free Online – The U.S. 250th in Indiana Planning Framework and Toolkit

This [set of resources](#) was created for you to use in planning programs and initiatives for the U.S. 250th anniversary in 2026.

[The Planning Framework](#) 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.

[The 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.

Find these and other resources on our [Local History Services Resources page!](#)

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

Around Indiana



[Tumbling Team at Francis W. Parker School 56, 1981](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

The annual DHPA Photo Contest is now [open for submissions](#). This year's theme focuses on the National Road in Indiana and the historic resources and communities found along it. **Entries are due April 3.** (Indiana DNR, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology)

America's first glass house, built for the 1933 World's Fair, is set to shine again – workers have installed [glass exterior walls on the House of Tomorrow in Beverly Shores](#); plus, get a look at [big changes coming](#) to this and two other Century of Progress houses. (Chicago Sun Times; WBEZ Chicago)

The last holdout: [why Vernon is Indiana's only town still governed by an 1851 charter](#). (Indiana Capital Chronicle)

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.

[Exhibit: The Lincolns at Home](#)

Now open, Fort Wayne – This original exhibition offers visitors an intimate and compelling look at President Abraham Lincoln’s family life. (Rolland Center for Lincoln Research, Allen County Public Library)

[Liberty Lit Society Book Club](#) – U.S. 250 program

Monthly starting Jan. 17, Frankfort – In this new monthly book club, teens and adults will read and discuss books about the Revolutionary War, the nation’s founding, and more. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

[Pioneer Land Spinners at the Museum](#)

Jan. 17, La Porte – The spinners from Pioneer Land will be spinning yarn from natural fibers at the Museum just like the pioneers did. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[African American History of Noblesville: 1850-1980](#)

Jan. 17, Noblesville – Learn from community member and Roberts Settlement Trustee Bryan Glover about a people’s history of Noblesville’s African American community. (Hamilton East Public Library)

[Adventures with Roger](#)

Jan. 27, Corydon – Featured speaker Roger Turpen, creator of the YouTube channel Adventures with Roger, will give a lecture on Indiana history. (Historical Society of Harrison County)

[Kurt Fehrenbach Blacksmithing Talk](#)

Jan. 27, Greencastle – Hear from prominent Indiana Blacksmith Kurt Fehrenbach as he discusses his craft and his work. (Putnam County Museum)

[Family History Show and Tell](#)

Feb. 24, Frankfort – Attendees are encouraged to bring a family photograph, an heirloom, or another family history item to share with the group. (Clinton County Genealogical Society; event at the Frankfort Community Public Library)

[Exhibit: A Resilient Faith: Japanese American Confinement During WWII](#)

March 2-April 24, Franklin – The exhibit, presented by the American Baptist Historical Society, details the experiences of Japanese American Baptists incarcerated during World War II. (B. F. Hamilton Library, Franklin College)

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

UNBOUND PODCAST

[Get In Hoosier. We're Going Shopping: Indiana Businesses Part 2](#)

This week, Regan tells us all about the rise and fall of L. Strauss & Co.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Free Admission](#)

Jan. 19 – Join us for a day of reflection, creativity, and community connection.

[An Evening with Dean James Bullard: The Federal Reserve](#)

Jan. 22 – Dean Bullard shares his experiences with the Federal Reserve, his insights as an economist, and his reflections on the legacy of the Federal Reserve.

What We're Reading This Week



[Tennis Players. 1888](#) (Indiana Historical Society)

U.S. 250 NEWS AND RESOURCES

A spotlight on [the year 1976](#) in the collections. (Smithsonian)

RESOURCES & NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Nominations are due Feb. 1 for the [2026 National Council on Public History Awards](#). The awards program promotes professionalism and best practices among public historians and raises awareness about their activities. (NCPH)

Feb. 23-24 is [Museums Advocacy Day 2026](#) in Arlington, Va. and Washington, D.C. It provides a critical opportunity to make the case for museums early in what is sure to be a high-stakes year for museums. [Register to participate by today, Jan. 16.](#)

How museums can [help rebuild trust](#) in a divided America. (The Conversation)

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

On Jan. 1, [thousands of copyrighted works from 1930 entered the U.S. public domain](#), including first four Nancy Drew novels, Betty Boop, films, and more. (Center for the Study of Public Domain, Duke University)

Frame by frame: what two graphic novels can [teach us about museum storytelling](#). (ExhibiTricks)

You can stream [4,000+ public domain movies on Wikiflix](#): silent classics, Academy Award-winners, Hitchcock films & more. (Open Culture)

How curators [collect pieces of history](#) as it unfolds. (Smithsonian Magazine)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, & INCLUSION

Understanding how the ADA [applies to historic properties](#). (DREDF)

FUNDRAISING

Before you commit: [questions to ask before partnering with a sponsor](#). (Museum 411)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Boost your team's productivity with these [5 proven nonprofit collaboration strategies](#). (Clairification)

NEED A BREAK?

'There was just lots of neon spandex': A look back at [the aerobics craze of the late '80s](#). (CBC)

11 of the worst pieces of [diet advice from history](#). (Mental Floss)

Want to work out like Walt Whitman or Henry VIII? [Try these historic fitness regimens](#). (Smithsonian Magazine)

Fitness inventions [that were dropped like New Year's resolutions](#); plus check out this [amazing array of 19th-century workout equipment](#). (Smithsonian Magazine; Public Domain Review)

Did you know? Uneven gravity [makes you weigh more in Illinois than in Indiana](#). (Atlas Obscura)

Learning Opportunities



[Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at School 26, 1985](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

[Accession, Acquisition, & Appraisal](#)

Jan. 19 – Learn what each term means in archival practice and how they work together to shape both collection development and archival processing. (Backlog)

[Introduction to the AASLH Awards Program](#)

Jan. 22 – Learn about the AASLH Leadership in History Awards program in this informational webinar. (AASLH)

[Revisiting Basic Condition Reporting: Updated Insights and Digital Methods](#)

Jan. 28 – This updated session provides practical, actionable insights to strengthen and modernize your condition reporting practices. (Connecting to Collections Care)

[Mapping Stories, Managing Places, Connecting Communities: GIS for Historic Preservation](#)

Jan. 28 – Join Preservation Leadership Forum for a panel discussion on how organizations can leverage GIS in historic preservation. (National Trust for Historic Places)

[Indigenous Collections Care Speaker Series](#)

Feb. 3-May 5 – The speaker series explores new frameworks for museum collections stewardship centered on Indigenous knowledge and values. (Indian Arts Research Center, Gilcrease Museum)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

[Strategies for Acetate and Nitrate Negatives and Film](#)

Jan. 20 – Learn about the logistical complexities involved in a digitization/reformatting

project that includes nitrocellulose- and cellulose acetate-based film. \$110. (NEDCC)

[Beyond the Ask: How Nonprofits Build Real Influence with Lawmakers](#)

Jan. 20 – This webinar will guide you through practical, proven strategies for turning initial contact with policymakers into long-term, impactful connections. \$69. (GrantStation)

[Understanding the US History Workforce \(Core Issues Briefing Series #3\)](#)

Jan. 21 – Learn about data and insights that can support making informed decisions, advocating for needed change, and building more sustainable institutions. \$45; \$25 members. (AASLH)

[Safety and Cultural Heritage Summit: Preserving Our Heritage and Protecting Our Health](#)

Jan. 22-23 – This virtual seminar will present sessions on the topics of control of health and safety hazards in museums, historic sites, conservation treatment and collections care. \$20; register by Jan. 19. (Potomac Local Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

[Historic Hardware Repair](#)

Feb. 4, South Bend – Learn about historic hardware, its history, and repair. \$25; \$20 members. (Indiana Landmarks and South Bend TradeWorks)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Reminder! Proposals are due today, Jan. 16 for the [Indiana Association of Historians 46th Annual Conference](#), “History in Unexpected Places – Rethinking and Reimagining History in the Early 21st Century.” (IAH)

Funding Available



[Exercise Class at the Independent Turnverein](#), 1914 (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[Historic Preservation Education Grants \(Indiana\)](#)

Due Feb. 28 – These grants fund public programs that educate Indiana citizens about historic places and properties – and particularly about the need to preserve and protect them. (Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks) ^{SEP}

[Arts Project Support Grants \(Indiana\)](#)

Due March 5 – These grants provide nonprofit organizations and public entities with funding to support a specific arts activity, such as a one-time event, a single production, an exhibition, an educational workshop, or a series of related arts activities such as art classes or training sessions. (Indiana Arts Commission)

[Standiford H. Cox Funds \(Indiana\)](#)

Due April 1 – Applications are open for two funds created to honor the legacy of an Eli Lilly chemist by providing grants to organizations working to preserve significant African American landmarks in Indiana.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[SAA Foundation Catalyst Grants](#)

Due Jan. 31 (Society of American Archivists)

[The Virginia Savage McAlester Preservation Fellowship](#)

Due Feb. 13 (Architecture and Design Foundation)

[Heritage Support Mini Grants](#)

Due March 30 (Indiana Historical Society)

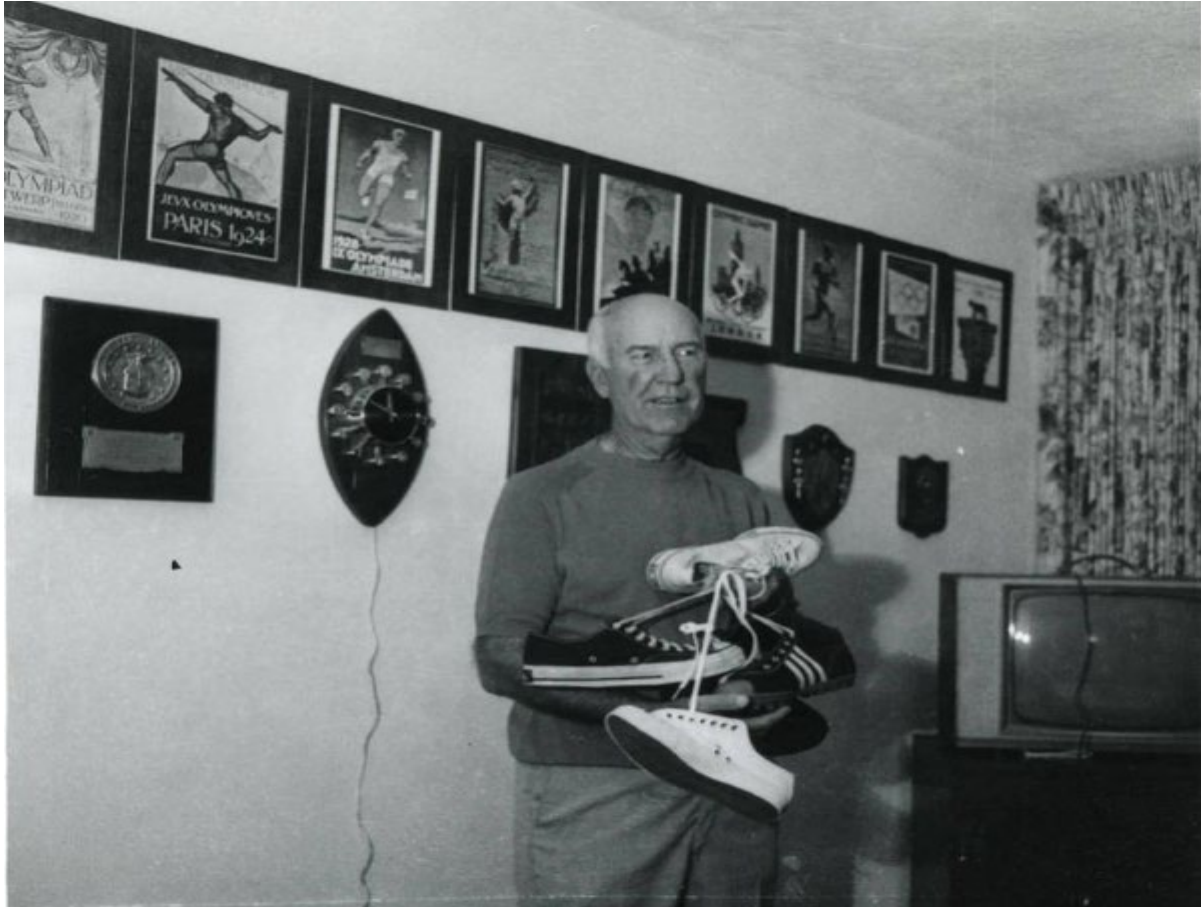
[SIA Foundation Grants](#) (Indiana)

Due March 31 (SIA Foundation, Inc.)

[Mini-Grants for Humanities Programs](#) (Indiana)

Rolling applications, last day of each month (Indiana Humanities)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[Chuck Taylor with Converse All Star Shoes. ca. 1968](#) (Gift of Abraham Aamidor, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Education Coordinator](#)

Fort Wayne – Fort Wayne History Center

[Director of Religious Initiatives](#)

Indianapolis – Indiana Humanities

[Vice President of Development](#)

Indianapolis – Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

[Development and Database Manager](#)

Indianapolis – Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

REGIONAL

[Marketing and Creative Design Coordinator](#)

Chicago, Ill. – Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center

[Associate Collections Manager](#)

Spring Green, Wis. – Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Collections at Taliesin

PAID INTERNSHIPS

[2026 Internships](#)

Erie, Pa. – Presque Isle Light Station

[Doty Cabin Museum Intern](#)

Neenah, Wis. – Doty Cabin Museum, City of Neenah - Park & Recreation Department

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.

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[Local History Services](#)
(317) 232-1882 | localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org

