

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

June 26, 2026

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Connect with us!

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**Heritage Support Grants for Indiana
History Organizations**

[Learn more](#)

Updates from Local History Services



[Camping Scene, ca. 1920](#) (The Bretzman Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

UPDATE: DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JULY 15 FOR IHS AWARDS

Do you know an individual or organization who does outstanding work in Indiana's state and local history? Each year, the [Indiana Historical Society Awards](#) recognize outstanding individuals and organizations whose efforts have enriched the lives of others by conveying awareness and appreciation of Indiana's history on local, regional and statewide levels.

We have extended the deadline to July 15, 2026. [Start your nomination today!](#)

REGIONAL MEETING IN TERRE HAUTE JULY 20

[In Your Neighborhood Meeting](#)

July 20: Terre Haute, Noon to 1:30 p.m. (EST) – Join us for a free in-person regional meeting! We'll chat about developing exhibits, and there will be time for networking and a tour of the museum. You are welcome to bring your lunch; Drinks and desserts will be provided. **Free to attend** – [RSVP Here!](#) (Hosted by the Vigo County History Center)

MINI GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 31

Due July 31 – [Heritage Support 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. *Heritage Support Grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.*

U.S. 250 News and Resources



[Louise and James, July 4, 1908](#) (Gift of Richard Carpenter Stanfield, Indiana Historical Society)

In a little over a week, we will celebrate the 4th of July and the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Here are a selection of Indiana and national initiatives and resources you can use for the 250th.

IN INDIANA

IHS Local History Services created the [U.S. 250th in Indiana Planning Framework](#) and accompanying [Toolkit and Resources](#) for organizations and communities across Indiana to use in planning programs and initiatives for the U.S. 250th anniversary and beyond.

The Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission's [America 250–Indiana](#) site offers resources and news about statewide initiatives.

Visit Indiana is sharing [events and programs](#) happening across the state for the U.S. 250th.

Indiana Humanities has developed and gathered opportunities for [local conversations about our nation's history around the U.S. 250th](#).

NATIONAL INITIATIVES & RESOURCES

Upcoming Initiatives

July 3-4 – [America's Block Party](#) invites communities across all 56 states and territories to come together to create one unified, coast-to-coast celebration.

July 4 – [Light to Unite](#) is a national call for cities, towns, and buildings across America to light landmarks red, white, and blue on the evening of July 4, 2026.

July 5 – [America's Potluck](#) is an opportunity for communities, neighbors, and families to gather and share a fun, communal meal.

July 8 – [Sharing the Spirit of America](#) invites communities across America to read the Declaration of Independence 'together', at the 'same' time.

National Resources

- > [AASLH: Making History at 250](#)
- > [Made By Us: The Youth250 Toolkit](#)
- > [America 250](#)
- > [Smithsonian: Our Shared Future: 250](#)
- > [History Colorado: Moments That Made US Print-on-Demand Exhibition](#)
- > [SAA 250 for the 250th folder](#)

Around Indiana



[*Swimming at Columbus Youth Camp. 1949*](#) (Gift of Reba A. Weaver, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

The Indiana Historical Bureau is accepting [applications for new Indiana State Historical Marker topics](#) for the 2026-2027 marker cycle. **Applications are due July 8.** (IHB)

Historic treasures safeguarded by IU help Indiana teachers [create civics lessons](#). (Newswise)

Madam Walker Legacy Fest brings back [Indiana Avenue's Black history](#). (Indy Star)

Community activist Marjorie Kienle is [honored for 50+ years of preservation leadership](#). (Indiana Landmarks)

The SullivanMunce Cultural Center announces the launch of [Heart of the Village: Zionsville Business District Century Structures](#), a new self-guided walking tour available through the BooneINCulture app.

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.

Upcoming:

[Gardens of Zionsville: Century Homes in Bloom](#)

June 27, Zionsville – Tour six private gardens and see the Flora and Fauna exhibit during this two-day celebration of horticulture, art, history, and community. (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)

[Gallery Talk: 175 Years of Railroads in Elkhart](#)

July 1, Elkhart – This Gallery Talk will be presented by Steve Barton and Steve Dinehart from the National New York Central Railroad Museum. (Ruthmere)

[The Thursday Parlay: Abe Lincoln's Perspective on the 250th](#)

July 2, Wabash – Abraham Lincoln Presenter Murray Cox and Wabash County Museum Curator Jeff Galley will share stories, perspectives, and artifacts that link to the celebration of America's 250. (Wabash County Museum)

[America 250 Celebration at the Museum](#)

July 3, La Porte – Learn about American History through a La Porte County lens with craft stations, guided tours, talks about veterans, and more. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[Miriam Benedict Birthday Celebration](#)

July 3, Westville – The Miriam Benedict Chapter DAR will celebrate their namesake's birthday and the U.S. 250th. (Program at the Miriam Benedict Cemetery)

[Fourth of July Parade and Community Photo](#)

July 4, Greensburg – The community will recreate a photo from 1918 on the courthouse lawn, and the museum will be open after the photo. (Historical Society of Decatur County)

[Fourth of July Celebration](#)

July 4, Muncie – Explore the exhibitions, visit The Orchard Shop, and experience live music and activities throughout the evening before the fireworks. (Minnetrista Museum and Gardens)

Plan Ahead:

July 11, Fort Wayne – [Miami Indian Heritage Days: The Miami Artist](#)

July 11, Indianapolis – [A Famine of Cadavers: Inside Indy's 1902 Graverobbing Syndicate](#)

July 11 and 25, Indianapolis – [Woodruff Place Neighborhood Walking Tour](#)

July 12, Indianapolis – [Mass Ave Walking Tour](#)

July 15, Indianapolis and Online – [The House of Tomorrow Today](#)

July 17 and 18, Indianapolis – [Indiana Automotive Speedway Tour](#)

IHS TRAVELING EXHIBITS OPENING THIS WEEK

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.

Securing the Vote: Women's Suffrage in Indiana

Through July 29, Crown Point ([Crown Point Community Library](#))

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

UNBOUND PODCAST

[The Newest Piece in the Collection: More Art in Indiana](#)

Regan examines how Eli Lilly grew his collection of Chinese art, then Casey looks at the life and career of Dalia Messick, the mind behind the Brenda Starr comic strip.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Concerts on the Canal – Brian Deer and Joshua Silbert | Blend of Crafted Pop and Classic Soul](#)

July 2 – Make music part of your summer rhythm at Concerts on the Canal, presented on the Kruse Family Stardust Terrace.

[Independence Day Celebration – Free Admission](#)

July 4 – Learn more about our nation's history, how we celebrate our country, and reflect on what we hope the future holds. Throughout the day, [see excerpt screenings of "The American Revolution."](#)

What We're Reading This Week



[Parks Department Kite Contest, 1945](#) (Gift of Reba A. Weaver, Indiana Historical Society)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, & INCLUSION

As America turns 250, one museum makes [history possible to touch](#). (NPR)

AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY

How rural nonprofits can [build visibility and connection](#). (Candid)

FUNDRAISING

The art of grant budgeting: [A guide for nonprofit CFOs](#). (Blue Avocado)

SOCIAL MEDIA & MARKETING

Leveraging multiple channels: Why organizations need [digital strategies beyond a website](#). (Ohio Museums Association)

Which museums are [doing podcasts well?](#) (Museum 411)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Smart cybersecurity measures [any nonprofit can take](#). (Nonprofit Risk Management Center)

How to make your days off feel like a [true break](#). (Self)

NEED A BREAK?

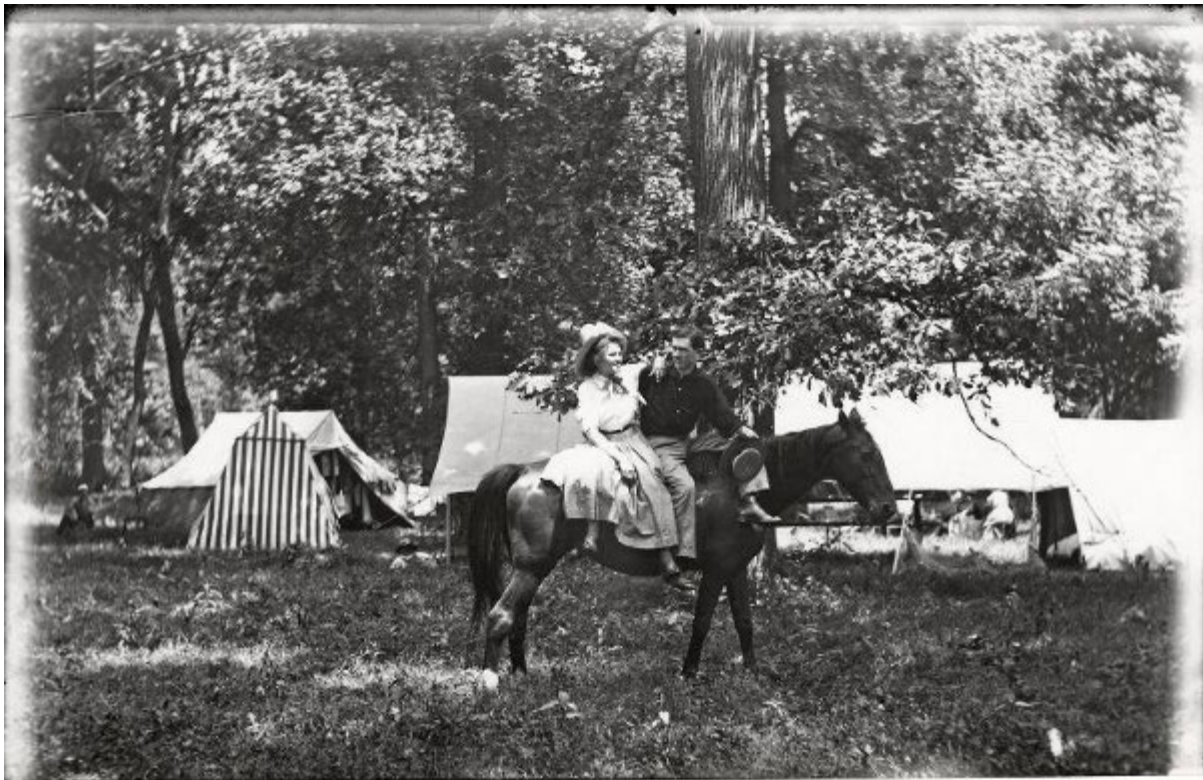
Summer has arrived! A travel blogger highlights [10 stops for outdoor adventure on an Indiana road trip](#). (Alexys Abroad)

Check out these 20 photos of [vintage RVs and camping equipment](#). (Wide Open Spaces)

Explore the art of [kite flying](#) around the world and across time. (Public Domain Review)

It curves! Bounce it! Bat it! How the [Wiffle Ball](#) came to be. (Smithsonian Magazine)

Learning Opportunities



[Horseback Riding, ca. 1910](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0226)

IN INDIANA

Plan Ahead:

July 9-10, Indianapolis – [Fundraising for Small Nonprofits](#)

July 16, Indianapolis – [Indiana Main Street 101 Training](#)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

Upcoming:

[From Passion to Protection: 10 HR Essentials Every Nonprofit Leader Can't Ignore](#)

June 29 – This session covers the top 10 HR essentials to help you stay compliant, strengthen hiring and documentation, and lead your team with confidence. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

Plan Ahead:

July 7 – [Transforming Security to Improve Collection Care and the Visitor Experience](#)

July 13 – [Know Your Donors: Designing and Leveraging Insights from the Perfect Donor Interview](#)

July 13 – [Running Lean Without Running Empty](#)

July 21 – [Practical Approaches to Immersive Digital Experiences in Museums](#)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

Plan Ahead:

July 7-14 – [Effective Volunteer Management](#)

July 9 – [Digitization: Planning for Success](#)

July 13 and 20 – [Effective Communications on a Shoestring Budget](#)

July 14 – [Caring for Scrapbooks](#)

July 16 – [Unlocking Your Site's Membership Potential](#)

July 22 – [Association of Midwest Museums Conference Virtual Day](#)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

Plan Ahead:

July 14-16, Washington, D.C. and Online – [Smithsonian National Education Summit](#)

July 26-29, Chicago, Ill. – [Association of Midwest Museums Conference](#)

Sept. 16-19, Providence, R.I. – [AASLH-NCPH 2026 Joint Conference](#)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS & INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS

Reminder: Proposals are due July 1 for the [National Council on Public History 2027 Conference](#). (NCPH)

Funding Available



[Ross Family Around Campfire, Circa 1910](#) (Ross Family, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[2026 People-First AI Fund](#)

Due July 15 – These grants support nonprofits engaging with AI to advance their missions and serve their communities. Funds are available for organizations working across three areas: community support services; community arts and cultural organizations; and community journalism and media. (OpenAI Foundation)

[New Dollars/New Partners Program](#)

Due July 31 – In this intensive training program, congregations learn how to engage their communities in fresh ways, find new uses for underutilized space and identify assets for fundraising and financial sustainability. This program offers the opportunity to apply for planning grants up to \$25,000 and capital grants up to \$500,000. (Indiana Landmarks)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[APIAHiP Placekeepers Fund](#)

Due June 30 – Grants are available for communities that are working to document, recognize, and preserve historic sites that are important to Asian and Pacific Islander American history. (Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation)

[Historic Preservation Fund – Underrepresented Communities Grants](#)

Due July 7 – Grants are available for projects including surveys and nominations of historic sites associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register. (National Park Service)

PLAN AHEAD

Due July 9 – [Grants For Arts Projects](#)

Due July 12 – [Community Development Block Grants: Planning Grants](#)

Due July 13 – [Tru Vue Conservation & Exhibition Grant](#)

Due July 17 – [CenterPoint Energy Foundation Grants](#)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[Charles Rogers Huckster Wagon Converted to an "RV". 1929](#) (Gift of Barbara F. Jauch, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Executive Director](#)

Carmel – Carmel Clay Historical Society

[Museum Educator](#)

Crawfordsville – Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County

[Donor Stewardship & Events Coordinator](#)

Fishers – Conner Prairie

[Outdoor Early Childhood Educator](#) (part-time)

Fishers – Conner Prairie

[State Archives Assistant](#) (part-time)

Indianapolis – Indiana Archives and Records Administration

[Executive Director](#)

Madison – Historic Madison, Inc.

REGIONAL

[Curator of Education and Public Programs](#)

Elmhurst, Ill. – City of Elmhurst

[KHS Director of Finance & Support Services](#)

Frankfort, Ky. – Kentucky Historical Society

[Education Curator](#)

Grand Haven, Mich. – The Tri-Cities Historical Museum

[Manager of Educational Programs](#)

Hickory Corners, Mich. – Gilmore Car Museum

[Site Director, H.H. Bennett Studio & Museum](#)

Wisconsin Dells, Wis. – Wisconsin Historical Society

PAID INTERNSHIPS

[Fall 2026 Internships](#)

Nashville, Tenn. – The Country Music Hall of Fame and 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!

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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