

Historic Preservation Education Grants—2024

The following projects received a Historic Preservation Education Grant from Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks in calendar year 2024. 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.

Calumet Chronicles: Historic Architecture of Northwest Indiana

Calumet Heritage Partnership, Chesterton

Congressional District: 1

Awarded: \$2,900

The Calumet Heritage Partnership created a series of five videos that engage, inform, and entertain viewers as they learn about notable built structures in northwest Indiana. Each video covers an architecturally or historically significant site that is either thriving today as a result of careful planning or that currently needs more attention and resources devoted to its preservation. Project directors posted the videos online, shared them on social media, and incorporated them into in-person programming. They also included signage at each site with a QR code linking to the site's video.

Crown Hill Cemetery Historic Preservation Programs for Students

Crown Hill Heritage Foundation, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Crown Hill Heritage Foundation used grant funds to support its 2024 field trips, which provided preservation-related programs for students from kindergarten through college. Activities included cemetery tours, workshops on how to clean tombstones, summer camps, presentations on architectural history, discussion of preservation standards, and more.

Historic Princeton, Indiana

Downtown Princeton, Inc., Princeton

Congressional District: 8

Awarded: \$500

Downtown Princeton, Inc., is in the process of nominating to the National Register of Historic Places two historic districts: downtown's courthouse square and the Devin District. As part of these efforts, it hosted educational lunch and learns for the community. Local and statewide experts provided information on historic properties within the districts, the benefits of inclusion on the National Register, the value of historic preservation broadly, the positive impact that historic preservation has on communities, preservation guidance, and more.

Fountain Fletcher Digital History Tour

Fountain Fletcher District Association, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

The Fountain Fletcher District Association created a digital tour highlighting the history and architecture of Indianapolis's Fountain Square and Fletcher Place neighborhoods. It placed signs with QR codes in the windows of 18 historic buildings/locations; each QR code directs users to a web page featuring primary-source documents, oral-history narratives, images, and videos explaining the history of the location. In addition to individual pages, the home page for the tour features a map so that visitors can start at one location and explore the neighborhoods in person or virtually.

Barns and Blooms

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

The Friends of the Frankfort Public Library hosted a series of events celebrating Indiana's historic barns. Activities included an exhibition about barns, including artwork and information about the history of barns provided by the Indiana Barn Foundation; a presentation by a member of the Indiana Barn Foundation highlighting the organization's work; and tours of the Red Barn Summer Theatre (housed in a 1908 cattle barn) and the Old Gray Barn (an event venue housed in a restored 1930s barn).

If These Walls Could Talk: Tipton, Indiana

Great Towns, Inc., Indianapolis
Congressional District: 7/5
Awarded: \$3,000

Great Towns sponsored an educational program/competition for high-school students in the town of Tipton. Students researched and wrote essays about the background and potential reuse of historic buildings in the town. Judges evaluated the essays and selected up to four finalists, who then created videos about the buildings they researched. The videos were on display at local venues such as the high school, public library, and historical society.

Not Just a Blue Line: Showcasing the Indiana Lincoln Highway

Indiana Lincoln Highway Association, South Bend
Congressional District: 2
Awarded: \$3,000

The Indiana Lincoln Highway Association hosted the 30th-annual national Lincoln Highway Association conference in Elkhart. Grant funds supported presentations and guided bus tours that highlighted the region's unique history, architecture, natural beauty, art, culture, food, and industry for conference attendees and interested members of the general public.

Main Street Plainfield: Where Stories Unfold

Main Street Plainfield, Plainfield
Congressional District: 4
Awarded: \$3,000

Main Street Plainfield updated its website to educate the community about the rich history of downtown Plainfield. The refreshed website features sections with interactive timelines, historical articles, and multimedia content, allowing visitors to explore the evolution of downtown Plainfield and gain a deeper appreciation for its cultural significance. Residents were invited to share their own stories and photos related to downtown Plainfield, fostering a sense of community and preserving local narratives.

Architecture in Indianapolis, Volume 2: 1900–1920

Trustees of Indiana University/Indiana University Press, Bloomington
Congressional District: 9/7
Awarded: \$3,000

Indiana University Press used grant funds to support publication of the second volume of *Architecture in Indianapolis* covering the years 1900 to 1920. The book, researched and written by historic preservation expert James A. Glass, discusses the evolution and development of Indianapolis's early-20th-century architecture and includes full-color illustrations and locator maps. As part of public-outreach efforts, Glass delivered a series of lectures highlighting many of the buildings featured in the book.

The Secret Lives of Buildings (and Their Lovers)

Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives, Columbus

Congressional District: 6

Awarded: \$2,600

The Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives (CIAA) presented “The Secret Lives of Buildings (and Their Lovers),” a series of four public presentations by CIAA researcher Jim Nickoll. During the series, Nickoll explored Columbus’s downtown buildings constructed in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, focusing on Washington Street, which serves as the spine of the downtown area. Nickoll discussed a variety of topics, from construction techniques and materials to storefront modifications, from the people and businesses that once occupied the buildings to how we experience the built environment today.

A Century Forgotten, A Century Restored: The Impact of Rediscovering George Kessler's Plans for Terre Haute Parks System

Land Stewards of Indianapolis, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$3,000

Land Stewards of Indianapolis helped preserve historic George Kessler plans for several of Terre Haute’s parks, including Fairbanks Park, Spencer Ball Park, and Memorial Stadium. The plans, which were recently recovered after being forgotten in a city hall basement for decades, were digitized and archived for preservation at the Vigo County Public Library. The project also raised public awareness through a gallery exhibit and virtual-reality program, highlighting Kessler’s unbuilt designs and emphasizing the importance of park investment and historic preservation.

Building the Past: A Hands-On History Program

Reitz Home Preservation Society and Museum, Evansville

Congressional District: 8

Awarded: \$3,000

The Reitz Home Museum expanded its educational programming for elementary-school field trips, enriching students’ understanding of history, architecture, and the Victorian era. Grant funds allowed the museum to introduce students to the historic Reitz family and their iconic French Second Empire Victorian mansion through an engaging, multifaceted experience that included the development of an introductory video (to be screened pre-visit), tours of the museum, a study guide on historic architecture, and an architectural-related art project.

Historic Homeowner and Volunteer Training

Richmond Neighborhood Restoration, Richmond

Congressional District: 6

Awarded: \$3,000

Building on a previous classroom learning series supported with a Historic Preservation Education Grant, Richmond Neighborhood Restoration (RNR) hosted a series of renovation workshops, to take place at historic properties owned by RNR. Highly skilled instructors guided participants through hands-on activities that taught them about hardwood floor restoration, plaster repair, basic electric work, basic plumbing, painting, and tuckpointing.

Story and Structure: How Architecture Leads to Place-Based Learning

Robert and Ellen Haan Museum of Indiana Art, Lafayette

Congressional District: 4

Awarded: \$3,000

The Haan Museum of Indiana Art developed a learning kit for students and visitors that helps them understand the role that architecture and historic preservation play in illuminating the significance of place and community. The kit includes lesson plans, a teacher’s/visitor’s guide, and other materials, including 3-D models of architectural features, to assist with educational activities. The learning tools center on the history and architecture of the museum building, a historic mansion that served as the Connecticut pavilion at the 1904 St. Louis world’s fair.

“Introduction to Our Museum” Cartoon-Narrated Children’s History Video

Ruthmere Foundation, Elkhart
Congressional District: 2
Awarded: \$3,000

The Ruthmere Foundation developed for its new visitors center an introduction/orientation video geared toward children. The video features original cartoon characters called the Mousleys and provides historical background information about the campus’s National Historic Register houses, the Ruthmere Mansion and the Havilah Beardsley House, and the Beardsley family who founded Elkhart, Indiana. The video also covers what a museum is, why we want to preserve history and historic objects and buildings, and museum etiquette.

Virtual History Tours and Storytelling Sessions with Indiana State Historic Sites

Still Waters Adult Day Center, Indianapolis
Congressional District: 7
Awarded: \$3,000

The Still Waters Adult Day Center collaborated with the Indiana State Museum to provide history-related programming to seniors with cognitive and physical disabilities who utilize the center’s services. Virtual sessions allowed the seniors to “tour” several state historic sites, see historic artifacts, and engage with site staff, while in-person components provided opportunities to engage in storytelling, history sessions, and associated activities.