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Indiana County Icons

The Indiana State Museum
650 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The state museum hired the ICA to assess the condition of twenty-one of the ninety-two icons they hold, each representing a different county of Indiana. After an initial on-site survey, thirteen of the icons were designated at greatest risk for future deterioration and prepared for immediate treatment.

The goal of the project was to maintain, and if necessary re-create, the original appearance of each icon in the most lasting and stable medium now available. Each one is composed of different materials, including resin, tiles, bronze, steel, limestone, stone, and glass. Problems included loose, broken, and missing elements, corroded wiring, and failing adhesives; surface cleaning and consolidation was also necessary in almost all cases.

While much of the conservation work was done in Indiana, some of the icons were de-installed and brought to the ICA laboratory in Cleveland for more extensive treatments.