THE Local Historian

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
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Beginning a Collection Journey

Textile storage area "before." (left) and "after" (center). Photographig the textile collections (right). Photos courtesy of Trumbull County Historical Society

by Sarah Moell, Curator of Collections & Research; and Oliva Beebe, Collections Assistant; Trumbull County Historical Society

Beginning a collection journey can be overwhelming depending on the state of your organization's storage. New volunteers for local cultural sites often find themselves in charge of collections with no known organization. Within this article, we will lay out a few tips on how to begin your collection management process.

The Trumbull County Historical Society began began its collections organization journey in 2019. TCHS received a Grant for Small Museums through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant's goal was to inventory, digitize, and rehouse 5,000 high priority archives in the collection and make them accessible to the public. With an archival collection that we now know consists of around 20,000 artifacts it was difficult to know where to start. We decided to begin with collections that had already been organized. For TCHS this meant that they were in boxes separated by topic and the majority of those items were already accessioned into our permanent collection. Starting with collections that were already organized allowed us to develop an inventory system that worked best for us.

We completed our first IMLS grant with over 6,000 archives on our online database that was available for the public to search. In 2021 TCHS received another grant from

Hello OLHA members! Do you remember that we wanted to hear your feedback on why you are a member? With thanks to Mazie Adams and Tilda Phlipot, we now have an online form for you to fill out. Read more about the survey on page 10.

Regional meetings were a success, thank you for joining your local historians in this day-long conference. If you have never been to one, keep an eye out for next year's dates and locations announced in early 2024.

If your site is like mine, it's busy season! Good luck to you and feel free to keep News From the Regions updated with your significant accomplishments.

Leslie

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Allen County Museum Director Announces Resignation

The director of the Allen County Museum, Amy Craft Klassen, has accepted a new role as executive director of the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum in St. Augustine, Florida. In light of Klassen's resignation, the Allen County Historical Society's Board of Trustees is currently doing a search for her replacement.

Klassen comments, "I am very excited about my new role, but leaving is certainly bittersweet. My time at the Allen County Museum has been the highlight of my career. I am very grateful for the support offered to me by the board, staff, docents, and community during my tenure. Lima and Allen County will always be a special place for me."

The Board of Trustees has hired an interim director, Christine Fowler Shearer, who is familiar with the museum and local community. Ms. Shearer worked with the museum to create its strategic plan and also curated last year's successful exhibition, *The Eight Ohio Presidents; Surprising Legacies.* Shearer has

over 20 years of experience in the museum field. She received her PhD in Cultural Art History from Warnborough College, Ireland in August 2017. She received her BA in Art History from Kent State University and her MA in Art History from the University of Notre Dame in 1996.

According to Jim Osmon, President of the Allen County Historical Society, "The board is sorry to see Amy go. She helped set the museum on a new trajectory and we look forward to that direction continuing. However, we recognize the new job is a great opportunity and certainly wish her the very best."

Ms Shearer will begin as interim director the week of April 24-28. She will help maintain continuity during the search for the new director.

The Allen County Museum is located at 620 West Market Street, Lima, Ohio 45801. Museum hours are Tuesday-Friday 1:00-5:00; Saturday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

2023 Board Members
Ohio Local History Alliance

IMLS, Museums for America. This grant allowed TCHS to conduct the same process as with our archives, but for 15,000 objects within the collection. We began in the same way, choosing our textile collection because it had been inventoried previously. When we moved on to our object collection we organized artifacts by topic that staff had predetermined and completed each topic or collection at a time.

Taking these lessons into consideration, organizations should start collection work with clear goals in mind. Institutions can begin this process by asking a few questions - does the collection have accession numbers, is the collection storage moving, has the board approved a Collections Management Policy, have items been accessioned, is the current collection software in use functional, and does the organization want to digitize? Having a clear understanding of what the collection will look like in the future will help create a path forward.

Collections storage area "before" (left) and "after" (right). Photo courtesy of Trumbull County Historical Society.

One of the best tools for a cultural site that has little knowledge of what/where items in the collection are is a 'large sort.' Which simply means coming up with a list of categories and piling the collection items according to that list. For example, in an unorganized archival room, possible categories would be schools, places, businesses, clubs & organizations, churches, etc. Creating these piles allows the work of accessioning, rehousing, and digitizing to be done in smaller more manageable projects over time.

After you've finished your 'large sort' and you have your piles how do you know where to start? Which collections do you prioritize? When beginning an organization project you want to start easy so you can get your inventory process solidified before tackling larger, trickier collections. If there is a collection that has had a previous inventory or there is one that is well organized that could be a good place to start. If neither of those are an option then start with a smaller collection to keep from getting overwhelmed or biting off more than you can chew. Once you have your inventory process figured out then start focusing on collections that are significant to your organization and community, think of collections that have a high research value.

We've referenced the 'inventory process' quite a few times but how do you actually do an inventory of a new or existing collection? First, if you haven't already, choose a numbering system. The museum standard is the trinomial numbering system which is year, donation, item. An example would be 2023.4.5; 2023 is the year the donation was made, 4 is the fourth donation that year, 5 is the fifth item within that donation. Marking each item with its accession number is important so you can tie the artifact to its donation record.

The information to keep in an inventory is up to the organization but the main items to include are the accession number, the date of the artifact, any relevant information, and where it is located in your storage. When recording this information is is always good to have a few copies, generally one digital and one paper to keep with the donation records. This way, if anything ever happens to one copy you will always have a backup.

Now that you've organized your collection and started your inventory the next step is to digitize. Digitizing a collection is important for a few reasons. Making your collection available to the public is especially important for organizations that may not have exhibit space or whose collections are so large that the majority will never be put on display. It is also great for research, it makes it easier and less time consuming to search for information, and researchers can do it from home. And in case disaster strikes and you lose a collection the digital version is preserved for future generations.

To begin digitizing step number one is to get a scanner, it can be any type of scanner as long as it has the ability to scan at 600 dpi. This is a high enough resolution while having a lower storage amount. Once you've digitized your records you can store them in a number of places. TCHS uses the online database CatalogIt which is a cloud based system. Another well used database is PastPerfect, both databases are subscription based services. If your organization doesn't have a budget for one of these softwares you can use Excel or Google sheets to compile your information. You can then make it available to the public through Google Drive and sharing them on your websites and social media.

If there is one piece of wisdom to glean from this article it is that a collections journey will take time. Trumbull County Historical Society's current collection plan has been in motion since 2019 and has had its highs and lows. Each collection journey will be unique to that institution; steady projects that all move the organization toward a shared vision are how strong museum collections are created. Each collection journey will be unique to that institution.

USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation

An occasional series highlighting member organizations. If you'd like to submit your own organizational history, contact us at ohiolha@ohiohistory.org.

by Tim Daley, Chair, Heritage Committee for the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation

On October 8, 2018, Under Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly, on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy, announced the U.S. Navy would commission the fourth ship in U.S. history to be named for the City of Cleveland, Ohio. Since the turn of the 20th century, three previous U.S. Navy ships have carried the name of USS Cleveland:

- USS Cleveland CL-19 (1903-1929)
- USS Cleveland CL-55 (1942-1947)
- USS Cleveland LPD-7 (1967-2011)

Soon after Secretary Modly's announcement, a small group of dedicated citizens began planning for the ship's commissioning. Unlike the previous three U.S. Navy ships named for Cleveland, the future USS Cleveland (LCS 31) will be commissioned in her namesake city. Currently under construction by Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wisconsin, LCS 31 is anticipated to be completed and added to the Naval Vessel Register in 2024. Following commissioning, she will be assigned to Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron TWO and homeported in Mayport, Florida.

By early 2019, it became clear that the vision of the team of volunteers would necessitate a more formal, permanent structure than initially conceived. Exemplifying the gritty, competitive spirit of Clevelanders, the board envisioned something far greater than the traditional week of events surrounding most ship's commissioning ceremonies. The group outlined plans for a multi-decade initiative that would: (1) bring the ship

The USS Cleveland is formally launched, April 15, 2023. Photo courtesy of Tim Daley.

to life at commissioning; (2) support the ship's crew during her service life (20-25 years); and (3) return the ship to Cleveland upon her retirement from Naval service to serve as an enduring memorial and museum that would honor all four U.S. Navy ships to have carried the name Cleveland.

On November 20, 2019, the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation received its official recognition from the federal government as a 501(c)(3) public charity incorporated in the State of Ohio and began the execution of an ambitious plan to raise $5 million to support its three-phase strategic plan. The organization has raised about 70 percent of its goal and will soon move into the public phase of its Launching a Legacy campaign.

By tradition, each ship is sponsored by a female civilian, presumably to bestow good luck and divine protection over the seagoing vessel and all that sail aboard. In the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard, the sponsor is technically considered a permanent member of the ship's crew and is expected to give a part of her personality to the ship, as well as advocate for its continued service and well-being. The new ship's Sponsor is Mrs. Robyn Modly. Additionally, the Foundation is pleased to share that the keel was laid on June 16, 2021, the ship was just recently launched on April 15, 2023, and the formal Commissioning in Cleveland, Ohio is projected for September 2024.

You can learn more about the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation by visiting:

- usscleveland.org
- www.facebook.com/ussclf
- twitter.com/USSCLF
- www.linkedin.com/company/uss-cleveland-legacy-foundation
- www.instagram.com/ussclevelandlegacyfoundation

STEPS to Success:

A RESOURCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

by Callie Howard, Ohio History Service Corps AmeriCorps member serving at the Rickenbacker Woods Foundation and Alex Corpuz, Ohio History Service Corps AmeriCorps member serving at Ohio Humanities.
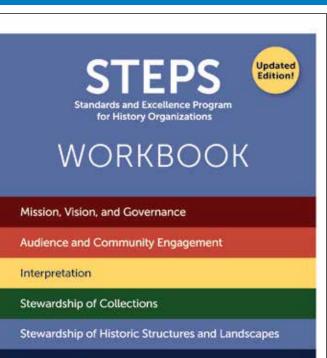
The Standards of Excellence Program (STEPS) has proved a valuable resource for small historical organizations wishing to elevate their organization to the next level. STEPS is an AASLH self-assessment workbook program, and is a fantastic resource for understanding your organization's current situation, establishing baseline adherence to AASLH standards, and growing your organization. This article will cover the first four of six total sections, which Ohio History Service Corps AmeriCorps Local History Members can assist with. These sections are Mission, Vision, and Governance; Audience and Community Engagement; Interpretation; and Stewardship of Collections.

The first section of STEPS is Mission, Vision, and Governance. This section is a great place to start if you are looking to elevate your organization, as the mission, vision, and governance make up the guiding force of any organization. Perhaps the most foundational aspect of the section is the five core documents that are essential for every historical organization. These documents are: the Mission Statement, Code of Ethics, Strategic Plan, Collections Management Policy, and the Emergency Plan. STEPS is useful in making sure that these documents are present in all organizations and adhere to the proper standards. The first three of these documents are thoroughly covered in the Mission, Vision, and Governance section.

The first core document from this section is the Mission Statement, which should guide all of your organization's decisions and activities. This statement reflects your museum's image and communicates why your organization exists and who it benefits. The second docu-

ment is the Code of Ethics, which expresses your institution's policies and is critical in upholding the public trust that is bestowed upon museums and historical organizations. This document should outline ethical principles and responsibilities of your organization—including maintaining collections. The final core document in this section is the Strategic Plan, which describes where your organization is going and what you want to achieve by outlining actionable goals. Ensuring that core documents are properly managed is one critical step that the Mission, Vision, and Governance section can help organizations achieve.

The second section of STEPS is the Audience section, which outlines how to best engage with and expand your audience. The topic of accessibility is key to this section, as incorporating accessibility helps to expand your audience and make the space comfortable for everybody. Accessibility can include physical or digital access. The American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is what most people first think of when they consider accessibility, as this act outlines standards for creating an accessible space, such as building and parking requirements. Physical accessibility should also be expanded to include basic amenities (facilities and services that help make a visitor feel comfortable), accessible exhibits and

displays, and accessible text fonts and sizes. Digital accessibility can include digitized collections, hybrid events, virtual tours, and an active social media presence. Completing the Audience section of STEPS is a great way to ensure that your organization is maximizing audience reach.

The Stewardship of Collections section emphasizes core documentation and a museum's responsibility in the public trust. The two core documents covered in this section are the Collections Management Policy and Emergency Plan. The former is a document that governs how an organization collects, cares for, and manages their collections. This should include: a statement on what the organization intends to collect, which will help align your collections with your mission; accessioning and deaccessioning poli-

Travel books, organized and properly shelved at the Kelton House. Storage and care of historical books is key to collections maintenance. Image courtesy of Alex Corpuz.

cies; loan procedures; where and how collections should be stored; who has access to collections; and how records are kept and updated. The second document in this section is the Emergency Plan. This document lays out planned responses to potential disasters or emergencies at your organization and details precautions taken to prevent such events to protect your patrons, staff, and collections.

The Stewardship of Collections section addresses also ethical and legal concerns that pertain to historical collections. It is important to preserve not just the objects themselves, but also the history of those objects. Some of these artifacts, like Native American grave goods, or objects linked to slavery, can carry difficult stories, and it is important for your organization to acknowledge these stories and their place within your organization.

Helpful in addressing the sometimes difficult histories of an organization's collections is the Interpretation section of STEPs. Like the Audience section above, a large part of this section concerns accessibility. It is important to make sure that your organization provides content accessible to as many learning styles and abilities as possible. Accessibility also includes the interpretation of those hard-to-tell histories, for which STEPs provides guidelines. When there are groups of people historically left out of the narrative of your organization and the stories it tells, it is important to acknowledge these gaps. Part of the work of interpreting an organization's collections may include interpreting what isn't there, and this, as in all interpretation, should be done with best research practices.

Accessibility requires inclusion, and both enhance audience reach. Image courtesy of Canva.

The STEPS sections are intentionally intertwined, because in order for your organization to be effective, all parts must work together. Operating within the public trust, your Mission Statement should be supported by a Code of Ethics and made actionable with a Strategic Plan. To align collections with the Mission, Code of Ethics, and Strategic Plan, you need a Collections Management Policy, and to protect your collections, staff, and patrons, you also need an Emergency Plan. These documents are the groundwork from which you can better meet and expand your audience by operating ethically and in the best interest of your patrons. The key vehicle of audience engagement is, of course, the interpretive content which your history organization provides through your exhibits and programs. STEPs is a key tool to help your organization improve in every one of these aspects.

How to host an organized and engaging field trip

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

In May I will take 82 eighth graders on their big class trip to Washington, D.C. My school has had a lot of success with this annual trip, and it has become a very beloved tradition to staff and students alike. I believe one of the keys as to why it is so successful is the materials we show the students about the places they will visit.

In the last article in this series, "How to host an organized and engaging field trip", I talked about tapping into the emotions of students using your exhibits and artifacts while they are on a field trip to your site. I also talked about having all of the details of a school field trip visit, such as where to put coats and how a school group should enter your building or site all worked out and communicated clearly to the teachers in charge beforehand. These tactics can make such a huge difference in the success of the field trip.

Closely related to engaging students *while* they are at your site is the materials you can provide them before, during and after they visit you. Getting the students excited and engaged before they even board the bus to visit you is a great idea. This helps with their behavior and attention when they are with you in person. I know I always go to the website of the museum or site to see what they offer teachers.

Is there an online way for students to look at any artifacts or exhibits they will see? Are they videos of the museum or of the stories of any of the artifacts, exhibits or people who are fea-tured on YouTube or on your website? These would be awesome tools to add if not.

If there are only photos or links to videos about things they will see while on their field trip with you, you could make a simple KWL chart for the teacher to give the students. A KWL chart is a chart which has three sections: K is for students to write (or draw) about what they already know about a topic. The K can be used before a field trip to activate prior knowledge and increase understanding of a topic.

The W is what kids want to know about an object, place or topic. This can be used after some class discussion and/or students getting to learn about the place they will visit and what kinds of things they will see and experience. Once they see these things, they will be more excited to be in person at your site. The W could actually be used before and during the trip if you want students to be doing something actively during the visit.

Finally, the L in the KWL chart stands for what students learned. This is a great option for students to complete after the field trip, likely another day when they are back at school or at the end of the school day when they return if there is time.

Below is a mock seventh grade student example of a simple KWL chart I created using a museum near me in Groveport, Ohio called Motts Military Museum that I am very familiar with.

In my fictional example of a school field trip to Motts Military Museum, I showed my mock students the Motts Museum web-

KWL CHART FOR VISIT TO MOTTS MILITARY MUSEUM
FOCUS: 9/11 ARTIFACT COLLECTION SHOWN ON THE MUSEUM'S WEBSITE

K- What do you know?	W: What do you want to know?	L: What did you learn?
Student notes: I know 9/11 was a terrorist attack on America in 2001. Many innocent people died. A lot of firemen and policemen were killed and many buildings in New York were destroyed. It was a very sad time in America.	Before the trip: I saw Mr. Motts talk about the crushed fire truck he was standing near in the video. What exactly happened to this truck and where was it on 9/11? During the trip: Once I saw the truck I could not believe anyone could have survived it being hit by pieces of the falling building. Was anyone inside or near it when the towers fell?	During our visit to Motts Military Museum Mr. Motts told us the story about the fire truck. He said the crew actually survived the tower falling by getting underneath the truck! The truck was so damaged it was hard to believe anyone could have survived being near it, but they did. It was kind of spooky seeing that truck and thinking about what happened that day.

site and a short video on there that shows the Director, Warren Motts, talking about the extensive 9/11 collection at his museum. We then toured the museum including the 9/11 artifacts, and talked about our field trip upon return to school.

The KWL chart is just one simple example of how you could provide a tool to teachers to engage teachers and students before, during and after a field trip. The classic "scavenger hunt" is another great example where students answer questions or fill something out while at your museum.

The following KWL template can be edited for your use. Simply add your museum or site's logo if you wish and email or mail it to teachers before their scheduled trip to see you along with a link to your museum website or other resources. When you click the template link, it will have you "Make a Copy" so that it becomes your own. Download the template here

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.*

Tell Us How We're Doing!

The mission of the Ohio Local History Alliance is to inspire, connect, and educate local history organizations across the state of Ohio. We'd like to hear from you - current, former and potential members of OLHA. Tell us about the issues your organization is facing and how we can help. Please fill out this survey (it takes just five minutes!). Your answers will help OLHA develop future programming and outreach activities.

Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums 2023 Annual Meeting and Conference

Registration is now open for the 2023 ALHFAM Annual Meeting & Conference: *The Future is Now! Rethink, Rejuvenate, Regenerate*

This year's conference is hosted by Sauder Village in Archbold, OH, June 23-26, 2023.

Conference Registration Fees:

Members: Early Bird $450/ Late Registration $500

Non-Members: Early Bird $500 / Late Registration $550

Early Bird Deadline is May 15th, 2023

The link to the conference program and to the registration page are at www.alhfam.org/2023-annual-conference

Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission Announces Grant Program

The Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission (OHGMEC) is partnering with Ohio Humanities to launch an inaugural grant program funding educational projects and programming in communities across the state about the Holocaust and genocide.

"The Commission will enable institutions both large and small to receive funding that will support Holocaust and genocide education programming throughout Ohio," said OHGMEC Executive Director Andrea Brookover. "We're thrilled to provide support for existing programs and new initiatives alike through this year's grant awards."

To be eligible for an OHGMEC grant, applicants must be not-for-profit, educational or governmental organizations with a mission and/or project that educates about and/or memorializes the Holocaust and/or other genocides. OHGMEC grants are not available to individuals, for-profit organizations or political or advocacy organizations.

Applications will be accessible the week of April 17 and will be accepted until the deadline of Friday, May 12. Grant amounts will be up to $10,000, and funded projects must be performed between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Full grant guidelines can be found on the OHGMEC website.

The OHGMEC was established by the Ohio General Assembly in December 2020. The Commission is charged with gathering and disseminating Holocaust and genocide educational resources and promoting awareness of issues relating to the Holocaust and genocide while advising state government officials on these relevant issues.

To learn more about the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission grant program guidelines, please visit the grants page at holocaust.ohio.gov. For questions and assistance navigating the application process, please contact our grantmaking partners at Ohio Humanities at grants@ohiohumanities.org.

Reimagining the Historic House Museum (June 2023)

DESCRIPTION

The one-day workshop, Reimagining the Historic House Museum includes an analysis of the most important opportunities and threats facing historic sites in America based on the latest social and economic research, with a discussion on how they may relate to the participants' house museum. We share a series of field-tested tools and techniques drawn from such wide-ranging sources as non-profit management, business strategy, and software development. Drawing from innovative organizations, we profile historic sites that are using new models to engage with their communities to become more relevant, are adopting creative forms of interpretation and programming, and earning income to become more financially sustainable. A key component of the workshop is a facilitated brainstorming session to reinvent an event or program. Working with an actual house museum not only puts theory into practice but demonstrates the value of multiple perspectives for analysis.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

Historic house museums face a wide range of challenges in today's continually changing environment. Traditional methods no longer seem to be as successful but new approaches seem uncertain or risky. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to analyze their operations, programs, and events to make better informed decisions, learn how to use a variety of tools and techniques that can be applied to a wide range of activities at museums big and small, identify ways to make their house museum more distinctive and relevant, and feel more confident to try new and different approaches.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Recognizing the Myriad Challenges Facing House Museums Today
- Conducting a Holistic Assessment of Your House Museum's Public Programs
- Analyzing the Five Forces that Affect Public Programs and Events
- House Museums That Are Successfully Reinventing Themselves
- Discovering Your House Museum's Unique Value and Distinctiveness

DETAILS

SESSION DATE: Thursday, June 22, 2023

LOCATION: Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, 145 E. Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130

COST: $200 AASLH Members / $325 Nonmembers

OPEN REGISTRATION: October 10, 2022 - May 22, 2023; 35 participant limit. Workshops typically fill up before the registration deadline, so register early.

LOGISTICS

FORMAT: In-person, group workshop

LENGTH: One day (8:30 am - 5:00 pm)

MATERIALS: Workshop materials will be provided upon registration and in-person at the event.

CREDIT: Registrants that attend and participate in the full day of the workshop will earn a Certificate of Completion from AASLH.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

learn.aaslh.org/products/reimagining-the-historic-house-museum-june-2023-onsite-workshop

Congratulations to the Ohio Museums Association 2022 Award Winners

The Ohio Museums Association has announced the winners of the 2022 OMA Awards of Achievement and 2022 Visual Communication Awards. These winners were recognized during the Annual OMA Awards Dinner, which took place Sunday, March 26 at the Cherry Valley Hotel in conjunction with the Ohio Museums Association's 2023 Annual Conference.

The OMA Awards program is an annual celebration of the outstanding achievement of Ohio museums in visual communications, individual and institutional achievement, and the tireless work museum professionals undertake to help 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 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 2022 calendar year.

2022 **AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT** WINNERS

BEST EXHIBITION (UNDER $500,000)
Artists Archives of the Western Reserve: *W/O Limits: Art, Chronic Illness, & Disability*

BEST EXHIBITION (OVER $500,000)
Massillon Museum: *Missing History of Massillon: Unheard African American Stories*

BEST EXHIBITION CATALOG (UNDER $500,000)
Allen County Museum: *Snapshot of Democracy: The Eight Ohio Presidents Catalog*

BEST EXHIBITION CATALOG (OVER $500,000)
Taft Museum of Art: *Craft and Camera: The Art of Nancy Ford Cones*

BEST COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (UNDER $500,000)
Artists Archives of the Western Reserve: *W/O Limits: Art, Chronic Illness, & Disability*

BEST COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (OVER $500,000)
FRONT Exhibition Co.: *FRONT Accessibility Partnership Initiative*

BEST EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (UNDER $500,000)
Historic Zoar Village: *Zoar & the Presidents*

EMERGING MUSEUM PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR
Allison Smith Hernandez: FRONT Exhibition Co.

BETTY BRYAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Gregory Edmonds: National Veterans Memorial and Museum

MUSEUM ADVOCATE
Fred Bidwell: Front Exhibition Co.

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR
Andy Aichele: COSI

2022 **VISUAL COMMUNICATION** WINNERS

BUDGET LEVEL 2
Gold Award: **Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Money Museum**: *Triple Play: Negro Leagues Baseball Centennial Commemorative Coin Act*

BUDGET LEVEL 3
Gold Award: **Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery**: *2022-2023 Season Brochure*

Silver Award: **Buckeye Imagination Museum**: *Organizational Logo*

Honorable Mention: **Buckeye Imagination Museum**: *Diversity Dragon Mural*

BUDGET LEVEL 4
Gold Award: **Armstrong Air & Space Museum**: *Armstrong Museum Virtual Tour*

Silver Award: **Armstrong Air & Space Museum**: *Armstrong Air & Space Museum 50th Anniversary Logo*

BUDGET LEVEL 5
Gold Award: **FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art**: *FRONT 2022 Exhibition Catalogue*

Silver Award: **American Sign Musuem**: *The Signmaker's Circus: A Decade of Camp*

BUDGET LEVEL 6
Gold Award: **Cleveland Museum of Art**: *Perceptual Drift: Black Art and an Ethics of Looking*

Silver Award: **Cleveland Museum of Art**: *Tales of the City: Drawing in the Netherlands from Bosch to Brueghel*

BEST IN SHOW:
Weston Art Gallery: Weston Art Gallery Season Brochure 2022-2023

NEH ANNOUNCES NEW GRANT!

Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations

Small and mid-sized cultural organizations across the U.S. steadfastly serve their communities as keepers of history and culture, sources of life-long learning, and community gathering places. To assist in expanding impact, reach, and excellence of their public programs, these new awards from NEH's Division of Public Programs support activities that focus on enriching interpretive strategies, strengthening interpretive skill sets, and/or enhancing community engagement with public-facing programs. This program aims to meet smaller and mid-sized organizations "where they are" by supporting projects that are appropriate in scope and content to each organization's resources and community needs. The Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations grant line is part of NEH's new American Tapestry initiative.

GRANT SNAPSHOT

Award amount: Up to $25,000
Period of Performance: 12 to 24 months
Deadline: June 28, 2023
Eligible organizations: See more below
Pre-recorded webinar about the grant program: Posted by April 24

Click here to get the grant guidelines.

OVERVIEW (OR "TELL ME MORE!")

What are your organization's interpretive humanities needs or programmatic goals? How would meeting these needs or goals benefit public audiences?

These questions are at the core of this new grant line. NEH's Public Impact Projects encourage you to think critically about the humanities programming your organization currently offers and assess your organization's relationship to your community and surrounding neighborhoods. The award requires you to consult with at least one scholar from a humanities discipline or one consultant specializing in interpretive methodology, as well as at least one expert on your local community. Together, you will develop or implement strategies to strengthen the interpretive goals of your organization and ensure your public programing meets audience needs.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

• Consultation with scholars and interpretive consultants to develop new interpretive frameworks for your collections.

• Professional development activities for staff and volunteers that enhance their skills for presenting and planning public programing.

• Visits to other organizations to learn about best practices for interpretation.

• Front-end and formative evaluation.

• Planning and/or delivery of public programs.

• Co-curation projects that engage community members in learning to do the work of the humanities, such as primary research, oral histories, and composing interpretive content.

• Development or implementation of quality programing to amplify the presentation of a traveling exhibition hosted at your institution (exhibition fees and shipping are not eligible).

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

• A tribal museum planning to update its permanent exhibitions invites interpretive specialists, historians, and elder knowledge bearers to evaluate existing programs and exhibitions. The consultants work with staff to conduct a thorough collection review and lead a workshop to think creatively about how to draw out compelling stories to engage younger visitors. A report of their findings outlines possible new narratives for interpretive programing and a timeline to create an interpretive plan.

• A local art center partners with area high schools to co-curate an exhibition about how artists, historically drawn to the town to capture its mountainous landscape, interpreted the land and community over time. Working alongside staff, local artists, art historians, and environmental historians, students help select the artwork for display, write interpretive labels, and join in a facilitated dialogue on cultural heritage as it relates to local, regional, and national identity. In addition to an exhibition in the art center, panels printed with select featured artworks and the accompanying interpretive text are displayed in downtown storefront windows.

• The staff of a rural historic house and farm, dating to the mid-eighteenth century, invites historians, an archivist, and an interpretive planner to consider new interpretation of several long-ignored structures on the grounds. They research site history, consult recent scholarship, and visit similar historic sites featuring updated interpretive approaches. Volunteer docents participate in a seminar on new methods for interpreting historic sites conducted by a professional museum association. The outcome of the project is a preliminary draft for new interpretive programs identifying approaches to be tested and including a list of resources supporting new interpretive themes.

IS MY ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE FOR THIS GRANT?

NEH encourages proposals from first time applicants and those who have not received prior NEH funding. For the purposes of this program, NEH has established the following criteria to designate an organization as small- to mid-sized. The agency especially welcomes proposals from organizations that meet at least **two** of the following criteria:*:

• Your annual operating budget is under $1,000,000

- You are in a community with a population of fewer than 300,000 people

- Your employed staff totals 50 people or fewer

- You rely on volunteers and/or part-time staff to perform the majority of daily operations

- Your core mission is to interpret under-told stories and/or your core audience is drawn from underserved populations (e.g., communities of color, LGBTQ+ communities, residents of rural areas, disability communities, U.S. religious minorities, and persons experiencing persistent poverty)

Organizations that otherwise meet these criteria but are subordinate to larger organizations, such as a cultural center operated by a municipality or a museum run by a university, may also be considered.

Region 1
Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties

Region 2
Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties

The **Marion County Federation of Women's Clubs** invites you to visit and tour their Historic Women's Club Home on the following dates: May 7, 10, 21 and June 4, 14, 25 & 28. Tours will be from 2-4. Cost: $5/person. You will experience the amazing architectural detail of the home and be immersed in the history of the Women who have been impacting the community since 1895. You are also invited to the Ohio Historical Marker dedication Tuesday, May 23. Call 740-387-1366 or visit marioncountyfederationofwomensclubs.com for details.

Region 3
Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Region 4
Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

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

The **Fairfield County Heritage Association** has received a mini grant from Ohio's Winding Road. Ohio's Winding Road seed grants are all under $700 and designed to fill in gaps or jumpstart local projects or businesses in the nine-county area served by Ohio's Winding Road.

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

Region 8
Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren Counties

Cincinnati's **Over-the-Rhine Museum** hosted a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded panel of experts in urban history, exhibit design, migration and immigration history to help plan the museum's interior spaces. The museum will use the model of New York's Lower East Side Tenement Museum to recreate apartments of residents who lived in its building at 3 West McMicken between 1862 and 2012. Museum researchers have identified about 150 families and businesses that occupied their building. The panel of local and national scholars is helping the museum decide which of these many stories will best tell the story of urban life in Over-the-Rhine through time.

The **Clinton County History Center** celebrated its 75 anniversary of incorporation as a museum during an open house event on March 25. At the event, Vicki Knauff, director of the **Highland County Historical Society**, presented Executive Director Shelby Boatman with a certificate of congratulations. The open house style event hosted by the Center recently welcomed approximately 100 visitors to the museum for its 2023 season grand reopening. For the anniversary, the museum has developed a new exhibit featuring memories from the past 75 years. Entitled, "Through the Years: Celebrating 75 Years of the Historical Society," the display features 75 artifacts – one from each year of its existence. Founded in 1948 by a group of forward thinking individuals, the Society and Center have continued to uphold their mission of Clinton County's history and genealogy.

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

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 ohiolha@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.

CALENDAR

MAY 12:

OHGMEC Grants due. For more information, see page 10.

JUNE 22:

AASLH On-Site Workshop, Reimagining the Historic House Museum. For more information, see page 11.

JUNE 23 26:

2023 ALHFAM Annual Meeting & Conference. For more information, see page 10.

JUNE 28:

NEH Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations due. For more information, see page 13-14.

MEMBERS

Joined or Renewed between February 17 and April 20, 2023.

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS

Victoria Calvin, *Cincinnati*
Julianna E. Carpenter, *Cincinnati*

Jack Kless, *Perry*
Marty Linz, *Cincinnati*

Reita Smith, *Columbus*

ORGANIZATIONS

Bellaire Public Library, *Bellaire*

Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society, Inc., *Bellaire*

Sabina Historical Society, *Sabina*

Thank You, Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Leslie A. Blankenship, *Hilliard*
David J. Brown, *Cuyahoga Falls*

Ann Cramer, *Logan*
Michael J. Hocker, *Galion*

Michelle Sweetser, *Perrysburg*

ORGANIZATIONS

Allen County Historical Society, *Lima*

Ashland County Historical Society, *Ashland*

Beavercreek Historical Society, *Beavercreek*

Berlin Center Historical Society, *Berlin Center*

Canfield Heritage Foundation, *Canfield*

Carlisle Area Historical Society, *Carlisle*

Center for Public History at Shawnee State University, *Portsmouth*

Clermont County Historical Society, *Batavia*

Cleveland Grays Armory Museum, *Cleveland*

Crosby Township Historical Society, *Harrison*

Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society, *Cuyahoga Falls*

Defiance County Historical Society, *Defiance*

Dittrick Medical History Center, *Cleveland*

Fairport Harbor Historical Society, *Fairport Harbor*

Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission, *Maumee*

Fort Laurens Museum, Zoar

Friends Of Freedom Society Inc, *Columbus*

Friends of White Water Shaker Village, *Harrison*

Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County, *Waverly*

Glendale Heritage Preservation, *Cincinnati*

Guernsey County History Museum, *Cambridge*

Harmony Hill Association, Inc, *Williamsburg*

Huron Historical Society, Huron

Jackson Township Historical Society, *Massillon*

Jefferson County Historical Association, *Steubenville*

Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum, *Coshocton*

Kelleys Island Historical Association Inc, *Kelleys Island*

Lake County Historical Society, *Painesville*

Lakeside Heritage Society Inc, Lakeside

Lucy Depp Park Civic Association, *Gahanna*

Lynchburg Historical Society, Lynchburg

Maritime Museum of Sandusky, *Sandusky*

Metamora Area Historical Society, *Metamora*

Middleburg Heights Historical Society, *Middleburg Heights*

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, *Columbus*

Niles Historical Society, *Niles*

Norwood Historical Society, *Norwood*

Ohio Historic Bridge Association, *Englewood*

Randolph Township Historical Society, *Englewood*

Reading Historical Society, *Reading*

Riverside Historical Society, *Dayton*

Rootstown Historical Society, *Rootstown*

Roseville Historical Society, *Roseville*

Salem Historical Society, *Salem*

Shanes Crossing Historical Society, *Rockford*

Tiffin-Seneca Public Library, *Tiffin*

Tippecanoe Historical Society, *Tipp City*

Union County Historical Society, *Marysville*

Vermilion History Museum, *Vermilion*

Wadsworth Area Historical Society, *Wadsworth*

Waterville Historical Society, *Waterville*

Wayne County Historical Society, *Wooster*

Westwood Historical Society, *Cincinnati*

Weymouth Preservation Society, *Medina*

Whitehouse Historical Society, *Whitehouse*

Willoughby Hills Historical Society, *Willoughby Hills*

Willoughby Historical Society, *Willoughby*

Wood County Museum, *Bowling Green*

Zoar Community Association, *Zoar*

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

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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