

## **Indiana nonprofits awarded more than \$20,000 in grants for historic preservation education projects**

*Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks fund virtual and historic walking tours, school field trips, brochures and more*

INDIANAPOLIS (June 20, 2014)—Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks have awarded grants of up to \$2,000 to 12 nonprofit organizations in Indiana. Grants were awarded to organizations across Indiana, from South Bend to Corydon. The historic preservation education grants will fund a variety of projects including field trips for Fort Wayne students, an architectural tour in Rensselaer, and a lecture series in Huntington.

Programs feature a brochure of historic architecture created by high school students in Bremen, a driving tour and informational booklet through historic parts of Harrison County and a workshop in Indianapolis on the importance of making historic properties accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks have partnered in this grant program for 20 years, awarding at least \$18,000 annually.

“We’re happy to support these projects, which promote an interest in heritage and preservation and allow Hoosiers to better understand Indiana’s past,” said Marsh Davis, president of Indiana Landmarks.

2014 Historic Preservation Education Grantees are:

### **Cemetery Education and Restoration Series, \$2,000**

*Marion Public Library, Marion*

A Grant County coalition has recently formed to promote community interest and pride in local history through the preservation of the oldest cemetery in Marion, the Historic Estates of Serenity established in 1827 as a burial ground for Quaker pioneers. This coalition will hold a restoration workshop on Sept. 13, 2014, and a lecture series that will run Aug.-Oct. 2014.

### **Historic Downtown District Ordinance Revision, \$2,000**

*City of Martinsville, Martinsville*

A professional consultant will be engaged to update the Historic Downtown District ordinance and develop supplementary design guidelines for the city's commercial core. Community forums and planning sessions will provide input for the consultant's work.

### **Etched in Stone, \$1,650**

*Historic Connersville, Inc., Connersville*

Beginning this fall, Historic Connersville will expand its tour program for middle school students and community members to include the City Cemetery and Elmhurst (the home of Caleb Blood Smith, a local attorney who was Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior).

### **Harrison County Driving Tour, \$2,000**

*Historical Society of Harrison County, Corydon*

A driving tour booklet will highlight historic buildings, bridges, businesses, churches, parks, schools and other sites of interest in Harrison County. The project, to be completed in July, will

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be the inaugural event to launch the Harrison County Museum, across from Indiana's first State Capitol Building.

**Self-Guided Historic South Bend City Cemetery Tour, \$1,800**

*South Bend Parks and Recreation Department, South Bend*

A self-guided audio tour and map will lead visitors through the City Cemetery, founded in 1832. Partners include the Center for History, Historic Preservation Commission and St. Mary's College Circle K Club. The tour will launch at an October event.

**Historic Preservation Through an Age- and Ability-Friendly Lens, \$2,000**

*Indiana Philanthropy Alliance, Indianapolis*

A full-day June workshop will focus on historic preservation as an important tool in developing age- and ability-friendly communities, with a community resource guide for participants and agencies working with seniors and people with disabilities.

**Know Your Historic Home Workshop/Lecture Series, \$2,000**

*Huntington Historic Review Board, Huntington*

A series of workshops and lectures (Sept. 2014-May 2015) in Huntington will educate citizens about local architectural heritage and preservation. Topics may include: energy efficiency in historic homes, researching historic homes, historic photos and architectural styles.

**Madison Urban Outbuilding Alley Tour, \$1,014**

*Historic Madison, Inc., Madison*

An electronic tour of urban outbuildings and alleys in Madison will be developed using geocaching and QR codes. Elementary school students have helped to document the outbuildings, and their work will be incorporated in this tour of carriage barns, livery stables and other "back of house" structures. A kickoff presentation will be held in September.

**Mid-Century Modernism in Rensselaer, \$1,800**

*Historic Preservation Association of Jasper County, Rensselaer*

A tour of mid-century modern architecture in Rensselaer, primarily the work of Frank H. Fischer, will take place on Aug. 2. Six of the buildings are on the campus of St. Joseph's College, which will host talks by preservation expert Kurt Garner and Joseph Fischer, the architect's son.

**Old City Hall Building Student Study Trips, \$1,800**

*Fort Wayne History Center, Fort Wayne*

Free student tours of the Old City Hall Building, a recently restored Richardsonian Romanesque landmark, will be given during the fall semester. Students will learn about local history and government, as well as architecture, while touring the Old City Courtroom and City Council Chambers. The building is now the home of the Fort Wayne History Center.

**The Soul of Indiana's Communities, \$500**

*Ball State University, Muncie*

To celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial in 2016, Ball State will highlight one of the state's strongest cultural and historical assets - the small Midwestern town. A collection of photographs, with images of historic downtown districts in non-county seat towns in east central and southeast Indiana, will be created and made available to the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, Office of Tourism Development and the public via a website that will launch in November.

**Walking Tour Guide for Bremen, Indiana, \$1,800**

*Historic Bremen, Inc., Bremen*

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A 36-page booklet will guide visitors on a walking tour of historic buildings in Bremen, Indiana. The architectural line drawings in the booklet were created by students at Bremen High School, using computer technology, and the booklet will also be available online.

“We enjoy helping communities tell their stories – and these grants allow them to do that better,” said Keira Amstutz, president and CEO of Indiana Humanities. “Preserving our state’s history and helping educate Hoosiers about that rich history will help us create an even stronger Indiana.”

Indiana Humanities provides two grant programs: Historic Preservation Education Grants, in partnership with Indiana Landmarks, which supports educational projects related to historic structures; and Humanities Initiative Grants, given to nonprofit organizations to conduct public programs emphasizing the humanities. Humanities Initiative Grants are awarded twice a year—the next deadline is Aug. 1.

In the past six years Indiana Humanities, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, has awarded more than 250 grants totaling nearly \$375,000 to nonprofit groups in more than 70 Indiana cities and towns.

In addition to Historic Preservation Education Grants, Indiana Landmarks operates four grant programs aimed at helping Hoosiers preserve historic places: African American Landmark Fund grants; Efroymsen Family Endangered Places Grants, which allow nonprofit groups to commission professional feasibility, structural and restoration studies; Partners in Preservation grants, which funds preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations; and, in cooperation with the Central Indiana Community Foundation, Marion County Preservation Fund grants.

#### **About Indiana Humanities**

Indiana Humanities connects people, opens minds and enriches lives by creating and facilitating programs that encourage people to think, read and talk. Learn more at [www.indianahumanities.org](http://www.indianahumanities.org).

#### **About Indiana Landmarks**

Indiana Landmarks revitalizes communities, reconnects us to our heritage, and saves meaningful places. With eight offices located throughout the state, Indiana Landmarks helps people rescue endangered landmarks and restore historic neighborhoods and downtowns. People who join Indiana Landmarks receive its bimonthly magazine, *Indiana Preservationist*. For more information on the not-for-profit organization, call 317.639.4534, 800.450.4534, or visit [www.indianalandmarks.org](http://www.indianalandmarks.org).

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