

## Indiana Humanities INcommon Grants—2024

The following projects received an Indiana Humanities INcommon Grant 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](mailto:grants@indianahumanities.org) or 317.638.1500.

### **Indigenous History Programs**

Cedar Lake Historical Association, Cedar Lake  
Congressional District: 1  
Awarded: \$4,868

The Cedar Lake Historical Association's Indigenous history programs elevated the interpretation of the pre-European presence of the Potawatomi people at Cedar Lake through projects including a land-acknowledgment outdoor exhibit, guest speakers, book studies, narrative additions to CLHA's steamboat tours, and content updates to its educational website.

### **Mo\*Con: "The Mo\*Con Comics Group"**

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

As part of its Mo\*Con writers convention, the Kheprw Institute facilitated a series of public conversations on topics such as the legacy of Octavia Butler, the role of graphic novels in Afrofuturism, the work of professional magazine editors, and more. The conversations took place at University High School, Ujamaa Community Bookstore, the Ark/Alkhem Community Wealth Building Center, and other locations throughout greater Indianapolis.

### **Bloomington Beyond Borders: Expanding Communities of Care**

Center for Sustainable Living, Bloomington  
Congressional District: 9  
Awarded: \$5,000

An affiliate of the Center for Sustainable Living, Redbud Books, hosted a series of public programs that initiated wide-ranging conversations with Bloomington community members about the ways—visible and invisible—that borders shape our lives and the methods we engage to cultivate practices of communal care. Programming included a month-long reading group of the book *Borders, Human Itineraries, and All Our Relations*, a roundtable discussion with the authors of the text, and a four-film screening series.

### **Out of the Gardens: The Dust Bowl Story**

Trustees of Indiana University/Center for Africana Studies and Culture, Indianapolis  
Congressional District: 7  
Awarded: \$5,000

The Center for Africana Studies and Culture at IUPUI produced and screened a feature-length documentary chronicling the history of Indianapolis's Dust Bowl basketball tournament and its legacy for the proliferation of Black joy, resistance, and culturally insistent place-making. For years, the Dust Bowl tournament took place in Lockefield Gardens, a public-housing development near Indiana Avenue, a part of the city that was deemed undesirable by most white residents. The 60-minute film tells the story of how, out of this racial isolation, a Black epicenter emerged in the arts and in business, and how sports have made an impact on culture.

### **Voces Vivas ALASI Origins**

Asociación Latino Americana del Sur de Indiana, Huntingburg

Congressional District: 8

Awarded: \$5,000

Three years ago, the Asociación Latino Americana del Sur de Indiana (ALASI) helped to launch *Voces Vivas*, an exhibit and accompanying programming in the Dubois County Museum's Hispanic wing, to tell the story of Latino immigrants who have come to the county over the years. Building upon this foundation, ALASI extended the *Voces Vivas* initiative's reach by documenting the history of ALASI. It produced a short video to tell the story of ALASI from its inception in 2008 to its growth as a vital community organization. Upon the release of the video, ALASI hosted a public screening with scholars from Indiana University, who spoke about and led discussion around the importance of ALASI, the challenges faced, and its impact on the community.

### **Beyond El Barrio: Early Latino Leaders of Indianapolis**

Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$4,600

The Indiana Historical Society produced a short documentary showcasing the stories and history of Indianapolis's Lost Barrio (known as "El Barrio" by the Latino community who lived there), which was located on the east side of downtown Indianapolis from the 1930s until the construction of I-65/I-70 near the end of the 1960s. The IHS premiered the documentary at a public screening that featured a panel talk with scholars and members of the production team. The IHS also made the documentary accessible for free viewing on its YouTube channel.

### **Unapologetically Free—A Community Conversation**

Indiana Repertory Theatre, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$5,000

The Indiana Repertory Theatre used grant funds to support a community conversation led by Tamara Winfrey-Harris, a nationally known expert on the intersections of race and gender, that centered on her book *A Black Woman's Guide to Getting Free*. The conversation followed the IRT's production of *Nina Simone: Four Women*. During the conversation, Winfrey-Harris and other panelists used Simone's story as a launching pad to engage the audience in the themes of Winfrey-Harris's book, including what liberation means for Black women today and how they can navigate and dismantle the stereotypes and expectations imposed by American culture. The IRT worked closely with its community ambassadors to identify people who wanted to see the production and participate in the conversation but could not afford tickets, using part of the grant funds to offer them complimentary admission.

### **Beloved Community Conversations: Poverty, Racism, Militarism, and Ecological Devastation**

Martin Luther King Community Center, Indianapolis

Congressional District: 7

Awarded: \$5,000

The Martin Luther King Community Center partnered with Butler University's Desmond Tutu Peace Lab to present four "Beloved Community Conversations." Three of the conversations were dedicated to the issues of poverty, racism, and militarism (the "Triple Evils" as identified by Dr. King), and a fourth addressed ecological devastation. Each conversation commenced with an artistic performance by a poet or spoken-word artist then continued with a panel discussion featuring the artist as well as scholars, community activists, and individuals with lived experiences pertinent to the theme. Following the panel, a facilitated community conversation explored how the topics align with Dr. King's principles of nonviolence and contribute to building the Beloved Community.