

Indiana Humanities Action Grants—2022

The following projects received an Indiana Humanities Action Grant in calendar year 2022. For more information about the projects and to discuss ideas for your own programs, contact Indiana Humanities' grants team at grants@indianahumanities.org or 317.638.1500.

The Eiteljorg Museum Presents Poet Warrior Joy Harjo

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Eiteljorg Museum hosted three-term U.S. poet laureate Joy Harjo in March 2022. The first Native American appointed as the nation's poet laureate, Harjo is a self-described "poet warrior," a writer, a musician, an academic and a Native American activist. She talked about her life, discussed Native American heritage, and read some of her writings during a 45-minute presentation followed by a question-and-answer session and book signing. Grant funds also supported a visit to Purdue University.

Federal Court Learning Center

Historical Society for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Historical Society for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana will use grant funds to help establish the Federal Court Learning Center in the Birch Bayh Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. The center will offer a robust civic-learning experience for tour groups and other visitors to the historic building. Interactive exhibits will focus on the structure and role of the federal court system, the impact of court rulings on American citizens and the role of juries. The exhibits will also feature profiles of key historic cases and judges as well as a history of the building.

Indiana Waterways Conversations

Butler University, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Indiana Waterways project engaged plein-air artists to create 100 paintings of 20 Indiana streams and rivers, which it displayed in exhibitions at the Indiana State Museum, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, and Hoosier Salon. Project directors used grant funds to hire three humanities scholars to write accompanying essays. The scholars presented their essays publicly and led a discussion about the context, history, literature, science, and artistic representation of Indiana waterways as well as the future of conservation efforts in preserving Indiana's landscape and culture.

Crawfordsville's Lincoln School for Colored Children Narrative Collection and Carnegie Museum Exhibition

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation, Crawfordsville

Congressional District: 4

Awarded: \$2,322

Crawfordsville Middle School partnered with Crawfordsville's Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church to create an exhibition on the town's Lincoln School for Colored Children. As part of the project, organizers hosted and recorded listening sessions to collect the community's memories of the school and created an educational website.

A Walk in Our Parks

Friends of the Frankfort Public Library, Frankfort
Congressional District: 4
Awarded: \$3,000

The Friends of the Frankfort Public Library curated *A Walk in Our Parks*, an exhibition that explored the history and natural wonders of national and state parks. Grant funds supported accompanying programming, including presentations on the history of Indiana's state parks; a reading-and-discussion program with journalist Mark Woods, author of *Lassoing the Sun: A Year in America's National Parks*; a conversation with a ranger from the Indiana Dunes National Park; and more.

Major Taylor Night at the International Cycling History Conference

The Wheelmen/Hoosier Antique and Classic Bicycle Club, Avon
Congressional District: 4
Awarded: \$1,135

The International Cycling History Conference hosted a public event at the Indiana World War Memorial to celebrate Marshall "Major" Taylor's contributions to the sport of cycling. Programs included a discussion about the new Major Taylor mural in downtown Indianapolis, a dramatic presentation about Taylor's life, and a keynote speech that put Taylor's life and career in historical context.

The Civil War Era in the Union's Heartland

Constellation Stage and Screen, Bloomington
Congressional District: 9
Awarded: \$3,000

Constellation Stage and Screen partnered with Gudaitis Productions to create a 60-minute documentary that explores how the citizens of Greencastle and Putnam County responded to and were affected by the Civil War. The project also produced accompanying print materials designed to support teachers and facilitators with screenings.

Black Indianapolis: From the Beginnings to Madam C. J. Walker and Beyond

Urbanist Media, Cincinnati
Congressional District: 7
Awarded: \$3,000

Urbanist Media produces a podcast called *Urban Roots* that explores stories about urban history. It used grant funds to produce "Black Indianapolis," an episode that utilized local experts to tell the story of entrepreneur Madam C. J. Walker and lesser-known people and places along Indiana Avenue that are significant to Indianapolis's Black history and culture.

Edward Eggleston Symposium

Switzerland County Tourism, Vevay
Congressional District: 6
Awarded: \$3,000

Switzerland County Tourism hosted a one-day symposium honoring Edward Eggleston, a Vevay native who was one of the most prolific authors of late Victorian American literature. The symposium featured premieres of two recently restored silent films of Eggleston's most famous novel, *The Hoosier School-Master*; talks by experts on history, Hoosier literature and film restoration; a public Q&A session; and presentations by local high-school students on their Eggleston-related research projects.

Documents That Shaped America

Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$2,700

The Indiana Historical Society exhibited significant historical written works on loan from the Remnant Trust. Items included major foundational pieces of Western democratic philosophy (such as the Magna Carta), a critical mass of documents and books that span from the founding of the United States through the Civil War, and items published after our country's first 100 years. Facilitators provided conversation, storytelling, and context on relevant history prior to and surrounding each document's creation, and they helped visitors explore how each document's intent and vision have manifested until today.

Calumet Revisited: A Monthly Forum on the Calumet Region

Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative, Whiting

Congressional District: 1

Awarded: \$2,025

The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative hosted Calumet Revisited, a monthly discussion led by a guest speaker that sheds light on the region's rich cultural and environmental history.

Contextualized Conversations

Harrison Center, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Harrison Center hosted a workshop for writers, preparing them to compose essays that provided historical and cultural context to the art pieces exhibited monthly in the center's galleries. The essays expanded the audience's knowledge of the subject matter, strengthened community artistic and historical context literacy, and stimulated conversation. The writers shared more about their ideas in monthly discussion programs.

The Otterbein 150 Project

Otterbein Public Library, Otterbein

Congressional District: 4

Awarded: \$3,000

In honor of the town of Otterbein's 150th anniversary, the Otterbein Public Library oversaw the Otterbein 150 Project, a historical preservation project aimed at showcasing the town's history. One component of the project (which grant funds supported) was the exhibition *Otterbein Artifacts*, featuring more than 2,500 resident-donated items that provided insight into life in the town during the past century and a half. Another project component (not supported with the grant) was a book that focuses on Otterbein's cultural and social history.

Gennett Records Programming Series

Wayne County Historical Museum, Richmond

Congressional District: 6

Awarded: \$2,500

The Wayne County Historical Museum offered a series of public programs to accompany its exhibition *Gennett Records: The Birthplace of American Recorded Music*. These included the development and screening of a documentary on the far-reaching history of Richmond's Gennett Recording Company; an afternoon at the museum featuring author talks, historical reenactors, and hands-on activities; and a murder-mystery evening at the historic Gennett mansion.

***Claudette Colvin: Twice toward Justice* Marathon Reading Discussion Program**

Morning Bishop Theatre Playhouse, Gary

Congressional District: 1

Awarded: \$3,000

The Morning Bishop Theatre Playhouse's *Claudette Colvin: Twice toward Justice* Marathon Reading Discussion Program engaged audiences and participants in the reading of the story of a lesser-known civil rights pioneer. The marathon reading occurred throughout the community as a way to unite diverse participants in learning about Claudette Colvin and her contributions to the civil rights movement.

Panther Women Trail Talk Series

Phoenix Theatre Cultural Center, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$1,172

The Phoenix Theater Cultural Center hosted the Panther Women Trail Talk Series in conjunction with its stage production *Panther Women: An Army for the Liberation*. The series consisted of two town-hall-style public events featuring a panel of scholars. The scholars, from IUPUI's Africana Studies department, discussed the history of the Black Panther movement, including the women who were involved, and provided context around it.

Indianapolis Black Documentary Film Festival: Adding Color to the Silver Screen

Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 5

Awarded: \$3,000

The Indianapolis Art Center hosted the Indianapolis Black Documentary Film Festival, designed to showcase films that tell stories that are often inaccessible to many communities. The films focused on the experiences and perspectives of African Americans and those in the Black diaspora. Audiences had the opportunity to view and discuss the content and craft of the films featured.

Banned Books Week 2022: Vonnegut and Banned Stories

Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum hosted its annual Banned Books Week, designed to raise awareness of issues of censorship through American history and literature and to highlight relevant individuals, such as Kurt Vonnegut, who used the power of literature to further social justice. Grant funds supported two programs in particular: "Can't Stop the Music," which explored the history of jazz, its role as a change agent, and efforts to censor it, and "Vonnegut and Banned Stories: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," which examined the famous novel and the connection between writing and social justice.

Tuskegee Airmen Evening Speakers Series

City of Seymour/Seymour Municipal Airport Authority, Seymour

Congressional District: 9

Awarded: \$3,000

In October 2022 the Freeman Army Airfield Museum and the citizens of Seymour dedicated a memorial honoring Black servicemen who protested segregation at Freeman Field during World War II. As part of the week's events, the museum hosted a national traveling exhibition telling the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, and the airport authority sponsored three speakers. The speakers, whose fees and expenses were covered through the grant, discuss the background of the Freeman Field Mutiny, the story of a well-known photograph that documented the servicemen's arrest, and the design of the memorial.

Sweet Lorraine in Auschwitz: The Life of Frank Grunwald

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 5

Awarded: \$3,000

The Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council produced *Sweet Lorraine in Auschwitz: The Life of Frank Grunwald*, a documentary that used 1930s American jazz to depict Holocaust survivor Frank Grunwald's journey through concentration camps and death marches. Grant funds supported the recording of interviews with Grunwald, as well as a prerelease talkback session that featured interview clips and a conversation with Grunwald and Holocaust scholars.

All or Nothing Series

Landmark Columbus Foundation, Columbus

Congressional District: 6

Awarded: \$2,950

Landmark Columbus Foundation hosted an “All or Nothing Series” for the community. The series included two programming components: “local-social design trips” and “do-nothings.” The four “local-social design trips” featured scholar-led readings, tours of downtown Columbus, and discussions, and the two “do-nothings” featured readings, contemplation in outdoor public spaces, and discussions.

Red Skelton Comedy Film and Discussion Series

Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy, Vincennes

Congressional District: 8

Awarded: \$2,300

The Red Skelton Museum screened a series of ten classic comedy films over the course of a year. After each screening, scholars and other experts led a discussion of the films, helping to put them in cultural context and to illustrate the role that comedy and humor play in our society.

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the 2022 Feast of the Hunters' Moon

Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Lafayette

Congressional District: 4

Awarded: \$2,955

The Tippecanoe County Historical Association used grant funds to hire members of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to share their community cultural history at the annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon. The Feast reenacts 18th-century life near the site of Fort Ouiatenon, the first European settlement in Indiana, and surrounding Native villages. It draws more than 40,000 visitors each year.

Festival 451 Indy

Trustees of Indiana University/Ray Bradbury Center, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Ray Bradbury Center hosted its inaugural Festival 451 Indy, which celebrated the work of Ray Bradbury through an exhibition, readings, writing workshops, and more. Grant funds supported the screening of the 1925 version of *The Phantom of the Opera*, starring Lon Chaney. The movie was one of Bradbury's favorites from childhood, and it influenced his work and his passion for film. After the screening, a panel of scholars discussed the influence that both Bradbury and Chaney had on American culture.

George R. Mather Sunday Lecture Series

Allen County–Fort Wayne Historical Society, Fort Wayne

Congressional District: 3

Awarded: \$3,000

The 2022-2023 George R. Mather Sunday Lecture Series offered free monthly public lectures at the History Center, both in person and virtually. Lectures covered a variety of humanities subject areas, including history, archaeology, and comparative religion, as well as a number of topics within the broader field of social studies, including economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, and folklore. The community enjoyed eight scholarly historical presentations and had free access to the museum during lecture hours.

Benjamin Harrison, Latin America, and the American Presidency

Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site created an exhibit in 2023 exploring the key role that Benjamin Harrison played in Pan-American policy and practices. The exhibit highlighted the first Pan-American Conference held in Washington, D.C., from October 2, 1889, to April 19, 1890, during President Harrison's term of office.

Prime Crime Touring Group

Columbia Club Foundation, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$2,850

The Prime Crime Touring Group provided public programming in Carmel, Muncie, and Franklin featuring lectures and/or discussions with two nationally acclaimed crime writers (C. J. Box and John Gilstrap) and three Indiana crime/mystery writers (Michael Dabney, Diana Catt, and Larry Sweazy).

African American Genealogy Workshop

Kokomo–Howard County Public Library, Kokomo

Congressional District: 4

Awarded: \$2,955

The Kokomo–Howard County Public Library hosted a daylong seminar on African American genealogy presented by nationally recognized genealogist Timothy Pinnick. The seminar included three separate classes, each pertaining to different areas of African American research. Attendees received a copy of a book on African American genealogy to aid in their long-term learning.

Spirit & Place Festival Public Conversation: American Identity

Trustees of Indiana University/Spirit & Place, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$2,998

Spirit & Place concluded its 27th-annual festival with a public conversation that explored the topic of "American Identity." Historian Kathleen Belew, religious studies scholar Stephen Prothero, and former White House staffer (now cultural entrepreneur) Carri Twigg discussed how race, religion, region, and gender have shaped the ways that Americans identify and how we use a nuanced understanding of the past to shape an equitable future.

Conversations with A’Lelia Bundles: Critical Discussion Series

Trustees of Indiana University, Bloomington
Congressional District: 7
Awarded: \$3,000

IUPUI’s Center for Africana Studies and Culture (CASC) held critical discussions led by A’Lelia Bundles and a CASC faculty member. The discussions brought in a panel of humanities scholars and practitioners from outside the university to explore topics related to Black identity in Indiana and the Midwest. Bundles also delivered a separate keynote address after the two conversations.

The Life List of Adrian Mandrick: A Novel Community Read Event

Community Learning Center, Kendallville
Congressional District: 3
Awarded: \$2,810

Kendallville’s Community Learning Center hosted a community-wide read of the novel *The Life List of Adrian Mandrick* and held several follow-up discussion programs. The activities culminated with a visit and talk by the book’s author, Chris White.

This Is Problematic! Podcast

Conner Prairie, Fishers
Congressional District: 5
Awarded: \$3,000

Conner Prairie’s *This Is Problematic!* podcast engages the public with historical topics that cannot always be broached on Conner Prairie’s grounds and in the depth they deserve. The hosts, members of Conner Prairie’s curatorial staff, discuss problematic events of the past and explore the ways in which their ramifications still affect us today. Grant funds provided stipends for guests who appeared in season 2’s episodes.

SoundWalk Fort Wayne Urban League App

Fort Wayne Urban League, Fort Wayne
Congressional District: 3
Awarded: \$3,000

The Fort Wayne Urban League utilized the SoundWalk app to create a tour that highlights the history of the league and the neighborhoods in which it has operated. Participants can use the app to explore historic sites and listen to oral histories from early leaders, learning about the impact of the league across the life of its neighborhoods.

The Science of Steam Exhibit

Cedar Lake Historical Association, Cedar Lake
Congressional District: 1
Awarded: \$3,000

The Cedar Lake Historical Association produced a permanent exhibit, *The Science of Steam*, that explores the history and science behind steam power and its impact on humanity. The exhibit teaches about water power as a precursor to steam power, the development of steam engines, the Industrial Revolution as a global movement, and the role that steam played in Cedar Lake’s history. The interactive exhibit supplements the association’s Steam through History program, which re-creates steamboat excursions from Cedar Lake’s heyday as a summer resort.

Living the Legacy: A Week of Remembrance and Celebration of African American History in Bloomington through Art and Storytelling

City of Bloomington, Bloomington

Congressional District: 9

Awarded: \$3,000

The City of Bloomington hosted a weeklong slate of commemorative programs, activities, and events to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. as well as the history of local historic sites of importance to the Bloomington's African American community. Activities included a community history walk, an exhibit at the Monroe County History Center, a reading-and-discussion program, and more.

Heritage Artisans Days

University of Southern Indiana/Historic New Harmony, New Harmony

Congressional District: 8

Awarded: \$3,000

Heritage Artisans Days, hosted by the University of Southern Indiana and Historic New Harmony, welcomed an estimated 2,500 elementary school students to experience New Harmony in the early 1800s. More than a dozen artisans and interpreters demonstrated what their lives were like and explained their roles in the context of New Harmony's beginnings. By witnessing their skills and hearing their stories, students learned about the significance of New Harmony's two utopian communities and their influence on Indiana's development.