

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than \$500,000 in funding relief provided to Indiana humanities organizations through CARES Grants

Grants provided by Indiana Humanities with funds from CARES Act

INDIANAPOLIS (May 27, 2020)—Nonprofit organizations that provide public humanities programming to Hoosiers across the state will receive more than \$500,000 in operating support to help with funding relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Indiana Humanities awarded CARES Grants to 74 organizations, from Mishawaka to Milan. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$15,000, depending on the size of the organization's budget. Organizations in the 9th Congressional District will receive \$42,000.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provided the funding to Indiana Humanities as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

“The CARES Act includes provisions to help small businesses and Hoosiers in many industries, including those employed by public humanities such as cultural sites, libraries, and museums. The funds appropriated for Indiana Humanities CARES Grants will help support these programs through this difficult time,” said Senator Mike Braun.

CARES Grant recipients from Indiana's 9th Congressional District include:

Bedford Public Library – Bedford (\$10,000)

Brown County Historical Society – Nashville (\$5,000)

Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society – Leavenworth (\$2,000)

French Lick West Baden Museum – French Lick (\$5,000)

Monroe County Historical Society – Bloomington (\$7,500)

Preservation Alliance – Scottsburg (\$5,000)

Vintage Fire Museum and Safety Education System – Jeffersonville (\$2,500)

Washington County Historical Society – Salem (\$5,000)

“As staff and volunteers, we recognize that our history center is not merely an unchanging repository of memory. We foster a living history, gathering and telling new stories, employing new technologies, and constantly working to reach new and diverse audiences,” said Susan Dyar, director of the Monroe County Historical Society. “With our major annual fundraisers all in limbo due to the coronavirus, the Indiana Humanities CARES grant comes at just the right time to help us keep operating and sharing our community's stories.”

“As our future today seems challenged, we should be reminded that our collective story is rife with both adversity and achievement,” said Congressman Trey Hollingsworth. “Those that bring that history—our museums, libraries, and historical societies—alive to our kids and communities play an important role in preserving our Hoosier stories and sharing them with future generations. I look forward to the assistance these grants will bring our cultural hubs as we safely open back up.”

Requests for the grants exceeded \$1.3 million, and the 186 applicants expressed \$11.7 million in total losses to date, as well as projected losses of \$44.9 million through Sept. 30.

“We are pleased to have awarded grants to groups large and small, carrying out a variety of programming, in each congressional district and in 48 of our 92 counties,” said Doran Moreland, Indiana Humanities board chair. “Because of the immense need we had to turn down many organizations that are doing good work, including some of our close partners. The grant committees put great care into the review, weighing a number of factors such as public humanities focus, need, audiences served, and geography.”

The grants do not require a match and will be distributed to the organizations in June. Organizations with budgets less than \$250,000 received up to \$5,000; organizations with budgets from \$250,000 to \$999,999 received \$7,500; organizations with budgets from \$1 million to \$2,499,999 received \$10,000 and organizations with budgets of \$2.5 million or more received \$15,000.

“These CARES grants will help meet immediate needs at cultural institutions around the state, allowing Indiana museums, archives, libraries and historical societies to maintain vital operations,” said NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede. “Thank you to Indiana Humanities for their swift and judicious distribution of CARES Act funding to the many humanities organizations suffering financial distress during the pandemic.”

To view an interactive map, an infographic, and more information about the grant recipients, visit www.IndianaHumanities.org/INCares.

###

About Indiana Humanities

Indiana Humanities connects people, opens minds and enriches lives by creating and facilitating programs that encourage Hoosiers to think, read and talk. Learn more at www.indianahumanities.org.

Contact:

Kristen Fuhs Wells, Indiana Humanities
317.616.9407

kwells@indianahumanities.org