



IBE
Indiana Black Expo, Inc.



THE INDIANA BLACK EXPO, INC. HISTORY PROJECT



History Project| Purpose and Goal

The IBE History Project is designed to preserve the organization's institutional memory and its contributions to the community since its beginnings in 1971. The project's vision is to reach the general public and provide future generations with a clear account of IBE's history.

History of IBE| The Beginning

In the summer of 1971, a two-day celebration was created attracting over 50,000 people who chose to become part of the legacy called Indiana Black Expo. The event hosted a nationally televised basketball game, exposition, luncheon and a concert by nationally recognized artists. IBE grew to become a statewide organization with 12 chapter cities with community outreach programs for youth and families.

The Founders|

The three founders of Indiana Black Expo, Inc. are Willard Ransom, Rev. Andrew J. Brown, and James C. Cummings, Jr.

IBE History Exhibit|

IBE annually presents "Celebrating Our Heritage," an exhibit addressing IBE's early milestone achievements and impact on the local community as a statewide organization. The exhibit highlights IBE's vision for programming that became a national forum for social, political and economic achievement of African-Americans and a model for other expositions. The annual exhibits divide IBE's history into a series of five to eight year increments.

Soon, IBE will celebrate its 40th anniversary and will present the complete series of the exhibit spanning four decades of programming for the social and economic advancement of African Americans.

Help Us Tell Your Story

IBE encourages those who have served through volunteering, as employed staff or supported the numerous special events to share their memoirs and photographs in order to help document IBE's history. Please consider the following questions and contact our office to become instrumental in preserving IBE's history.

- Have you volunteered for Indiana Black Expo?
- If so, when and what did you do?
- Would you like to be a member of the history committee?
- Do you have pictures or other IBE or Circle City Classic memorabilia to share?

If you have photos to submit please include names, dates, places, and events. Photos will not be accepted without identified persons, dates and places.

SEND INFORMATION TO:

Attn: History Project
Indiana Black Expo, Inc.
3145 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

If you have items you wish to donate and/or have any inquiries please contact:

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Indiana Humanities Council