



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2024

### **Community Invited to Celebrate the Opening of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail South Street Expansion**

*A press conference and official ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on October 29*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. will celebrate the grand opening of the South Street expansion of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick with a press conference and ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 29 at 9:45 a.m. at the intersection of South Street, South Meridian Street, and Madison Avenue. This new 0.6-mile segment better connects the Wholesale and Fountain Square cultural districts and enhances connections to near Southside neighborhoods, and the Stadium Village community to downtown Indianapolis. It improves access to key downtown landmarks, including Lucas Oil Stadium, the Indiana Convention Center, and the future White River expansion of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail.

The public and media are encouraged to attend to celebrate this milestone.

The South Street expansion is the second phase of the first expansion of the internationally recognized Indianapolis Cultural Trail; the first phase of the expansion opened in June on Indiana Avenue and 10th Street. In total the expansion adds approximately two miles to the linear park. The new expansions further establish the Cultural Trail as the downtown hub for the central Indiana greenway network, connecting cultural districts and neighborhoods while investing in new lighting, beautiful public gardens, trees and stormwater planters and public art. The Cultural Trail's expansion also includes funding for the Trail's maintenance endowment to allow for maintaining the Cultural Trail for the long term.

"The opening of the South Street expansion marks an exciting completion of the first expansion of the Cultural Trail," said Kären Haley, Executive Director of Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. "The Trail's growth provides more residents and visitors with a beautiful and accessible experience and pathway that connects neighborhoods, destinations, and celebrates our city's unique culture."

In addition to improving connectivity, the new segments incorporate an impressive array of plantings, including:

- 115 trees
- 1,041 shrubs
- 1,556 ornamental grasses



- 17,154 perennials, with approximately 2,244 of these perennials installed in the stormwater plant beds

The total square footage of new plant beds across all expansion areas is:

- 12,052 square feet on South Street
- 13,406 square feet on Indiana Avenue
- 16,774 square feet on 10th Street
- 42,232 square feet in total

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

In 2024, the Indianapolis Cultural Trail added two miles to the internationally recognized linear park and started design on a new segment that will span the White River and connect to the expansion of White River State Park and Elanco's new innovation district. Additionally, in May, the organization added 330 electric assist bikes to the Pacers Bikeshare program and launched IndyRides Free, a free annual pass program for Marion County residents.

The Cultural Trail recently announced a \$2 million fundraising campaign to support its vision for the future of the Cultural Trail's headquarters including increased operational and programming capacity and a welcoming location for Trail users.

For more information and to learn about opportunities to support the vision, visit [www.IndyCulturalTrail.org/future](http://www.IndyCulturalTrail.org/future).

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**About Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.**



Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc creates, inspires and sustains connections and cultural experiences that are accessible for 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**

### **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 and near Southside neighborhoods and the Stadium Village area.

### **Indiana Avenue/10th Street**

The Indiana Avenue expansion directly connects to the Madam Walker Legacy Center on Indiana Avenue, continues north to 10th Street and then moves west on 10th Street to the planned bridge leading to the 16 Tech Innovation District.