



INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL

Report

2020

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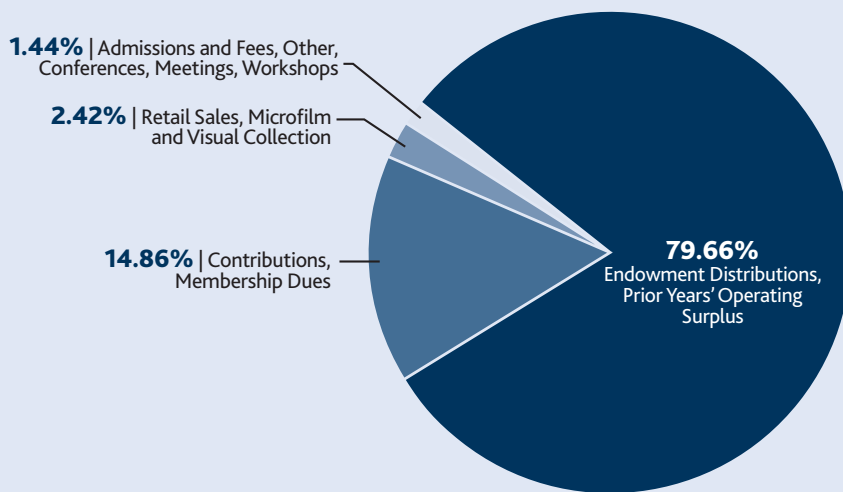
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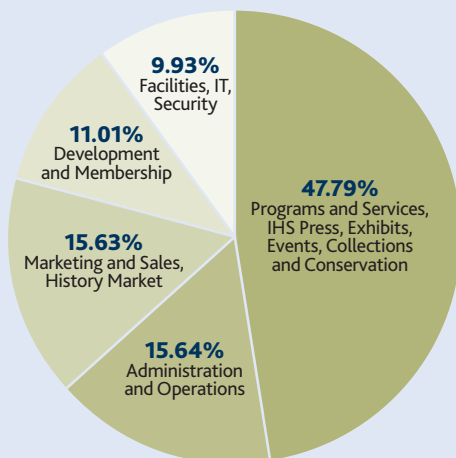
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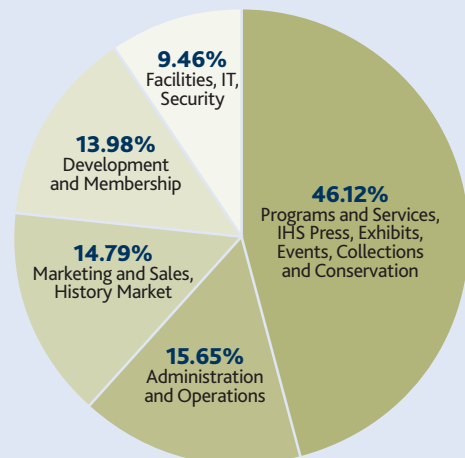


Revenue and Other Support



Budget Expenses

\$7,692,165



Actual Expenses

\$7,169,146

All operating budget financial information listed is unadjusted and unaudited.

2020 IN REVIEW

2020 was set to be a year of optimism, excitement and advancement for IHS. With a new 10-year strategic plan in place, the stage was set for the introduction of new programs, exhibits and special events—as well as an institutional evolution in terms of data collection and integration. After kicking off the year with a successful Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration and the exhibit *Be Heard: Women's Voices in Indiana*, another direction was in store for IHS—along with the rest of the world.

As the COVID-19 pandemic began to envelop the nation and the initial two weeks of Governor Eric Holcomb's stay-at-home order turned into more, IHS shifted its attention away from the uncertainty and toward what could be created, maintained and expanded upon. IHS staff worked from home for the next few months to accomplish fantastic things—and continued the momentum once the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center reopened to the public on July 8.

NEW COLLECTING INITIATIVES

IHS launched a collecting initiative—the first reported in the country—to document the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Indiana in real time. With **"Telling Your Story: Documenting COVID-19 in Indiana,"** IHS encouraged the public to digitally contribute writings, photos, drawings videos and other documentation to help capture this unique historical moment so future generations can understand what this experience was like for Hoosiers. Thousands of items were collected,



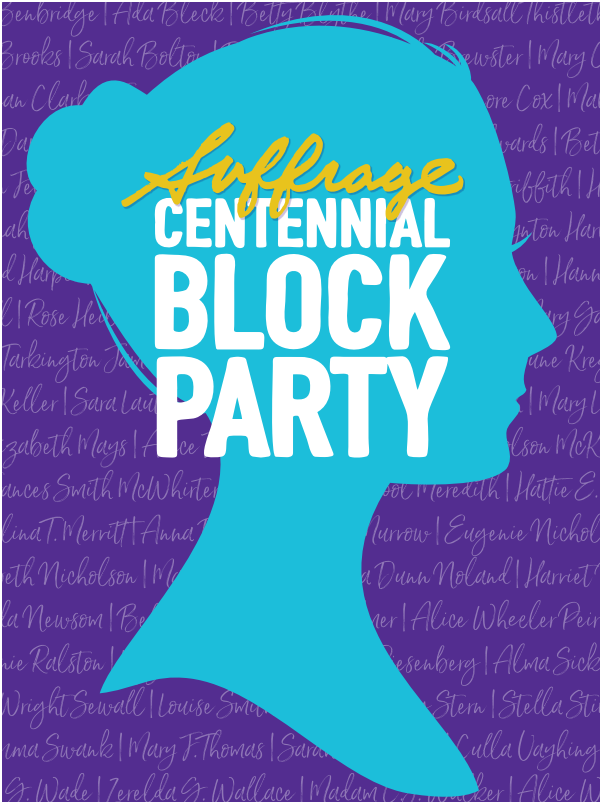
and the media coverage was phenomenal—from an interview on NPR's *All Things Considered* and articles in *USA Today* and *The Washington Post* to broad local coverage on how the public could contribute.

As civil unrest came to the forefront during the summer, IHS introduced **"Project Take a Stand: Listening to the Voices of Protest"** to expand its collecting initiative of African American history in Indiana to include issues of police brutality, systemic racism and efforts to stand up against these issues—helping IHS collect and preserve the different perspectives and experiences of protest.

ADJUSTING TO A DIGITAL WORLD

IHS moved quickly as the pandemic began with an effort to both consolidate and create virtual resources that could keep the public engaged with IHS. This included creating new **virtual resources webpages** that contained valuable content like games and trivia, educational resources for teachers and students alike, access to digital collections and images as well as videos about Indiana history and special IHS **Zoom backgrounds** available for download. Several **virtual tours** of the exhibit and public access spaces to give viewers insight and information pertaining to IHS's collection, mission and offerings.





IHS also began offering **online programs** via Zoom for those sheltering in place, which were successful and continue to be offered. One example is the History Happy Hour series, which shared insightful online conversations with some of Indiana's most interesting historians. Most programs were recorded and later made available online through the IHS website and YouTube.

CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF SERVICES

IHS publishing schedule continued on during the pandemic, yielding four editions of *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*, two issues of *THG: Connections*, to issues of *Online Connections*, and three books—“*We Must Be Fearless*”: *The Woman Suffrage Movement in Indiana*, *A Heart Divided: A Shaker Teen During the Civil War* and *An Examined Life: The John Mutz Story*.



It also announced a second iteration of **Heritage Support Grants**—an initiative originally launched in 2015 and made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.—that will award another \$2.5 million to local historical organizations through the program over the next five years, recognizing the critical role these organizations play in upholding the state's heritage.

A specially assigned team also completed the **Madam C.J. Walker Digitization Project**, which digitized, cataloged and made available online more than 40,000 IHS collection items relating to Madam C.J. Walker, an activist, entrepreneur and philanthropist whose beauty product empire made her one of the wealthiest women of her time.

After transitioning to in-person to virtual contests, 469 students from across the state took part in the **National History Day in Indiana** (NHDi) State Contest in April and were celebrated with an online awards ceremony via Facebook Live. Indiana was represented by 60 students at the National Contest in June.

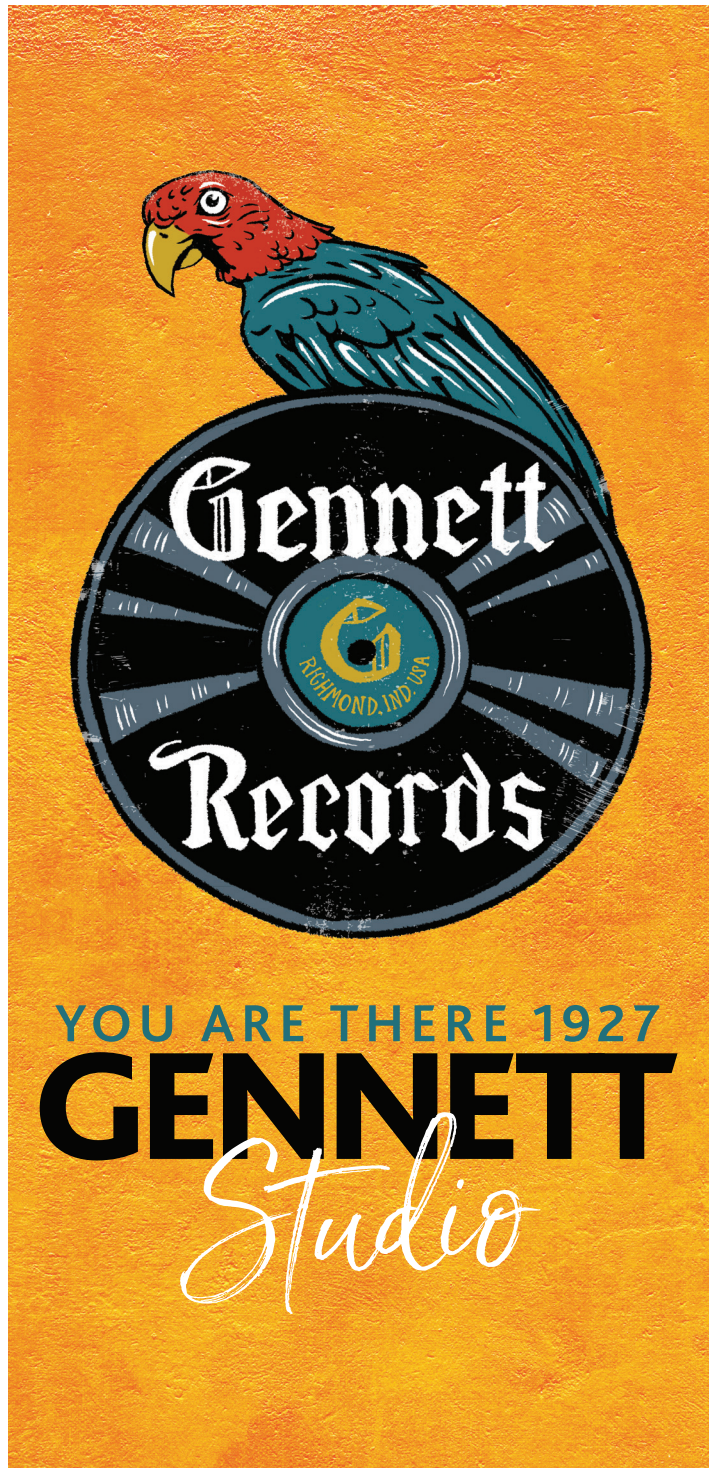


IHS also produced a virtual celebration for its annual **Founders Day Awards**, which recognize outstanding individuals and organizations whose efforts have enriched the lives of others by conveying awareness and appreciation of Indiana's history on local, regional and statewide levels.

In September, IHS launched the **Celebrate Indianapolis augmented reality mobile app** to celebrate the city's bicentennial. The app transports users back in time, letting them choose to visit 10 Indianapolis residents who left an indelible mark on the city, including Major Taylor, Eli Lilly and Madam C.J. Walker. GPS technology then leads users to sites relevant to the historical figures, where IHS Museum Theater actors digitally appear to bring them to life. Users can take a photo with them and share it on social media through the app.

A RETURN TO IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

You Are There 1927: *Gennett Studio* opened March 14, just before the stay-at-home order was issued, so it truly became available to the public when the building reopened to the public on July 8. The exhibit explored the story of Starr Piano Company and its Gennett record label. While the venture only lasted less than two decades, the ripple effects of the music created in this small Richmond, Indiana, studio had far-reaching effects. Gennett produced some of the earliest recordings of King Oliver, Bix Beiderbecke and Hoagy Carmichael.



A host of local organizations joined IHS to present the **Suffrage Centennial Block Party**, a celebration of the 100th anniversary of women voting in Indiana. The week of Aug. 29 to Sept. 4 offered a mix of free online and in-person events, from performances and tours to conversations, workshops and porch parties.

You Are There 1920: *Celebrate Indianapolis!* opened to the public on Sept. 18, giving visitors a glimpse into the long and complex history of a city and its people. The back-in-time experience was based on the actual pageant script found in IHS's archives, and the content area invited visitors to explore a vibrant collection of images and objects that span the history of Indianapolis — showcasing some of the unique historical documentation acquired over the last two years as part of IHS's Indianapolis Bicentennial Collecting Initiative.

Festival of Trees also returned to provide a fantastic holiday experience for guests—with two-thirds of the operational days nearing or reaching capacity. In addition to the on-site event, a new virtual experience was launched with 360-degree viewing technology, allowing those still staying at home to enjoy the festivities from the warm comfort of their home or on any mobile device.

IHS **\$500,000**
RECEIVED

from the Indy Arts and Culture Restart & Resilience Fund, made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by the Arts Council of Indianapolis. This grant provided reimbursement for reopening costs including cleaning supplies and equipment, signage and barriers, janitorial services, PPE, computer equipment, remote access subscriptions, and a future HVAC upgrade to further improve air quality. It also supports five projects that will provide staff with equipment, training, and digital infrastructure to meet the changing needs of remote audiences.



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Indiana Eye Clinic

Indiana Right to Life

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table / Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum

Indianapolis Colts

Indianapolis Indians

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum

Indianapolis Southside Harley-Davidson

Indianapolis Zoo

Jack's Donuts of West Market Street

Kiln Creations

Koran Temple No. 30 Daughters of the Nile

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Provided by the Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Eiteljorg Museum Prize for Native Americans

Provided by the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

Geeslin Hoosier President Prize

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Indiana Pioneers Prize for Early Indiana (pre-1840)

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Indiana University Bicentennial Prize

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Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial Prize

Provided by Indiana Humanities

Indianapolis Indians Prize

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Provided by Larry S. Landis

John Bartlow Martin Award

Provided by Ray E. Boomhower

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Provided by the Indiana Historical Society

Wendell Jack Peterson Prize for Public School Education History

Provided in honor of retired Indiana Public School Administrator and Servant Wendell Jack Peterson by Becky Boyle

The Cole Porter Prize for Indiana Musical Heritage

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