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Indianapolis Cultural Trail Opens Indiana Avenue and 10th Street Expansion

First Expansion includes Musical Public Art Installation and Connects to Two Greenway Trails

INDIANAPOLIS—Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. officially opened the Indiana Ave and 10th Street expansion of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick. This is the first expansion of the world-class trail, which serves as a model for urban trails and greenways worldwide.

The Indiana Avenue and 10th Street expansion increases connections to cultural destinations in the Indiana Avenue cultural district, including the Madam Walker Legacy Center. It also creates a safe connection to the Fall Creek and White River Wapahani greenways and includes a new public art installation titled *Indiana Avenue Sound Experience*.

The Indiana Avenue and 10th Street expansion is the first expansion in the Cultural Trail's history. It adds approximately one mile to the linear park while providing a beautiful connection to the historic Indiana Avenue neighborhoods, the future 16 Tech bridge, and the hospital and university campuses on the west side of downtown.

Indiana Avenue Sound Experience is the first installation to include sound in the Cultural Trail's public art collection. It highlights music and musicians that have roots on Indiana Avenue and have influenced music worldwide. The installation was influenced by community input collected during the Cultural Trail's design in 2020 and is inspired by WFYI's "Echoes of Indiana Avenue," created by Kyle Long and co-produced with Herman "Butch" Slaughter. *Indiana Avenue Sound Experience* pays tribute to the musicians, teachers, promoters, label executives and crews who draw their roots to Indiana Avenue.

The first installment of the *Indiana Avenue Sound Experience* features music from Lamp Records, a record label founded by Herb Miller in the late 1960s from a record store Miller owned in the neighborhood around Indiana Avenue. Lamp Records released music from the City's greatest funk and soul acts, including The Vanguards, Amnesty, and Ebony Rhythm Band. Many of Lamp Records' musicians lived and performed on the Avenue. The inaugural installment also features interviews with musicians who were a part of the Lamp Records label, including Lester Johnson, who played at the ribbon-cutting celebration.

The *Indiana Avenue Sound Experience* will be guided by a curated group of local historians, musicians and artists and will change over time. Future installments will include music curated by Robert Montgomery, son of Indianapolis Jazz guitarist Wes Montgomery.



“The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is about creating connections of all kinds: connections to our cultural destinations, connections to new experiences, connections to our city’s greenway network and ultimately connections to each other and the people that make up the many cultures that make Indianapolis unique,” said Indianapolis Cultural Trail Executive Director, Kären Haley. “We are grateful to the support of everyone who made this first expansion of the Cultural Trail possible, including the City of Indianapolis, Lilly Endowment, Elevance Health Foundation, Lilly Foundation, CIBA Foundation and MIBOR Foundation. The Cultural Trail continues to be a shining example of public-private partnership in our city.”

The Indiana Avenue and 10th Street expansion also includes significant upgrades to City infrastructure, including new street lights, curbs, sidewalks and ADA ramps, stormwater infrastructure, pavement along the corridor, and a new traffic signal. This segment includes 170,000 decorative pavers, 23 stormwater planters, 8,950 perennials and shrubs, 78 trees, new benches and bike racks. The Cultural Trail partnered with the Madam Walker Legacy Center to enhance the entrance to the historic Walker Theater by creating a decorative plaza and a “Walk of Fame” highlighting individuals in the Indiana Avenue community and musicians who have played at the Theater.

The nearly one-mile expansion represents half of the ongoing Cultural Trail expansion project, and the additional segment along South Street is slated to open later this year. The expansion will add nearly two miles to the linear park when complete. This comprehensive expansion also includes funding for the Cultural Trail’s maintenance endowment to ensure the long-term care of the investment and support for enhancing the Trail’s public art program.

Lead investors include Lilly Endowment Inc., Elevance Health Foundation, Lilly Foundation and the City of Indianapolis. Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has raised \$28.5 million for the estimated \$30 million project.

All are invited to celebrate the opening at a Community Celebration in the Indianapolis Urban League north parking lot from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with live music by Lester Johnson and Music Box. Light refreshments from Kona Ice, The Sweet Potato Bakery and Chicago Beef and Dog will be available.

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About Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.

Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc. creates, inspires and sustains connections and cultural experiences that are accessible to all. The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is both a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and a world-class, internationally recognized linear park: The Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick. In partnership with the City of Indianapolis, the organization also manages Pacers Bikeshare and public destinations along and connected by the Cultural Trail.

About the Expansion

Indiana Avenue/10th Street

The Indiana Avenue expansion will connect directly to the Madam Walker Legacy Center on Indiana Avenue and continue north to 10th Street. It will then head west on 10th Street to the planned bridge leading to the 16 Tech Innovation District. While the public is invited to enjoy the Indiana Avenue and 10th Street expansion, construction teams will continue to close out small punch list items during the summer.

South Street

The South Street expansion will bring the Indianapolis Cultural Trail from New Jersey Street to Capitol Avenue, improving access in a thriving stretch of downtown that includes Lucas Oil Stadium, the Indiana Convention Center and a growing residential hub. The new section will also create a beautiful connection between downtown, the nearby Southside neighborhoods, and the Stadium Village area.