THE Local Historian

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

Why Preserve and Share LGBTQ History?

MSS 1150 AV, Stonewall Union Records, courtesy Ohio History Connection

Eric Feingold, History Curator, Ohio History Connection

In June, many cities around the world host Pride celebrations recognizing the contributions and impact of LGBTQ people. These festivals, parades, and other gatherings commemorate the Stonewall Uprising of June 28, 1969, which many consider a watershed moment in 20th century LGBTQ history.[1]

Accordingly, this issue of *The Local Historian* will focus on LGBTQ history. In particular, it will provide suggestions for ways to collaborate with LGBTQ communities, and share strategies for researching and interpreting LGBTQ history. This article, specifically, aims to answer the question, "Why preserve and share LGBTQ history?" The answer involves exploring museum industry best practice and the role of museums and historic sites as trusted authorities on history.

First, we should briefly address the acronym itself. "LGBTQ" stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning. It is an umbrella term that describes sexual orientation, gender, and gender expression. Though seemingly inclusive, the acronym excludes many other orientations, identities, and expressions. Therefore, it is important to remember the acronym represents a wide variety of experiences and histories, and even has a history all its own. Starting with just "GL" (gay, lesbian) in the late 1980s, it has continually grown, reflecting the diversity surrounding sexuality and gender.

Diversity and inclusivity are central to museum industry best practice, and appear throughout the American Alliance of Museums' (AAM) Standards Regarding Public Trust and Accountability. The AAM stresses the importance of a mu-

President's Message:

The Ohio Local History Alliance is proud to be sponsoring the Ohio History Service Corps' workshop INTRODUCTION TO COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT. The workshop will offer suggestions, provide hands-on experiences and help give attendees a better understanding of the best practices when dealing with your organization's collections. The workshop will be offered at five locations throughout the state: Northwest Ohio – May 12th at the Wood County Historical Center & Museum; Central Ohio – June 2nd at the Ohio History Center; Northeast Ohio – June 9th at the Peninsula Foundation, G.A.R. Hall; Southeast Ohio – June 16th at The Castle of Marietta; West Central Ohio – June 23rd at the Logan County History Center.

For many of us who have been around the local history scene for a while, this session will harken back to OAHSM's old Brass Tacks workshops by providing another format outside of our Region Meetings and our Annual Conference to help our members learn skills and keep us updated on professional standards that will help make our home organizations stronger and our sites better. Providing more educational opportunities for our members is one of the strategic goals for OLHA's Education Committee.

I would like to thank Ohio History Services Corps members Sara Fisher and Samantha Chase for developing the workshop and presenting it throughout the state. I'm sure those who attend will benefit greatly from Sara's and Samantha's hard work and expertise.

We hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity and register for one of the **Introduction To Collections Management** workshops at www.ohio-history.org/americorps. Please look for the detailed announcement later in this issue.

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seum being "a good neighbor in its geographic area."[2] In other words, a museum or historic site must be able to work with the communities its mission serves and the communities who live near the physical building or site itself. LGBTQ people comprise roughly 3.5 percent of Ohio's total population, meaning public historians must assume LGBTQ people live near and visit local museums and historic sites.[3]

It is also important to realize museum visitors—LGBTQ or otherwise—are interested in learning about LGBTQ perspectives throughout history. In her award-winning book, *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites* (2015), Susan Ferentinos cites several examples of museums that saw increased and diversified visitation after incorporating LGBTQ perspectives into their interpretation (see the July/August 2015 edition of *The Local Historian* for Nancy Yerian's detailed review of the book).[4] By presenting LGBTQ narratives, historic sites and museums around Ohio could attract new and diverse audiences ready for fresh perspectives in exhibits, programs, and other initiatives.

Along with increasing visitation, inclusive narratives and interpretation allow museums and historic sites to authentically share history. Presenting an authentic account of history often requires exploring multiple viewpoints. For years, however, museums and historic sites underrepresented—if not plainly ignored—LGBTQ perspectives in collections, exhibits, and programs. Scholars such as Michael

Bronski and George Chauncey would strongly disagree with this approach to presenting history, as their works highlight the long histories of LGBTQ culture and people in the United States.[5] It is important that public history organizations follow suit and present these histories to our audiences because, as Ferentinos wrote, "museums can offer...visibility to a group of people who have been consistently marginalized or erased in the larger culture."[6] The invisibility of LGBTQ history in museums and historic sites is problematic because the public trusts these institutions to accurately portray the past. Consider a 2018 American Association for State and Local History survey: 81 percent of respondents ranked museums and historic sites as "absolutely" or "somewhat" trustworthy.[7]

As public historians, we have a responsibility to share and foster a true understanding of the past. In order to do this, we may need to look hard at the narratives we present and, at the same time, those we do not present. Museums and historic sites long ignored LGBTQ perspectives. But, it is encouraging to see more public history organizations incorporating LGBTQ history into their exhibits, programs, and other initiatives. Such examples show the importance of revisiting and expanding the histories we preserve and share. By preserving and sharing diverse histories, such as those of LGBTQ communities, public historians can live up to industry standards. Moreover, they can meet the public's expectation that museums and historic sites will present authentic, well-rounded historical narratives.

[1] "Stonewall National Monument – New York," *National Park Service*, 1 March 2018, https://www.nps.gov/ston/index.htm, last accessed 12 April 2018; Susan Ferentinos, *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015): 79-80.

[2] "Public Trust and Accountability: Standards Regarding Public Trust and Accountability," *American Alliance of Museums*, 2013, last accessed 12 April 2018, http://aam-us.org/resources/ethics-standards-and-best-practices/public-trust.

[3] Gary J. Gates, "Gallup Special Report: New Estimates of the LGBTQ Population in the United States," *The Williams Institute – UCLA School of Law*, February 2013, last accessed 12 April 2018, https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies/gallup-lgbt-pop-feb-2013/; "LGBTQ Populations Map," *Movement Advancement Project*, 2018, last accessed 12 April 2018, http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/lgbt_populationss; Dante Chinni, "LGBTQ Voters' Political Clout, State by State," *The Wall Street Journal*, 17 June 2016, last accessed 12 April 2018, https://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2016/06/17/lgbt-voters-2016-political-clout-state-by-state/.

[4] Ferentinos 2015: 12-13. Nancy Yerian, Review of *Interpreting LGBTQ History at Museums and Historic Sites*, by Susan Ferentinos, *The Local Historian*, July/August 2015, p.5.

[5] Michael Bronski, *A Queer History of the United States* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2011); George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (New York: Basic Books, 1994); Megan E. Springate (ed.), *LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History* (Washington: National Park Foundation, 2016), last accessed 12 April 2018, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lgbtqheritage/upload/lgbtqtheme-history.pdf

[6] Ferentinos 2015, 9.

[7] John Dichtl, "Most Trust Museums as Sources of Historical Information," *American Association for State and Local History*, 20 February 2018, last accessed 12 April 2018, http://blogs.aaslh.org/most-trust-museums/.

Some Things You Can Do to Be More Inclusive: Cultural Humility at Historic Sites

Ramona Peel Ramona Peel, MA,
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On its website, the Ohio History Connection states that its mission is to "spark discovery of Ohio's stories. Embrace the present, share the past and transform the future." The History Connection isn't alone in striving to carry out such a mission – Historical sites constantly face the challenge of maintaining relevance as audiences grow, change, and evolve. So what does this mission entail?

Sparking discovery entails making history relatable to the next generation. Sharing the past and embracing the present cannot be limited to telling the stories of a relatively small number of Ohioans. Transforming the future can only be achieved if history is inclusive and accessible to everyone. One group of Ohioans that is traditionally underserved is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community. Just how big is this community?

According to the Williams Institute at UCLA, there are about 342,000 LGBTQ people in Ohio (3.8% of the population). That's equivalent to the combined population of Toledo & Youngstown. Within that population are about 39,000 transgender and non-binary folks, which is a group large enough to fill both Nationwide Arena where the Columbus Blue Jackets play, and MAPFRE Stadium where Columbus Crew SC plays.

The LGBTQ community is also swiftly growing. Research from Gallup has shown the percentage of the U.S. population that asserts an LGBTQ identity grew from 3.5 % in 2012 to 4.1% in 2016. In raw numbers, 1.7 million additional people identified as LGBTQ in 2016 compared to 2012. Given the relative lack of comprehensive studies focused on the LGBTQ community, these numbers likely understate the size of this population. The same study shows that millennials (those born between 1980 and 1998) account for a huge amount of this overall growth. Millennials have now outpaced baby boomers as the biggest generational cohort in the United States, and it's clear that this trend of growth for the LGBTQ community will continue into the coming decades. How can historical sites engage with this ever-growing group of Ohioans?

Obviously, integrating LGBTQ historical figures and events into existing exhibits and narratives would be a positive step. Additional positive steps would include making concerted efforts to recruit LGBTQ staff members, creating LGBTQ-specific exhibits and events, and partnering with local LGBTQ organizations on such endeavors. However, it's crucial to not overlook the importance of cultural humility and structural competency.

Cultural humility is, broadly stated, a commitment to other-regarding openness when engaging with members of other social groups (particularly marginalized groups). Structural competency constitutes efforts to create physical spaces that are welcoming, inclusive, and safe for members of marginalized communities. What are some examples of these principles in practice?

Small changes to your sites can make a big difference. Include symbols of inclusiveness like the rainbow pride flag, and/or the trans pride flag. Consider changing the way you ask questions on forms to make them more inclusive for everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). For example, if you want information about the people that would be included in a family pass, use "parent 1 and parent 2" rather than "mother and father." Change the signage on your single-occupancy restrooms to "all gender" or "gender neutral." Prominently display non-discrimination policies that are inclusive of SOGI. Most importantly, train your personnel, including frontline staff, on LGBTQ cultural humility, with the goal of creating a more welcoming and inclusive environment on-site. Visitors who feel welcomed and affirmed are more likely to return, to participate in programming and collection efforts, and to spread positive word of mouth. Creating more welcoming environments for LGBTQ people isn't just the right thing to do – It can also help historical sites be more representative of the communities they serve, and attract new life-long patrons.

A Crash Course on Researching and Interpreting LGBTQ (plus) Local History

Nancy Yerian, Independent Historian; OLHA Social Media and Website Coordinator

So you've been convinced by our previous articles and you want to incorporate LGBTQ history into your site's interpretation. Maybe you are ready to dig into a story you've been tiptoe-ing around for years, or maybe you're looking to find local LGBTQ stories to expand your interpretation. Either way, I recommend you start at the same place: researching the historical context. You can find helpful bibliographies in Susan Ferentinos' book, *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites*, and on *outhistory.org*. There are decades' worth of scholarship on the history of same-sex sexuality and gender variance. You will want to familiarize yourself with the topic and time period you are focusing on to get a feel for general themes to look for and terminology you can use in searching.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender are each words with specific histories, many of them fairly recent. Individuals living 50 or 100 or 200 years ago probably understood their own gender and sexuality differently than we do today, and used different terms for it. These terms will be invaluable for research, but often are hurtful slurs when used in modern contexts. Alternative search terms for gay or bisexual include: character defect, deviant, immoral, invert, pervert, queer, sapphism, sodomite, and tribade. Again, do be careful. These terms are currently considered offensive; they should only be used to guide your research.

Your secondary source research might give you ideas of what to research to find LGBTQ histories in your area, but here are some ideas to consider. If you are looking for the recent local history of your area, community archives can be invaluable resources for you. Those may be housed in organizations like the Ohio Lesbian Archives, or collected by individuals in the community. Your outreach will help you connect with these resources and your community contacts will allow to do projects like oral history, which has been a crucial method for documenting LGBTQ history. (Of course, oral history takes a lot of trust building to be successful.)

Don't forget about very recent history as well. Did your town host its first LGBTQ Pride event last year? Consider taking some posters or photographs into your collection.

For older history, consider thinking not just of the LGBTQ acronym, but of looking more broadly for instances of same-sex love and sexuality and of gender variance. Maybe your town has a locally famous couple of men or couple of women who lived together and no one ever talked about it. Maybe you've found a sensational article in your local paper about a "woman who lived as a man for decades!" Try researching that and learning more about the context. If you interpret an asylum, a poor house, a penitentiary or even a single-sex school, you likely have stories to investigate. Same-sex sexuality and gender variance have been medicalized and criminalized, and single-sex institutions are more likely to have instances of same-sex sexuality. You may also want to look into local laws about "sodomy" and "cross-dressing" as well as how state laws played out in your county or township. Alternative search terms for relevant criminal offenses include: buggery, disorderly house, gross indecency, importuning, indecency, obscenity, sexual offences, sodomy, soliciting, street offences, unnatural offences, and unnatural acts. Not all of the criminal charges under these terms will be dealing with LGBTQ individuals, of course—you'll need to do further research, but searching these terms can be a starting point.

Some of this history is painful and difficult to face, but making the choice to interpret it can be incredibly meaningful for your organizations and your community. There are many ways of interpreting LGBTQ history and it's ok to start small. You can incorporate acknowledgements of same-sex sexuality and gender variance into your regular interpretation, or hold a single special program or small exhibit. Just remember that doing good LGBTQ history requires the same principles as doing good history. Be transparent about what you do know, what you don't know, and how you learned it. If you're not sure what labels someone might have used for themselves, simply describe what you do know about their life. Consider that challenge an opportunity to help visitors understand that even sexuality and gender change over time. Use your cultural competency to be respectful of the experiences of the people who lived these histories as well as the people learning about them. Don't let the fear of backlash or making a mistake stop you from telling the full story of your historic site.

Reaching Out for LGBTQ History

Ben Anthony, Community Engagement Coordinator, Ohio History Connection

If you critically evaluate your organization's collections and programing you will find "blind spots." Every cultural institution is "blind" to the narratives of some people and the communities they comprise. Those underrepresented communities may have lived in the area you serve for generations or just arrived few years ago, but regardless, they are your neighbors and their stories matter. If you are willing to listen and connect with those underserved parts of your community, you are on the right track to serving your mission in a more complete way.

All good outreach starts with a willingness to learn and understand, even with partners that you may have worked with in the past. When connecting with the LGBTQ community, you must have cultural empathy. This is true for any community with which you wish to connect, but are not a member. The good news is that there are LGBTQ organizations that would be happy to train your staff, volunteers and leadership. You will never be able to know everything about a certain underserved community, but making the effort to learn shows that you are committed to building connections with respect and humility. It shouldn't be shocking, but understanding how to treat individuals with dignity and respect is essential before working alongside the LGBTQ community to collect and share LGBTQ history. Would you trust someone who didn't approach you respectfully? It doesn't take much time, but do your part to learn from those who know. Good intentions aren't enough.

Once you have had a chance to learn just some of the nuance and diversity of the larger LGBTQ community, it is time to get connecting! If you want to understand a community, you have to become involved in that community. Check out some LGBTQ community events in the area, including your local pride celebration (trust me, you have one nearby!). Invite some folks to get coffee and listen to their perspective on their history and how they think it should be preserved and/or presented.

Outreach empowers our organizations to learn about others' perspectives, but that work is meaningless unless you are willing to take feedback to heart and make changes based on what you hear. There may be mistrust of your organization or intentions. The community may wonder, "why did they wait so long to want to hear our history? Why now?" Trust takes time. Be genuine, forthright, patient and present—trust will follow.

Once you establish some trust within the community, invite them into your space. See if there is something that signals your space as welcoming or unwelcoming. Have a discussion around what you could improve to make the space a welcoming place for others. The American Alliance of Museums LGBTQ guidelines are an incredible way to inform and measure your improvement. Another option is to take some of the ideas in the community and create a program or event. Maybe it's an author talk, pop-up museum or walking tour. Keep it interactive and be sure to keep making connections as you attract new patrons.

The ultimate goal of your outreach is to build partnerships based on continuous and sustainable trust with your local LGBTQ community. That trust creates a foundation to better serve your mission and entire community, all while growing your collection, relevance and network of supporters.

(above) The Ohio History Connection's GOHI booth at Yellow Springs Pride Celebration, 2017.

(right) An example of a "pop-up" exhibit at the Ohio History Connection, for Pride Month, 2017.

As a special initiative of the Ohio History Connection, GOHI (Gay Ohio History Initiative) works to collect, preserve and share Ohio's LGBTQ history. As a part of our continuing efforts to ensure Ohio's LGBTQ community has a voice in deciding how their story is collected and shared, GOHI is forming a state-wide advisory council. It will be made up of representatives from across the state with at least one being from each OLHA region. If folks are interested in serving and helping to shape the future of GOHI and Ohio LGBTQ history preservation please contact Ben Anthony at banthony@ohiohistory.org or 614-297-2476.

Collections Management Workshops

Management of museum collections is a common topic many local history organizations desire more training in. For this reason, AmeriCorps-Ohio History Service Corps members created a traveling workshop "Introduction to Collections Management." The workshop is structured for organizations that are just starting out with care of their collections, want additional training, or wish to reinforce/refresh their current knowledge on the basic, best practices of stewardship of collections.

Using the American Association for State and Local History Standards of Excellence Program (StEPs) as inspiration, participants will learn the fundamentals of collections management. They will learn what documentation is required for collections, have an introduction to legal issues governing donations, how collections relate to the organizational mission, cataloging and labeling, storing and researching their collections. All of this will be done through a combination of both formal learning and hands-on activities to ensure participants leave confident taking back what they learned to their individual organizations. Those who attend will also leave with a detailed list of resources, a copy of the Gaylord supply catalog, and an archival starter kit of materials (covered by the registration fee).

SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

Registration Information

$20/organization (*no limit on number of participants*)
*$20 covers material costs for the starter kits
* To register:
   www.ohiohistory.org/americorps

Find the workshop nearest you:

Northwest Ohio
May 12, 2018
Wood County Historical Center & Museum

Central Ohio
June 2, 2018
Ohio History Connection

Northeast Ohio
June 9, 2018
Peninsula Foundation, G.A.R. Hall

Southeast Ohio
June 16, 2018
The Castle of Marietta

West Central Ohio
June 23, 2018
Logan County History Center

The Introduction to Collections Management workshop series will be conducted by two AmeriCorps-Ohio History Service Corps Local History Members: Samantha Chase and Sara Fisher.

Samantha Chase is a graduate of Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia where she interned for **theClio. com**, a site and app that allows users to connect with the history around them and create personally curated entries on historical sites, museums, events, and landmarks. Samantha is currently serving with AmeriCorps as Local History Service Corps Member at Ohio Humanities. While working with staff at OH to develop their new cultural heritage tourism website, she also serves local history organizations around the state by helping build their capacity through social media development and interpretation.

Sara Fisher is a second year AmeriCorps member at the Oberlin Heritage Center. In both her first and second year as a Local History Service Corps Member, she assisted/continues to assist over 30 organizations strive to achieve museum best practices pertaining to collections management, outreach and marketing, strategic planning, program development, evaluation, organizational goal setting, interpretation, and volunteer program development. Over the past five years, Sara has worked with organizations on the AASLH Standards of Excellence Program - helping four organizations earn certificates in Audience and Stewardship of Collections and is part of the AASLH StEPs Enhancement Project. She earned her B.A. in History with a Women & Gender Studies Certificate from Ohio University and a M.A. in History concentrating in Public History from Wright State University.

For more information please email either AmeriCorps Members and Presenters Samantha Chase (**schase@ohiohumanities. org**) or Sara Fisher (*sara.fisher@oberlin-heritage.org*).

The AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps Program is made possible through ServeOhio -- Ohio's Governor-appointed Commission on Service and Volunteerism. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for organizations they serve. The Ohio History Service Corps supports community and local history all over Ohio by providing service to Ohioans in the categories of historic site survey, collections digitization, and capacity building for local history organizations.

Association of Midwest Museums, Annual Conference July 18-21, Chicago

The Association of Midwest Museums and the Illinois Association of Museums are teamed up to develop a diverse and forward-thinking conference program featuring a mix of sessions, workshops, events, and guest speakers. Explore the schedule at a glance at **www.ammconference. org/schedule/** and learn more about available sessions, workshops, and evening events.

July 18-21, 2018
Chicago

Fostering Transparency, Strengthening Public Trust

The AMM-IAM 2018 Conference is held concurrently with the Visitor Studies Association (VSA) Conference at the Hilton Chicago on July 18-21, 2018. The concurrent conferences will share a few key activities, including the keynote speaker and exhibit and resource hall, and will feature parallel tracks of workshops and breakout sessions. We encourage attendees to register for both conferences, to gain access to a variety of professional development opportunities. Special rates apply for dual registrations!

Ohio Digital Network Brings the Buckeye State to DPLA

The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce that over 50,000 new materials from Ohio Digital Network are now discoverable in Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). Led by the State Library of Ohio and in partnership with Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK), Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), and Ohio History Connection, the Ohio Digital Network builds on strong digital collection efforts across the state including Ohio Memory and the Ohio Digitization Hubs project. As a part of DPLA, students and teachers, researchers, and history buffs can now explore all of these rich collections from across the state in one place alongside millions of resources from the growing DPLA network of partners.

"The State Library of Ohio is very proud to have led the Ohio Digital Network to this important point. We are very appreciative of the tremendous amount of work done by the many dedicated people in our partner institutions across the state," expressed State Librarian Beverly Cain. "We look forward to working with them, and with our partners at DPLA, to continue developing Ohio's contributions to this culturally and historically significant collection of resources."

The collections shared by members of the Ohio Digital Network represent stories that are both unique to Ohioans and part of our shared national story. Materials such as wartime propaganda posters and oral histories about the May 4, 1970 Kent State shooting shed light on turning point moments in twentieth century history. Collections on Latino-American

In this photograph included in DPLA, members of the Stonewall Union Columbus chapter participate in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1987.

experiences in rural Knox County and on Ohio's LGBT communities represent the lives, work, and relationships of local Ohioans, and ensure that the stories, voices, and experiences of these communities are captured as part of our national heritage. Ohio Digital Network also brings unique materials for gaming (old school, that is) and ornithology enthusiasts too—the history of chess and checkers collection and John James Audubon's beautiful bird illustrations are not to be missed.

Ohio Poppy Project

Photo courtesy of Amy Rohmiller

Help us commemorate the sacrifices of Ohio's World War I service members! The Ohio World War I Centennial Committee is collecting homemade poppies from communities across Ohio for the commemoration of the Armistice that ended World War I and to recognize the hundreds of thousands of forgotten Ohioans who served in that war.

The Ohio Poppy Project wants to help

communities across Ohio connect to their World War I history and honor World War I soldiers across the state. Our goal is to collect poppies until fall 2018 and display all the collected poppies at the Ohio History Center in Columbus as part of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on November 11, 2018. Making poppies can be an easy, meaningful way for your historical society, community group, school class, or scout troop to commemorate The Great War.

Ohio played a major role in World War I in almost every area you can think of. As a state, Ohio sent the 4th most troops in the country and about 5% of the entire nation's military manpower. Ohio was the home of Camp Sherman, the third largest training camp for soldiers. Over 120,000 soldiers trained at the camp outside of Chillicothe.

Poppies became a symbol of World War I and the contributions of our nation's soldiers during the war with the publication of the poem In Flanders Fields by John McCrae. The poem memorializes sol-

diers who fought on the Western front, especially in northern Belgium. This area saw some of the worst fighting of the war. Poppies continue to be a symbol of World War I today.

If you would like to join our commemoration and make poppies, we have resources and templates to help.

- **Lesson plan** on the history of poppies and World War I
- **Template for paper poppies**
- **Variety of templates for other materials**

If your class or group makes poppies and would like to have them displayed at the Ohio History Center during the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, you can ship them to:

Ohio World War I Committee
Ohio History Connection,
800 East 17th Ave,
Columbus OH 43211

The Ohio Poppy Project is inspired by the Kentucky Poppy Project.

AASLH New Webinar Series: History Check-Ins

When you spend your days on practical activities that help your institution thrive, it can be overwhelming to tackle an unfamiliar topic. Whether you're simply curious, or have been tasked with launching a new exhibit, we've got the tools to bring you up to snuff on a variety of topics you've let us know you're interested in.

AASLH and the Organization of American Historians (OAH) bring you History Check-Ins. This series of four webinar presentations by OAH Distinguished Lecturers is designed to make academic scholarship on the themes you care about accessible and affordable.

Webinars are $20 for AASLH members and members of OAH (contact OAH for a promo code), and $30 for non-members. Keep an eye on the calendar at **learn.aaslh.org/calendar/category/webinar/** as we confirm dates.

- May TBD, 2018: **Women's Suffrage**, with particular attention given to African- American women's citizenship and political activism through the early 20th century.
- June TBD, 2018: **Native American Activism**, with particular attention given to the American Indian Movement.
- November 5, 2018: **Immigration and Citizenship during the WWI Era**, with particular attention given to Mexican immigrants' experiences.

Join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook at @AASLH or @OAH, and use the hashtag #historycheckin.

OLHA 2017 Digitization Grant Recipients

The Ohio Local History Alliance would like to congratulate our first-ever round of digitization grant recipients!

Five OLHA member institutions received grants. The grants are awarded on March 1, 2018 for projects beginning no earlier than April 1st and ending no more than 12 months from the start date.

The **Henry County Historical Society** was awarded $1,000 for the Digital Preservation of Archival Photos of Henry County, Ohio. The project is a collaboration of five local historical groups, the chamber of commerce, four local libraries and two genealogical societies. The Henry County Historical Society (HCHS) will be taking the point on this project as they are a tax-exempt organization and the largest historical organization in the county. Each participating historical group will choose up to 25 photos that are representative of their local villages. This project will aide in connecting the local historical organizations together through a common goal. Each participant will learn the proper way to access artifacts, handle and store them, and record the necessary data for each one

The **Historical Society of Old Brooklyn** was awarded $2,400 for the digitization of The Brooklyn News. With the assistance of the Cleveland Public Library, the project will scan, digitize and OCR the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn's collection of The Brooklyn News newspapers from and for the Old Brooklyn (or South Brooklyn) neighborhood, from 1924 to 1950, the only collection in existence. They will be uploaded to both of our websites for public use. The minute information the newspaper contains not only documents daily life in Old Brooklyn, but public opinion of the residents. The originals will then be stored, by year, in archival boxes, at the museum on metal shelves.

The **Lorain Historical Society** was awarded $1,831 for digitizing slides from the Lorain International Festival. The slides were taken by John Milas (1916-2005) a Lorainite and amateur photographer and are estimated to be about 10,000 slides all together. The Lorain International Festival celebrated its 50th festival in 2016. It was started in 1967 as a way to bring Lorainites

together and celebrate diversity during a turbulent time in the nation's history. At the turn of the 20th century, many different nationalities came to Lorain to work for the Steel Plant. With the decline of industry, there are still strong ethnic communities within the City, but in much smaller capacities. As ethnic churches and clubs shut their doors, LHS wants to become a repository for its neighbor's records and history. Lorain is still very much the International City, but LHS hopes that by shedding light on the challenges the community is experiencing that it will be able to play a role in bringing community support and awareness to what makes Lorain diverse and unique, especially in today's world.

The **Trumbull County Historical Society** was awarded $500 for digitizing portions of the Perkins Papers. The collection contains the legal, business, and personal documents and photographs of the descendants of General Simon Perkins. This project's focus will be the collection of Henry Bishop Perkins, General Simon Perkins son who built the home that now serves as Warren's City Hall; primarily, two business letter copybooks from Henry Bishop Perkins that range from 1863-1882. It was during these years that Perkin's career grew to have a profound impact on our local and national identity.

The **Delaware County Historical Society** was awarded $1,400 to digitize an estimated 6,110 pages from the January 16, 1914 through December 31, 1915 of the Delaware Daily Journal Herald. The microfilming of these newspapers will be done from a copy of the master microfilm which is owned by Ohio History Connection. The microfilming will be managed by Ohio History Connection's Ohio Digital Newspaper Program. The Delaware Daily Journal Herald is the only daily newspaper from Delaware County that has been preserved for the period 1902 through 1929.

Materials from all these projects will be made available on **OhioMemory.org**, through OLHA's partnership with the Ohio History Connection. Look for next year's grant application starting in August at **www.ohiolha.org/what-we-do/grants/alliance-digitization-grants/**

Congratulations, 2017 OMA Award Winners!

On Sunday, April 15, the Ohio Museums Association held our Annual Awards dinner to recognize the winners of our 2017 Awards of Achievement and 2017 Visual Communication Awards, in conjunction with the 2018 Annual Conference in Dayton.

In the beautiful Gothic Cloister at the Dayton Art Institute, OMA celebrated the outstanding achievement of Ohio museums in Visual Communications, individual and institutional achievement, and the tireless work museum professionals undertake to help to advance Ohio's museum community both locally, and on a national level.

The Awards of Achievement are divided into two categories: Institutional Achievement Awards and Individual Achievement Awards.

Nominations for these awards are incredibly detailed. This in-depth process helps to illustrate how these institutions and individuals have gone "above and beyond" the normal call of duty to support their institution, serve their public and advance the cause of the museum community.

The 2017 Award of Achievement winners are:

Best Exhibition (Under $500,000)
Bradford Ohio Railroad Museum— "Bradford Ohio Railroad Exhibits"

Best Exhibition (Over $500,000)
Massillon Museum— "Blind Spot: A Matter of Perception"

Best Community Partnership (Under $500,000)
Trumbull County Historical Society— "Historic Building Recognition Project"

Best Community Partnership (Over $500,000)
Ohio History Connection— "Bhutanese-Nepali Neighbors: Photographs by Tariq Tarey"

Emerging Professional of the Year
Meghan Elizabeth Reed—Trumbull County Historical Society

Professional of the Year
Chris Rowlands—Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm

Institution of the Year (Under $500,000)
Historic Zoar Village

Institution of the Year (Over $500,000)
COSI—Center of Science and Industry

The OMA Visual Communication awards recognize creative excellence in printed and digital materials produced and distributed by Ohio museums. This year's awards are based on materials produced or distributed during the 2017 calendar year.

The 2017 Visual Communication winners are:

BUDGET LEVEL 2

Gold Award:
The Federal Reserve bank of Cleveland Money Museum - "Somewhere in Cleveland—The Cleveland Fed Scholars Story Project"

BUDGET LEVEL 3

Gold Award:
Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery - "2017-2018 Exhibition Season Brochure"

Silver Award:
Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery - "Signature Scheurer: The Art of Michael Scheurer exhibition catalogue"

BUDGET LEVEL 4

Gold Award:
Massillon Museum - "Massillon in the Great War: Voices from the Archives"

Silver Award:
Dennison Railroad Depot Museum- "Annual Campaign Mailer"

BUDGET LEVEL 5

Gold Award:
Taft Museum of Art – "Bijoux Parisiens Suite of Exhibition Materials"

Silver Award:
Allen Memorial Art Museum - "Centennial Video"

Silver Award:
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center - "Mandela: The Journey to Ubuntu—AV & Electronic Media Campaign"

Honorable Mention:
Dayton Society of Natural History - "Discovery Zoo Vet Hospital Exhibition"

BUDGET LEVEL 6

Gold Award:
Toledo Museum of Art - "Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic Exhibition Guide"

Silver Award:
Toledo Museum of Art - "arTMAtters Member Magazine, Volume 13, Issue 3"

BEST IN SHOW
Taft Museum of Art - "Bijoux Parisiens Suite of Exhibition Materials"

Award winners at the Ohio Museums Association Awards dinner. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Museums Association.

Join OMA and VSA Ohio for our statewide workshop - Museum Accessibility for Guests & Artists!

OMA and VSA Ohio have partnered to create a statewide accessibility workshop in five Ohio locations, June 6-20, 2018!

Did you know that 1 in 5 Americans has a disability? That number grows with the baby boomer population and other market subsets. Museums and cultural institutions around the world are stepping up their game to be more accessible for people with disability. We all want to achieve our missions and welcome more people, but we can't truly be inclusive until we're accessible. You will find that as you make considerations for disability, you are more welcoming to the whole community.

In this workshop we'll discuss disability history and trends, accessibility 101 (including customer service), specific adaptations you can make for your programs, and how to approach the authentic inclusion of artists with disabilities in your spaces. The goal of these workshops is to demystify access into something that is manageable, not necessarily expensive, and ways to make it a priority at your organization (big or small).

The workshop will be led by Erin J. Hoppe, executive director of VSA Ohio, a statewide organization making the arts more accessible, and include guest speakers from the disability community (see below for the list of guest presenters for each location).

On the Web
Incluseum

incluseum.com

The Incluseum is a project based in Seattle, Washington that advances new ways of being a museum through critical dialogue, community building and collaborative practice related to inclusion in museums.

The Incluseum is:

1. A space to build community around issues of inclusion and justice in museums
2. A resource for current research and practice related to inclusion
3. A platform for critical dialogue that advances the ways in which we understand, talk about, and enact inclusion in museums
4. A project that weaves digital and offline engagements to catalyze 'next practices'

Workshop locations include:

Fremont – June 6, 2018

Where: Hayes Presidential Library and Museums

When: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: June 4, 2018

Guest presenter: Derek Mortland, Artist, and ADA & Community Outreach Coordinator, The Center for Disability Empowerment

Canton – June 11, 2018

Where: Pro Football Hall of Fame

When: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: June 7, 2018

Guest presenter: Derek Mortland, Artist, and ADA & Community Outreach Coordinator, The Center for Disability Empowerment

Columbus – June 13, 2018

Where: Columbus Museum of Art

When: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: June 11, 2018

Guest presenters: Jane Ehrenfeld, Audio Description Consultant; Derek Mortland, Artist, and ADA & Community Outreach Coordinator, The Center for Disability Empowerment

Athens – June 18, 2018

Where: Southeast Ohio History Center

When: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: June 14, 2018

Guest presenters: Christi Hysell, Artist; Nate Thomson, Athens Photographic Project

Cincinnati – June 20, 2018

Where: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

When: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

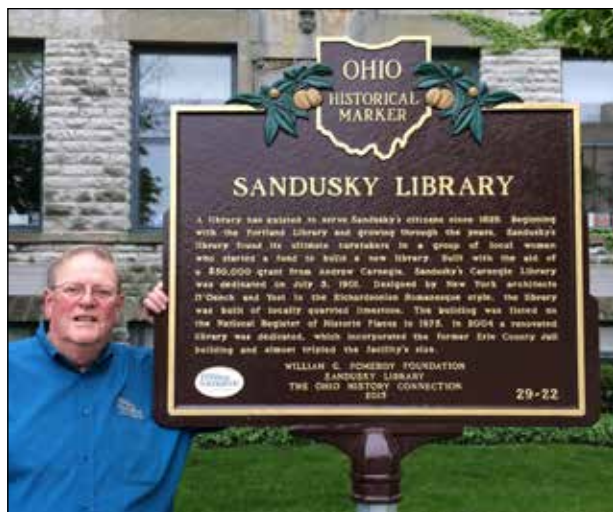*Registration deadline:* June 18, 2018

Guest presenters: Sara Birkoffer, Coordinator of Interpretive Programming, Cincinnati Art Museum; Artist + Staff (TBA), Visionaries + Voices

Registration cost – all locations: $15 OMA members; $25 non-members.

Register online at **www.ohiomuseums.org/Public/ Professional_Development/Workshops/Public/Workshops. aspx**

Expanded Grant Program for Ohio Historical Markers

Thanks to William G. Pomeroy Foundation, 17 Counties in NE Ohio + Meigs County Are Eligible for Grants for Markers

William G. Pomeroy and an Ohio Historical Marker funded by his foundation, in Sandusky, Erie County. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

Want to erect a marker to share the history of a site on the National Register of Historic Places? Does your community bicentennial, sesquicentennial, or centennial coming up? Thinking that a marker is a great way to tell your communities' stories?

Thanks to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse, New York, the Ohio History Connection's Local History Services department now offers more grants to erect Ohio Historical Markers and Ohio Corporate Limit Markers. Expanding from three counties in 2014, William G. Pomeroy Foundation Grants are now available in 18 counties:

Ashland	Lake	Portage
Ashtabula	Lorain	Sandusky
Cuyahoga	Mahoning	Seneca
Erie	Medina	Summit
Geauga	Meigs	Trumbull
Huron	Ottawa	Wayne

If your non-profit organization or unit of local government is in one of these counties, a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation will cover most of the cost of Ohio Historical Marker or an Ohio Corporate Limit Marker. Ohio Historical Markers range in price from $3,040-$3,350, exclusive of any optional artwork. Ohio Corporate Limit Markers, placed at a village or city's corporation limits, cost $2,870. As with all markers, the local sponsor of the marker will assume the costs of placing and maintaining the marker.

QUALIFICATIONS

Markers funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation must meet the following conditions:

1. Applicants must be non-profit organizations or units of local government.

2. The person, place, event, or thing commemorated must have a period of significance that falls between 1800 and 1900.

3. Regarding grants for markers for properties or districts on the National Register of Places:

   a. The property must be owned by a non-profit organization or government entity. Properties under private ownership or commercial properties are not eligible.

   b. National Register districts that include some, but not exclusively, private and/or commercial properties are eligible.

   c. Properties that are listed as "contributing structures" in National Register districts are eligible, as long the properties are owned by a non-profit organization or government entity and as long as the district consists of a plurality of publically-owned buildings.

   d. In the case of a National Register-listed property, the requirement that they fall within the 1800-1900 period does not apply. If a building was built after

1900, is owned by a non-profit or government organization, and is on the National Register, it's eligible for a Pomeroy Grant.

HOW TO APPLY

Simply complete the regular Ohio Historical Marker application, available at **www.remarkableohio.org**. Click on "Propose a Marker" for an application. Check where indicated on that application that you want it to be considered for a Pomeroy Grant. Your organization and the thing you want to mark must be in the one of the 18 counties listed above. Visit Local History Service's markers web page for more information.

Note the Pomeroy grants are in addition to and do not replace the Ohio Historical Marker Grant Program that has existed since 2006.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

As with all Ohio Historical Marker applications, write a compelling "Statement of Significance," draft a good "Suggested Marker Text," and include copies of your sources. Primary sources are best, but creditable secondary sources are helpful too, such as peer-reviewed publications and nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Indicate who will be responsible for maintaining the marker. Under Funding Sponsor, write "William G. Pomeroy Foundation" and your organization's name and contact information as the local sponsor. Finally, make sure your marker application is complete!

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact Laura Russell in the Ohio History Connection's Local History Services department, 614.297.2360 or **lrussell@ohiohistory.org**.

The Ohio History Connection is excited about partnering with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. The Pomeroy Foundation already administers an active historical marker program in New York, which you can learn more about at **www.wgpfoundation.org**.

Region 1

Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties

The **Defiance County Historical Society** has received a $2,500 donation from the Defiance Moose Family Center 2094. The money is to sponsor musical entertainment at the first three events of the year at AuGlaize Village.

Region 2

Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The Trumbull County Museum in a Box Education Program is up and running! In conjunction with the **Trumbull County Historical Society** and the Raymond John Wean Foundation's Neighborhood SUCCESS program, the Sutliff Museum is excited to offer four themed boxes to place hands-on teaching tools directly into the classrooms. The boxes are packed with social studies materials, tools, and touchable objects that include artifacts, books, maps, and documents. Each box is designed to enhance Ohio's Social Studies Academic Content Standards for all grade levels. These boxes are also available to area organizations for programs. For more information on this project please visit *www.sutliff-museum.org/museum-in-a-box.html.*

Region 5

Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties

Region 6

Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties

Franklinton Historical Society partnered with the Franklinton Board of Trade to brighten up our city. Businesses along West Broad Street were asked to sponsor new, colorful replacements for faded, tattered street banners. Two images were chosen to celebrate our pioneer past: (1) the first (1807) Franklin County Courthouse (originally located on what became an on-ramp to north-bound Rt. 315 at West Broad Street), and (2) our statue of founder Lucas Sullivant along the Scioto River in front of COSI. This April, banners began to flutter from the poles in Franklinton.

The **Granville Historical Society** has a 3-D virtual tour of their museum located on their website. Dustin A. Garder of 3-D Real Estate Marketing in Dublin created the virtual tour which shows all displays located on the main floor. Blue dots near object can be clicked for an object description as well as a zoom option to better see the exhibits. The virtual tour can be seen on the Society's website at *www.granvillehistory.org.*

Region 7

Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties

In 2017 the **Tippecanoe Historical Society** embarked on the Century Home project, created with the help of funding through the Tipp City Foundation from Paula Lantz, in tribute to her late husband. The goal is to identify, document, and recognize centennial homes in Tipp City. The first nine Century Home recipients were recognized and honored with a plaque for the home in December 2017 and the Historical Society continues to work with homeowners to document and recognize more homes in the future.

Region 8

Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren Counties

Region 9

Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties

Region 10

Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Washington Counties

At the Annual Meeting of the Noble County Chamber of Commerce, the **Noble County Historical Society** was presented the Travel and Tourism Award for making the single greatest enhancement to advance Travel and Tourism in Noble County. This was for the improvements made at The Ball-Caldwell Homestead. This included two grants to improve and update the landscape, the addition of public restroom on the site and updating the meeting room in the Small House. Also, water line was run to the Historic House.

Pictured above are Judy Robinson, Judy McMullen, Allen Fraley, Tourism, Jeff Minosky, Joy Flood, Patricia Clark and Lisa Merry, all board members of Noble County Historic Society.

In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization?

Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of *The Local Historian*.

Contact information for the representatives in your region is on page 2 of this issue. Of course, you are welcome to forward your news directly to the editor of *The Local Historian* at bhedler@ohiohistory.org. Rather than serving as a calendar of events, items for "News from the Regions" are chosen to inspire, connect, and educate the Alliance's members all over Ohio and celebrate notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.

MEMBERS

Joined or renewed between February 22, 2018 and April 20, 2018

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS

Jennifer Carpenter, Marietta

Christy Connelly, Cleves

Michael Hocker, Galion

Jacqueline B. Pasternack, Columbus

Melissa Shaw, Fairborn

ORGANIZATIONS

North Coast D-Day Museum, Kingsville

Poland Township Historical Society, Poland

Thank You Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Jennie L. Self, Massillon

Richard Witteborg, Defiance

ORGANIZATIONS

Alexandria Museum, Alexandria

Alliance Historical Society, Alliance

Austintown Historical Society, Austintown

Baltic-Area Historical Society, Baltic

Brewster-Sugarcreek Township Historical Society, Brewster

Canal Fulton Public Library, Canal Fulton

Canfield Historical Society, Canfield

Chagrin Falls Historical Society, Chagrin Falls

Columbus Landmarks Foundation, Columbus

Cuyahoga County Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument, Cleveland

Delphos Canal Commission, Delphos

Dublin Historical Society, Dublin

Firelands Historical Society, Norwalk

Fowler Township Historical Society, Vienna

Grandview Heights Marble Cliff Historical Society, Columbus

Harrison Coal & Reclamation Historical Park, Holloway

Henry County Historical Society, Napoleon

Historic Perrysburg Inc, Perrysburg

Kidron Community Historical Society, Kidron

Magnolia Area Historical Society, Magnolia

Maple Heights Historical Society, Bedford

Mariemont Preservation Foundation, Cincinnati

Meigs County Pioneer & Historical Society, Pomeroy

National Cambridge Collectors, Cambridge

National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association, Niles

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, New Albany

Niles Historical Society, Niles

North Baltimore Area Historical Society, North Baltimore

Olmsted Historical Society, Olmsted Falls

Peninsula Foundation, Peninsula

Perry History Club, Inc., Massillon

Risingsun Area Historical Society, Fostoria

Springfield Township Historical Society, Petersburg

Toledo Firefighters' Museum, Toledo

Trumbull County Historical Society, Warren

Tuscarawas County Historical Society, New Philadelphia

Union County Historical Society, Marysville

CALENDAR

JOIN THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE...

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

...or connect a sister organization to the Alliance and ask its leaders to join in one of the following categories:

Organizational Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian,* save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates, and save on Ohio Historical Society services for organization, including speakers and customized training workshops. **Best of all, when you join the Alliance as an Organizational Member, your membership benefits all of your organization's staff and members**—they will all qualify for discounts on registration for the Alliance's regional and statewide meetings and when buying Alliance publications.

Operating budget:

Over $200,000 a year:	$100	($190 for 2)
$100,000-$200,000 a year:	$75	($140 for 2)
$25,000-$100,000 a year:	$60	($110 for 2)
Under $25,000 a year:	$35	($65 for 2)

Individual Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates.

Affiliate:	$35	($65 for 2)
Individual:	$50	($90 for 2)
Student:	$20	

Business Member:

$100	($190 for 2)

Join at:

www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx

Need to Contact Us? *We at Local History Services love hearing from you.*

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GET SOCIAL WITH THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE

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y **@ohiolha**