INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

October 23, 2026

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Connect with us!
www.indianahistory.org/LHS
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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations
Learn more

Updates from Local History Services



Wall of Hay, ca. 1930 *(Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)*

APPLICATIONS DUE OCT. 31 FOR RAPID RESPONSE HERITAGE SUPPORT GRANTS FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

A special rapid response round of Heritage Support Grants is 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.

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, and **must be submitted by 11:50 p.m. on Oct. 31.**

QUESTIONS?
For inquiries regarding Heritage Support Grants, please 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



Seasonal Scenes, Winter and Autumn Slides, 1952, slide 12 (Gift of the Clowes Family, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

Applications are open for Indiana University's 2027 Rural Placemaking Studio to reimagine and strengthen public spaces in your community. **Applications are due Nov. 20**. An application workshop will be held on Nov. 6. (IU Center for Rural Engagement)

Who preserves Indy's history? Meet the first city archivists in 40 years. (Indy Star)

Purdue University's Amelia Earhart expedition team starts surveying Nikumaroro island area for missing plane. (WTHR)

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:

Halloween Open House

Oct. 24, Greensburg – Come in your costume, check out the museum exhibits, and enjoy fun free children's activities. (Historical Society of Decatur County)

Genealogy and Local History Fair

Oct. 24, Indianapolis – Enjoy a full day of genealogy presentations and exhibitors! This year's theme is *America 250: Researching Our Early American Ancestors*. (Indiana State Library)

Museum Trick or Treat

Oct. 24, La Porte – Visit the museum to get a treat and hopefully not a trick from the time traveling ghosts! (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

An Autumn Homecoming at the Farmhouse
Oct. 24, Paoli – Enjoy guided house tours, heritage type activities, see costumed reenactors, and more. (Thomas Elwood Lindley House, Orange County Historical Society)

Annual Fall Heritage Day
Oct. 24, Rockport – Enjoy costumed interpreters, demonstrators, kids' activities, music, food, and more. (Lincoln Pioneer Village and Museum)

House of 1,000 Monsters
Oct. 26, Indianapolis – Join a spirited conversation about the mythical creatures and local monsters that linger in our collective memory. (Indiana Humanities)

Quakers in the American Revolution
Oct. 27, Frankfort – In this presentation, learn about the complex roll that members of the Quaker faith played during the era of the American Revolutionary War. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

The Crossroads of Preservation: Where Industry and Craft Come Together
Oct. 28 – The Association of Preservation Technology International hosts a keynote session featuring Bill Browne of RATIO Design and Scott R. Sanders of Indiana University. (Indiana Landmarks)

Genealogy for Beginners
Oct. 31, Frankfort – Learn how to research your ancestors and create a family tree in this class for beginners. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

Indiana Political Trailblazers
Nov. 1, Fort Wayne – This lecture will talk about 15 women in politics, 8 Democrats and 7 Republicans who served our state and nation. (The History Center)

The Monument Knows: Public Conversation No. 3
Nov. 2, Indianapolis – This is the third public conversation of a project exploring the histories, meanings, and future possibilities of Monument Circle and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in downtown Indianapolis. (Monumental Gestures)

Plan Ahead:
31st Annual Spirit & Place Festival
Nov. 5-15, Central Indiana (IU Indianapolis)
Genealogy Lock-In
Nov. 6, Zionsville (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)
2026 Evansville Museum Ball
Nov. 7, Evansville (Evansville Museum)
Traders Days
Nov. 7-8, Fort Wayne (Chief Richardville House)
Belle Gunness: The Mystery Continues
Nov. 7, La Porte (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)
DCHS Annual Dinner & Bicentennial Celebration Launch
Nov. 11, Muncie (Delaware County Historical Society)
Preservation by Design: Protecting the Character of Zionsville's Village
Nov. 18, Zionsville (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)

What We're Reading This Week



Woman reading by a window, ca. 1900, cropped (Indiana Historical Society, P0178)

RESOURCES & NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Reminder! Nominations are due Nov. 1 for the National Council on Public History's 2027 NCPH Book Award and Outstanding Project Award. (NCPH)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, & INCLUSION

What the Städel Museum learned from designing an art app with people living with dementia. (MuseumNext)

AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY

Ideas for teachers (and museums): how to bring social studies to life to help students build a deeper understanding of history and culture. (Edutopia)

FUNDRAISING

Nine principles to make your nonprofit fundraising effective – and fun! (Blue Avocado)

SOCIAL MEDIA & MARKETING

Blooloop has launched the 50 Museum Influencer list for 2026. Use the tabs on the page to see this year's influencers who are reimagining what a cultural experience can be. (Blooloop)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

How to address ageism in nonprofit leadership and staffing. (Funds for NGOs)

Managing a multigenerational workforce in the nonprofit sector. (Nonprofit Leadership Alliance)

NEED A BREAK?

Fascinating facts about pumpkins you never knew, plus pumpkin recipes from the 1800s that are totally worth bringing back this fall. (NPR's Skunk Bear; Upworthy)

It's cozy mystery season! Delve into this brief history of the genre. (Novel Suspects)

10 things you may not know about Agatha Christie. (History.com)

Arthur Conan Doyle based Sherlock Holmes on a real-life Scottish surgeon who used deduction to diagnose patients and investigate crimes. (Smithsonian Magazine)

Learning Opportunities



Gerri Gray, Teacher, at School 55, 1981 (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

IN INDIANA

Upcoming:

House Hazards and RRP 101

Nov. 4, South Bend – Get tips for identifying mold types, asbestos, and lead, and an overview of lead-safe work practices required for contractors. $25; $20 members. (Indiana Landmarks)

Indiana Constitutional Symposium
Nov. 5, Indianapolis – This free special symposium and daylong program will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Indiana Constitution of 1851. Registration is free. (Indiana State Archives)

Annual MOMCC Conference
Nov. 5-7, Delphi – Enjoy a variety of sessions and workshops led by well-qualified instructors in the 1840-50s Canal Village. Cost varies. (Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council)

Indiana Cultural Organization Resilience Network Alliance for Response Forum
Nov. 6, Indianapolis – This Forum will feature presentations and discussion panels by local and national leaders in disaster preparedness and emergency response for cultural heritage collections and sites. Free; **please RSVP by Oct. 23**. (Indiana State Library)

Plan Ahead:
Innovative Communities: Past, Present, and Future
Nov. 12-15, New Harmony (Owen-Maclure 200 Bicentennial Conference)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

Upcoming:
AASLH History Hour: Is This Place Haunted?
Oct. 27 – Is This Place Haunted? Join AASLH for some spooky fun at October's History Hour, AASLH's free monthly online meet up. (AASLH)

Salvage Priorities: What's Next?
Oct. 28 – Learn about documenting priorities, working with first responders, the use of “Knox Boxes” for securing keys and institutional records, and more. (CCAHA)

Pathways to Performance – Making the Deal: Talent Buying, Contracting & Production
Oct. 28 – Learn how artists and performers are identified, negotiated with, contracted, and prepped to create unforgettable experiences in community spaces. (Indiana Arts Commission)

The Four Illusions of AI: What Museums Need to Understand
Oct. 30 – This session will examine what happens when museum content is interpreted by systems beyond institutional control. (Museum Edition, Zakros Interarts)

From Informational Interview to Real Connection
Nov. 2 – This interactive workshop is designed to help emerging and mid-career museum professionals feel more confident approaching and conducting informational interviews. (AAM)

Maximizing Your Value Proposition to Garner Needed Financial Support
Nov. 2 – Learn how to strengthen your nonprofit’s value proposition to attract external funding and investment. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

Plan Ahead:
Preparing Your Nonprofit for 2027: Technology, AI, and Digital Strategy
Nov. 3 (Tech Soup)
Pathway to Performance – Behind the Scenes: Operations, Logistics & Permitting
Nov. 4 (Indiana Arts Commission)
Donor Outreach Made Easy: How to Leverage AI but Maintain Authenticity
Nov. 4 (Nonprofit Learning Lab)
2025 Spirit & Place Festival
Nov. 5-15, Indianapolis (Indiana University)
Who Gets to Tell the Story at Historic Sites?

Nov. 6 (Museum Edition, Zakros Interarts)
The University and the Museum: Objects, Questions, and the Space Between
Nov. 13 (Museum Edition, Zakros Interarts)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

Upcoming:

Core Issues Briefing Series #4: Disaster Preparedness for History Organizations and Sites
Oct. 28 – Gain a deeper understanding of the risks an organization should consider and how to mitigate them. $45; $25 members. (AASLH)

Creating Preservation-Quality Oral Histories
Nov. 3 – Learn about the technical considerations that go into making an oral history recording preservation-quality. $55. (NEDCC)

Museums & Technology: A Professional Microcredential Workshop
Nov. 4 – Learn about hands-on tools to engage museum audiences, and a practical instruction to AI for the work you do every day. $50 to livestream on Zoom. (Western Illinois University: live on Zoom or in-person)

Plan Ahead:

TrendsWatching: To Live or Die in AI Webinar
Nov. 5 (AAM)
What Funders See Before They Fund You: How Communications and Public Presence Shape Funding Decisions
Nov. 10 (GrantStation)
Digital Directions: Foundations for Digital Collections
Nov. 17-19 (NEDCC)
Basics of Archives Management Virtual Workshop
Nov. 18 (AASLH)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

Plan Ahead:

2026 Lost Region Recovery Project Conference – Turning 250: The View from the Midwest
Nov. 19-21, Sioux Falls, S.D. (Middle West Review)
American Historical Association 2027 Annual Meeting
Jan. 7-10, New Orleans, La. (American Historical Association)

Funding Available



Harvest Scene, Man with Team of Horses Cutting Wheat, undated (Gift of Rheta Eversman, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIG Fund: Interstate Touring Grants

Due Nov. 4 – This is a grant of $2,000-$10,000 that helps Midwestern organizations bring artists from another state into their community. (Arts Midwest)

Post-Assessment Consultation Grant

Due Dec. 15 –These grants help small and mid-sized museums implement recommendations from a preventive conservation assessment in collaboration with an AIC member conservator. The grants of up to $10,000 support practical, achievable projects to improve collections care. (FAIC)

UPCOMING DEADLINES: INDIANA FOCUS

Matters of Religion Grants

Due Oct. 31 – Grants of up to $5,000 are available to fund public programs that help Hoosiers to explore the role of religion in their lives and to engage with how religious liberty influences education, democracy, culture, and the breadth of human experience in our religiously vibrant and diverse state. (Indiana Humanities)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Art Preservation Fund Grants

Due Oct. 30 – This fund provides grants for conservation and preservation projects at cultural organizations across the United States. (Art Preservation Fund)

CSA Small Museum Collection Care Grant

Due Nov. 1 – This grant of $1,600 is intended to assist the costume and textiles collection of a small museum (including historical societies, historic houses or sites, and other similar institutions) that has a very limited budget and staff. (Costume Society of America)

PLAN AHEAD

Inspire Grants for Small Museums
Due Nov. 13 (IMLS)
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program
Due Nov. 13 (IMLS)
Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
Due Nov. 13 (IMLS)
Museum Grants for American Latino History and Culture
Due Nov. 13 (IMLS)
Museums Empowered
Due Nov. 13 (IMLS)
Museums for America
Due Nov. 13 (IMLS)
21st Century Museum Professionals Program
Due Nov. 13 (IMLS)
Hank and Dottie Rosso Scholarships to Attend a Fund Raising School Course
Due Nov. 30 (Lilly Family School of Philanthropy)
Spark Good Local Grants
Due Nov. 30 (Walmart.org)

Local & Regional Job Openings



Harry Ross at his Desk at the Attica Ledger, circa 1911 *(Ross Family, Indiana Historical Society)*

LOCAL
The Indiana Historical Society is hiring. See job listings here.

State Records Archivist
Indianapolis – Indiana Archives and Records Administration

State Records Management Liaison
Indianapolis – Indiana Archives and Records Administration

REGIONAL

Every Student Initiative (ESI) Coordinator
Peoria, Ill. – Peoria Riverfront Museum

Program and Partnership Manager
Springfield, Ill. – Lincoln Presidential Foundation

Program Assistant, Visitor Services
Onamia, Minn. – Mille Lacs Indian Museum & Trading Post, Minnesota Historical Society

Architectural Historian
St. Paul, Minn. – Minnesota Historical Society

Major Gifts Officer
St. Paul, Minn. – Minnesota Historical Society

PAID INTERNSHIPS

Archives Processing Intern
Dearborn, Mich. – The Henry Ford

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

Local History Services
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