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**OHIO LOCAL  
HISTORY ALLIANCE**  
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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# 2021 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE



## CHALLENGE ACCEPTED: **OVERCOMING OBSTACLES**



**OHIO LOCAL  
HISTORY ALLIANCE**  
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

*in partnership with the*  
**Society of Ohio Archivists**

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2021

**ONLINE/ZOOM**

#OLHAEmpowers

Register at [ohiolha.org](http://ohiolha.org)

**9|30****Thursday****9-10 am — Concurrent Sessions**

**Historic Properties and ADA** Understand the history and evolution of Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) & Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) addressing accessibility in historic buildings. Identify the types of projects which trigger when additional accessibility should be designed into your project. Explore how partial rehabilitation projects are affected by building codes, accessibility, and universal design. *Polly Lynam Bloom, Associate AIA | Historic Architecture, Perspectus*

**Community Partnership for the Preservation of Jewish History in the Mahoning Valley—SOA** Beginning in 2020, Congregation Rodef Sholom of Youngstown launched a community initiative for the preservation and accessibility of their historical records during a time of uncertainty, with the pandemic and also the development of an inter-congregational collaboration for a potential merger with other area synagogues. With the development of an archive and research center, Rodef Sholom can share the collective contributions of the local Jewish community to the greater history of the Mahoning and Shenango Valley regions with the public. This session will discuss Rodef Sholom's unique position as a prototype or model for other local community/religious organizations to gain a better understanding of their history, the current progress and anticipated outcomes of the project, and how community partnerships play an impactful role in the success of a project of this scale. *Kayla Metzger, Youngstown State University/Ohio History Service Corps; Sarah Wilschek, Executive Director, Congregation Rodef Sholom; Hannah Klacik, Youngstown State University; Martha Bishop, Archives/Library Assistant, Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor*

**10:30-11:30 am — Concurrent Sessions**

**Fabric Treasures: Caring for the Quilts in your Collection** This presentation discusses techniques on how to care for, store and display quilts for the enjoyment of others and to enhance the preservation of these iconic American textiles. The lecture includes quilt definitions, common fabric and materials used, pattern naming, period popular quilt patterns and documentation practices to support collection management. Publications and professional quilt appraisal resources are also shared. *Mary Royer*

**Making Your DPLA Harvest Go Further—SOA** Since early 2020 the Digital Public Library of America has introduced a new initiative to use the harvests into the primary search interface as an opportunity to also duplicate copyright-free digital collections resources into Wikimedia Commons, the repository that hosts

images that end up in Wikipedia articles. Doing some light editorial work to include images from local collections into Wikipedia articles helps enrich one of the default knowledge bases for the open internet while exposing digitized resources to an audience that might otherwise never have reason to view them. This session discusses the benefits of making digital resources available where internet users already are, the impressive usage metrics associated with the work, how little time and effort it requires, and how the Ohio Digital Network is supporting this work at the State Library of Ohio. *John Dewees, Supervisor Digitization Services, Toledo Lucas County Public Library*

**12:30-2 pm — Sponsor Meet & Greet and Business Meeting****2:30-3:30 pm — Concurrent Sessions**

**Valuing Cyclical Maintenance for Museum Interpretation** Cyclical maintenance is daunting. Learn how to plan for cyclical maintenance and capital improvements together. Perspectus will present the case study of Hower House at the University of Akron, which has increased awareness of the value of historic preservation as a tool for long term maintenance, and even museum interpretation. *Alice L. Sloan, Associate AIA, Historic Architecture, Perspectus*

**Lessons Learned: Adapting Collections Care in a Global Pandemic—SOA** While having an optimal collections care program that adheres to best practices might be desired at your institution, there are often barriers that prevent us from achieving the “best” – often related to time, money, and staffing. In the past year, these barriers have been compounded by a global pandemic that has introduced new challenges and opportunities for collections stewards. This facilitated discussion will focus on lessons learned from institutions when it comes to adapting collections care goals and activities when physical distance from our institutions and a rapidly changing environment creates new challenges and uncertainty. At the session's conclusion, participants will have had an opportunity to share their experiences adapting collections care in the past year and hear how others have approached the same issue. *Dyani Feige, Director of Preservation Services, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts*

**4-5 pm — Director's Roundtable**

Join a group of Executive Directors as they reflect on the challenges and obstacles of the past two years and the way their organizations have risen to the challenge, addressed pandemic-created obstacles, and begun to reimagine their museums. *Rachel Barber, Executive Director, Auglaize County Historical Society; Kelli Kling, Director, Wood County Museum; Jennifer Highfield, President & CEO, National First Ladies' Library; Sean M. Joyce, President and Executive Director, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens*

**10|1****Friday****9-10 am — Concurrent Sessions**

**Benchmarking Management Policies of House Museums and Historical Sites** This session will present the result of recent benchmarking research on governing and managerial policies of house museums and historical sites. Using surveys, this study collected policy documents (e.g., bylaws, board contracts, HR handbook) from 50 house museums and historical sites of varying sizes across the country. *Yuha Jung, Associate Professor, University of Kentucky*

**A (Digitally) Camping We Will Go!** Ok, so you probably want to forget all about 2020... we understand. But, some valuable lessons were learned especially among museum educators when it comes to continuing our organization's mission of education without the ability to host an on-site audience. In this session, join educators from the Dawes Arboretum and The Castle Historic House Museum as they discuss their experiences pivoting their traditional youth summer camp experiences into virtual camps. They'll explore the reasons for going virtual, format considerations, equipment checklists, making a digital class interactive, and discuss why some aspects of virtual camps may stick around post pandemic. *Kyle Yoho, Education Director, The Castle Historic House Museum; Nicole Tabit, Youth and Adult Program Educator, The Dawes Arboretum*

**10:30-11:30 am — Concurrent Sessions**

**Ohio's America 250 Commemoration and the Local History Community** Big anniversary events have a way of reminding Americans to pay attention to their history. Join us at this session to hear more about upcoming Semiquincentennial commemoration (or the easier to say America 250). You'll hear about what OLHA is doing to help Ohio get ready to celebrate 1776 between now and 2026, and how you can get involved. *Christy Davis, OLHA President and Curator of Exhibitions, Canton Museum of Art; Wendy Zucal, OLHA Immediate Past President and Executive Director, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum*

**Reviving Stagnant Exhibits** Recently undertaking the monumental task of addressing its decades old exhibits, The Eric Sloane Museum used the opportunity to expand from a narrow focus on historic tools to using the story of the artist's life to question what it means to be an American. In reviving their exhibits, this site made a commitment to bring increased relevance to its history by relating the past to contemporary issues that face us right now. This organization's experience of changing traditional models of reinterpretation proves that this process can be accomplished with a small

staff and limited funding. Discussion for this session will focus on sharing ways to reframe narratives and to reveal formerly hidden stories to promote relevance at your site. *Andrew Rowand, Museum Assistant, Eric Sloane Museum*

**12:30-2 pm — Keynote Address**

**Making the Local Universal: How Hidden Histories in Ohio Communities Can Broaden Audiences and Bring More Support**

Anna-Lisa Cox is an award-winning American historian whose focus is the frontier and rural Midwest. She is currently a Non-Resident Fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. Her writing has been featured in the *The Washington Post*, *Lapham's Quarterly* and *The New York Times*. Her original research underpinned two exhibits at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Anna-Lisa's recent book *The Bone and Sinew of the Land: America's Forgotten Black Pioneers and the Struggle for Equality* was honored by the Smithsonian Magazine as one of the best history books of 2018.

Dr. Cox will be speaking on how histories get hidden, and how those hidden histories in Ohio can be discovered, celebrated and utilized by local history organizations.

**2:30-3:30pm — Concurrent Sessions**

**John Brown Speaks** Kerry Altenbernd, third-generation native of Douglas County, Kansas, and first-person performer of John Brown, will present "John Brown, Bleeding Kansas, and how they impacted each other." Little is understood outside Kansas of the full extent of the violence there during its territorial period, and how an understanding of this is crucial to a fuller understanding of Brown. Altenbernd will have Brown speak of his life, some of the history of his time in Kansas Territory, and how what he saw and experienced there had a major effect on the Territory and the rest of his life. Altenbernd will also address how and when to use first-person interpretation. *Kerry Altenbernd, John Brown Speaks*

**Marketing 102** This session dives into the essential communications tools and strategies to help you drive attendance to your heritage site. Our presenters will share the latest marketing tips, provide helpful takeaways, and offer a refresh on some basic tactics to grow engagement and increase the relevance of your history organization. *Jamison Pack, Chief Marketing Officer, Ohio History Connection; Emmy Beach, Assistant Director of PR and Content Marketing, Ohio History Connection*

**5 - 6 pm — Historic Cocktail Hour**

Brian Cushing shows you how to make some of his favorite beverages from the Victorian period that best

bring the era back to life. Learn about what mixology was like in those days and the spirits of the age.

Brian Cushing is the host of *The Victorian Barroom* and is on a mission to rediscover the forgotten drinks of the Victorian era and help others to experience them. As Program Director at Historic Locust Grove, he was part of the development and execution of the Early 19th Century Small Farm Distillery Project and is currently training to raise and preserve heritage apple breeds as were used for cider and brandy prior to Prohibition. He is the Executive Director of the Shelby County Historical Society and lives in La Grange, Kentucky.

## 10|2 Saturday

### 9-10 am — Concurrent Sessions

**An Accessibility Toolkit: A Guide to Implementing Inclusive Practices** How accessible is your site? Do you want to start or get better at welcoming people of all abilities? From the ADA to best practices, becoming accessible to everyone can be overwhelming and difficult. Learn how the Ohio History Connection and Ohio Village began a project to give guidance and direction to our staff through an accessibility toolkit and what it includes. *Chloe Dickson, 2020-2021 Ohio History Service Corps Member; Andrew Hall, Senior Experience Developer at Ohio Village, Ohio History Connection*

**The Hard Ask: Fundraising for Small Historical Organizations** In this session we will cover the four main parts of asking: Researching the ask (Different types of donors); Crafting the ask (Tailoring your ask to the donor); Making the ask (Stating what you want and why); Thanking the donor (Making sure they feel good about doing good). Attendees will have an opportunity to craft an ask for their organization. A selection of attendees will be able to have their ask reviewed. *Melissa Shaw, OLHA 2nd Vice President; Sarah McPherson, Development Director, Springfield Arts Council*

### 10:30-11:30 am — Concurrent Sessions

**Solidarity and Sanitizer: Eugene V. Debs in the Era of COVID-19** Mass unemployment, workplace safety, and political turmoil—these all sound like issues plucked from the life and times of labor icon Eugene Victor Debs (1855-1926). How did the house museum dedicated to furthering Debs' legacy respond to the challenges of the pandemic? Attend this session to learn about pivoting, politics, and relevance at the unique Eugene V. Debs Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana. *Allison Duerk, Director, Eugene V. Debs Museum*

**How to Remain Open and Relevant during a Restoration Project** Preparing for a restoration project or physical space updates? Worried about lost revenue? Afraid the public will forget you? Join the staff of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House to learn about staying open, fiscally sound, and relevant during restoration. We'll highlight our experiences and share tips for staying in the public eye. *Christina Hartlieb, Executive Director, Harriet Beecher Stowe House*

### 12:30 - 2 pm — Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards Presentation

The annual awards presentation, part of the Alliance's Annual Meeting and Conference for over two decades, honors great people and great projects that inspire fascination with community history. But the presentation is more than honored recognition for the winners; it's a font of ideas and a good time watching the awardee's acceptance videos. Join us to cap off the conference by honoring your peers.

# TO REGISTER VISIT OhioLHA.org



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The *Ohio Local History Alliance's Annual Meeting and Conference* is coordinated in partnership with the *Ohio History Connection*.

Sponsored by *Ohio Humanities*.

For more information about the *Society of Ohio Archivists*, visit [www.ohioarchivists.org](http://www.ohioarchivists.org).

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### Cover Image

This photograph shows an automobile stranded in mud on State Route 60 in Huron, Ohio, in 1924. The predicament of this traveler indicates one of the many trials of early automobile travel throughout the United States, demonstrating that paved roads were not uniformly the case in Ohio in the early automobile era. *Image courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.*