



For Immediate Release

Contact: Amy Lamb, Media Relations Manager  
(317) 232-1878 or [alamb@indianahistory.org](mailto:alamb@indianahistory.org)

## IHS Engages in \$23.8 Million Campaign for “The Indiana Experience” *\$8M Gift from Eugene and Marilyn Glick Jumpstarts Efforts to Deliver New Destination Experience*

**Indianapolis**—The Indiana Historical Society has announced a public campaign to raise \$23.8 million to create and deliver “**The Indiana Experience**”—to Hoosiers as well as visitors from across the nation. To date, \$14.5 million has been raised from individuals and foundations, including \$8 million from Eugene and Marilyn Glick. Other financial gifts are expected to follow.

“Visitors to the Indiana History Center are going to enjoy the addition of a whole new experience,” said IHS President and CEO John Herbst. “Think of this more like the experience that Epcot Center or Disney provides, but based on sound historical research. It will convey both dramatic events and everyday life in Indiana.”

An extensive project planning process, which began shortly after the arrival of Herbst in September 2006, will make the Indiana History Center even more of a destination by bringing the people of the state a uniquely Indiana experience—one that connects them with their rich Hoosier heritage in new and exciting ways.

Plans include implementation of new technology and programs that will appeal to visitors and extend the length of their visit, additional staffing to facilitate the new experience, and physical modifications to the building to improve visitor circulation. The fuel for these new experiences will come from the use of material in the extensive visual collections housed in the IHS library, including 1.6 million historical photographs as well as maps, periodicals and personal papers.

Among the new experiences the IHS will offer are:

- **Destination Indiana** – a time travel program in which each visitor will navigate back and forth through the past based on his/her own topical interests.
- **You Are There** – an area where visitors can literally step into historical photographs which have been recreated three-dimensionally. Entering the environment depicted in the photograph will spark interaction with costumed interpreters and engage guests in hands-on activities.
- **Anything Goes** – the environment of a 1940s nightclub in which participants can dance and enjoy the music of Cole Porter.
- **History Lab/Investigation Stations** – **History Lab** provides opportunities for visitors to consider and experience the preservation of history through both a resource center and hands-on demonstration classroom. Facilitated **Investigation Stations** invite guests to dissect historical photographs for clues, use vital records to uncover family history details, analyze documents and record their observations.
- **Indiana Town Hall Series** – investigates why issues such as race relations, jobs, health care, government leadership, family and religion have continued to be on the forefront over time, allowing face-to-face interaction and discussion about important state and community issues.

- more -

“These materials, used in exciting new ways, will allow our guests to time travel through our state’s history,” said Herbst. “The culmination of this project will expand both on-site and statewide delivery of the mission of the IHS—to be *Indiana’s Storyteller™—Connecting People to the Past*.

**The lead gift for this campaign comes in the form of an \$8 million gift from Eugene and Marilyn Glick.** In recognition of this transformative gift, the Indiana History Center, the Indiana Historical Society’s headquarters building, will be renamed the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center. This is the largest single cash gift in the Indiana Historical Society’s 177-year history.

“Marilyn and I are excited about supporting the efforts of the Indiana Historical Society to preserve our state’s heritage and make it available to current and future generations,” said Eugene Glick. “We are pleased that our resources can be utilized on a new, ambitious project that will have an impact on many people for years to come.”

“The generosity of this lead gift shows just how special Gene and Marilyn are,” said Michael Blickman, Chairman of the IHS Board of Trustees. “This will have a lasting impact on the citizens of Indiana and we are eternally grateful to them.”

The IHS headquarters building attracts several thousand researchers who utilize its research collections and 150,000 guests who attend lectures and programs about Indiana history and performances by more than a dozen organizations such as the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and Storytelling Arts of Indiana. Herbst indicated this magnificent facility can do even more.

“The addition of engaging, interactive experiences about Indiana is what our public wants,” Herbst said.

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana’s Storyteller™, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and disseminating the state’s history. A nonprofit membership organization, the IHS also publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; provides youth, adult, and family programming including Indiana’s participation in the National History Day Competition series; provides support and technical assistance to local museums and historical groups; appoints and trains 92 county historians; and maintains the nation’s premier research library and archives on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. The Society is located in the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center at 450 W. Ohio St. in downtown Indianapolis.

###