



STATE OF INDIANA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gov. Holcomb declares Indiana State Library Bicentennial Day; library prepares to celebrate

INDIANAPOLIS - Dec. 9, 2024 - Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb on Dec. 6 issued a proclamation declaring that day to be Indiana State Library Bicentennial Day, highlighting the importance of the Indiana State Library. The library became a state agency in 1825 and has since served as the primary research library for state government and as the official depository for state publications. It also plays a vital role in preserving the history and culture of Indiana.

In celebration of its 200th anniversary as a state agency, the library has several activities and events planned for 2025. On Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, an invitation-only celebration will take place at the Indiana State Library marking the anniversary of the day that the library became a state agency. Throughout the year, the library will administer multiple trivia and escape room events, host a special bicentennial Lunch and Learn program, exhibit and display several items from its collections and screen a movie in October as part of a program featuring the Circle City Ghostbusters. A historical marker will also be dedicated on the grounds of the library in 2025.

“Join us in this celebration of the Indiana State Library’s 200th anniversary, as we honor its past, celebrate its present and look forward to its future,” said Jacob Speer, Indiana State Librarian.

As part of the celebration, the library has already published "Laying the Foundation," a richly illustrated book featuring 100 items from the library's vast and remarkable collection. Spanning multiple centuries and covering a wide array of topics, items in the book represent only a small fraction of the historic and culturally significant materials held by the Indiana State Library.

"Laying the Foundation" is available for purchase now for \$20 from the Nook Gift Shop on the first floor of the Indiana State Library, located at 315 W. Ohio St. in downtown Indianapolis.

Additionally, the library will be launching a celebratory website in 2025.

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Picture 1 caption: Indiana Library and Historical Board president Laurel Setser reads Gov. Holcomb's Indiana State Library Bicentennial Day proclamation on Dec. 6 at the Indiana State Library during a staff ceremony.

Picture 2 caption: The proclamation issued by Gov. Holcomb.