

Profile of Indiana Museums

The *2008 Directory of Indiana Museums* lists **508 museums**, 34 more than were listed in 2006. Just over 40% of those museums or 206 of them submitted updated information for this 15th edition of the *Directory*.

AIM follows the American Association of Museums (AAM) in defining museums as institutions that make a “unique contribution to the public by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the things of this world.” This definition includes museums of art, history, science and anthropology; children’s museums; historic sites; halls of fame; aquariums; zoos; botanical gardens and arboreta; nature centers; and planetariums. (This description is drawn from AAM’s *Code of Ethics for Museums*.) Twenty museums in Indiana meet the AAM standards for accreditation.

In aggregate, Indiana museums care for at least **10.5 million collection items**, from photographs to wagons, manuscripts to giraffes, and arrowheads to DVDs. In doing so, they help over **9.6 million visitors annually** explore, learn, and enjoy the knowledge communicated by those collections.

Because museums in Indiana often have multiple types of collections or educational goals, we allowed museums to identify with as many museum types as they found appropriate. History museums still represent the largest type of museum at 60%. Historic sites or structures make up 32% of Indiana museums, and art museums represent 17%.

Types of Museums	Number	Percentage
Art	85	17%
Botanical garden	10	2%
Children’s	23	5%
Hall of Fame	12	2%
Historic structure	61	12%
Historic site	102	20%
History	305	60%
Natural history	25	5%
Nature center	19	4%
Planetarium	5	1%
Science	20	4%
Zoo	9	2%

Indiana museums provide a range of services, including handicapped accessibility (65%), an on-site library (30%), temporary exhibit space (46%), a gift shop (54%), food service (10%), and some part of their facility for rent (36%).

Museum Facilities	Number	Percentage
Handicapped Accessible	331	65%
Library on-site	150	30%
Temporary exhibit space	234	46%
Facility available for rent	184	36%
Gift shop	273	54%
Food service	51	10%

Membership numbers for Indiana museums varies widely with the largest group (30%) having 100-299 members.

Membership (179 reporting)	Number	Percentage
0 - 49	43	24%
50 - 99	21	12%
100 - 299	54	30%
300 - 999	45	25%
1000 or more	16	9%

Since 2006, Indiana museums have changed little in how they are available to receive communications (phone, fax, e-mail, web site, toll free phone); however 83% of reporting museums indicated that their staff has internet access.

Communication Technology		
Museum has Phone	488	96%
Museum has E-mail address	347	68%
Museum has Website	302	59%
Museum has Fax	289	57%
Museum has Toll Free Phone	32	6%

Museum size can be determined by budget size, the number of paid staff, or physical size. Over half the museums in Indiana have budgets of less than \$50,000. Another 25% have budgets from \$50,000-199,000, with the remaining 22% with budgets over \$200,000. The range of paid staff is similar, with 37% of museums having no paid staff, 12% with part time staff only, 39% with 1-5 paid staff, and 12% with more than 5 full time staff members. The physical size of museums follows the same general pattern with 66% of museums having less than 10,000 square feet of space, 11% having 10,000-19,999 square feet, and 23% having more than 20,000 square feet.

Budget Size (188 reporting)		
\$1 - 24,999	73	39%
\$25,000 - 49,999	28	15%
\$50,000 - 99,999	25	13%
\$100,000 - 199,999	22	12%
\$200,000 - 499,999	18	10%
\$500,000 - 999,999	9	5%
\$1 million and above	13	7%

Paid Staff (180 reporting)		
No paid staff	67	37%
Part time staff only	22	12%
1 - 5 full time staff	70	39%
More than 5 full time staff	21	12%

Museum Physical Size (280 reporting)		
1 - 9,999 square feet	184	66%
10,000 - 19,999 square feet	32	11%
20,000 - 29,999 square feet	16	6%
30,000 - 39,999 square feet	6	2%
40,000 - 49,999 square feet	6	2%
more than 40,000 square feet	36	13%

What else would you like to know about Indiana museums? What information would be helpful to benchmark your institution's performance?

Send your ideas to the AIM Coordinator for consideration for the 2010 AIM *Directory* survey.