

# INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

January 30, 2026

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## Connect with us!

[Local history services](#)



## Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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## Updates from Local History Services



[Unidentified Photographs, undated](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0385)

## VIRTUAL PRESENTATION RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Missed our fall 2025 virtual brown bag series? You can now view the recordings from each presentation:

- [Developing Meaningful Local Programming for the U.S. 250th](#)
- [Getting People to Love Our History Organizations](#)
- [Interpreting Complex Histories](#)
- [Stop Yelling at Kids to Care!](#)
- [Intro to A.I. for Museums and History](#)

## HERITAGE SUPPORT MINI GRANTS

**Due March 30** – [Mini Grants](#) of \$500 to \$4,999 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.

### [LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

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

## Around Indiana



[Winter Weather, 1985](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

## NEWS

**Submissions are due Feb. 6** for the [2026 Bennett-Tinsley Award for Undergraduate History Research and Writing](#). (Indiana Association of Historians)

**The Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites** has received a commitment for a \$7 million matching grant from READI 2.0 funding to [support crucial work to restore and preserve the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site in Metamora](#). (Building Indiana Business)

**Indiana Memory** has announced a [new digital collection: The Cornerstone of Columbus, Indiana -- 301 Washington Street](#). This collection originated as a digital exhibit created by the Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives in 2017. (Indiana State 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.*

### [America A-Z Exhibit](#)

**Now through the end of 2026, La Porte** – With over 100 artifacts, this exhibit tells stories of the history of the nation, with a La Porte County twist. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

### [Better Together: Celebrating US](#) – U.S. 250 program

**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)

### [A Life-Saving Guide: Black Existence and The Green Book](#)

**Feb. 1, Fort Wayne** – Learn about The Negro Motorist Green Book, published between 1936-1967, which served as a safety net for Black people during a time of intense segregation, overt prejudice, and prevalent violence in America.

### [Gallery Talk-Robert Wadsworth Grafton: Portrait & Mural Artist](#)

**Feb. 3, Elkhart** – Jennifer Johns, Curator, will present this Gallery Talk at the Beardsley Discovery Center. (Ruthmere)

### [Calumet Revisited Forum \(Virtual Program\)](#)

**Feb. 3, Zoom** – Dr. Larry McClellan will share his ongoing studies of the Underground Railroad and freedom seekers who passed through Northern Indiana en route to Canada. For the Zoom link, please email [michael@wolflakeinitiative.org](mailto:michael@wolflakeinitiative.org). (Calumet Revisited)

### [Building Your Ancestry Family Tree](#)

**Feb. 7, Frankfort** – Learn how to create your family tree using Ancestry.com, plus more tips for using Ancestry. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

### [Formation of a Vision: The Development of Robert Owen and the How and Why of his Experiment in America](#)

**Feb. 11, New Harmony** – Rod Clark will share a vivid exploration of the people and places that shaped Robert Owen's visionary experiment in Community. (Working Men's Institute Museum & Library)

### [Celebrating the Life and Ministry of the First Black Episcopal Priest](#)

**Feb. 14, Indianapolis** – This program will honor the trailblazing legacy of the first Black Episcopal Priest. (St. Philip's Episcopal Church and Charity)

### [Speaker Series: African Americans in the US/IN](#)

**Feb. 14, Vincennes** – This presentation by members of the Vincennes Black History Preservation Project will focus on the experience of African Americans in Indiana. (Vincennes 250)

## 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.

### Going Pro, Basketball Origins in Indiana

Through Feb. 26, Columbia City ([Whitley County Historical Museum](#))

### Groundbreaking Black Hoosiers

Through Feb. 26, Anderson ([Anderson Public Library](#))

## Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

### VOLUNTEER FOR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN INDIANA

[National History Day in Indiana is looking for judges across the state](#) to help support our regional competitions. Competitions take place on Saturdays from mid-February to mid-March, and judges are needed from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteer hours and PGP points are available for teachers. [Sign up here](#).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

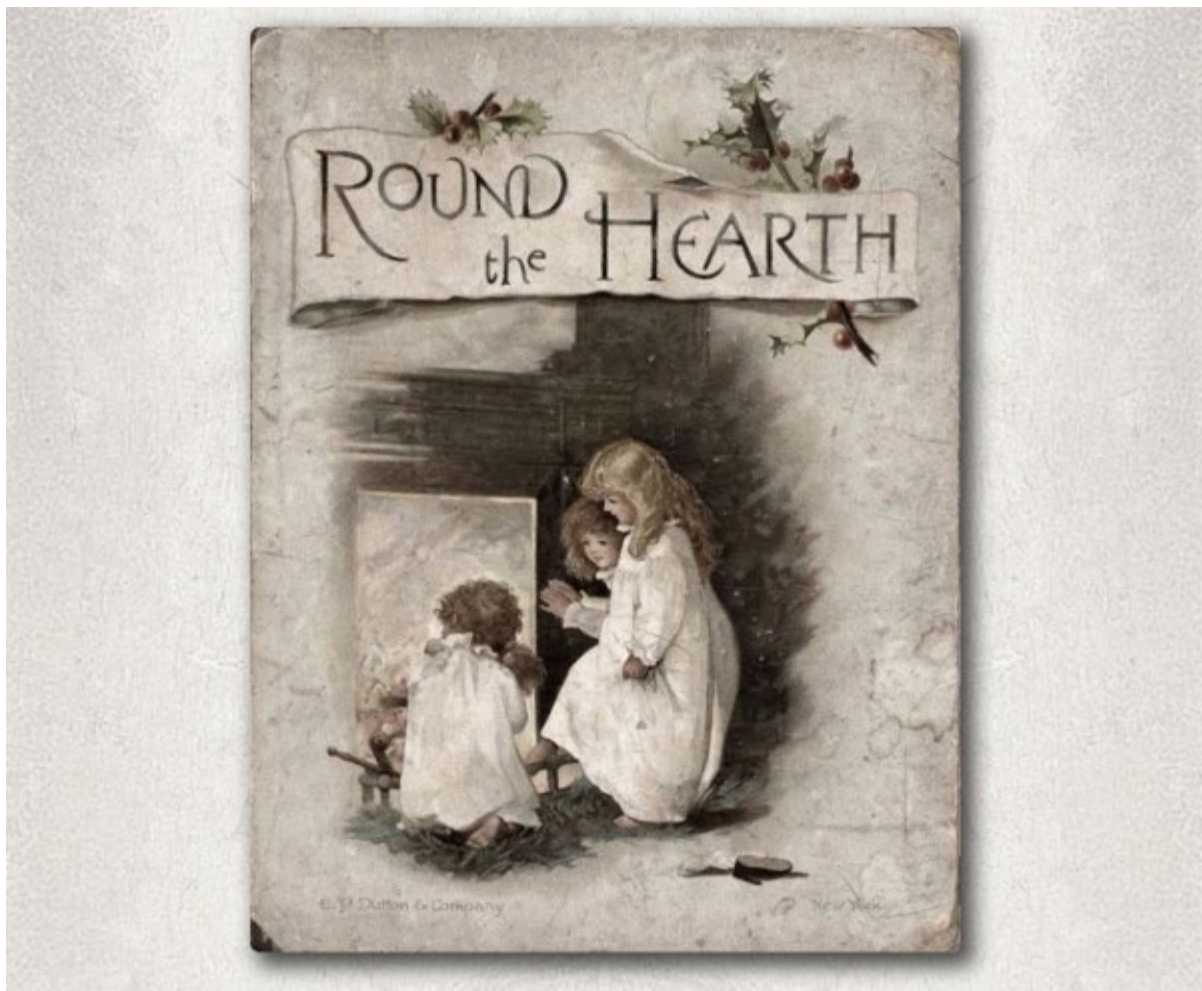
[Flavors of the Heartland – Felicia Grady, making Chicken Veracruz](#)

**Feb. 11** – Take a break to enjoy the stories and smells of the dishes that make up our food heritage.

[Unveiling a Forgotten Legacy: Black Displacement in Indianapolis](#)

**Feb. 19** – Join us for a panel discussion on the removal of residents from Indiana Avenue, Ransom Place, and Lockefield Gardens starting in the 1960s to make way for the new IUPUI campus, as well as the legacy of the neighborhoods.

## What We're Reading This Week



*Book. "Round the Hearth." ca. 1889 (Indiana Historical Society, M1028)*

## RESOURCES & NEWS FROM THE FIELD

What a century of visitor research says about [wayfinding in museums](#). (Museum 411)

**Reminder – 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)

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, & INCLUSION

Making volunteering welcoming: [accommodating volunteers with disabilities](#). (Wild Apricot)

## AUDIENCE AND COMMUNITY

Tips and ideas for [how to engage with teens](#) in the museum. (Thinking Museum)

## FUNDRAISING

Advocacy strategies that [win archival funding](#). (Lucidea)

Cybersecurity essentials: [keeping donor data safe in 2026](#). (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

## LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

How to [challenge effectively](#) (even when you have less power). (Suzi McAlpine)

Leadership)

When you have to [assign work no one wants to do](#). (Harvard Business Review)

### NEED A BREAK?

**Heating history:** the transatlantic [journey of central heating](#); plus, the surprising [history of radiators](#). (Castrads; Electropolis Museum on Google Arts and Culture)

**Get cozy** and explore [the world of Peter Rabbit](#) and the [Beatrix Potter archival collections](#) at the V&A. (The World of Peter Rabbit; Victoria and Albert Museum)

**Frozen wonderlands:** some of the most [incredible ice caves](#) around the world. (Pando Trip)

**The slick science of** [making Olympic snow and ice](#). (Smithsonian Magazine)

## Learning Opportunities



*[Family Sitting Around Heat Stove. ca. 1900](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0577)*

### FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

### [Archival Loans](#)

**Feb. 2** – Learn about the process of managing collection loans in museums and archives, from the initial request to the return of materials. (Backlog)

### [Indigenous Collections Care Speaker Series: Intellectual Care of Collections](#)

**Feb. 3** – This conversation, facilitated by the co-founders of the ICC Guide, highlights the real-world work being done around this topic. (Gilcrease Museum)

### [Museums & Healthcare Partnerships: Starting the Conversation](#)

**Feb. 4** – This session will explore how to start the conversation with a healthcare partner. (AAM)

## VIRTUAL TRAINING

### [Handling Book and Paper-Based Collections: A Primer for Staff, Interns, & Volunteers](#)

**Feb. 4** – This webinar is great for anyone new to handling rare/fragile materials and for anyone in need of a quick refresher. \$55. (NEDCC)

### [Preparing for the US 250th at History Organizations \(Core Issues Briefing Series #5\)](#)

**Feb. 4** – Learn about general approaches to commemoration and to the 250th in particular; the landscape of 250th planning at the local, state, and national levels; and more. \$45; \$25 members. (AASLH)

### [Archives 101: Getting Started](#)

**Feb. 10** – This webinar is designed to identify foundational preservation principles and activities that can serve as guideposts when starting, or managing, an archive. \$55. (NEDCC)

### [Engaging Younger Generations at History Organizations \(Core Issues Briefing Series #6\)](#)

**Feb. 11** – Hear from Made By Us leadership about research and insights that can help history organizations more effectively appeal to and serve youth audiences. \$45; \$25 members. (AASLH)

### [The Ethics of AI: What's the Harm?](#)

**Feb. 12** – This presentation is Part 2 of the Ethics, AI, and the Public Humanities four-part speaker series. Pay what you can. (NCPH)

### [From Research to Results: Proven Strategies for Annual Fundraising](#)

**Feb. 12** – Learn practical steps any nonprofit can implement – regardless of budget size – to grow your annual fund and raise more money with confidence. \$19.74. (Lilly Family School of Philanthropy)

### [Demystifying Budgets](#)

**Feb. 17** – Learn about the building blocks of budgets and how to present an appropriate budget in a grant proposal. \$69. (GrantStation)

### [Data, Equity, and the History Workforce Virtual Summit](#)

**March 17-18** – The summit will explore who works in public history today, how they're paid, and how they experience their work. \$85; \$65 members; \$50 students. (AASLH)

## REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

**Preserving Historic Places, Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference, [seeks session proposals](#)** highlighting heritage tourism, Main Street revitalization, natural disaster response, historic theater renewal, and more for the 2026 conference. **Proposals are due Feb. 6.**

## Funding Available



[Navy Mothers Group with Knitting. 1943](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

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

**Rolling applications, due on the last day of each month** – These grants of up to \$1,000 provide tax-exempt organizations with funds to present humanities programs for their communities. (Indiana Humanities)

#### [AAM 2026 Scholarships](#)

**Due Feb. 6** – This professional development opportunity provides financial support for museum professionals and US-based students to attend the AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo. (American Alliance of Museums)

#### [Grants for Arts Projects](#)

**Due Feb. 12** – Activities funded through this program enable Americans throughout the nation to experience the arts, foster and celebrate America's artistic heritage and cultural legacy, and benefit from arts education at all stages of life. (National Endowment for the Arts)

#### [Sacred Places Indiana Fund](#)

**Due June 15** – This fund awards matching grants in a competitive process to congregations who are committed to good stewardship of their historic structures and have demonstrated signs of organizational health. An [informational webinar](#) will be held on Feb. 19. (Indiana Landmarks)

## UPCOMING DEADLINES

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

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

[SAA Foundation Catalyst Grants](#)

**Due Jan. 31** (Society of American Archivists)

[The Virginia Savage McAlester Preservation Fellowship](#)

**Due Feb. 13** (Architecture and Design Foundation)

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

**Due Feb. 28** (Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks)

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

**Due March 5** (Indiana Arts Commission)

[Inspire! Grants for Small Museums](#)

**Due March 13** (IMLS)

[LIFT Film Program, for Hoosiers, by Hoosiers](#)

**Due March 15** (Hoodox and Indiana Humanities)

[Heritage Support Mini Grants](#)

**Due March 30** (Indiana Historical Society)

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

**Due April 1** (Indiana Landmarks)

**Local & Regional Job Openings**



[The Pier in Winter. undated](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0411)

## **LOCAL**

***The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!***

See open positions [here](#).

[Operations Manager](#)

**Carmel** – Carmel Clay Historical Society

[Engagement Specialist](#) (Temporary)

**Indianapolis** – Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

## **REGIONAL**

[Director of Interpretation](#)

**Springfield, Ill.** – Illinois State Museum, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

[Hustle Project Manager](#)

**Detroit, Mich.** – Detroit Historical Society

[Historian Manager 13 – Statewide Programs Manager](#)

**Lansing, Mich.** – Michigan History Center

## **PAID INTERNSHIPS**

[Collections Management Intern \(Summer\)](#)

**Hingham, Mass.** – Hingham Historical Society

[Public History Intern \(Summer\)](#)

**Hingham, Mass.** – Hingham Historical Society

[Archival Internships](#)

**Benton Harbor, Mich.** – Israelite House of David Archives & Collections

[Collections Management Internship](#)

**Portsmouth, N.H.** – Albacore Park

[Digital Collections Assistant](#)

**Oberlin, Ohio** – Oberlin Heritage Center

## ORPHANS CORNER – 1950s GE KITCHEN



A house in South Bend with an original General Electric kitchen (metal cabinets) and appliances is being renovated, and the cabinets and appliances are available for donation to a museum or nonprofit.

For more information, or if your organization is interested in claiming these items, please email [hannahgwen@gmail.com](mailto:hannahgwen@gmail.com). Items in Orphans Corner are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

*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](mailto:col@indianahistory.org), and we'll list it for you!*

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