



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UNEARTHED FILM PROJECT

CALL ANNOUNCED: NOVEMBER 3, 2022

PROPOSALS DUE: JANUARY 13, 2023

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD: FEBRUARY 3, 2023

FILMS COMPLETED BY: MARCH 31, 2024

OVERVIEW

Indiana Humanities seeks proposals for the creation of high-quality short films (5-15 minutes) that explore Hoosiers' relationships to our state's land, specifically looking at the sustenance we both derive from and create for the land. We plan to award 2-3 proposals that explore new stories about Hoosiers and their relationship to the earth we occupy.

Our goal is to support the production of documentaries that invite Hoosiers to think, read and talk about the past, present and future of Indiana lands, environments and gardens, through an educational, humanistic lens. We plan to use these films in 2024 and beyond in two ways: 1) on our website and social media for audiences to view and learn on their own; 2) pending review of the final products, at public screenings we organize across the state.

Selected filmmakers receive \$6,500; a match is not required, but the proposed project must be able to be completed with the funds we provide and on the timeline we outline. Applicants can be experienced or novice independent filmmakers, teams, or creative agencies. We will consider proposals for works-in-progress that align with the themes and timeline outlined below. Completed films, instructional films, films that advocate for a particular political outcome, films made for a client or for-profit commercial enterprise and sponsored films are not eligible.

It is important to Indiana Humanities to have a diverse set of voices and perspectives included in this project. We know that who is behind the camera affects the kinds of stories that are told and how they are told. We hope to receive applications from diverse filmmakers in regard to race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, national origin and veteran status.

FILM PROJECT BACKGROUND

Over the next few years, Indiana Humanities will continue to support a variety of programming to encourage Hoosiers to consider the ways their lives are shaped by the environment, and how they in turn shape the land, air and water of Indiana. A particular focus in 2024 will be on Hoosiers' relationships to Indiana land and gardens and the sustenance they produce.

This film project builds on past projects, such as the [White River films we funded in 2018-2019](#), as well as our [2020-2022 Waterways Film Project](#). Film is a special medium that allows for storytelling that complements the other ways we are inviting Hoosiers to think, read and talk about Indiana's environment, including our [Campfires](#) program. We are also eager to create more opportunities for Hoosiers to have their own experiences documented and reflected back to them on screen, as well as to support the burgeoning community of filmmakers based in and telling stories about Indiana.

This project is made possible with the support of generous individual donors.

FILM THEMES

Gardens, farms, yards and parks are places both real and metaphorical, where nature and culture meet and the physical conditions of their creation and care often reveal something of humanity's ideas about what land is for and how it should be treated. Gardens and parks can be controlled or "wild," but are almost always managed by human ideas of use, beauty, design and conservation. Farms are often developed for efficiency and sustenance, while yards are places where the public and private bump against each other, where neighbors are joined and ideas of land as property are made and tested. In all this, however, there is a question of human-centeredness--is there a different way to understand these spaces that goes beyond human uses and values?

We're looking for Indiana stories that intrigue and surprise us, that are worth talking about with our friends and neighbors. Though these are short 5-to-15 minute films, we hope to introduce viewers to memorable people and big ideas. We expect all information presented in the film to be factually accurate and encourage the use of historical sources, authoritative experts and fact-checkers as part of the process. We are equally open to documentaries that trace history or focus on a key historical moment, "essayistic" films that reflect an individual's point of view, or films that take an idea and explore its complexity through a variety of stories or experiences.

As stated above, while we will consider all proposals, we are especially eager to support films that explore new territory from the ones that have previously been made about Hoosiers' relationships to the land. Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- BIPOC experiences in and relationship to Indiana land, including questions of access and social and environmental justice;
- a closer look at farmers and the role of agriculture in shaping the overall health of Indiana's land, particularly as it relates to the history or culture of Indiana;
- the efforts to imagine and create gardens as subversive, reparative, or sustainable spaces;
- ideas of ownership—historical or contemporary—as they relate to concepts of public vs. private lands;
- the historical moments, decisions or individuals/organizations that have impacted the health of specific Indiana lands and gardens over time;
- how pollution, overuse and/or climate change is affecting Indiana land and how communities are grappling with these changes;
- the significance of particular gardens and/or parks to the history and development of Indiana communities;
- the lived, intimate experiences of Hoosiers or Hoosier communities in relation to gardens, parks and other natural areas.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Only nonfiction/documentary film proposals will be considered; please do not submit a fictional film proposal.

FILMMAKER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Indiana Humanities seeks applications that reflect the entire scope of work from development and pre-production to production and post-production. Additional funds will not be granted if applicants fail to finish the film within the budget outlined below. When submitting a proposal, please keep in mind deliverable expectations and timeline.

TIMELINE

Applications open on Nov. 3, 2022 and proposals are due by end of day Jan. 13, 2023. Selected candidates may be asked to have a short phone call or video chat with reviewers to further discuss their ideas and vision. Our goal is to notify filmmakers by Feb. 3, 2023 at the latest.

Films should be completed and digital file(s) submitted to Indiana Humanities by March 31, 2024. Prior to that deadline, Indiana Humanities should be notified of any major changes to proposed timelines and contents; we may also ask for short clips to use for fundraising and/or promotional purposes prior to the deadline. In general, we hope to enjoy a collaborative and generative relationship with each filmmaker.

OWNERSHIP/COPYRIGHT

While the filmmaker retains ownership and copyright, Indiana Humanities retains the right of unlimited use to screen and stream the film and edit clips or screengrabs for a trailer or other promotional purposes. Filmmakers are encouraged to submit their completed films to festivals and organize their own screenings of their films.

Indiana Humanities must be credited on screen in both the opening credits (if there are any) and the closing credits, as follows:

- **Opening Credits:** Acknowledged as funder, i.e., "with the support of Indiana Humanities"
- **Closing Credits:** Acknowledged as funder, i.e., "Indiana Humanities" appears in any listing of funders; IH logo appears on screen for minimum of 3 seconds (we will provide animated and still versions of our logo for your use)

FILM PRODUCTION BUDGET

Filmmakers will receive stipends of \$6,500. Filmmaker stipends are paid out in two installments. The first is paid after return of a signed MOU and storyboard, with the final half paid after the successful completion of the film and delivery of the digital file(s).

TO APPLY

Individual filmmakers or video production companies should submit a proposal to Megan Telligman (mtelligman@indianahumanities.org) by Jan. 13, 2023. The proposal should include the following:

- Background and resume of filmmaker/production company
- Online reel or links to other work for reviewers to reference
- Personal statement of interest
- Description of how you will approach the project, including story ideas and/or creative approach
- Timeline showing how you will complete work by March 31, 2024.
- List of project team and their roles, including any vendors or subcontractors and how they will be involved
- List of at least two references