



Experiences that illuminate &  
**tell the story of community.**

For Immediate Release  
July 17, 2023  
Julie Zasada  
(219) 390-9423  
info@cedarlakehistory.org

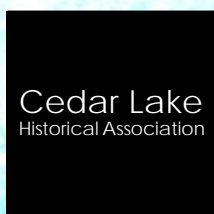
### **Façade Enhancement Begins at Cedar Lake Museum Cedar Lake Historical Association awarded Heritage Support Grant**

CEDAR LAKE, Indiana – Cedar Lake's cultural heritage attraction, The Museum at Lassen's Resort, will soon have a refreshed facade. The Indiana Historical Society (IHS) has awarded the Cedar Lake Historical Association (CLHA) with a grant of \$45,000.

The funding comes from the latest round of IHS's Heritage Support Grants, made possible by Lilly Endowment, Inc. The 102-year old former resort hotel is still clad in original siding and its 136 double-hung window sashes remain in place. CLHA will use its award to repaint the building exterior, replace gutters and downspouts, replace damaged shingles, and repair up to a dozen sets of its historic windows.

"Since last fall, the building has sustained more damage with each storm. A particularly strong winter storm blew snow in through rotting, poorly sealed windows, and every time the wind gusts, it seems we lose more shingles," explained Julie Zasada, executive director of the Association. The organization leases the structure from the Town of Cedar Lake, and is solely responsible for all repairs. "Our limited operating income is allocated to basic expenses such as utilities, insurance, and maintenance. When large-scale projects arise where we need contractors, we have found that grant funds are absolutely necessary."

Paired with a grant of \$5,550 from the Crown Point Community Foundation in February 2023 and gifts from generous CLHA donors, the IHS award will be used to hire professionals to perform several preservation tasks. Smooth Finish Painting of Valparaiso has already begun surface preparation to repaint the entire museum exterior. Discount Roof, also based in Valparaiso, will replace storm damaged shingles, install new gutters and downspouts, and repair insufficient flashing above the porch roofline. Knesak Window Repair of Crown Point will be entrusted to rebuild rotted window sashes while salvaging as much of the original wood frame and glass as possible.



**Up to the task**  
Big ideas, effective impact



Cedar Lake Historical Association

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation ■ P.O. Box 421, Cedar Lake, IN 46303 ■ 219.390.9423

"I was impressed with the historic character of the museum," shared Damian Raber, Smooth Finish Painting CEO. Raber's firm is donating a significant portion of their labor to help CLHA hold to their budget. "When I was approached to bid on only half of the exterior painting due to budget constraints, I knew that wasn't going to be good enough. I'm inspired by the hard work these volunteers do and I want them to have a building to be proud of when we leave the jobsite."

CLHA is operated by an all-volunteer team. "Every time we take on a repair project, the volunteers joke that they are getting too old for this work. I would love for a new generation of preservationists to be trained alongside our team on this one," said Zasada. Since the building is on both the state and national historic registries, siding, window, sill, and frame repairs must maintain the hotel's original integrity. CLHA hopes that this project can be used to welcome and train new volunteers.

In an effort to diversify its funding stream to afford ongoing maintenance projects, the organization will launch a monthly giving campaign this fall that will be designated for operational expenses and future repairs. "The windows are a great example of a never-ending project at the museum," Zasada explained. "As soon as one room is sealed properly from the elements, it's time to repair a sill or the glazing in the next room. But for 102 years old, we think she's holding up pretty well." On May 7, 2023, the Association debuted a concept room to develop a boutique hotel on the museum's second floor. However, that is a long-term project in the strategic plan and not included in the scope of this grant award.

The Museum at Lassen's Resort will maintain its normal hours of operation during the project: steamboat Wednesdays from 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:00 - 6:00 PM and Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 - 6:00 PM. Private tours are also available by appointment. For more information or to become a volunteer, please call 219-390-9423 or visit [www.lassensresort.org](http://www.lassensresort.org)

### **About the Indiana Historical Society**

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana's Storyteller™, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing the state's history. A private, nonprofit membership organization, IHS maintains the nation's premier research library and archives on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest and presents a unique set of visitor experiences called the Indiana Experience. IHS also provides support and assistance to local museums and historical groups; publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; produces and hosts art exhibitions, museum, theater and outside performance groups; and provides youth, adult and family programs. IHS is a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

###

