

# CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Indiana Humanities, with support from Hillenbrand, is pleased to announce the creation of a new speakers bureau featuring talks and presentations about the women's suffrage movement and Indiana women's involvement in politics since 1920.

We seek proposals from scholars, experts and trailblazers to join the speakers bureau and give talks during in 2020. Applications to join the bureau will be accepted through May 24, 2019.

## HOW DOES THE SPEAKERS BUREAU WORK?

Starting next fall, Hoosier organizations can apply to host a talk in 2020. Talks will take place across the state as part of the statewide commemoration of the 19th Amendment catalyzed by Indiana Humanities.

The speakers bureau will provide ordinary Hoosiers access to high-quality and thought-provoking talks by scholars and experts. Organizations, including libraries, schools, civic organizations and history museums, will select which talk they'd like to bring to their community and apply to Indiana Humanities for support. If awarded, Indiana Humanities will pay the speaker an honorarium of \$400, with any travel costs reimbursed by the host organization.

A limited number (25-40, depending on available funding) of talks will be awarded. Speakers are also welcome to accept other invitations to present their talk and negotiate a different rate on their own.

## WHAT KINDS OF TALKS ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The typical speaker engagement is 60-90 minutes with time for questions and conversation with the audience. Presentations can be geared towards adults, teen or youth audiences. We're open to traditional talks as well as proposals that take the typical scholar talk and flip it on its head, i.e., creative writing or performance workshops or text-centered conversations. The talk should be rooted in quality humanities and/or social science research.

Below are some of the questions we hope talks in the speakers bureau will address:

- Who were the rebellious women (and men) who led the women's suffrage movement in Indiana?
- How did Hoosier women participate in or lead in the national suffrage movement?
- What were the key moments in the suffrage movement in Indiana?
- How did women shape policy and politics before they won the right to vote?
- Who opposed women's suffrage, and why?
- What was left undone?
- Who got left behind?
- What issues did suffrage activists debate, and why?
- How did women's official entry into the political arena shape policy and the political landscape after 1920?
- How did the women's suffrage movement inspire and affect the women's equality movements of the 1960s and 1970s?

- Who were the trailblazing women who broke barriers in politics and public life in Indiana after 1920?
- In what ways does the struggle continue?
- What barriers to full equality and civic participation remain for women? How and why are the barriers steeper for women of color and working-class women?
- What does women's political participation and representation look like today, in Indiana and/or nationally?

## WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The ideal scholar-facilitator:

- Shares Indiana Humanities' vision for open-ended, non-partisan and thoughtful discussion about history and its implications today.
- Is enthusiastic about sharing the insights of the humanities with ordinary Hoosiers.
- Is not afraid to tackle difficult topics and help communities ask hard questions.
- Is open to learning new techniques and best practices for giving talks and leading public humanities programs.
- Has advanced training, such as an M.A. or Ph.D., in a humanities or humanistic social science field, including but not limited to literature, history, cultural studies, philosophy, media studies, art history or religious studies.
- Responds to email communication in a timely manner.

## WHAT MAKES A GREAT TALK?

### A compelling idea

Great talks are interesting and are usually built around one focused idea. However they start—with a question, with a bold claim or with the posing of a problem—they should leave the audience with that indelible buzzy, refreshed feeling of encountering a new idea.

### Dynamic, easy speaking style

Some speakers are funny, some are serious, but all great speakers share a few things in common: they're able to adjust their tone and formality depending on the audience, they avoid arcane jargon and confusing syntax, and they have the charisma to hold the attention of a crowd. Great talks are more than just a paper read out loud.

### Deep expertise

The speaker knows his or her stuff! Usually this is demonstrated by advanced study such as an M.A. or Ph.D. in a related humanities field such as literature, history, philosophy, history of science, art or theater history, etc.

### Unexpected connections

The speaker makes the case for how his or her specific topic is a lens for thinking about the larger historical context, a broader philosophical question, a contemporary debate or phenomenon, etc.

### Relevance

The speaker has spent time thinking about how to make his or her talk relevant to non-specialist, general public audiences, often by creating a hook that connects to people's everyday lives.

## TO APPLY:

To apply, fill out the online form. The online form can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2EVAN46>.

At the time of your application, you'll be asked to provide:

- Talk title, description and essential question
- CV/Resume
- One speaking reference
- Short reflections on why your talk is important to include in the bureau, why you want to join the bureau, and your relevant expertise.

Applicants will be notified by June 14<sup>th</sup> if selected to be part of the speakers bureau. Applications to book a speaker will open in the fall and speaking engagements will begin in January 2020 and continue through the end of 2020.

## QUESTIONS? IDEAS?

Contact Jackie Swihart at [jswihart@indianahumanities.org](mailto:jswihart@indianahumanities.org) or at 317.638.1500 x139.

## ABOUT INDIANA HUMANITIES

Indiana Humanities connects people, opens minds and enriches lives by creating and facilitating programs that encourage Hoosiers to think, read and talk. Learn more at [www.IndianaHumanities.org](http://www.IndianaHumanities.org).

## ABOUT THE INDIANA WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

The Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial, catalyzed by Indiana Humanities, the Indianapolis Propylaeum, the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau, working with many grassroots and local partners, marks the anniversary of the 19th Amendment. We invite Hoosiers to honor the ideas and ideals that fueled the suffrage movement in Indiana, and the people who led the way; to engage in a conversation about inclusion, equity, perseverance and power; to consider what remains to be done to ensure that our democracy truly includes everyone; and to identify and act on the lessons of the women's suffrage movement. Learn more at [www.IndianaSuffrage100.org](http://www.IndianaSuffrage100.org).