INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COMMUNIQUE ONLINE
A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

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www.indianahistory.org/LHS
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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations
Learn more

Updates from Local History Services



Indianapolis Red Cross Colored Motor Corps, 1944 (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

RAPID RESPONSE HERITAGE SUPPORT GRANTS FOR DISASTER RECOVERY AVAILABLE NOW

A special rapid response round of Heritage Support Grants is now available for disaster recovery for Indiana organizations affected by the recent storms and flooding.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Grants of **up to $10,000 with no match required** are available to eligible institutions.

TIMELINE

Grant applications will be accepted on a **rolling basis now through Oct. 31, 2026**. Organizations may submit an application at any time during this period, and applications will be reviewed as we receive them for quick turnaround.

If awarded a grant, the grant period will be six months in duration, beginning on the date the grant is awarded.

ELIGIBILITY

Grants are available to Indiana organizations impacted by the weather events in August 2026. To apply, an organization must:

- Be incorporated in the State of Indiana as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation;
- Reflect history as a significant component of its mission and/or propose a project that is clearly history focused* (such as salvage and conservation of historical collections); and
- Have an annual budget of less than $300,000.

*Please note: Structures will only be considered if they are primarily used to facilitate historical interpretation or house significant historical collections.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

Rapid Response Heritage Support Grants are available in these categories:

- **Immediate Stabilization**: Emergency repairs to damaged buildings, electrical systems, and climate-control units to stabilize their environments and prevent further deterioration of collections.
- **Collections Salvage and Conservation**: Funding conservation to assist with the salvage of damaged books, archives, photographs, objects, etc.
- **Damage Mitigation and Recovery**: Funding for temporary storage and relocation of collections, replacement of equipment, and further needs for sufficient long-term recovery.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are available through the **online grant portal.**

- Returning grant portal users: Login to the Fluxx portal using your username and password.
- New applicants: Follow this link and then click on “Take the Eligibility Quiz” at the lower right.

Once you are logged in, you will see the application link for Rapid Response Disaster Recovery Grants on the landing page.

A NOTE FOR CURRENT HERITAGE SUPPORT GRANTEES

If your organization currently has an open Heritage Support Project Grant and/or Mini Grant, you may also apply for a Rapid Response Disaster Recovery Grant.

QUESTIONS?

For inquiries regarding Heritage Support Grants contact us at grants@indianahistory.org or (317) 234-0170.

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

Around Indiana



New Harmony, drawing, undated (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

Indiana organizations across the state have been awarded grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. (IMLS)

A Tennessee news outlet highlights the beauty and history in the river towns of Southern Indiana. (Knox News)

The Historical Society of Decatur County is hosting a Heritage Day with the theme of "Arts, Crafts, and Artifacts" on Oct. 3, and is seeking artisans and craftspeople interested in participating in this event. If you are interested in participating, please email dechissoc@etczone.com **by Sept. 15**.

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:

Intercity Passenger Rail in the Postwar Era

Sept. 12, Elkhart – Stephen Wylder explores the epic drama of intercity passenger rail in the postwar era. (National New York Central Railroad Museum)

The 32nd Door Village Harvest Festival

Sept. 12-13, La Porte – See a pioneer settlement camp, demonstrations, crafts, antique car show, and more. (DVHF)

Pigeon Roost Pioneer Heritage Weekend
Sept. 12-13, Scottsburg – This two-day community event honors the legacy of Pigeon Roost through history, music, demonstrations, and family-friendly activities. (Scott County Heritage Center and Museum)

Potawatomi, Miami and Settler History Lives On
Sept. 12, Syracuse – Discover what an ancient Indigenous trail reveals about our shared local history. (Chautauqua-Wawasee)

Irish of Indianapolis
Sept. 13, Indianapolis – Explore the background of Ireland and the Irish in America, with a focus on the Indianapolis-Marion County community. (Indianapolis Public Library)

History Hour: Trade, Kinship, and Alliance – Indigenous Trade in the Great Lakes
Sept. 13, Michigan City – Join Cecil Wilson Jr., Historic Researcher for the Pokagon Band, as he explores the evolution of Indigenous trade routes and their influence on the fur trade of the 17th and 18th centuries. (The Barker Mansion)

Constitution Trivia
Sept. 15, Indianapolis – Join a fun and fast-paced trivia game focused on the U.S. Constitution, American History, and civics. (Indiana State Library)

Antiques Road Show & Tell
Sept. 15, La Porte – Bring in a treasured antique or vintage item and share the story behind it. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

A Christian Duty: A Tragic Tale of the Southwest Indiana Underground Railroad
Sept. 16, Evansville – Step into a fascinating and dramatic chapter of southern Indiana history. (Reitz Home Museum)

Annual Ray Bradbury Memorial Writers Talk
Sept. 17, Indianapolis – Hear a talk about public conversation about speculative storytelling, cultural memory, and the power of imagining worlds beyond the one we know. (Ray Bradbury Center; event at Ujamaa Community Bookstore)

Conversations in Indiana's African American History: "We're Not Going Anywhere, and We Won't Be Erased!"
Sept. 17, Indianapolis – Dr. Jakobi Williams will lead a community-centered exploration of Black history, political power, and preservation. (Freetown Village; event at Indiana Landmarks Center)

Canal Society of Indiana Fall Symposium and Tour
Sept. 19, Bloomfield – The event will include a tour of a segment of the Wabash & Erie Canal and a program at the Bloomfield Public Library. (Canal Society of Indiana)

Of the People – A Concert for America at 250
Sept. 19, Fountain City – This jazz concert series celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. (Levi Coffin Days Festival)

Monticello Scan-a-Thon
Sept. 19, Monticello – Bring photos to be scanned at this community event. (White County Historical Society and The Indiana Album)

America250: Walking in the Steps of Immigrants

Sept. 19, Muncie – Learn about how the immigrant experience shaped downtown Muncie. (Muncie Public Library)

Old Washington Street Festival
Sept. 19-20, Muncie – The festival remembers and celebrates the Gas Boom Era in Muncie and features artists and makers, demonstrations, food trucks and more. (Event in the Emily Kimbrough Historic District)

Plan Ahead:
Mapping Indianapolis: The Science of Somewhere
Sept. 20, Indianapolis (Indianapolis Public Library)
America250 Author Talk: Bill Clevlen Presents "Presidential Road Trips"
Sept. 21, Muncie (Muncie Public Library)
Clinton County Under Cover: Can You Dig It?
Sept. 22, Frankfort (Frankfort Community Public Library)
Benjamin V. Cohen Historical Marker Dedication
Sept. 23, Muncie (Indiana Jewish Historical Society; Delaware Co. Historical Society)
House of Tomorrow Experiences
Sept. 25 and 27, Beverly Shores (Indiana Landmarks)
Wawasee “Then & Now” Historical Cruise
Sept. 26, Syracuse (Chautauqua Wawasee)
A House in Mourning: A Victorian Funeral at the Reitz Home
Oct. 1-31, Evansville (Reitz Home Museum)
24th annual GhostWalk
Oct. 2-3, Zionsville (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)
2026 Heritage Day: Arts, Crafts, and Artifacts
Oct. 3, Greensburg (Historical Society of Decatur County)
Proof: A Midwest Lit Fest
Oct. 3, Indianapolis (Indiana Humanities)
Patton Cemetery Tour
Oct. 3, La Porte (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)
A Night at the Races: Historical Horses
Oct. 3, Winamac (Pulaski County Historical Society)

What We're Reading This Week



Clifty Falls State Park, ca. 1920 (Indiana Historical Society, P0670)

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11: ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

According to research, 9/11 memories remain vivid in the U.S. 25 years later. What does 9/11 mean for those too young to remember it? (Pew Research Center; Wall Street Journal)

The National Archives safeguards many records related to September 11, 2001, including those of the 9/11 Commission, the 9/11 FAA records, and the records of the George W. Bush Presidential Library. (National Archives)

The Smithsonian's September 11 collection contains objects and stories that document the attacks, the recovery efforts that followed, and the nation's ongoing response. (Smithsonian)

A virtual exhibition from the U.S. House of Representatives chronicles the story of that tragic day and the days that followed through oral histories, blogs, highlights, records, and collection items. (History, Art, and Archives, U.S. House of Representatives)

Indiana's 9/11 memorial is located next to Indianapolis Fire Station 13 in downtown Indianapolis along the Indiana Central Canal. (Indiana War Memorials Foundation)

RESOURCES & NEWS FROM THE FIELD

IMLS has posted the results of the 2025 National Museum Survey. Through the NMS Data Portal, institutions can compare their data with peer groups, benchmark performance, identify trends, demonstrate impact, and more.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is accepting nominations for the 2027 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Places. **Nominations are due Oct. 1.**

Applications are open for the History Tellers Award, which brings attention to the great history tellers at sites across our nation, who breathe life and meaning into our history by sharing stories of who we are and where we have been. **Applications are due Oct. 23**. (Mars Inc. and American Heritage Chocolate)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, & INCLUSION

What is Universal Design? (The UD Project)

COLLECTIONS CARE

How searchable is your archive? 10 questions to ask. (YourArchive)

DIGITAL CONTENT

Infrastructure before output: how one museum built a digital ecosystem by doing the wrong things first. (MuseumNext)

Video structure: how to hook your audience. (Cultural Content)

How museums can adapt their content to short-video formats. (MuseumNext)

EXHIBITS & INTERPRETATION

"Unfacilitated" doesn't mean "unpeopled." (ExhibiTricks)

Beyond “learn” and “appreciate”: writing better visitor outcomes. (Engaging Places)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Nonprofit leaders answer: How do you foster collaboration between staff, board, and volunteers? (Blue Avocado)

6 tips for effective nonprofit financial data management. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

NEED A BREAK?

Natural beauty in art – imagine yourself in these artistic scenes inspired by nature's beauty. (Smithsonian)

The 19th-century charts that put the world’s waterfalls on one impossible landscape. (Atlas Obscura)

Why your body loves being near water: the health benefits of waterfalls, rivers, and lakes. (The Wellness Way)

An early history and samples of broadcasting sounds of nature in the UK: from Beatrice Harrison to David Attenborough. (The Natural Science and Media Museum UK)

Learning Opportunities



Art Class at Shortridge, ca. 1942 (Gift of the Indianapolis Public Library, Indiana Historical Society)

IN INDIANA

Upcoming:

Nonprofit Series: Financial Management for Nonprofits: Accounting, Tax & Board Reporting

Sept. 12, Indianapolis – This practical session will cover accounting fundamentals for nonprofits. Free. (Indianapolis Public Library)

OCRA Community Engagement Summit

Sept. 15, Wabash – Session topics will include placemaking, local community successes, OCRA programming, as well as the opportunity to network with fellow community leaders. $25; includes lunch. (OCRA)

Nonprofit Series: Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, and More

Sept. 16, Indianapolis – Learn best practices and proven methods to recruit and retain volunteers. Free. (Indianapolis Public Library)

Nonprofit Series: Fearless Asking: How to Build an Individual Giving Program

Sept. 19, Indianapolis – Learn about the current fundraising environment and how to ask confidently for the support your nonprofit needs. Free. (Indianapolis Public Library)

Nonprofit Series: Is Your Program Making a Difference? A Beginner's Guide to Understanding Your Program's Impact

Sept. 19, Indianapolis – Learn how to answer one of the most important questions every organization faces: Is our program making a difference? (Indianapolis Public Library)

Plan Ahead:

OCRA Community Engagement Summit

Sept. 23, Noblesville (OCRA)

Nonprofit Series: Evidence-based Research for Grant Proposals
Sept. 23, Indianapolis (Indianapolis Public Library)
Nonprofit Series: Planning Effective Programs
Sept. 26, Indianapolis (Indianapolis Public Library)
Nonprofit Series: Successful Grant Proposals
Sept. 26, Indianapolis (Indianapolis Public Library)
Preserving Historic Places Conference
Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Franklin (Indiana Landmarks, DHPA, and IU)
Indiana Constitutional Symposium
Nov. 5, Indianapolis (Indiana State Archives)
Nonprofit Series: Ask a CPA: One-on-One Nonprofit Finance Appointments
Sept. 30, Indianapolis (Indianapolis Public Library)
Indiana Constitutional Symposium
Nov. 5, Indianapolis (Indiana State Archives)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

Upcoming:

Caring for Born-Digital Collections: Digital Collection Management
Sept. 14 – This session will focus on putting digital collection management principles into practice for born-digital collections. (Connecting to Collections Care)

Transit Insurance in Practice for Traveling & Co Organized Exhibitions
Sept. 16 – This session will provide valuable insights to help ensure your institution's collections are protected while in transit. (AAM)

An Introduction to Agentic AI for Nonprofits
Sept. 16 – Learn about AI assistants for use in nonprofit work. (Nonprofit Tech for Good)

Plan Ahead:

National Preservation Summit
Sept. 22-24 (National Trust for Historic Preservation)
Museums on Call – Case Studies in Healthcare Partnerships
Sept. 23 (AMM)
Safely Caring for Hazardous Materials
Sept. 24 (Collections Care and Conservation Alliance)
AASLH History Hour: Understanding Governance
Sept. 29 (AASLH)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

Upcoming:

Strategies to Secure General Operating Funds
Sept. 17 – Learn how to identify funders, build relationships, and craft compelling proposals. $69. (GrantStation)

Digital Collections Summit
Sept. 21-22 – Discover the most recent digital platforms, smart strategies, and cutting-edge technology. $184. (MuseumNext)

Plan Ahead:

Accessibility by Design: Empowering Staff for Human-Centered Change
Sept. 29 (AAM)
Strengthening History Communication: Reframing the Value of History and Your Institution
Sept. 30 (AASLH)
Bridging Historical and Civic Practice
Oct. 1 (AASLH)
Core Issues Briefing Series – Fall 2026

Oct. 7-Nov. 4 (AASLH)
Why Museums Matter to K-6 Educators: It is More than Curriculum
Oct. 15 (Association of Indiana Museums)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

Upcoming:
AASLH-NCPH 2026 Joint Conference
Sept. 16-19, Providence, R.I. – The conference is an in-person experience that engages and connects history professionals and volunteers and inspires them in their work. $494; $398 members onsite registration. (AASLH and NCPH)

Plan Ahead:
Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference
Sept. 23-27, Hampton Roads, Va. – (ASALH)
Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting: We the People: America 250
Oct. 2-3, Columbus Ohio (OLHA)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

The National Council on Public History is accepting poster proposals for the 2027 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Mo. **Proposals are due Oct. 7**. (NCPH)

Funding Available



Boy Scout Paper Drive, 1944 (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grants for Public-Facing History Projects
Due Sept. 25 – The Albert Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest will fund grants of up to $7500 for up to 8 projects that creatively engage with questions, research, and outcomes that reflect on definitions of history in the public interest. (Villanova University)

Collections Stewardship Grants
Due Dec. 15 – This program funds projects to preserve and make available physical and digital collections important for research, teaching, and public engagement in the humanities. (NEH)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Robert Lehman Foundation for Visual Arts Exhibitions and Programs
Due Sept. 15 – Grants are available to museums, arts organizations, educational institutions and other cultural organizations working to enhance the role of the visual arts within American and world culture. (Robert Lehman Foundation)

Scholarly Editions and Translations Grants
Due Sept. 16 – This program supports collaborative teams who edit, annotate, and translate foundational humanities texts that are vital to generating new scholarship but are not available in adequate editions or translations. (NEH)

Lewis-Houghton Civics and Democracy Initiative
Due Sept. 18 – LHI grants support the development of educational projects in which analysis of the Library of Congress' music and/or creative arts-related digitized primary sources is central to teaching and learning about history, civics, and/or democracy at the middle and high school levels. (Library of Congress)

PLAN AHEAD

Cornelius O'Brien Lecture Series Funding for Indiana Organizations
Rolling deadline (IU Committee on Historic Preservation)
J.W. Couch Foundation Grants
Due Sept. 25 (J.W. Couch Foundation)
Bank of America Art Conservation Project™ Grants
Due Sept. 30 (Bank of America)
Historic Preservation Education Grants
Due Sept. 30 (Indiana Humanities)
Wendy Shadwell Conservation Grant for American Prints
Due Sept. 30 (American Historical Print Collectors Society)
Community Development Block Grants: Construction Grants
Due Oct. 4 (Indiana OCRA)
Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices Grants
Due Oct. 20 (CLIR)
Matters of Religion Grants
Due Oct. 31 (Indiana Humanities)
CSA Small Museum Collection Care Grant
Due Nov. 1 (Costume Society of America)

Local & Regional Job Openings



Hose Wagon #20 with men and fire station dog, 1910 (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

Local History and Genealogy Coordinator
Aurora – Aurora Public Library District

Angel Mounds Program Developer
Evansville – Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

Early Childhood Senior Program Manager
Indianapolis – Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

Museum Operations Manager (Part-Time)
Noblesville – Sheriff's Residence & Jail Museum, Hamilton County Historical Society
For a full job description and application instructions, email info@hamiltoncoinhs.com

REGIONAL

Museum Educator
Cedar Rapids, Iowa – African American Museum of Iowa

KHP Exhibition Specialist
Lexington, Ky. – International Museum of the Horse

Historic Preservation Specialist
Ypsilanti, Mich. – Washtenaw County Historic Preservation

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.

We'd love your input on this e-newsletter! Use this form to give us your feedback.

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