

Indiana Humanities INcommon Grants—2023

The following projects received an Indiana Humanities INcommon Grant in calendar year 2023. 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 Gary Downtown Experience

Decay Devils, Gary
Congressional District: 1
Awarded: \$5,000

Decay Devils hosted a series of activities in downtown Gary during the summer of 2023 that helped the people of northwest Indiana learn the history of Gary, appreciate its diversity, and celebrate its culture. Activities included walking and bike tours, reading and reflection sessions, oral-history lessons and discussions, culinary explorations, and more.

Influencing Lincoln: The Pursuit of Black Freedom Speaker Series

Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis
Congressional District: 7
Awarded: \$5,000

The Indiana State Museum hosted a speaker series connected to its exhibition *Influencing Lincoln: The Pursuit of Black Freedom*, which explored the Black community's work nationally and in Indianapolis for emancipation, the right to vote, and full citizenship. Both the exhibition and the speaker series examined how Black individuals influenced Lincoln's thought around the Emancipation Proclamation and Thirteenth Amendment, the role of the Black church in these struggles, and African American military service in the Civil War.

Mo*Con: Writing FIYAH with Fire

Kheprw Institute, Indianapolis
Congressional District: 7
Awarded: \$5,000

The Kheprw Institute's Mo*Con: Writing FIYAH with Fire convention brought together editors, authors, and scholars who work in the Afrofuturism genre to hold a series of conversations exploring their history and role in reimagining the genre culture's ecosystem. Featured presenters included Chesya Burke, who discussed her book *Hero Me Not*; B. Sharise Moore, who discussed with high-school students her Afrofuturist textbook *Conjuring Worlds*; and the editors of *FIYAH* literary magazine, who discussed the history of their speculative fiction magazine and its ties to the short-lived but influential 1926 periodical *FIRE!!*

“Think Local”: Overlooked African American History in Lafayette and Indianapolis

Purdue University, West Lafayette
Congressional District: 4
Awarded: \$5,000

Purdue University's John Martinson Honors College connected high-school and college students with local residents via guided museum visits and walking tours that taught participants about African American life in Indianapolis and Lafayette and spurred conversations about race and racism. The programs presented audiences with the overlooked histories of Black Hoosiers, encouraging them to “think locally.” It also helped them to reconsider Indiana's reputation as a racially homogenous state and promoted exchange between Indianapolis, Lafayette, and West Lafayette residents.

Arab American Public History

Arab Indianapolis Foundation, Indianapolis
Congressional District: 7
Awarded: \$5,000

The Arab American Public History project culminated in a one-day conference that brought together community-engaged Arab American studies specialists, members of the local Arab American community, and local public-history practitioners and students for mini-lectures and in-depth conversation. The central driving question of the conference was: how does Arab American public history, including historical tours, museum exhibits, archives, popular writing, public art, blogs, and documentary film, challenge the xenophobic, racial, and religious bigotry faced by Arab Americans?

Sovereign Sustenance: Indigenous Food Sovereignty Talk and Cooking Demonstration

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis
Congressional District: 7
Awarded: \$5,000

As part of the 2023 Spirit & Place Festival, the Eiteljorg Museum hosted two events that explored and contextualized Indigenous food sovereignty and Native foodways. Indigenous food experts engaged audiences in conversations about the meaning and significance of food sovereignty and its power in resisting colonization; the work of growing, nurturing, and harvesting important cultural foods; and food as nourishment and an essential component of relationship-building and connection to people and place.

Black Art Workshop

Evansville African American Museum, Evansville
Congressional District: 8
Awarded: \$5,000

The Evansville African American Museum hosted a weekend-long Black art workshop featuring four local/regional Black scholar/artists who contextualized art theory, aesthetics, and art history within the Black art history and traditions of Evansville. Workshop sessions were led by the scholar/artists and prioritized community engagement and dialogue.

Conversations in African American History and Culture

Freetown Village, Inc., Indianapolis
Congressional District: 7
Awarded: \$5,000

Freetown Village hosted a series of ten lectures focusing on increasing and preserving knowledge and engaging participants in “Conversations in African American History and Culture.” Through a partnership with Indiana Landmarks’ Black Heritage Preservation Program and Indiana University Indianapolis’s Africana Studies Department, the monthly sessions featured presentations from historians, researchers, educators, and other experts followed with Q&A and discussion.

Care Not Cages

Trustees of Indiana University, Bloomington
Congressional District: 9
Awarded: \$4,984

Indiana University Cinema hosted a collaborative series of film screenings, scholarly conversations, and community events designed to educate and activate Hoosiers around contemporary issues in the carceral system. The program was a partnership between IU Cinema and local community organization Care Not Cages and examined the impacts of incarceration on Indiana communities using film, scholars, and humanistic inquiry.