

Pizza Party!

Civic Season's A Slice of History Event



Photos Courtesy of Harriet Beecher Stowe House.

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by Christina Hartlieb,
Executive Director, Harriet Beecher Stowe House; OLHA Region 8 Representative

Just like most sites, the Harriet Beecher Stowe House is always looking for ways to engage with young people and encourage civic participation. In late June, we offered a special program in conjunction with the national organization Made By Us and their Civic Season. We offered our patrons a “Slice of History” event. Civic Season was envisioned and coordinated as a way to target civic learning for the 18-to-30-year-old crowd. It uses as its bookends the newest and oldest federal holidays to showcase ways to learn and get involved. So, between Juneteenth and the 4th of July, history organizations can host an event specific to this type of engagement. Made By Us even has off-the-shelf ideas, templates, and funding sources to get you started. The Harriet Beecher Stowe House created a “Slice of History” event on June 27. This fun approach allowed our site to offer simple programming, a “bite sized” piece of history and make it into a social event by also offering pizza and soft drinks. In the Walnut Hills neighborhood, we have a high concentration of historic markers (5 Ohio Historic Markers and 2 for the National Votes for Women Trail). Five of those seven signs are located within a 3-block radius of the House. Therefore, our program consisted of pizza, talk, then a walking tour of those nearby markers. You can select any short presentation related to your stories, your collections, or your regular programming. Our Slice of History program happened to be a “bite-sized” version of our larger Walnut Hills neighborhood Walking Tour. Working with a Civic Season program template

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It's conference time! The Ohio Local History Alliance board is very excited to welcome everyone back to the Quest Conference Center in October for the Alliance Annual Meeting. The Center received great feedback from last year's participant survey, so we are happy to secure them for another year for you.

My first conference was back in 2012 and the presentations hooked me from that point on. Two days of our peers inspiring us with their dynamic ideas, projects and collaborations? Yes please! Hope to see you there, save a seat for me.

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Pizza Party *(continued from page 1)*

made the creation and marketing of the event simple and easy. There was even an option to get the pizzas paid for through one of the Made By Us partner organizations, Pizza to the Polls.

Several years ago, I was in a large museum's gift shop and I overheard a group of friends who were in their 20s. They were lamenting the fact that they never paid attention to history class in high school because they just didn't understand the importance. Now that they had jobs and rent and car payments – they had actually started to see why civic engagement was an important component in life. Civic Season builds on those sentiments and amplifies those ideals. The program was created by young people to encourage the social and political participation of young

people. Their website provides resources, ways to add your voice to the conversation, and even a “find your civic superpower” quiz.

How can this program help in our future programming ideas at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House (or at your site)? For one, it can give you a starting point for America 250 ideas. There is a lot of overlap in the mission and goals. Two, it can help you try out new ideas in programming. We have said before that we should offer some kind of weeknight programming that is different than our Seminar Style reading/discussion group. This program allowed us to try something different. We are now expanding on this by offering an open tours event and Hard Hat tour option on a Wednesday evening in August

and in September. Civic Season gave us the opportunity to try a weeknight tour program and gain confidence in that format. Three, it was really fun to watch younger people engage. We had older patrons that evening, too, though. I think they enjoyed the program just as much as the college age visitors. Four, it got more people in our door and learning what we do. Win-win. Now what? Take this information, think through what might work for you and your organization, and plan a Civic Season event for 2024. Have fun with it!

Learn more about the organization - Made By Us - historymadebyus.com/

Get ideas, resources, program templates - www.thecivicseason.com/

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Celebrating Pride by Marking Diverse Ohio

by Svetlana Harlan, Community Engagement Coordinator, Ohio History Connection. Originally published on the Ohio History Connection website, June 15, 2023.

On Saturday, June 10th, a crowd gathered outside 2210 Summit Street in Columbus, Ohio to dedicate a new [Ohio Historical Marker](#). The Marker recognized Summit Station (also known as Jack's), one of Ohio's oldest and longest-running lesbian bars. The bar stood at 2210 Summit Street from 1970 to 2008 and served as a home-away-from-home for thousands of women over the decades. It was a safe space for those looking to temporarily escape homophobia and those looking for community. It also served as the homebase for [HIS Kings](#), one of the earliest drag king troops, who launched the International Drag King Extravaganza (IDKE).

In the 1980s, there were upwards of 200 bars catering to lesbian, bisexual, and queer women in the United States. In 2023, there are only 21 remaining open.¹ With dedicated LGBTQ+ spaces disappearing, recognizing these spaces that offered refuge and community is vital to preserving their legacy. The Summit Station Ohio Historical Marker does just that.

The Summit Station Marker is the [third](#) Ohio Historical Marker recognizing LGBTQ+ history in the state, and the first in Central Ohio. The [Gay Ohio History Initiative \(GOHI\)](#) worked closely with the Marker sponsors, [Friends of Summit Station](#), to prepare and submit the application for the Marker. Quincy Balius, who was an Education and Manuscripts Intern at the time, shepherded the Marker sponsors through the process of historical research, documentation, property and maintenance agreements, and text editing.

As with many marginalized communities, historical documents pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community are often sparse or nonexistent. Historically, people took great care to hide their sexual orientation and gender identity to avoid public scrutiny and legal trouble. Throughout the United States, there were several laws that restricted the LGBTQ+ community's actions, publications, and personal relationships. In Columbus, Ohio, for example, a city ordinance was passed in 1848 that banned cross dressing.² This ordinance was one of the earliest to be instituted in the United States and was actively enforced until



Summit Station Marker, Side A

it was overturned in 1975 in an Ohio Supreme Court decision, *City of Columbus v. John Rogers*.³ Laws like the Columbus city ordinance provided the impetus for members of the community to hide and destroy historical records, making modern-day research on LGBTQ+ topics difficult or impossible.

Quincy's work on the Summit Station Marker served as the prototype for Marking Diverse Ohio (MDO), a major project of GOHI. MDO was envisioned to make it easier for LGBTQ+ histories to be recorded and shared. The project, which is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), funds the creation of 10 new Ohio Historical Markers that recognize LGBTQ+ people, places, and stories across the state. In addition to funding these Markers, MDO is intended to make the process of applying easier and more realistic for these stories that lack traditional archival sources.

As the project coordinator for MDO, I will be working one-on-one with Marker sponsors to conduct research and guide sponsors through the application process. Anyone can be a Marker sponsor – they are simply community members or

1 Colarossi, Jessica. "Where Are All the Lesbian Bars?" *The Brink*, June 23, 2022. www.bu.edu/articles/2022/impact-of-losing-queer-spaces-in-cities-and-how-dyke-bars-commemorated/ (accessed June 13, 2023).

2 "Arresting Dress: A Timeline of Anti-cross-dressing Laws in the United States." Nation (PBS), May 31, 2015. www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/arresting-dress-timeline-anti-cross-dressing-laws-u-s (accessed June 13, 2023).

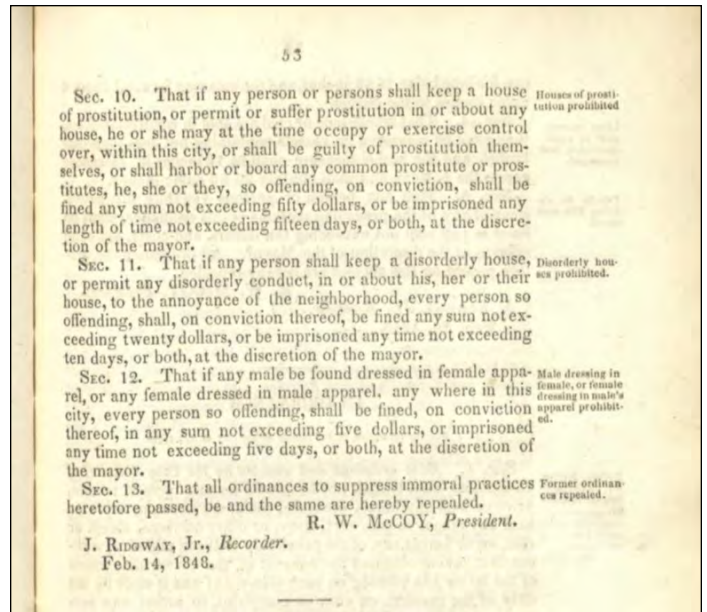
3 "Columbus v. Rogers" *Casetext*. casetext.com/case/columbus-v-rogers (accessed June 13, 2023).

organizations who are passionate about local history. Working together, the GOHI team will utilize our historical expertise to find the best primary and secondary sources to document these histories. MDO also aims to expand the availability of primary source materials on these topics for future researchers. That is why the project is also working to record additional [oral histories](#) with those that lived through these events and experiences, as well as adding manuscripts and objects to our [GOHI Collection](#).

The MDO program is part of the Ohio History Connection's larger effort to tell, share, and uplift communities that have been historically excluded from the Ohio Historical Marker Program. We want every Ohioan to see themselves reflected in our nearly 1,800 Ohio Historical Markers. Utilizing community organizing principles, I have been meeting with members of the LGBTQ+ community from around Ohio. I have already had the privilege of hearing many stories of challenge, survival, and joy that are worthy of being commemorated by an Ohio Historical Marker.

The LGBTQ+ community around the state of Ohio is diverse and their experiences are varied. That is why MDO aims to spark discovery of LGBTQ+ history as it intersects with black, indigenous, and people of color's experiences, as well as the experiences of immigrants, underrepresented faith communities, those with disabilities, and Ohioans living in rural areas of the state. One Marker at a time, these historical monuments recognize that the people and places that matter to everyday Ohioans matter to Ohio's larger historical narrative.

If you have a story to tell, [reach out](#) to the GOHI team!



Ordinance of the City of Columbus, Sec. 12, 1848. 352.077157 C723

How to Apply for an Ohio Historical Marker

by Laura Russell, Historical Markers Program Manager, Ohio History Connection

The Community Engagement Department at the Ohio History Connection administers the Ohio Historical Markers Program. There are approximately 1,800 markers in the program with at least 3 in every county of the state. We would love to help you tell your important story!

To get started read through our website [Remarkable Ohio](#). There you will find answers to many frequently asked questions about markers, marker applications, and more. On the “Propose A Marker” page there is a *Marker Handbook* to guide you through the process, a current price list, grant information, and an electronic application. While we currently have a limited capacity on the number of applications we can accept every year, we are always available to answer questions as you work to pull together a complete application.

Marker applications are due every year (by noon) on May 1.

So, what does the marker application require? Here is a quick list of what is requested:

- A suggested marker title (make it short and to the point).
- The proposed location of your marker and why it is important. Oh, and a map and photo so we can see where you want to place the marker.
- A permission letter from the property owner (we provide a template).
- The type of marker you want. Do you want to add special art?

- Who will pay for your marker? It can be one person or organization, a large group of donors, or a charitable foundation.
- A maintenance agreement for the marker (we provide a template) from an organization rather than an individual. This is very important as if something happens to the marker, this is who will repair or replace it.
- A shipping address for a commercial business that can receive the marker.
- A two-three page “Statement of Significance.” This is the heart of the application and your chance to convince us that your topic deserves a marker.
- Your “suggested” marker text (try to tell your story in 90-125 words).
- A bibliography (a complete listing of every source you used in your research).
- Your sources (yes, we really do want a copy of each source you used).
- A “tentative” dedication date (here is your chance to tell us if there is a special anniversary or date for your marker celebration).
- Who is submitting this application and who should we talk to in the process of working on your marker?

There, that wasn’t so hard! The best applications recognize that it takes time to pull everything together and is well presented because of that effort.

The real heart of the application is the “Statement of Significance,” the “Suggested Marker Text,” the “Bibliography,” and the “Sources.” A team of internal and

external readers will carefully read every application, paying particular attention to these items, and make recommendations on what to accept, what to return, and if we should ask for more work and a resubmission.

While we do not expect you to be a professional historian, you will learn some history research skills in the process of applying for a marker! Most marker applications are rejected because they forgot to supply something, ignore program rules (listed in the *Handbook* and on our website), ignore the May 1 deadline, don’t submit permission or maintenance agreements, or write short “Statements of Significance” that don’t use the opportunity to give a full history of the topic and tell us why it is important enough to receive a marker.

Over the last few years, the Ohio Historical Markers Program has been actively seeking to open the door to underserved audiences, stories, and regions. We have had several successful “Special Calls” and expect to issue those on a bi-annual basis. Alternate years will remain “Open Calls” so that every topic has a chance to receive a marker. In addition, we hope that the “Marking Diverse Ohio” grant will add 10 new LGBTQ+ stories to the marker program.

So, what story do you want to mark? Give us a call, check our website, and get started today!

Laura Russell

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WINDOWS INTO THE PAST:

How the Clinton County History Center Transformed Wilmington's Main Street



by Shelby Boatman, Executive Director, Clinton County History Center; OLHA Region 8 Representative

Knowing how to reach an audience that may never visit your historic site can often be challenging. I'm sure the thought of "if I could only get them in the door, they'd see how inspiring this place is" goes through your mind often. Sometimes as museum professionals we get tied up in focusing on physical museum spaces or membership aspects of our roles, but fear not, I'm here to share how local history can be used in unique and never before ways! Public history encompasses many forms but for the purpose of this article, I am focusing on just one. Getting out and about in your community can be crucial to improving memberships, spreading awareness and accomplishing your mission, but you probably can't be everywhere at once either. I am here to share a "case study" in the hopes you may be able to replicate something similar in your communities too, which will possibly afford you the opportunity to be in more places than one and to advertise your site effortlessly.

Main Street in downtown Wilmington Ohio was once a bustling area of commerce and activity but recently we have witnessed

many storefronts closing up shop and leaving their facilities empty for those traveling through town to see. For quite a while now, I have wanted to find a way to beautify our historic downtown in a way that covered or hid the empty spaces. Like many of your organizations, the Clinton County History Center holds a vast archive of vintage community photos. We've been lucky to have many images dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries that are well preserved in our collection. As an individual who tends to live and breathe history, I also wanted to find a way to help the community make a meaningful connection to our town's past; some type of opportunity for individuals who would never dream of joining our museum to better understand why local history is valuable. As a result of much brainstorming, a temporary "local history is all around you" window installation emerged out of the two desires for my community.



All photos courtesy of the Clinton County History Center.

(continued on page 8)

To achieve the project, I set out to contact the owner of an empty storefront in downtown Wilmington who would be open to the idea of partnering to solve each of our problems. Two birds with one stone, perhaps? After a quick discussion with the property owner at 31 W. Main, he was completely onboard and passionate about the opportunity! The building in question is in the process of being remodeled to accommodate both a storefront downstairs and living spaces upstairs, which is expected to take six to nine months to complete. In order to mask the construction on Main Street, we decided to design a window vinyl that would hide the not-so-pretty activity until its completion. The vinyl is completely temporary and can be removed at any point when the owner is ready. The best part? It's strong enough to remain in place for up to three years.

After digging through countless archival boxes searching for the perfect image, I found a snapshot of Wilmington's Fall Festival on Main Street in October 1914. Over one-hundred years ago, the photographer who captured the image had stood at the very same corner of W. Main Street as the location where the window display would be installed. I'm sure that photographer never could have dreamed that the image would be used like it is today.

Both the History Center and property owner were required to submit official documentation and mock-ups of the project to our local Department of Building and Zoning before the project could begin. Due to Commercial Historic District restrictions, a Certificate of Appropriateness for Exterior Changes was submitted as well. After receiving an exemption from the City of Wilmington as a result of the educational and historical significance of our project, we were able to hire a local graphic designer to develop the design and a company who was tasked with installing the window vinyl.

The selected image was scanned at high resolution (800 dpi) and then formatted into two sections to fit both windows equally. Minor enhancements were done by our designer to help define certain areas of the photo to ensure it could fit the 90ft by 70ft size requirements. At the bottom of both images, a nod to local history and our organization were added which allows pedestrians or travelers to look over and learn more. "Wilmington 100 Years Ago" and "Local History is All Around... You Only Have to Look" are plastered beneath each image. Our historic site's logo and link to our website were also added as free publicity.

Although an idea of this magnitude had been brewing in my mind for a while, the project only took three to four weeks to complete. The window vinyl was installed two days before our community's ever popular "Rock the Block" outdoor concert series, which welcomed thousands of individuals from across the country to town! I have received many positive and encouraging words from the greater community in reference to the window displays and how they "bring history to life". The property owner is immensely happy with the compliments his building is



now receiving as well.

It is important to remember that this type of outreach opportunity not only puts a new spin and attention on local history, but it also encourages community pride and a better understanding of why historic preservation is so important. Caring for and maintaining what we have today could result in another opportunity like this one-hundred year in the future. The publicity and increased awareness as a result of the display has also helped to boost memberships and recognition of what our facility truly can do! We all know we can't pick up our historic sites or museums and transplant them on Main Street, but opportunities and partnerships such as this allow us to reach a new audience and expand our purposes.

Local history can play a valuable role in a community, but getting individuals invested or aware of it can be a challenge. A willingness to partner with other organizations or businesses in your community can possibly lead to the opportunity of a lifetime. Keeping an open mind to try new things is key in situations such as this. Continuing to foster creativity and out-of-the-box thinking at your historic site is what can lead to success. And remember you don't have to reinvent the wheel! Borrow from others and help spread the importance of local history in your community.



America 250-OH inaugurates our first barn painting in Wayne County

By Todd Kleismit, Executive Director

The clock continues to tick toward the U.S. semiquincentennial in 2026 and we have been making progress in pulling together plans for this once-in-a-generation celebration.

Here are a few highlights:

Will There Be Barns?

This frequently asked question is, of course, referencing the Ohio Bicentennial Barns that were so popular during the Ohio Bicentennial in 2003. Yes, we are borrowing from that legacy and we're pleased to share with you that we have our first one.

Scott Hagan, aka The Barn Artist, painted the first America 250-Ohio barn in June at the Rice family farm, located along U.S. Route 250 about midway between Ashland and Wooster in Wayne County. We focused on U.S. Route 250 for our first barn because of the significance of this conveniently named roadway that connects Lake Erie at its northern point in Sandusky through nine counties to the Ohio River at Bridgeport where it crosses into Wheeling, West Virginia. The communities along the route have interesting

histories and U.S. Route 250 is scenic, especially during peak fall foliage season.

The Rice family farm is a seventh-generation farm in Wayne County, and not only did they have a great looking barn, but they have a great story! The farm's deed was signed by President James Monroe, and they even have a buggy that transported President Rutherford B. Hayes when he came to visit Wooster during his presidency.

We hope to have several more barns painted leading up to 2026 and also expand on the program to have murals painted on buildings in towns and cities that depict images unique to that community.

America 250-OH at the Ohio State Fair

The America 250-Ohio Commission made a couple of cameo appearances at this year's Ohio State Fair in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Discovery Pavilion on July 26 and August 4. We welcomed hundreds of fair goers and shared more about the upcoming celebration. We also had a very special visitor, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and family! We had such a warm recep-



tion from people we talked to who are genuinely interested and excited about learning more about Ohio history and celebrating this milestone as a state.

OLHA Conference Session: Trails, Tales, and Two-Fifty

On Friday October 6, America 250-Ohio will be presenting a session at the fall OLHA conference about statewide heritage/tourism trails and how OLHA organizations can get involved under some exciting new themes that will provide opportunities for storytelling. We will be featuring a case study and the benefits of a statewide trail by discussing the plan for the U.S. Route 250 Heritage Trail that will be introduced in 2024. We hope you can join us as we share ideas and brainstorm with you about how to bring history to life through these trails.

Looking to the fall, we have big plans that will include a grants program, a new website, committees and more. Please find out more about us online at america250-ohio.org.



Annual Meeting Reminder!

Please plan to join us at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, just north of Columbus in the Polaris area, on Friday and Saturday, October 6-7, 2023, 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.

We're pleased to welcome two keynote speakers this year! Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma will provide the lunchtime keynote, speaking about American Indians in Ohio's origin story and about the inscription of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Chief Wallace's participation is made possible with the support of Ohio Humanities. Professor Colin G. Calloway of Dartmouth University will speak to us from New Hampshire later in the afternoon, highlighting the American Indian aspects of Ohio's origin story as described in his research, including his recent work *The Victory with No Name: The Native American Defeat of the First American Army*.

Learn more and register at ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting.



NEW BOOK:

Settling Ohio: First Peoples and Beyond

Ohio University Press is pleased to announce the publication of a new book, *Settling Ohio: First Peoples and Beyond*, published in June 2023. The volume is edited by Timothy G. Anderson and Brian Schoen with a foreword by M. Duane Nellis and an afterword by Glenna J. Wallace.

The book situates the traditional story of Ohio settlement, including the Northwest Ordinance, the dealings of the Ohio Company of Associates, and early road building, into a far richer story of contested spaces, competing visions of nationhood, and complicated relations with Indian peoples. By so doing, the contributors provide valuable new insights into how chaotic and contingent early national politics and frontier development truly were. Chapters highlighting the role of apple-growing culture, education, African American settlers, and the diverse migration flows into Ohio from the East and Europe further demonstrate the complex multiethnic composition of Ohio's early settlements and the tensions that resulted.

Visit the [Ohio University Press](https://www.ohiohistorypress.com) website to learn more.

Ohio History Fund Grant Applications Open

The Ohio History Fund grant application is now available at ohiohistory.org/historyfund. The application deadline is **Sept. 12, 2023**.

The Ohio History Fund is a competitive matching grants program for history projects. Grants support all kinds of history projects about Ohio and its communities including

- Rehabilitation of National Register-listed historic buildings
- Museum collection storage initiatives
- Educational programs
- Digitization of archival materials and historic photographs
- Surveys of buildings and archaeological surveys
- Exhibit development, including virtual exhibits
- Oral history projects
- Organizational development, including board training
- And more - contact us to discuss your idea!

[Click here](#) for a list of recent grant recipients and projects.

Eligible applicants include historic preservation groups, local historical societies, museums, public libraries, genealogical societies, university archives and special collections, archaeological societies, county records management offices, "friends" groups and other non-profit and public entities.

Ineligible applicants include for-profit businesses, private individuals and the Ohio History Connection.

Questions about Ohio History Fund grants? Contact:

Andy Verhoff

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Marion Voices Back-to-School Workshop Series

Join *Marion Voices* Folklife + Oral History -- Marion County's folk + cultural arts, public history, & creative placekeeping for justice organization -- for the *Marion Voices* **Back-to-School Workshop Series: Methods Incubator!**

Reimagined from our popular *Marion Voices* **Summer Institute**, *Marion Voices* is taking you "back-to-school" this September, with a brand-new workshop series providing hands-on training in methods & praxes essential for justice-informed local history, folklife, & cultural arts organizing.

Join us this **September on Tuesdays from 7-8:30PM** for three interactive Zoom workshops led by experienced Marion Voices practitioners; & learn models, methods, & praxes to sharpen your own community-based toolkit!

Workshops include:

Tuesday, September 12th, 7-8:30PM:

[The Marion Voices Method — Praxes for Equitable & Accessible Community Partnership](#)

This interactive workshop shares justice-centered community collaboration methods for arts, culture, local history, & other community organizations from the award-winning toolkit of Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History!

Tuesday, September 19th, 7-8:30PM:

[Local History Research 101 — Exploring Digital Archives](#)

A well-rounded & accessible introduction to digital local history research -- including newspapers, maps, & archives -- & research strategies for community historians! *Ideal for beginner & non-professional community historians!*

Tuesday, September 26th, 7-8:30PM:

[Black Storytelling 101](#)

Explore the radical praxis of Black storytelling as method through this hybrid workshop & storytelling performance by an international traveler! *Open to anyone interested in Black culture, travel, & the radical art of storytelling!*

This series is meant for cultural, history, heritage, & arts organizations, businesses, individuals, & anyone else looking to widen their methodological toolkit for equitably & adaptably engaging local history, collaborating with communities, & sustaining accessible, equitable, non-extractive community-programming.

The **Marion Voices Back-to-School Institute**, in keeping with Marion Voices' core praxes, will be offered *free-of-charge* to all Marion County individuals & organizations, with tiered, sliding scale "solidarity" paid registration for individuals & organizations outside of Marion County. Staff & colleague teams are especially encouraged to apply. Workshops will be taught in English; but participation is welcome from around the world.

Register for one, two, or all three workshops via Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/cc/marion-voices-back-to-school-institute-2475559

IMLS Pilot Survey of American Museums

Now in its pilot phase, the National Museum Survey (NMS) will aim to capture the scope and scale of museums' presence and reach within the United States of America over time. Once mature, the survey will collect foundational, high-level data directly from museums to inform policymakers, the museum field, and the public about the social, cultural, educational, and economic roles that the nation's diverse museums play in American society.

Who is included: The NMS will seek to reach a broad range of museum disciplines, including zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, and arboretums; nature and science centers; history museums and historic sites; art museums; children's museums; natural history museums; and specialized museums.

Get involved: IMLS is currently working on respondent recruitment! Contact NMS@air.org to make sure IMLS has your museum's contact information, to learn more about the survey, and to get involved with the NMS!

Purpose: The pilot survey will ensure that the mature survey is statistically sound, with an optimized user experience and content that meets the field's needs. The mature survey will provide statistics of the scope and scale of museums' presence and reach within the United States.

Use: NMS data will be useful to researchers, journalists, the public, local practitioners, and policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels, and will be used for planning, evaluation, and policymaking.

Content: Data will include institutional characteristics and facilities; financial information; human resources information; admissions, visitors, and outreach; digital presence; and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Methods: The NMS will be administered online through emails sent directly to selected museums. The pilot survey's design [incorporated the input of hundreds of institutions](#) (PDF, 156KB) with the goal of being relatively easy to complete. Responding institutions will have access to the survey's questions in a PDF, allowing them to collect the information separately before inputting their data. The length of the survey will depend on the availability of the data requested at each individual institution.

Coverage: Around 6,600 museums of varying discipline, size, and geography will be contacted to complete the NMS pilot in 2023. Starting in 2025, the mature survey will expand this number to help ensure that the data collected is statistically sound.

Frequency: The 2023 NMS pilot is just part of the project's nearly four-year planning phase, during which researchers are incorporating the input of thousands of museums to set the NMS up for long-term success. IMLS plans to collect data annually starting in 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATE ARCHIVES MONTH

Honor the Accomplishments of an Ohio Archival Institution

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Achievement Award recognizes significant accomplishments in preserving and improving access to historical records, in any format, by an Ohio archival institution.

All Ohio institutions responsible for archival records that provide public access to at least a portion of their collections are eligible. Eligible accomplishments include recent special projects or on-going programs that:

- build significant collections
- implement successful preservation strategies
- enhance access to archives
- develop effective digitization programs

Preference will be given to projects or programs that can be adapted for use by other institutions.

Because the award recognizes institutional achievements, individuals are not eligible. 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 institution's program/project along with its goals, accomplishments, and significance. Each must include the nominee's institutional name along with a contact person's name, mailing and email addresses, and phone number. If the nomination includes online collections, please include a link to the website.

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

Tina Ratcliff

County Records & Information Manager
Montgomery County Records Center & Archives
117 South Main Street
P.O. Box 972
Dayton, OH 45422
ratcliff@mcoho.org

Nominations must be received by October 6, 2023.

Self-nominations are encouraged.

Questions? Contact Tina Ratcliff at ratcliff@mcoho.org or 937.496.6932.

For more information, go to ohrab.org/nominations-open-for-the-2023-ohrab-archival-achievement-award/

CELEBRATE OHIO'S CITIZEN ARCHIVISTS

Honor the Accomplishments of a Volunteer in an Ohio Archival Institution

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 dedica-

tion 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

County Records & Information Manager
Montgomery County Records Center & Archives
117 South Main Street
P.O. Box 972
Dayton, OH 45422
ratcliff@mcoho.org

Nominations must be received by September 30, 2023.

Questions? Contact Tina Ratcliff at ratcliff@mcoho.org or 937-496-6932. Or visit OHRAB's website at ohrab.org/celebrate-ohios-citizen-archivists-3/

The Allen County Museum Announces Dr. Christine Fowler Shearer as Museum Director

The Allen County Museum is announcing the appointment of Dr. Christine Fowler Shearer to lead the museum. Shearer comes to ACM with over 20 years' experience in the museum field. Throughout her career she has concentrated on developing initiatives that build and strengthen staff, community, and audience engagement, and which strongly consider museums' roles as a space of civic exchange.

ACM announced the opening of the museum director position in April 2023 and launched a national search. At that time the board appointed Shearer as interim director to maintain continuity during the transition. Dr. Shearer is familiar with the Allen County Museum through her work with the creation of its current strategic plan and the curation of 2022's successful exhibition, *The Eight Ohio Presidents: Surprising Legacies*. Shearer was chosen based on her vision and experience in organizational leadership, as well as her demonstrated skills building teams, leading and developing people, engaging in strategic planning, and impacting community.

Christine Fowler Shearer said, "I am excited to permanently join ACM's team at this time, and I am humbled to step into the position at an exciting time for the museum. With its recent strategic plan and vision, I look forward to working with the community to make the museum a vibrant resource and experience for everyone."

Jim Osmon, President of the Allen County Museum Board of Directors, said "Christine brings a unique expertise and vision to our museum. The board of directors are looking forward to seeing the great momentum the museum has as it continues to move forward through the addition of new traveling exhibits, updates

to our current exhibits, and expanded community engagement under Christine's leadership."

As Museum Director, Shearer will lead one of the most important county museums of local history in Ohio, holding an extraordinary collection comprising more than 250,000 objects and artifacts. As the only Ohio county museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Allen County Museum campus consists of the main museum, a historic Victorian mansion and carriage house dating to 1893, and 1848 log house, and the Annex and collection storage building. Established in 1908, the Museum has existed as the cultural center of the community for one hundred and fifteen years. The main museum remains free to the public and focuses on the community's rich history.

Shearer's career has included the realignment and re-engagement with communities through the arts and history; she has an extensive experience curating exhibitions and publishing; and she was an early advocate for the American Alliance of Museum's Museum Advocacy Day launched in 2009 and held each February in Washington, D.C.

Shearer's past posts also have included Executive Director of the Cleveland Artists Foundation (now ARTNeo) in Cleveland, Ohio; Executive Director of the Massillon Museum in Massillon, Ohio; and Development Director of the Canton Museum of Art in Canton, Ohio. She holds a Ph.D. in cultural art history from Warnborough College, Ireland, and a M.A. in art history from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. She completed her undergraduate work in art history and history at Kent State University, Ohio. Shearer attended the Getty Museum Leadership Institute in July 2006.

Region 1

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

The **Swiss Community Heritage Society** in Bluffton held a Groundbreaking ceremony for their Heritage Center on August first at the Schumacher Homestead. The Heritage Center will be created by repurposing a 100+ year old barn for expanded collection storage and display, class/meeting rooms, a gathering room, clothing and ephemera room, and children's room.

The **Ohio Genealogical Society** has awarded the Wood County Genealogical Society's and **North Baltimore Historical Society's** joint publication, *North Baltimore and Henry Township Pioneer Days*, its Henry Howe Award for being the best Ohio state, county or local history for 2023. The publication is a compilation of first-person accounts originally published in the North Baltimore Weekly Beacon between 1889 and 1923. The award was presented on April 29 at the Genealogical Society's annual conference in Sandusky.

Region 2

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

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Trumbull County Historical Society** is in the early planning stages of a new science fiction and fantasy museum based on the work of Warren native John Zabrucky. The collection features pieces from his company, Modern Props, which were used in film, television, and commercials including "Blade Runner," "Batman Returns," and "X-Men."

The **Mahoning Valley Historical Society** wrapped up its 2022-2023 school year with more than 5,000 students served with interactive, immersive outreach programs covering a wide variety of local history topics. The year marked a return to the classrooms of 24 local schools after the Covid-19 pandemic forced programming to go virtual.

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

The **Armstrong Air & Space Museum** has earned the TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award for 2023. The traveler award is given annually to top businesses and destinations around the world that receive consistently high reviews and ratings from guests who visit.

Region 8

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

Al (Uncle Al) and Wanda (Capt. Wendy) Lewis were inducted into the **Highland County Historical Society** Hall of Fame on Sunday, August 20, 2023. We congratulate them and thank them for their service and dedication.

The **Delhi Historical Society**, in Hamilton County, west of Cincinnati, has been recognized by the American Association for State and Local History for meeting its Bronze level standards in Stewardship of Collections. These national standards are promulgated through AASLH's "STEPS" program which guide history organizations to do the right things the right way. It took Delhi Historical Society three years to complete the process (thanks, Covid!), but it is worth it. The certificate will be displayed in the DHS museum next to its certificate for meeting AASLH Bronze standards for Mission, Vision, and Governance, which was awarded in 2019.

The **Friends of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House** is pleased to announce the awarding of an \$8,000 grant from the Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation. This funding will be used toward research and development of future programs and exhibits entitled "Centering African American Stories" as part of the ongoing restoration and interpretation of the House.

Harmony Hill Museum is in the process of building a pavilion with the help of students from the Grant Career Center. This pavilion will be used for our Pioneer Day Programs for students, as well as community events in Williamsburg. The James E. Lefferson Pavilion will be dedicated on September 10th, as we celebrate Major General Williams Lytle's Birthday. For more information visit www.harmonyhillmuseum.com

Region 9

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



The **Peerless City** documentary (an OLHA 2022 Outstanding Achievement Award Winner in Media Outreach) will make its PBS debut on West Virginia Public Broadcasting on August 21st at 10pm. It will then be immediately available to stream on PBS Passport. It airs again on August 28th at 7pm.

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.

Joined or Renewed between June 23 and August 16, 2023.

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS

Scott Haag, *Dublin*

ORGANIZATIONS

Cleveland Heights–University Heights Public Library, *Cleveland Heights* North Central Ohio Industrial Museum, *Mansfield*

Thank You, Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Eileen Litchfield, *Greenville* Sandy Stephenson, *Fostoria*

ORGANIZATIONS

Bellevue Historical Society & Heritage Museum, *Bellevue* Plain Township Historical Society, *Canton*
 Bellevue Public Library, *Bellevue* Rendville Historic Preservation Society, *Athens*
 Cincinnati Observatory Center, *Cincinnati* Sandusky County Historical Society, *Fremont*
 Delhi Historical Society, *Cincinnati* Summit County Historical Society, *Akron*
 Fort Loramie Historical Association, *Fort Loramie* Van Wert County Historical Society, *Van Wert*
 Marion County Federation of Women's Clubs, *Marion* Wagnalls Memorial Library, *Lithopolis*
 McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, *Canton*

SEPTEMBER 12:

Ohio History Fund Grants Due. For more information, see page 10.

Marion Voices Back-to-School Institute, first session. For more information, see page 11.

SEPTEMBER 19:

Marion Voices Back-to-School Institute, second session. For more information, see page 11.

SEPTEMBER 26:

Marion Voices Back-to-School Institute, third session. For more information, see page 11.

SEPTEMBER 30:

OHRAB Citizen Archivist Nominations Due. For more information, see page 12.

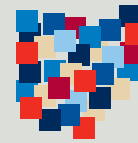
OCTOBER 6:

OHRAB Archival Achievement Awards Nominations Due. For more information, see page 12.

OCTOBER 6-7:

OLHA Annual Meeting! For more information, see page 10.

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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

Organizational Member

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

Operating budget:

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

Individual Member

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

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

Business Member:

	\$100	(\$190 for 2)
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Join at:

<https://ohiolha.org/about/join-the-alliance/>

The Ohio Local History Alliance, organized in 1960 under sponsorship of the Ohio History Connection, is composed of local historical societies, historic preservation groups, history museums, archives, libraries, and genealogical societies throughout the state involved in collecting, preserving, and interpreting Ohio's history.

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Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:

Annual budget over \$200,000: \$100 (\$190 for 2)

Annual budget \$100,000-\$200,000: \$75 (\$140 for 2)

Annual budget \$25,000-\$100,000: \$60 (\$110 for 2)

Annual budget below \$25,000: \$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individuals:

Affiliate:

\$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individual: \$50 (\$90 for 2)

Students: \$20

Business:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

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Ohio Local History Alliance

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