



The ABIDE Community Engagement subcommittee coordinated a fun morning of volunteering with our partner across the street, Horizon House, in August 2023

Join ABIDE in 2024!

By: Alison Schumacher, Donor Engagement Director

The new year brings new opportunities for involvement with the ABIDE Team – how would YOU like to be involved in 2024?

Some of the ways we've carried out our mission and worked towards our vision in 2023 include:

- Completing **all-staff trainings** with the National Center for Racial Equity and Inclusion;
- Offering two **optional involvement opportunities** with partner agencies Horizon House and Hollis Adams; six **conversations** on resources relating to race, socioeconomic status, and ability; and a \$50 “**DEI Experience**” **stipend** per employee;
- Launching the ABIDE Little Free **Library**;
- Publishing six **staff newsletters** sharing resources, experiences, and events;
- Creating [an internal website to host all ABIDE resources](#); and
- Establishing a transparent [leadership and membership structure](#).

I'm excited that so many of our co-workers have engaged in ABIDE initiatives already. In 2024, we plan to continue the existing **Community Engagement** and **Education subcommittees**, and add one focused on **Workplace Culture**. At our staff meeting on January 31st, ABIDE team members will share more about plans for the year and answer any questions you might have.

Sign up to join ABIDE [here](#).

If you're interested in ABIDE but are unsure how meetings will fit with your schedule, sign up anyway! Team meeting times are based on members' availability; we will work with your schedule.

[This form](#) is open through February 16, and the membership task force of Claire, Jon, and Keion will review applications for the ABIDE Committee on Feb 19. New members will be notified and will have an onboarding meeting with our chairs the week of Feb 19.

If you have any questions, talk with any of the ABIDE Subcommittee Leads: Alison (Education), Claire (Workplace Culture), Emily (Community Engagement). We look forward to growing ABIDE's work in 2024 with your help.

Observances & Celebrations

Poverty in America Awareness Month (January)

Poverty Awareness Month is a month-long initiative to increase awareness and call attention to the steady growth of poverty in the United States. Learn more about poverty statistics [here](#) and poverty awareness [here](#).

Martin Luther King Jr Day (January 15)

Celebrated annually on the third Monday in January, Martin Luther King Jr Day (MLK Jr Day) honors the American clergyman, activist, Civil Rights Movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968). King was chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination in federal and state law and civil society. Today MLK Jr Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer and improve their communities.

Explore items related to King in this [Smithsonian Collection](#) and [read about how King's birthday became a holiday](#).

[Dexter Scott King](#), the youngest son and the third child of Dr. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King, passed away on January 22, 2024. As the Chairman of the Board of [The King Center](#), he worked tirelessly to keep the legacy of his father strong and vibrant.

National Day of Racial Healing (January 16)

This annual observance is hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) and was created with and builds on the work and learnings of the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) community partners. Fundamental to this day is a clear understanding that racial healing is at the core of racial equity. This day is observed every year on the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. [Learn more](#).

Black History Month (February)

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

The 2024 theme, “African Americans and the Arts,” explores the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of “visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression.”

Resources:

- [Read the Origins of Black History Month](#) by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH®)
- [BlackHistoryMonth.gov](#) - The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.
- [Black History Month for Kids Video](#) – A short video for kids to learn about the month-long celebration of African American history.
- [National Museum of African American History & Culture at the Smithsonian](#) celebrates Black History Month with a digital collection.
- [Visit Indy](#) explores Black Culture in Indy including a list of [Black-owned restaurants](#).
- Attend one of the many [local events](#) happening in February.

Lunar New Year (Begins February 10)

Lunar New Year is one of the most important celebrations of the year among East and Southeast Asian cultures, including Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean communities, among others. The New Year celebration is usually celebrated for multiple days—not just one day as in the Gregorian calendar’s New Year.

In 2024, Lunar New Year begins on February 10. China’s Lunar New Year is known as the Spring Festival or Chūnjié in Mandarin, while Koreans call it Seollal and Vietnamese refer to it as Tết. Tied to the lunar calendar, the holiday began as a time for feasting and to honor household and heavenly deities, as well as ancestors. The New Year typically begins with the first new moon that occurs between the end of January and spans the first 15 days of the first month of the lunar calendar—until the full moon arrives.



Subcommittee Updates

Education

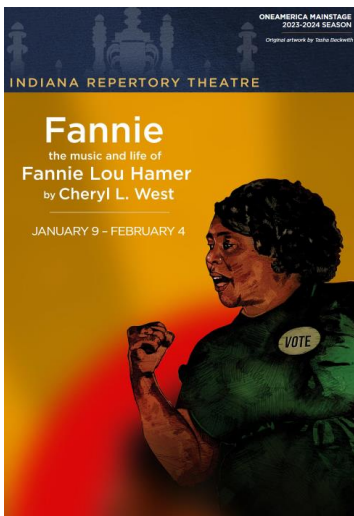
We are adding fun interactive Q&A elements to the library with marbles and a white board, are mapping out a schedule for seven newsletters for 2024, are working on conversations & gathering topics for Feb and March, and welcomed Gregg from Hollis Adams to the Lunch & Learn conversation on 1/22.

Community Engagement

Thanks to everyone who donated items for our collection for Hollis Adams this winter! We loaded up their car with lots of water, puzzles, art supplies and more to share at their day program for adults with developmental disabilities.

Want to help engage our community in 2024? Connect with Emily to join the team!

Upcoming Events



Fannie: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer

January 9 – February 4 | Time Varies by Date

Indiana Repertory Theatre

Tickets Start at \$25 (use your DEI Experience funds!)

Rising from humble roots as the daughter of a Mississippi sharecropper, Fannie Lou Hamer became a leader in the struggle for voting rights at a time when Civil Rights were far from secure. Her grit and determination to keep fighting, through bad times as well as good, shows what it means to be a true revolutionary. You'll be clapping and crying and singing along with a show that is part theatre, part gospel revival, and all inspiration.

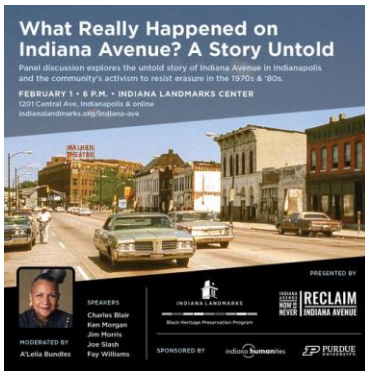
Check out [Indiana Repertory Theatre](#) and [Phoenix Theatre](#) for more upcoming shows.

What Really Happened on Indiana Avenue? A Story Untold

Thursday, February 1 | 8:00 pm

Indiana Landmarks Center and Online via Zoom

Free



Indiana Landmarks presents a panel discussion that explores the untold story of Indianapolis's Indiana Avenue & the community's activism to resist erasure in the 1970s & '80s.



Art & Soul 2024

February 2 – Festival Kickoff at Gallery 924

February 7 – Featured Artist Showcase at the Jazz Kitchen

February 23 – Celebration + Naptown Tribute at the Indianapolis Artsgarden

The 28th Annual Festival of Black Art and Music

Since 1996, Art & Soul has helped advance the careers of Black artists in Indianapolis. Each year, the festival kicks off Black History Month and features public events that celebrate Black visual art, music, dance, and literature. Art & Soul, presented by Indy Arts Council, is supported annually by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Saturday, February 10 | 6:00-10:00 pm

Tube Factory Artspace | 1125 Cruft St, Indianapolis

General Admission \$12

The Year of the Dragon is coming! Celebrate the lunar new year with traditional dance performances, fireworks, activities like cut paper art, lantern/fan painting, origami & more.

The Bay Area Bistro will have Lumpia, Crab Rangoon, Pork BBQ, Puto, Ube Pandesal and Buco Pandan and more for purchase.



Indianapolis Chinese Performing Arts Inc (ICPAI) at 7pm.

Resources

Article:

[When the rules are fair, but the game isn't](#) (race)

Zaheera Soomar attended the Racial Equity Institute's Groundwater Approach workshop and shares her reflections on using the game of Monopoly to demonstrate power, affirmative action, and impact in the US.

[Working Together: Ensuring People with Disabilities Feel Welcome and Included in the Workplace](#) (ability)

Video:

[Matthew Desmond on 'Poverty, by America'](#) (socioeconomic status)

Interview with Washington Post Live

Podcast:

The Inequality Podcast [[Apple](#)] [[Spotify](#)] (socioeconomic status)

The Inequality Podcast brings together scholars across disciplines to discuss the causes and consequences of inequality and strategies to promote economic mobility. This podcast is hosted by economists Steven Durlauf and Damon Jones, psychologist Ariel Kalil, and sociologist Geoff Wodtke.

More A.B.I.D.E. News

Library on the Move!

By: *Caitlin Bartnik, Hunger Relief Kitchen Manager*

As you may have noticed, the A.B.I.D.E. Little Free Library has spread its wings and moved into a new, more easily accessible home in the dining room space. It's been awesome to see more people grab books to read and hearing nerdy, lovely book chats emerge as people see the library and discuss it with each other.



As a refresher on the process, to donate books to the library, place them in the wicker basket (signage to come). Donated books will be logged and shelved. To check out a book from the library, you don't need to do anything. Simply take the book you wish to read and enjoy. Books are for reading. Not just for sitting pretty on a shelf. I hope you find a book that brings you happiness, makes you feel seen, or teaches you something new. What could be better than that?

Stay Tuned: ABIDE Priorities for 2024

Results from the Employee Satisfaction Survey will inform whether any new priority areas will frame our work this year, in addition to the areas of race, socioeconomic status, and ability chosen by employee survey in late 2022.

A.B.I.D.E. News

Have an idea for the newsletter? Let Heather know by [emailing](#) her or using this [form](#)