Owners of historic buildings often hesitate when contemplating how to make their buildings more accessible to people of all ages and abilities. This article will provide background on how to approach a rehabilitation project that can provide better access to your building.

To begin, it is important to understand why accessibility is important. Over 25% of adults in the U.S. have some type of disability and many may experience navigation challenges at different times in their lives. As people age, this percentage increases with over 38% of people over age 65 having one or more disabilities. Even the able-bodied can experience accessibility concerns: parents with children in strollers, those recovering from surgery or with injured limbs have all experienced the challenge of accessibility during daily routines.

**What is a Historic Building?**

“Qualified” buildings or facilities are those buildings and facilities that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or such properties designated as historic under a statute of the appropriate state or local government body. This would also apply to buildings in local Landmark Districts or contributing buildings to a National Register Historic District.

Working with a registered historic architect can help you navigate local, state and federal building codes which apply to your project. Depending on if the work is a “change of use” can impact the applicable rules which will apply.

The Ohio Building Code follows the International Building Code and is unique in that it has in Chapter 34 language specific to existing and historic buildings:

3409.1 Historic buildings. The provisions of this code relating to the construction, repair, alteration, addition, restoration and movement of structures, and change of occupancy shall not be mandatory for historic buildings where such buildings are judged by the building official to not constitute a distinct life safety hazard.

Accessibility through legislative acts introduced protection for in-

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(continued on page 4)
As many of you are aware, the U.S. Semiquincentennial is quickly approaching in 2026. The Ohio General Assembly has created the Ohio Commission to oversee the state’s efforts in recognizing the occasion and this was a driving factor in the current strategic plan developed for the Ohio Local History Alliance. I hope that you were able to attend one of the listening sessions held across the state this summer to provide input on ways you feel your community has played a role in our nation’s history.

Possibly the most important thing the America 250 Commission and the new Ohio Commission can do is bring people together. We are often reminded that Americans today are polarized, too often at odds about various political and social issues. America 250-Ohio is striving to bring together diverse voices in unifying ways. We don’t all have to agree about how to interpret American history or the founding fathers. In fact, we’re far better off thinking critically, asking difficult questions and listening to the perspective of others.

The Ohio Local History Alliance has representation on the commission and we are available to answer your questions about how your organization can be involved. America 250-Ohio wants to ensure that all Ohioans have an opportunity to participate in meaningful ways. Ohio’s successful participation in the nation’s 250th anniversary depends upon your participation. More information on the Ohio America 250 Commission can be found online at ohiohistory.org/America250-OhioCommission, and you can expect regular updates on the commission’s work in this and future issues of the Local Historian.

I encourage everyone to look at how you and your organization can be involved in commemorating America 250.

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individuals with disabilities beginning with the expansion of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (called the Fair Housing Act FHA, amended in 1968 and 1988), which extended protections into the housing market. The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) in 1968 applied to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with certain federal funds and is still in use today to ensure access to many federally funded facilities. In 1988, the Fair Housing Amendment Act extended discrimination protections for individuals with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (2008) covers accessibility in the private, state, and local government sectors. The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (includes Titles II and III revisions to regulations, used for new construction and alterations) provide some technical details.2

What applies to your project?

The suggested approach is to consider how to provide the highest level of accessibility while minimizing changes to historic materials and features. For properties open to the public, access is a civil right, including landscapes. Defining the scope of work specifically will help direct what rules apply by any administrative authorities. Considerations are given for the type of building and occupancy type (purpose of use), and if it is an existing building or an addition to an historic building.

If existing elements, spaces, essential features, or common areas are altered, then each such altered element, space, feature, or area shall comply. If the alteration work is limited solely to the electrical, mechanical, or plumbing system and does not involve the alteration of any elements and spaces required to be accessible under these standards, then accessibility codes may not apply. Also, maintenance and repair projects generally do not require accessibility updates.

The amount of work also determines what is addressed for accessibility. Where substantial alteration occurs to a building or facility, then each element or space that is altered or added shall comply with the minimum requirements to the maximum extent feasible, with exceptions where it is structurally impracticable.

Additionally, if a building is less than three stories or has less than 3,000 square feet per story, it does not require vertical access. This helps to decide if an elevator or other device is required. It is suggested that you contract with an historical architect to consider elevation solutions.

Other Options

If it is not feasible to provide physical access to an historic property that is a place of public accommodation in a manner that will not threaten or destroy the historic significance of the building or facility, then alternative methods of access can be provided.

A three-step Approach is recommended by the National Park Service, and can be guided by the Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.”

1. Review the historical significance of the property and identify character-defining features which are areas to preserve.

2. Assess the property’s existing and required level of accessibility so that to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area—and the restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving it—is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.

3. Evaluate the accessibility options within a preservation context. This is where it is recommended to work with a preservation professional with the experience to walk you through options for your building.

This suggested order of priorities will help to identify how to approach the project scope:

4. Make the main or prominent public entrance accessible, including a path to the entrance

5. Provide access to goods, services and programs

6. Provide accessible restroom facilities

7. Create access to amenities and secondary spaces

The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties advises that accessibility modifications are:

• In scale with the historic property
• Visually compatible
• And reversible, whenever possible

This has provided a high-level overview of a technical undertaking. Starting early and asking questions before the scope of the work is outlined will deliver successful and resourceful solutions for historic building accessibility.

2 The ADA standards are issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) and apply to facilities covered by the ADA in new construction and alterations.
So You Enrolled in STEPS… Now What?

Marissa Hamm, 2022 AASLH Summer Intern, 2020-2021 Ohio History Service Corps member. Originally published on the AASLH Blog on July 19, 2022. For more great resources, check out aasl.org/blog/

Totaling nearly 300 pages, the STEPS (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) workbook can be intimidating to even the most confident history professional. How do you approach this monumental task without immediately becoming overwhelmed? Thankfully, many organizations have experienced the initial hurdle of starting STEPS and have shared their advice. Although the way you work through STEPS will be unique to your particular organization, here are some tried-and-true methods to inspire you to get started.

**Form a committee of important stakeholders**

The first step (pun intended) in your STEPS process should be creating a committee specifically for this program. STEPS can be transformative for your organization, so it should not be completed by just one person. Rather, all important stakeholders should have input.

Some organizations have only their board members or only their staff work on STEPS. This can make meetings easier since boards already meet regularly and staff see each other in the office. However, there is benefit to having a mixed committee of board members, staff, and key volunteers. Not only does this variety of participants prompt richer discussion and input, it also helps committee members learn about all aspects of how the organization operates, even if they do not normally work within certain areas of the STEPS workbook.

**Designate a champion**

Once your STEPS committee is created, consider designating a champion to see the process through. This can be as simple as appointing a chairperson or key leader in your organization. This person is in charge of tracking the committee’s progress, and updating any important stakeholders who may not be directly involved with the STEPS committee.

Another option for a champion is to bring in an outside consultant. The Monroe County Museum in Michigan hired a consultant from the Henry Ford Museum to lead them on multiple STEPS retreats. Members found this method helpful because their consultant had museum expertise that their STEPS committee lacked.

Some states have field service departments in their state history organizations that specifically help with STEPS. For example, in Ohio, the Ohio History Service Corps places AmeriCorps members throughout the state. These members consult local history organizations and assist with projects that help the organizations advance through the STEPS workbook. Once you enroll in STEPS, consider contacting other history organizations in your area that have experience with STEPS and could offer helpful advice.

**Join a STEPS Group**

A great way to start the STEPS process and stay motivated and accountable is to join a STEPS group in your region. STEPS groups consist of five or more organizations that regularly communicate and meet as they work through STEPS. These groups provide a valuable network for problem-solving, training, and any other needs you may have as your organization uses STEPS. Grassmere Historic Farm benefited from joining the Middle Tennessee STEPS group. Historic Site Manager Tori Mason described their experience with the group saying “Being a part of the group helped us… to stay accountable, work through common issues and struggles, [and] be creative in problem solving. It was a great way for us to meet quarterly and… It helped give us a stronger sense of community.”

If there is not a formal STEPS group in your area, consider starting the process to create one, or simply find other nearby museums similar in size to your own that are also embarking on their STEPS journey. Set up informal meetings and lines of communication to have a community to help you through the process.

**Choose a Method for Approaching the Workbook**

*Evaluate the entire workbook before diving deep into a particular section.*

One approach to STEPS is to skim through the entire workbook first and familiarize yourself with the content. This can also be an opportunity to take note of particular indicators that your organization has achieved or could easily focus on first.

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The McHenry County Historical Society and Museum in Illinois adopted this approach. After enrolling in STEPS in 2017, the museum held a retreat for their board of trustees and created a task force of staff and board members. This task force met once a month to read through the STEPS workbook, and take note of projects the museum could pursue for each section. Then, the task force presented this list of recommendations to the strategic planning committee which integrated the projects into the museum’s three-year strategic plan.

**Work on one section at a time. Choose what is most relevant to the work your organization is already doing.**

A strategic way to make STEPS less overwhelming is to integrate the workbook into what your organization is already doing. The Luzerne County Historical Society in Pennsylvania took this approach. The organization’s executive director reviewed the workbook first and identified which standards aligned with ongoing projects at the museum. The director repeats this process at the start of every fiscal year to determine which standards the museum achieved in the past year, and what areas they can focus on moving forward.

Other organizations have started with a section that they already excel at, such as Audience or Collections. This method ensures that their initial experience with STEPS is not discouraging, and instead highlights what they do best and how to improve on that before moving to more difficult sections.

**Work on the basic indicators for every section first.**

Some organizations have found it most beneficial to advance through the STEPS workbook by level rather than by section. Organizations like The Pioneer Museum in Texas have set goals to achieve all six Bronze certificates within the first three years of being in STEPS. This method can be helpful for seeing progress and achievement across all aspects of the museum at a consistent pace. Many organizations find that they can easily achieve Bronze certificates in some sections with very little change needed.

As with many projects, getting started with STEPS is often the hardest part. However, once you begin, the benefits of the program will quickly become apparent. And don’t forget to apply for certificates as you advance through STEPS so that you can show your community and potential funders that your organization is committed to improvement!
How to Create a Comprehensive Field Trip “Before You Come” Packet for Teachers

The third in a 6-part series on student field trips. Check out the other articles from this series in previous issues of The Local Historian.

Claudia Bartow is an Ohio middle school Social Studies teacher, military veteran, and author. She has orchestrated many field trips with her students at locations around Ohio, Pennsylvania and in Washington, D.C. Claudia loves to create effective and customizable tools to help small to medium-sized museums and historic sites increase engagement with their local schools and teachers. Her latest offering, “Field Trip Kickstart Kit”, features the downloads in these articles and much more. She can be reached at 78ssteacher@gmail.com.

You have a teacher or school interested in bringing their students to visit your museum or historic site on a field trip. Great!

The previous article in this series discussed how to make it easy for teachers to schedule the visit. Now that they have a scheduled date to come see you, what can you do to improve the experience for them . . . and you? Providing clear expectations and information about the visit beforehand sets the places that can “wow” school groups apart from the ones that don’t.

Teachers are under increasing pressure to make sure all time with students is meaningful and that it follows the curriculum. A well-prepared teacher packet, whether downloadable on a website or physically mailed, includes what state standards will coincide with a student’s visit. If you do not have the time or resources to research this, ask a friendly local teacher who has visited to help you out.

A packet may also include lessons the teachers can do with students in the days leading up to the visit. These often highlight what they will see and experience and go along with one or more exhibitions at the museum. It makes a tremendous impact on students’ experience if they know what to expect!

Sending teachers short videos or photos of artifacts or exhibits students will encounter, along with a list of leading questions about what they think about these items, is a great way to pique their curiosity and get them excited about the visit. If your site has a website, another worksheet idea to give teachers is a 3-2-1 worksheet. Students would explore the website for a set amount of time then write three things they want to see on the field trip, two things they want to experience, and one thing they have a question about they want to answer while there.

As a teacher who regularly leads field trips, I have seen other school groups mindlessly wandering around a museum causing trouble because they had no idea what to expect and were not prepared beforehand. This makes me cringe as these students are missing out on the whole purpose of the field trip. Some simple instructions and preparation by the teacher (and site) beforehand could have made their visit a completely different one.

A final thing to be sure to include in any “Before you visit” packet to teachers are specific student behavior expectations, logistical information- like if there is a place to eat packed lunches, and detailed directions to your museum and bus parking rules. I spend a full week discussing the locations we visit and behavior expectations before I take my eighth graders to Washington, D.C. every year. I use what is provided by the sites we are going to visit. This preparation pays major dividends on the trip and enhances the overall experience!

What instructions, logistics, FAQs, maps, worksheets or other helpful “before you come” information can you provide visiting teachers to help make their visit a positive one to remember? Anything you can do before they set foot at your location will smooth the path for them and you.

The following is a detailed list of things you may want to include to help visiting teachers prepare their students to visit your museum or historic site. Feel free to make a copy so you can add notes and create a document you can share out. When you click the link, it will have you “Make a Copy”

Like what you see but don’t have time to do one yourself? See the author’s contact info at the beginning of the article to get help with affordable custom work.

Download the template here.

(continued on page 7)
The Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial—aka America 250-Ohio—is nearing a deadline to submit initial recommendations to state leaders by September 30.

Commission Executive Director Todd Kleismit said there are two main inputs into the recommendations that will go to Gov. Mike DeWine and state legislative leaders regarding what activities Ohio should pursue as it approaches the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026. One method is through a series of “listening sessions” Kleismit has hosted in several communities from mid-July through September 1. Listening sessions in Marietta, Cincinnati, Toledo, Steubenville, Columbus, Dayton, Lancaster, Cleveland, Lima and Canton recently concluded.

The other primary input for recommendations is coming through 10 volunteer committees that have been meeting, mostly throughout August, to compile input from hundreds of Ohioans with a wide range of expertise, according to Kleismit. The 10 committees (each with two co-chairs): Showcasing, K-12 Education, Scholarship, Celebration & Signature Events, Commemoration, 88-County Public Engagement, Travel, Tourism & Economic Development, Philanthropic Partners, Museums, Arts Organizations & Cultural Institutions, and Communications, PR & Marketing.

Kleismit said it was too early to speculate as to what recommendations will be in the report, but that it will be posted soon after September 30 on the Commission’s new webpage: ohiohistory.org/America250-OhioCommission. The Commission, which meets quarterly, will meet again on September 16 at the Ohio History Center in Columbus.

Kleismit said he was thankful for the hundreds of people who have contributed to recommendations by attending “listening sessions” and volunteering to serve on committees. “We’re still early in our planning efforts,” he said. “There will be plenty of opportunities in the future to supply great ideas to the Commission and our work to prepare Ohio for the 250th anniversary.” He said the committees will continue to refine recommendations and make plans through July 4, 2026.
2022 OLHA Digitization Grantees

ALLIANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Digitizing the Alliance Review

With a grant of $2500 from OLHA, the Alliance Historical Society will digitize the 1895-1904 issues of The Alliance Daily Review and Alliance Standard Review and add them to the existing Ohio Memory collection, Alliance Review. The collection, begun in 2015, currently consists of the 1905-1924 issues of the newspaper. This project will expand the online coverage of the newspaper an additional 10 years.

The Alliance Review is the only complete primary source of information about the city of Alliance and the surrounding areas. With its continuous publication since 1871, the newspaper includes data on births, deaths, marriages, local politics, and news about industries, businesses, and social organizations that are not indexed and difficult to find without a known date.

Rodman Public Library constructed an index to The Review covering 1871-present. The index is available online at allianceneindex.com and includes major local events, obituaries, and names of prominence. Information on everyday people and uncategorized events not included in the index are lost to the researcher looking for data about a minor organization, event, or family. Full-text indexing is only available for 1905-1924 through Ohio Memory and 2002-present from Newsbank or The Review’s website. Accounts are required for access to the latter two websites.

Rodman Public Library is committed to the preservation and ongoing access of The Review to the public. In 2019, the Library sent the decaying master negative microfilms to Backstage Library Works where they were duplicated onto stable polyester film for digitization as time and money allowed. Public use copies of The Review microfilm from 1871-2018 are available at Rodman Public Library. The Ohio History Connection has a limited collection. No other copies of The Review are known to exist. The Alliance Historical Society is partnering with Rodman Public Library to digitize this portion of the collection to expand the online holdings and searchable historic record of the city of Alliance and neighboring communities.

DELTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Digitizing the Delaware Daily Journal Herald
December 15, 1904 to September 30, 1908

We are requesting $2,358 to digitize the Delaware Daily Journal Herald newspaper from December 15, 1904, through September 30, 1908, which will help meet our goal to make all issues of this newspaper available on the internet.

The Journal Herald was published from March 31, 1902, through March 30, 1929. As of February 1, 2022, the Journal Herald from October 1, 1912, through March 30, 1929, (when it ceased publication) is available on Ohio Memory. Between April 1st and June 30th 2021, 3,386 users accessed the digital Journal Herald (1914 - 1929) and viewed 17,570 pages. The digitizing of the Journal Herald from October 1, 1908, through 1912 is currently under way.

The Delaware County Historical Society owns the ONLY paper copies of the Daily Journal Herald newspapers. The Society copy has been re-housed into acid neutral boxes to halt the deterioration of the original. The pages are very fragile, and flake away with handling, which prompted us to plan an alternative for accessing the information in this newspaper.

Rather than purchase the newspaper on microfilm which would be housed in the Cryder Research Library, we decided to put the Journal Herald on the internet. The digital Journal Herald supports research needed to create programs, exhibits, and publications about the history of the County. Digitizing the Journal Herald and making it available on the internet allows anytime access to all who research Central Ohio or Delaware County history.

CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Clark County Historical Society Film Digitization Project

We are asking for grant funding in the amount of $866, half of the total project cost of $1,732 to digitize 20 16mm reels and a dozen VHS tapes. The films are stored in various locations across the archives, but the vast majority are together in one location. Altogether they would take up a space of approximately 3 linear feet. Their subjects touch on various aspects of Clark County life through the ages: local basketball championship games and parade, high school basketball history, a local vaudeville comedian team, interviews with teachers, Christmas parties and picnic, scenes around downtown Springfield, and the construction of a local hospital just to name a few.

While these reels and tapes have remained well-preserved in our archives for decades, their contents are otherwise inaccessible to both staff and the general public. We would use grant funds to have two local companies digitize these materials into an archival MP4 format at 1440p (also known as QDH or Quad HD resolution). This would be a continuation of previous grant-funded work our Historical Society has undertaken. For the past several years, we have been working to digitize and make collections more widely accessible to the public. In 2019 we digitized over 100 oral history cassettes and have been working to make those recordings available on YouTube. This would be another push to digitize these materials and present them in a way that is easily accessible for the public, like through our YouTube channel and Facebook. We also plan to integrate these digitized materials into our programming. With the local hospital, for example, we routinely look to the medical field as a subject for our Wednesday Virtual Programs since we have so many relevant artifacts.
The content of these 16mm reels and VHS tapes are emblematic of our historical collection as a whole. Our organization got its start in 1897 when a group of Civil War veterans saw fit to preserve not only artifacts from their own (at the time fairly recent) national conflict, but also the artifacts of those who came before them. In the 125 years since, the Society has accumulated a wide array of objects and archival materials which shed light on the daily lives of Clark County’s citizens. Just as our collection as a whole sheds light on every facet of life and work from the Paleo-Indians to the present day, these tapes are similarly reflective of the wide array of experiences and stories native to Clark County.

While we have the means to physically preserve the films in storage boxes, we do not have the means to transfer any of the visual formats in house. We know that the life expectancy for the VHS has passed and it would be best for preservation sake to transfer them. While we have fewer worries about the reel film holding up over time, some of the reels have started to show signs of vinegar syndrome. We would like to digitize them while they are still in good enough shape to do so.

Our hope that is one these reels and VHS formats are transferred to an archival safe digital format, we will be able to post them online, use them to create new content, and share them with researchers. Once transferred, the master digital copies will be stored on our server. We also plan to store them on an external drive, in the cloud, and have them available on YouTube. The original 16mm films and VHS would continue to be stored in our archives as before.”

Ohio Museums Association Releases Latest Strategic Plan

The Ohio Museums Association (OMA) has announced the release of their latest strategic plan, a framework document which will guide the organization through the next five years.

The plan steers the future of the organization and is based on the guiding principles to be “people first in all we do, be a trusted resource, cultivate diversity in all ways, advocate and educate, and lead from within.”

“This plan helps OMA venture into the next five years with a clear framework to help us meet the needs and challenges facing our museums and our organization, and emerge into this future a strong, resilient, and responsive leader for our field,” said Johnna McEntee, executive director of OMA.

Through support from the Ohio Arts Council via a Capacity Building grant, OMA worked with the experts at Spark Creative to help the organization facilitate the planning process and bring the six-month, statewide planning process to its final form.

“We are so grateful to the Ohio Arts Council for their generous support, without which we would not have been able to work with Spark. Because of OAC support and working with Spark, our planning process was comprehensive and efficient, helping to set us up for the plan’s ultimate success.” McEntee said.

Support from the COSI Catalyst Group was also critical to the plan’s completion. “A special thank you to the COSI Catalyst Group for their support throughout the planning process,” McEntee continued.

The 2022-2027 strategic plan outlines five priority areas for OMA. These strategic themes are entitled Diversity, Equity, Accessibility & Inclusion (DEAI), Growth and Sustainability, Resource and Partnership Development, Advocacy and Outreach, and Membership Development.

Over the six-month planning period, OMA and Spark conducted a comprehensive survey of current, previous, and non-members of the organization; held one-on-one interviews with 27 OMA members, stakeholders and outside partners; and facilitated thirteen full-group planning sessions, team homework sessions, and final distillation and writing sessions.

“We knew this process and the resulting plan would only be successful with the input and buy-in from our members, stakeholders, and partners. The planning process was truly a team effort—a total collaboration, and was absolutely made stronger because of the input from members and non-members, and the hard work of the 30+ people who took part in our planning teams,” McEntee said.

The 2022-2027 Strategic Plan can be downloaded from the OMA website.

Founded in 1976 by members of the Ohio’s museum community, the Ohio Museums Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. OMA works with a variety of museums, museum professionals and providers of museum services to strengthen the state’s museums, foster excellence in the field and support museums in Ohio. The Ohio Museums Association connects, educates, empowers and advocates for the Ohio Museum community.

The Ohio Museums Association serves the state’s arboretums, aquariums, anthropology museums, art museums, art center and galleries, botanical gardens, ethnic museums, general museums, heritage centers, history museums, historic houses, historic parks and sites, historical societies, natural history museums, nature centers, planetariums, science and technology centers, youth and children’s museums and zoos.

For more information on the Ohio Museums Association, please contact 614.297.2375 or visit www.ohiomuseums.org.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Arts Council Joins Roadside Marker Grant Program to Recognize State’s Diverse Folklore

Thanks to a new partnership between the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) and William G. Pomeroy Foundation, Ohio communities can now highlight their stories, customs, and traditions through a roadside marker grant program named Legends & Lore.

Launched by the Pomeroy Foundation in 2015, the Legends & Lore grant program helps communities commemorate their local folklore and legends, and promote cultural tourism with roadside markers. The OAC, which funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities, has joined the grant program as a state partner of the Pomeroy Foundation. The OAC will help vet grant applications and ensure the legitimacy of the folklore proposed for commemoration.

“Encouraging cultural tourism is an important part of promoting a vibrant Ohio arts economy,” said Donna S. Collins, OAC executive director. “The Ohio Arts Council looks forward to spotlighting local folk and traditional arts and culture through Legends & Lore.”

The Pomeroy Foundation is a philanthropic organization based in Syracuse, N.Y. One of the Foundation’s main initiatives is to help people celebrate their community’s history by providing grants for roadside markers. Since 2005, the Foundation has awarded close to 1,800 grants for markers and bronze plaques in 46 states and Washington, D.C.

“We are delighted to partner with the Ohio Arts Council to bring this unique grant opportunity to the Buckeye State,” said Deryn Pomeroy, trustee and director of strategic initiatives at the Pomeroy Foundation. “The Legends & Lore marker program has already helped communities around the country commemorate the cultural traditions, customs, and stories that are important to them. Through our partnership with the OAC, we look forward to recognizing Ohio’s diverse landscape of folk and traditional arts with roadside markers.”

More than 140 Legends & Lore marker grants have been awarded by the Pomeroy Foundation since the program’s inception. In addition to Ohio, Legends & Lore grants are currently available in the following states: Alabama, Connecticut, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia. Prospective applicants must apply through a local 501(c)(3) organization, such as a historical society; nonprofit academic institution; or a local, state, or federal government entity.

There are two Legends & Lore grant rounds each year. The second Legends & Lore grant round in 2022 will open on Monday, Aug. 29. The deadline to submit a marker grant application during that round will be Monday, Oct. 17, 2022. Legends & Lore grant funding includes the full cost of a marker, pole, and shipping. To review program guidelines and details about how to apply online, visit the Foundation’s website: www.wgpfoundation.org/history/legends-lore/.
Celebrate Ohio’s Citizen Archivists by Honoring a Volunteer

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Citizen Archivist Award honors volunteers in Ohio’s archives who work long hours answering reference requests, processing collections, and indexing historic records. This award recognizes a volunteer in an Ohio archive who best exemplifies the dedication and hard work volunteers—our citizen archivists—contribute to Ohio’s archives each day.

All Ohio institutions responsible for archival records that provide free public access to at least a portion of their collections are eligible. Preference will be given to volunteers whose work increases access to archival collections in Ohio. OHRAB will accept nominations from Ohio archival institutions as well as the general public.

Departments employing members of OHRAB are not eligible, but other departments in their institutions are eligible.

Nominating letters should be no longer than two pages, 12-pt, single spaced, describing the accomplishments and dedication of the volunteer. Include the nominee’s name along with a contact person’s name, mailing and email addresses, and phone number. If the nominee’s contributions include online collections, please include a link to the website.

Send nominations via email or U.S. mail to:

Tina Ratcliff
Montgomery County Records Center & Archives
117 South Main Street, P.O. Box 972
Dayton, OH 45422
ratcliff@mcohio.org

Nominations must be received by September 30, 2022.

Questions? Contact Tina Ratcliff at ratclifft@mcohio.org or 937-496-6932.

Biden Signs Bill for Coin to Commemorate Legacy of Harriet Tubman

On August 3, 2022, President Biden signed into law H.R. 1842, the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act, to celebrate freedom hero Harriet Tubman. The law, introduced and passed with bipartisan support in both the House of Representatives and Senate, will mint a series of coins in honor of the Underground Railroad conductor’s extraordinary achievements. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will receive a portion of the proceeds raised from the coin’s surcharges to advance its mission and to perpetuate the enduring legacy of Tubman for the next generation of freedom conductors.

“Harriet Tubman is one of the most revered figures in American history and in the ongoing fight for inclusive freedom,” said Woodrow Keown, Jr., president and COO of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. “We applaud the bilateral legislative support that rightly enshrines Harriet Tubman among our nation’s pantheon of heroes in 2022, the 200th anniversary of her birth. It is an essential step in ensuring our national heroes reflect the true diversity of those who have contributed so significantly to our nation’s democracy.”

Harriet Tubman is perhaps the most recognized figure from the era of the Underground Railroad, the clandestine network by which enslaved individuals sought to liberate themselves in the first half of the 19th century. Born Araminta “Minty” Ross in March 1822 on a plantation in Maryland, Tubman self-liberated via the Underground Railroad in 1849, crossing from Maryland to the free state of Pennsylvania. She returned to Maryland 13 times over the next decade, leading 70 enslaved people to freedom in Canada.

The Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act, introduced by Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Rob Portman (R-OH) and Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and John Katko (R-NY), will mint a limited number of three new coins to be sold exclusively by the US Mint that will bear Tubman’s likeness on the front and an image representing the Freedom Center on the back. The Freedom Center will consult on the design of the coins with input from the Commission of Fine Arts; Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen will select the final coin designs.

“Minting Ms. Tubman’s likeness on a commemorative coin will encourage people to learn more about this extraordinary leader who had such a profound impact on American history and culture,” added Keown. “Modern-day abolitionists continue to be inspired by the principles of courage, cooperation and perseverance she exemplified to better our country.”

The Freedom Center has secured the support of Procter & Gamble as lead sponsor to collaborate in helping honor Tubman’s legacy through the commemorative coin. P&G’s sponsorship will help maximize the financial support the Freedom Center receives from the project by supporting coin sales initiatives and outreach efforts. The partnership reflects P&G’s ongoing commitments to equality and inclusion and its support for the Freedom Center since its founding.

“Enshrining Harriet Tubman’s courage and perseverance is an important step in reminding future generations of the role individual action can play in creating freedom and equality in our society,” said Damon Jones, chief communications officer of Procter & Gamble and a board member of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. “I applaud the work of our elected officials and Freedom Center leadership in working together to recognize her extraordinary role in American history.”
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

Ohio Preservation Council Professional Development Grant

In 2020 the Ohio Preservation Council began to offer four awards of up to $250 each in support of continuing education and professional organization memberships for Ohio Students and Professionals with an interest in preserving our cultural heritage. OPC has updated the grant procedures and awards to reflect the current emphasis on remote learning and virtual conferences.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis in March, May, September and November. Applications are due the first Mondays in March, May, September and November with applicants notified after the 3rd Thursday of the month.

The Ohio Preservation Council serves as a coalition of preservationists, conservators, librarians, archivists, curators, records managers, the institutions they represent, and other concerned citizens who recognize the serious threat to documentary heritage. The Council’s mission is to provide a network for preservation education and to support preservation activities within the state of Ohio. The Council believes in cooperative, state-wide efforts across geographic and professional lines are needed to meet preservation challenges.

The Ohio Preservation Council recognizes the value of professional meetings, conferences, and other educational opportunities to advance the field of preservation and provide a forum to voice the need for ongoing stewardship of our documentary heritage. When possible, the OPC shall provide financial support to individuals to develop skills, expand knowledge, and gain experience relevant to the mission and goals of the Ohio Preservation Council. Applications are due the first Mondays in March and September.

Individuals requesting financial support must meet the following criteria:

- Working in the state of Ohio OR pursuing an advanced degree or certificate in the state of Ohio;
- Working directly in the field of preservation (as described above) OR pursuing a degree or certificate within the field;
- Request is for professional development that clearly relates to preservation issues and/or preservation skills;
- Have not received financial support from the OPC Grant within 3 calendar years.

For more information on how to apply visit: http://ohiopreservationcouncil.org/Grants

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2022 Heritage Ohio Annual Conference

You’ll do better in Toledo!
Join Heritage Ohio in the Glass City October 3rd to the 5th for the annual Preservation and Main Street Conference, presented by Sandvick Architects & Coon Restoration.

Engage in conversations around expanding the definition of preservation, and how and why we decide what to save. Take a fresh look at the Main Street approach to revitalization, and how strong neighborhoods support our historic commercial districts.

Our conference tracts this year are centered around Community Interest; Historic Sites and Properties; Community Involvement, Engagement, and DEI; Funding Resources; Historic Tax Credits; and Historic Preservation and Design Review. With nearly thirty sessions and six tours highlighting the best of Toledo and the revitalization community across Ohio, there’s something of interest for preservationists of every level, from beginner to seasoned pro.

The conference kicks off Monday with a deep dive into Historic Tax Credits, hosted at the restored Jones mansion in Findlay, Ohio. That evening, join us at the historic Toledo club for our Legacy Circle evening reception, where you’ll mingle with Heritage Ohio board members and many of our valued preservation partners. Tuesday will offer a full day of educational sessions and walking tours, along with a diverse vendor showcase and social mixer. Tuesday evening, we’ll travel to the historic Ohio Theatre in the Lagrange Neighborhood for keynote remarks from US Representative, Marcy Kaptur, followed by our annual awards ceremony and the inaugural Heritage Ohio film festival. Wednesday will feature more educational sessions and tours around Toledo.

Our annual conference is presented by Coon Restoration and Sandvick Architects, with additional support from Ohio SHPO, Historic Landmarks Commission, PNC Bank, GBX Group, LISC Toledo, and OHM Advisors.

Learn more and register at www.heritageohio.org.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be The Change at the 2022 Annual Meeting!

Please plan to join us at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, just north of Columbus in the Polaris area, on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1, 2022, for the Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting! We’re planning a full day of sessions and workshops on both days, in collaboration with the Society of Ohio Archivists on Friday. Instead of a pre-conference workshop on Thursday, we’ll offer two choices of workshops to close the day on Saturday. These workshops will be included with conference registration.

We’re excited to partner with the Westerville History Museum to offer conference-goers a Tipsy Temperance Tour of uptown Westerville in two different time slots, 6:30 and 7:15 on Friday. Grab a drink from a DORA establishment and join the Westerville History Center & Museum for a guided walking tour of sites within the DORA related to the town’s Temperance & Prohibition history. The home of the former Anti-Saloon League is now home to a brewery, multiple wineries, bars & restaurants serving alcohol, and now, a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). Participants will learn how Westerville has weaved its way in and out of alcohol prohibition in some unique ways. From the bombing of saloons at the same time buying alcohol at a pharmacy - to being so dry you’d have to “sprinkle the streets after a rain.” Westerville’s complicated history with alcohol leaves it with a unique legacy. The tour goes in a loop. Participants will walk approximately ½ mile. Free, but space in each tour is limited to the first 20 registrants!

Our conference theme, Be the Change, allows us to highlight ways that history museums can become more active in their communities and be agents for increasing justice for all through their outreach, exhibits and programs. We’ve planned a wide variety of meeting sessions, which will include presentations on recognizing and telling African-American history, strategic planning and fundraising in difficult times, building internship programs, improving your advocacy and social media strategies, caring for collections and different ways collections help you tell a story and connect to your community.

As our keynote speaker, we are very excited to welcome Professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries as this year’s keynote speaker, sponsored by Ohio Humanities. Hasan Kwame Jeffries exemplifies the idea of being the change you wish to see in the world as he teaches, researches, and writes about the African American experience from a historical perspective. He has chronicled the civil rights movement in the ten episode Audible Originals series “Great Figures of the Civil Rights Movement,” and has told the remarkable story of the original Black Panther Party in Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama’s Black Belt. Hasan has collaborated on several public history projects, including serving as the lead scholar and primary scriptwriter for the $27 million renovation and redesign of the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, the site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Check our website at ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting for registration details and the conference brochure. You should have received the brochure in the mail in July. Please contact us at ohiolha@ohiohistory.org with any questions.

Ohio Open Doors—You’re Invited!

Ohio Open Doors is sponsored by the Ohio History Connection and includes nearly 200 events in communities across the state. Partner organizations include the Ohio Arts Council, TourismOhio, the Ohio Travel Association and Heritage Ohio.

Visit the website to use the interactive map to find an event near you!
Region 1
Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties
The Allen County Museum and Historical Society received an NEH grant for $35,194. The grant will fund a planning project to explore sustainable strategies for improving environmental conditions for a collection that documents the diverse culture of the people of the western Ohio region from prehistory through the present.

On August 4, the Hardin County Historical Museums, Inc. in Kenton announced the departure of Director Sheena Striker, effective August 8. She resigned after serving as the Director for four years to accept a position as a Fifth Grade ELA Intervention Specialist with the Kenton City School System. She had previously served as Assistant Director under Linda Iams.

Region 2
Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties
On July 26, sixteen student interns and eight adult citizens of the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma, led by Chief Billy Friend and Cultural Services Specialist Kim Garcia, visited their ancestral homelands in northwest Ohio. This included visits to the Wyandot Mission Church, Indian Mill, and Wyandot County Museum in Upper Sandusky on the former Grand Reserve. The group also toured the Mazza Museum in Findlay before being hosted for a light dinner by University of Findlay President Dr. Katherine Fell that same evening. While in Ohio, the Wyandottes also planned to visit the site of the Battle of Fallen Timbers and Cedar Point before returning to Oklahoma.

Director Teresa Sullivan (an OLHA Region 2 Representative) along with her volunteers hosted an 80th anniversary celebration for the Seneca County Museum in Tiffin on August 5. Artist Roxanna King portrayed Della Watson Shawhan Laird, wife of Rezin Shawhan, who once lived in the home that now houses the museum. An official dedication ceremony was held at 3:00 PM.

Region 3
Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties
The International Women’s Air and Space Museum received an NEH grant $9,998. The grant will fund the purchase of shelving and storage supplies for the museum’s collection of paper-based, photographic, and three-dimensional artifacts, as well as environmental monitoring equipment to inform future preservation initiatives for the collections.

The Brunswick Area Historical Society holds Farmers Markets from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays at 4613 Laurel Road at Heritage Farm. Farm Museum is open as is the 1860s barn. Free admission and parking, musical entertainment each week. On Oct. 2 the event will be from 10-5—the grand finale—with a canine costume contest (adult handlers and younger than 16 divisions), belly dancers Third Tent from the Nile and musicians galore.

The Cleveland Police Museum opened a new exhibit: The Torso Murders of Kingsbury Run. In the 1930s, a killer terrorized Cleveland, brutally murdering and dismembering at least thirteen people. The exhibit explores the police investigation into the crime and features death masks from four of the thirteen victims. The death masks were part of the cutting edge forensic technology used at the time to help identify both the victims and the perpetrator. Although Cleveland Safety Director Eliot Ness identified a prime suspect, the murderer was never arrested and the case remains officially unsolved.

Region 4
Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties
The Trumbull County Historical Society received an IMLS Museums for America grant for $247,144. The grant will fund the digitization of 2,000 oversized archival items, including their Urban Renewal Archive, which documents the history of the traditionally Black neighborhoods of The Flats and The Bottoms, which were completely demolished between 1965–1985. The project will also support digitization of oversized archives throughout the county by working with the Trumbull County Collections Network (CO-NET) comprised of 16 small and rural museums in the region. Two consulting conservators will conduct training on oversized archival handling, establish procedures, and ensure that best practices are observed. The society will purchase a large-format scanner and make it available for use by the CO-NET organizations. Completion of this project will provide public access to maps and blueprints that showcase a part of Ohio that no longer exists as well as building a stronger historical community in the county through shared resources.

The Sultiff Museum reopened its doors to the public on Saturday, August 20, 2022 with a grand celebration in conjunction with the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library. The Sultiff Museum closed in September 2021 to accommodate the construction and renovation project of the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library. Regular hours will resume on August 24.
and resume its pre-pandemic open hours of Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 4PM and the Museum is located on the second floor of the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library.

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

Region 7
Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties

In May 2022, Sinclair Community College received an OHRAB re-grant to properly house, preserve, and document College history, 1887 to present. The project is focused on appraising and arranging collections with preservation in mind, digitizing sensitive items with a new overhead scanner, and creating collection finding aids to enhance research opportunities. The grant is not only providing essential supplies to preserve Sinclair’s institutional history, but also helping student interns gain practical processing experiences. Since May, Sinclair’s Archivist and two interns have reprocessed half of the College’s archival collection and are working to complete the project by December, 2022.

The exhibit “Bootleggers, Bandits, and Badges: From Dry Times to Hard Times in Dayton, Ohio,” sponsored by Dayton Police History Foundation and hosted by Carillon Historical Park, “is a open through 2022. The gallery is divided into sections covering three distinct periods in history: the Temperance crusade, Prohibition, and the Great Depression. The exhibit recounts the near 50-year career of Chief Rudy Wurster, his troops in action, the local crimes committed by John Dillinger and George ‘Bugs’ Moran, and many other named “bootleggers and bandits” brought to justice by local lawmen donning “badges” depicted throughout the gallery.

On Wednesday, July 20, the Armstrong Air & Space Museum dedicated their new Learjet 28 outdoor exhibit area. This particular aircraft was flown by Neil Armstrong on February 19th and 20th of 1979, setting five aviation world records. The jet is also the first commercial aircraft in the United States to utilize winglets in the design, a feature almost standard in today’s jet airliners. The jet sits on the museum’s southwest lawn and is free to the public to view at any time.

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

WOUB in Athens created a series of Place-based Learning videos in partnership with the Athens City School District, the Ohio History Connection, and Paul LaRue. The videos are publicly available on their YouTube channel.

Region 10
Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Washington Counties

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 ohiohae@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 June 23 and August 17, 2022.

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS
Kirsten Dilger, Dayton
Andrea Howard, Stow

ORGANIZATIONS
The Woman’s Club of Dayton Foundation, Dayton

Thank You, Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS
Sarah Aisenbrey, Dayton
Sandy Stephenson, Fostoria

ORGANIZATIONS
Armstrong Air & Space Museum Association, Wapakoneta
Bellevue Historical Society & Heritage Museum, Bellevue
Bellevue Public Library, Bellevue
Bucyrus Historical Society, Bucyrus
Chagrin Falls Historical Society, Chagrin Falls
Champaign County Historical Society, Urbana
Darke County Historical Society, Greenville
Delhi Historical Society, Cincinnati
Delphos Canal Commission, Delphos
Fairfield County Heritage Association, Lancaster
Fort Recovery Historical Society, Fort Recovery
Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati
Friends of the Museums, Inc., Marietta
Historic New Richmond, Inc., New Richmond
Hocking County Historical Society, Logan
Johnston Farm Friends Council, Piqua
Kent Historical Society & Museum, Kent
Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, Chillicothe
Marion County Federation of Women’s Clubs, Marion
Mason Historical Society, Mason
Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor Inc, Napoleon
McKinley Memorial Library, Niles
McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, Canton
Meigs County Historical Society, Pomeroy
Museum Acrylics Co. LLC, New Philadelphia
New London Area Historical Society, New London
Perry Historical Society of Lake County, Perry
Plain Township Historical Society, Canton
Rendville Historic Preservation Society, Athens
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums, Fremont
Trenton Historical Society, Trenton
Trotwood-Madison Historical Society, Trotwood
Van Wert County Historical Society, Van Wert
Worthington Historical Society, Worthington

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 5:
Ohio Preservation Council Professional Development Grants Due. For more information, see page 13.

SEPTEMBER 9–18:
Ohio Open Doors Events. For more information, see page 14.

SEPTEMBER 27:
Ohio History Fund Grants Due. For more information, see ohiohistory.org/historyfund.

SEPTEMBER 30:
Ohio’s Citizen Archivist Nominations Due. For more information, see page 12.

SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 1:
OLHA Annual Meeting! For more information, see page 14.

OCTOBER 3–5:
Heritage Ohio Conference. For more information, see page 13.
Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

...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

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