

WE REMEMBER HERBERT HAWKINS'S LEGACY ON INDIANA AVENUE

MEMORY • PLACE • COMMUNITY
SPIRIT & PLACE FESTIVAL 2026



EXPLORING CONNECTIONS, PLACE & WHAT WE CARRY FORWARD
AN INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY

Dr. Michelle D. Dartis

Author • Historian • Storyteller
Founder, Leave A Mark Press LLC

WE REMEMBER

CONNECTIONS, PLACE & WHAT WE CARRY FORWARD

Herbert Hawkins's story asks us to consider how people become connected to places and communities — and what happens when neighborhoods change, people are displaced, or stories disappear from public memory.

There are no right or wrong answers. Draw from your memories, experiences, observations, and what you heard today.

1

BEGIN WITH A PERSON

Who from your family or community deserves to be remembered?

☐ Family stories ☐ Photographs ☐ Records ☐ Personal memory ☐ Community knowledge ☐ Other

What is one thing about this person's life you would want someone 50 years from now to know?

2

PLACE HOLDS MEMORY *Think of a place that carries memory for you, your family, or your community.*

What place comes to mind? What happened there — and who belonged there?

Has it changed, disappeared, been renamed, redeveloped, or taken on a different meaning?

3

WHEN SYSTEMS RESHAPE COMMUNITIES

Today we considered how redlining, housing discrimination, redevelopment, highway construction, institutional expansion, and displacement affected Black Indianapolis, including communities surrounding what became the IUPUI campus.

Before today, what did you know about these histories?

☐ A great deal ☐ Some ☐ Very little ☐ Nothing

What did you learn today that surprised you, challenged you, or made you want to know more?

When a community is displaced, what else can be lost besides buildings?

☐ Relationships ☐ Networks ☐ Businesses ☐ Culture ☐ Belonging ☐ Institutions ☐ Community memory

What can survive — even after the physical place has changed?

FOLLOW THE CONNECTIONS

SPIRIT & PLACE 2026: CONNECTIONS

The 2026 Spirit & Place theme asks us to think about connections — to one another, to history, to place, and to purpose. Herbert's recovered story connects:

PERSON → FAMILY → COMMUNITY → PLACE → HISTORY → US

4

MAP A CONNECTION

PERSON / STORY:

PEOPLE connected to it:

PLACE connected to it:

COMMUNITY / INSTITUTION connected to it:

A LARGER HISTORY connected to it:

What becomes visible when you follow the connections?

5

WHAT MUST WE REMEMBER?

What person, place, community, business, institution, or story must be remembered?

Why? What could be lost if nobody carries that story forward?

6

CARRY IT FORWARD *Remembering can become an action.*

One thing I can do after today is:

- ☐ Ask an elder ☐ Record oral history ☐ Identify photos ☐ Research a name ☐ Visit an archive
☐ Research a neighborhood ☐ Preserve records/objects ☐ Write the story ☐ Share it ☐ Other

My first step will be:

I WILL REMEMBER...

Because remembering is not simply looking backward. It is deciding what — and who — we will carry forward.