



INDIANA'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Celebrating 200 Years

The Bicentennial Celebration will kick off on Statehood Day, Dec. 11, 2015, and continue all year to a grand finale weekend Dec. 10 and 11, 2016. Indiana's 2016 Bicentennial Celebration aims to honor our state's 200 years of history, and do so in a way that engages all 6.5 million Hoosiers and leaves a lasting legacy for future generations. The Bicentennial Commission, chaired by Lee Hamilton and Becky Skillman, works with volunteer coordinators in every county to identify projects that are worthy of designation as "Official Bicentennial Legacy Projects." All projects are categorized under four main themes set forth by the Commission: Youth and Education; Historical Celebration; Nature Conservation; and Community Involvement. To date, 1,196 projects have been endorsed in all 92 counties.

Planned Signature Projects of the Bicentennial

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Indiana's statehood, the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) is undertaking three capital projects on the Indiana Government Center Campus, if funding is approved. The three projects are: a Bicentennial Plaza, a new State Archives facility and an Education Center for the Statehouse.

Bicentennial Plaza will be located west of the Statehouse at the intersection of Senate Avenue and Robert D. Orr Plaza. The plaza design includes an interpretative design of the Bicentennial Torch, a time capsule celebrating all 92 counties and a water feature. Vehicular traffic will be dramatically reduced, aiding in public safety and Statehouse security.

The new State Archives facility will be located in downtown Indianapolis. This new-construction facility will hold the permanent records of government and better preserve heritage documents of significant administrative, legal and historical value.

An Education and Welcome Center will be located on the main floor of the Indiana State Library to provide orientation and information for Statehouse tours, and more than forty thousand school children and campus visitors annually. IDOA is partnering with Conner Prairie Living History Park to design the exhibits. The center will offer participatory experiences to support social studies and language arts curricula, and spark interest in the three branches of government.

The Bicentennial Nature Trust (BNT) is a program fully-funded in 2011 to acquire land for conservation and recreation to leave as a perpetual gift to all Hoosiers as part of the Bicentennial Celebration. This statewide effort honors a tradition of conservation established 100 years ago with the creation of the Indiana State Parks. The state in 2011 identified \$20 million to fund the BNT, to which Lilly Endowment added a \$10 million grant. The BNT provides matching funds to encourage public/private partnerships and emphasize local projects and local access.

The Bicentennial Torch Relay is a monumental event designed by the Indiana Office of Tourism Development to celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial, engage Hoosiers at home and worldwide, deepen Indiana pride and create a legacy for future generations. Peer-nominated torch bearers will transport the torch in unique ways that reflect our Hoosier heritage and the unique nature of Indiana communities. The Torch will pass through all 92 counties, covering 2,300 miles over a five-week period, starting Sept. 9, 2016 and ending at Bicentennial Plaza on Oct. 15, 2016.

There will be a family-oriented event at the end of the Torch Relay on October 15, 2016, a gala on December 10, 2016, and a service of celebration and inspiration on Sunday, December 11, 2016. Commemorative projects include a coffee-table book, a medallion and an art project.

To Learn More about the Bicentennial Statewide:

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In your County:

<http://www.in.gov/ibc/2351.htm>

To Find your County Coordinator:

<http://www.in.gov/ibc/2357.htm> Rollover the map to locate your county.

Follow the Excitement:

On the Web: www.indiana2016.org; Twitter: @Indiana2016; Instagram: @Indiana2016
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Indiana-Bicentennial-Commission-410095725832325/>

Indiana Bicentennial Commission Members

Becky Skillman, Co-chair, President/CEO, Radius Indiana
Lee Hamilton, Co-chair, Director, Center on Congress – Indiana University
First Lady **Karen Pence**, Bicentennial Ambassador
Judge **Sarah Evans Barker**, U.S. District Court – Southern District of Indiana
Charlie Brown, State Representative, Indiana State House District 3
Steve Ferguson, Chairman, Cook Group
Tony George, Owner, Vision Investments, LLC
P.E. MacAllister, Chairman, MacAllister Machinery Company
James Madison, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University
Mickey Maurer, Chairman, National Bank of Indianapolis
Mary McConnell, Indiana State Director, The Nature Conservancy
Jim McCormick, Owner, Bestway Express Inc.
Senator **Jim Merritt**, Indiana Senate
Ellen Rosenthal, President/CEO, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park
Chief Justice **Randall Shepard**, Indiana Supreme Court
Brenda Gerber Vincent, Vice President, Lifeline Youth & Family Services