

Getting Involved in Ohio History Day



by Mary Manning, Region 3 Ohio History Day Coordinator,
Western Reserve Historical Society

Each year, over 1,000 Ohio students in grades 6-12 compete in Ohio History Day regional contests across the state. Ohio History Day, an affiliate of the National History Day (NHD) program, is the original History Day. Case Western Reserve University professor David Van Tassel founded the contest in 1974 in Cleveland as part of the lead-up to the Bicentennial of the United States. With that major anniversary approaching, he believed it critical to change the way that students are taught history, to give them new ways to engage in historical research and to make history education a more impactful force in their lives.

Now, as we prepare for America-250, another major anniversary of the United States, Ohio History Day (OHD) may provide another way for local history organizations to engage with students. OHD asks students to research a topic that relates to a theme—for 2024-2025, the contest theme will be *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. The contest is open to students in traditional schools and homeschools,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Alliance members!

I would like to take this space to highlight the upcoming digitization workshops. Starting in July, OLHA is hosting five workshops all over the state. Digitization is the future of our archives, our old papers will not be structurally sound or legible forever. Digitization was the first long-term project I tackled when I started at my organization; every site should have a plan. If you do not know where to begin digitizing your archives, please register for your closest location to learn more. It's FREE!

ohiolha.org/events/

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Kaitlin Seebruch is a non-profit professional passionate about helping the **Westerville History Museum at the Westerville Public Library** remain strong for future generations. As the library's new Development Specialist, she is focused on applying for grants, securing event sponsorship, and engaging new & current donors. Her role at the library

gives her the opportunity to do two of her favorite things: write and make connections with new people. When Kaitlin is out-of-office, she's likely reading a fantasy series, solo traveling, cooking international cuisine, trying new Columbus-area restaurants with friends, or visiting her family in Wisconsin.

The **Bucyrus Historical Society (BHS)** is thrilled to announce the appointment of Alison Phillips Kovac as its new Curator, effective June 10, 2024. A native of Bucyrus and a graduate of Wynford High School, Kovac brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role. Kovac, a summa cum laude graduate from Ball State University in Indiana, majored in history and English. After a brief return to Bucyrus in the summer of 1993, she married Marc Kovac, whom she met during college. She then pursued her M.A. in history from Iowa State University, serving as a Teaching/Research Assistant in the History Department. Over the years, Kovac's career took various turns, influenced by her growing family and her husband's journalism career. She homeschooled her children and served as an educator in various Christian schools in the Worthington area. With the graduation of her youngest child, Kovac found the opportunity to return to her roots and delve into Bucyrus history. Her parents' residence in the Bucyrus area facilitated her decision, leading to weekly drives up north. After discussions with the

Society's board members, Kovac's appointment as the Curator for the BHS museum became a reality. She will maintain a flexible work schedule at the museum during the summer months and continue teaching part-time in the fall.



The Clinton County History Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Wilmington native Mark Huber as the newest member of its team — serving as part-time archives assistant. With an illustrious career spanning over three decades at the Wilmington News Journal, Huber brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for preserving local

history to his new role at the History Center. Huber's journey in journalism began in the late 1970s, where he started as a part-time sportswriter at the News Journal. Over the years, his dedication and talent propelled him through various roles within the organization, including editor, assistant editor, general assignment reporter, and finally, as the esteemed sports editor since 1987. In his new capacity as archives assistant at the Clinton County History Center, Huber will be instrumental in digitizing nearly 10,000 collection items for the Center's PastPerfect Online museum system. His expertise and commitment to detail will ensure that a diverse array of important local history documents, photographs, and visual media are preserved for generations to come.

Geauga County Historical Society & Century Village Museum welcomes new Curator, Archivist, and Grant Writer Stefanie O'Connor. Stefanie holds a Master's in History, with a focus on public history and Native American Studies, and a bachelor's degree in Geology. Her expertise will be invaluable in enhancing the museum's collections and programs.

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working in class or afterschool. Students may register independently, or they may complete projects through their scouting organizations or other groups.

When projects are done in class, students are often working with their teachers on assignments that help them build from a chosen topic into a full bibliography and then into a historical argument, which they present as a project in the form of a research paper, a tri-fold exhibit, a digital documentary, a website, or a performance. When these different opportunities for choice are built into the project, students gain enthusiasm for their topics and take control of their learning. Research has shown that students who participate in this kind of project-based learning do better in school.

With all of these options for participation, it may seem intimidating for local history organizations to get on board. However, these students are your future supporters—young people who might benefit from your students now and contribute to your capacity to preserve and share local history in the future. So how can your organization get involved?

1) Find your regional coordinator!

OHD regions match the OLHA regions, with a set number of counties directed toward the contest in that region. Your regional coordinator oversees and plans the contest itself, but also any outreach activities in the region leading up to the contest and any celebrations after. Contact information is available on the OHD website: www.ohiohistory.org/education/ohio-history-day/.

2) Brainstorm, in collaboration with your regional coordinator, how you might be able to participate in contest season.

This can be a two-way street where both the contest and your organization benefit, but collaboration is important because each region has a different capacity for engaging with local history organizations. You might provide a list of topics for the contest theme that could be researched in your collections,

create pathways for students to visit your collections, or host a pre-contest event for students to learn more about how to do historical research or how to share historical information. Regional coordinators might have additional suggestions!

3) Again, in collaboration with your regional coordinator, think about how you can use your network of schools and teachers to share information about OHD.

If you have a standing relationship with a school, especially if it's one that the coordinator doesn't, your influence may go a long way toward convincing that school that OHD is a worthwhile endeavor for their students. Furthermore, your organization may find ways to support the schools in your network in their contest participation. You may wish to create mentoring relationships with students, whether that is a sustained opportunity to advise them on projects or a one-day forum (maybe a history fair) where they can get feedback before the contest.

4) Ask how you can help on contest day!

All regions need volunteers, period. Volunteers might help run the actual contest by assisting at check-in tables, wayfinding, or minding contest rooms and spaces. All contests also need volunteers to interview participants and judge projects. The Ohio History Day state office provides judge training, and the most important part of being a judge is finding ways to be kind to students who may be learning these skills in research and public speaking for the very first time.

5) Can you help recognize student participation and success?

Some regions offer Special Prizes as part of the contest awards. Sponsored by individual organizations, Special Prizes recognize student achievement on a particular sub-topic (for example, women's history or sports history) or for a particular geographic region (for example, students from one of the region's counties). There may also be opportunities to host winners' receptions or to prep students who win at regionals and move on to the state contest.

Depending on your region, the above steps may be just the beginning of how you and your organization can get involved in Ohio History Day. By doing so, you help ensure that history education is a priority for more and more students in Ohio. Some of these students will perhaps eventually follow our paths into museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions, but that isn't the primary goal. The goal is for all Ohio students to receive a robust education in historical thinking skills, a deep knowledge of where they come from, and understanding of how the past impacts the present and the future. This, they can achieve through Ohio History Day.

Images courtesy of Western Reserve Historical Society



Prepare to Face *Truth AND Consequences*

by Dr. Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary, Ohio Local History Alliance; Local History Services Program Manager, Ohio History Connection

We're pleased to return to the Quest Conference Center in Westerville for the 2024 Annual Meeting, October 4-5! We're planning a full day of sessions and workshops on both days, in collaboration with the Society of Ohio Archivists on Friday.

Our conference theme, *Truth AND Consequences*, encourages local historians to think about their role in accurately representing the full history of their area or topic.

We've got a great slate of breakout sessions planned! Planned sessions include a follow up to last year's popular session on food and drink at historic sites, budget-friendly exhibit creation, engaging volunteers of all ages, preparing a bid for state capital dollars, deaccessioning basics, cost-effective collections preservation, running an event space, how to get published, building a heritage trail and much more! Sessions arranged by the

Society of Ohio Archivists will include establishing an institutional archive at a historical society, thinking about the intersectionality of DEIA, resources for promoting your online collections, and more. Our Saturday workshops will be on Oral History best practices and winning federal grants as a small institution.

This year's keynote speaker brings a unique background to a discussion of local history and the inclusion of multiple perspectives. Ulysses Grant Dietz is both a museum professional and the great-great grandson of Ulysses and Julia Grant. He served as curator of Decorative Arts at The Newark Museum from 1980 until 2017 and was appointed Chief Curator in 2012. As the curator of 114 exhibitions covering all aspects of the decorative arts from colonial to contemporary, he studied and collected furniture, silver, base metals, glass, ceramics, textiles, and jewelry. He is particularly proud of his work on the Museum's National Historic Landmark Ballantine House, built in 1885. The Ballantine House was reinterpreted between 1992 and 1994 with a groundbreaking installation called

House & Home. His memoir, *Growing Up Grant: A Gay Life in the Shadow of Ulysses S. Grant* (2021), is the most recent addition to a bibliography that includes *Jewelry from Pearls to Platinum to Plastic* (2017), *Masterpieces of Art Pottery, 1880-1930* (2009), *Dream House: The White House as an American Home* (2009) as well as articles and book chapters. He is a trustee of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University, and of the Society of Presidential Descendants.

Check our website at ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting for registration details and the full program as it is finalized. We will be mailing the full program to members very soon—it may already be in your mailbox! Please contact us at ohiolha@ohiohistory.org with any questions.

The keynote address has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

OHIO HUMANITIES
Sharing stories. Sparking conversations. Inspiring ideas.

Ohio History Service Corps and the Lillian E. Jones Museum

by Ashley Aldrich, Director, Lillian E. Jones Museum & OLHA Region 9 Representative; and Logan Lamber, Ohio History Service Corps AmeriCorps Member serving at the Southeast Ohio History Center .

Before the fall of 2023, I had a rough idea of what the Ohio History Service Corps did for organizations around the state. Still, it wasn't until Logan Lambert reached out to me in the fall of 2023 that I realized what they could offer me and the museum.

The Lillian E. Jones Museum is located in Jackson, OH, and was made possible by our namesake, Lillian E. Jones. Ms. Jones was the last surviving member of her immediate family. She left her family home and an endowment to start a museum in honor of her parents—Edwin and Lola—focused on the history and culture of Jackson County.

Because of her graciousness in providing the endowment, the museum has endured since 1995. However, the museum's only paid employee is a part-time director. Given the part-time nature of the job, the museum can only offer limited open hours each week and can only accomplish what one person can.

After Logan reached out and we started discussing the museum's needs, we decided to focus on our volunteer program. Before I took over the director's position, the volunteer program had taken a severe hit because of COVID-19, and while I had started putting together materials for volunteers, I hadn't had time to push them out to the public.

Logan's involvement in our volunteer program was transformative. His contributions were instrumental in creating press releases, reviewing our current volunteer materials, assisting with interviews and orientations, and reaching out to K12 schools. Our brainstorming sessions helped me envision and bring our volunteer program's potential to life. Regular meetings and check-ins from Logan kept me motivated, turning my vague ideas into a tangible, thriving program.

Thanks to Logan's assistance, the museum has been fortunate to secure two new volunteers. Their contributions have been significant. One is creating social media content, using items in the museum, and drawing attention to historical landmarks in Jackson County. The second volunteer is working on our backlog of acquisitions and digitizing our Deed of Gift form, a crucial step towards creating a searchable database of the museum's holdings. These projects now receive this attention



and wouldn't have been possible without the volunteers. And the volunteers, in turn, wouldn't have joined us so soon without Logan's invaluable assistance.

Logan has undoubtedly left the Lillian E. Jones Museum in better shape than when he first came to us, and my museum board and I look forward to working with the Ohio History Service Corps members for many years to come.

Image courtesy of Logan Lambert and the Ohio History Service Corps.

Time to Talk 250th

by John Dichtl, AASLH President and CEO. This column originally appeared in volume 78 number 3 of AASLH's member magazine, [History News](#), and on AASLH's website on May 16, 2024. Reprinted by permission.

In about two years, the nation's 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026 will be here. That's close enough to start coming into focus and far enough away to let it slip off your priority list this week. But "two years away" is actually not much time to plan if you consider that most history organizations will begin their Semiquincentennial-related programs weeks or months before July 4, 2026. Some states are scheduling to start commemoration activities in 2025 with the anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War in April 1775. In fact, Massachusetts, Virginia, and other states where tea party protests occurred in 1773 or 1774 have already eased into their 250th programming. It really is time to take the 250th seriously.

Why should you care about the Semiquincentennial?

At the local, state, and national levels, the 250th presents an opportunity to engage all people in a whole, complete American history, one that tells everyone's story and emphasizes our historical and ongoing efforts to become a more perfect union. This anniversary can encourage patriotism and civic pride in American resilience while also fostering critical awareness of and a true reckoning with our faults, past and present. We also have a chance to deepen people's sense of belonging and their appreciation for history.

Indeed, the 250th is an opportunity to strengthen our museums and related cultural organizations by attracting new interest and investment.

What if you are outside the thirteen colonies?

Well, the anniversary is more about the ideals of the nation than the war that created it. State commissions across the country, federal agencies, and the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission are emphasizing a commemoration about liberty, equality, participatory government, and constitutional rights. AASLH's [Field Guide](#) and its five themes offer broad avenues for participating, wherever your history organization is located. At its core, the 250th is about a history to which all groups of people belong, whenever it was that they arrived in what is now the U.S. Another angle is to treat the 250th as the 50th anniversary of the Bicentennial. What did your community or institution do to commemorate in 1976 and how can you improve upon that?

Who is leading the planning for the 250th?

Congress and the President established the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission in 2016, and the Commission created the America250 Foundation to do national planning. Recently America250 ([america250.org](#)) announced six major planning concepts, from a school essay contest to an oral history program to a national community service initiative. America250 is also leading the national branding and marketing campaign, rounding up major corporate sponsors, building public awareness, and planning national signature events. Simultaneously, nearly every state and territory now has a 250 commission. AASLH has been facilitating conversations among the state 250 commissions for the past several years, and it is at the state level that the bulk of 2026 activities will occur. Recently, the National

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The American Association for State and Local History is pleased to announce the July 1 publication of the 250th Anniversary Program Handbook, our latest resource to help state and local history organizations prepare for the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

This publication features more than 30 low-cost program ideas specifically geared towards smaller organizations to provide them with practical program suggestions they can use.

[View The Handbook](#)

The handbook includes ideas for:

- K-12 and youth programs
- Inviting your community to share their stories and learn from each other
- Expanded tour offerings
- Reimagining exhibitions
- Social and digital media
- Civic engagement
- History-themed gatherings

In addition, the handbook also includes:

- A checklist with steps on how to design audience-centered programs that align with your mission
- Advice on how to ensure that everyone in your community sees their history represented at your organization
- Recommendations on collaborating with other organizations or groups in your community

AASLH is thankful for the support of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, which has made this resource possible.

You can find additional resources to help you prepare for the 250th at [aaslh.org/250](#).

Park Service released its plans for the 250th and other federal agencies are sure to follow. In short, the 250th involves both bottom-up and top-down planning, but it is up to you to find your way to connect.

How can your institution and you get involved?

Find out if your town or county already has a 250th planning group and connect to it. If it does not, think about being the one who creates it! (See AASLH's free Technical Leaflet 300, "Forming a Local 250th Commission.") Be sure also to learn what your state is planning. AASLH maintains a list of state 250th commissions on its website. Some have very detailed and concrete programming scheduled, and other states are just beginning their work. Remember, engaging with the 250th could simply mean repurposing an existing or planned program to fit state, AASLH, or other 250th themes and concepts.

What are some good resources to start with?

In July 2024, AASLH will publish its 250th Anniversary Programming Handbook, which will provide programmatic ideas that are low-cost and high-impact. In addition to that and the Field Guide, we maintain a variety of other resources, including

recorded webinars on this topic, such as "Where to Begin?" at aaslh.org/250. Many of the state 250 commissions have excellent guides and advice on their websites as well.

What about funding?

That is the most common question we hear. No money will be coming directly from America250, though that organization has promised to help state commissions connect directly to corporate funders for one or two statewide projects. NEH will fund some 250th projects through its American Tapestry initiative. The National Park Service offers Semiquincentennial Historic Preservation Grants. And AASLH is coordinating efforts to get Congress to prioritize 250th funding so that money will flow out to the states in direct grants for redistribution. We'll need your help in telling senators and representatives how important history, history organizations, and the 250th are. So please add that to your list!

Once everything was back in the proper place inside the cases the final step was for the glass to be reinstalled. And just like that, a month and a half of work was completed!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wallace Family Learning and Innovation Center Wins 2024 AASLH Award of Excellence

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the Shelby County Historical Society is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for the establishment of the Wallace Family Learning and Innovation Center. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 79th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

The Wallace Family Learning and Innovation Center is a hands-on learning facility and museum located at 115 E. North St. in downtown Sidney, OH. It features six unique galleries containing information on how innovation and key community leaders have impacted our region throughout the past and presently. Visitors of all ages are welcome to visit the FREE Wallace Family Learning and Innovation Center, which is open Monday – Friday from 1 – 5 PM and Saturday from 9 AM –

Noon. It is closed on major holidays.

This year, AASLH confers 47 national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history.

The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203 or go to www.aaslh.org.

OHIO OPEN DOORS

Make your “Best Kept Secret” Historic Buildings & Experiences Not So Secret!

Ohio Open Doors is a great opportunity to show off historic buildings in your community that aren't regularly open or well-known. Ohio Open Doors is also a wonderful chance to share little known stories or new experience in the building that are already open - like your museums and historic houses.

Join us to celebrate the “best kept secret” historic buildings and experiences of your community September 6-15, 2024. Participants event and organizations will be promoted statewide, via the Ohio Open Doors website: ohiohistory.org/host

To participate:

- Hold at least one two-hour event anytime September 6-15, 2024.
- Ensure the event is free, open to the public, and abides by all laws and local ordinances concerning safety and access.
- Register your event(s) at: ohiohistory.org/host. Your event will be promoted statewide, via the Ohio Open Doors website.
- Registration deadline: August 1.

Why Host?

- Community Engagement: celebrate the unique history of your community and build community pride!
- Preservation Advocacy: renew appreciation of your community's historic places and the benefits of preserving them.
- Promotion and Exposure: share the stories of your historic places statewide through the Ohio History



Connection and partner promotion of Ohio Open Doors.

- Cultural and Educational Impact: inspire visitors, both old and new, with the history and unique features of your places. Connect the stories of your places and properties with the history of Ohio and the nation.
- Networking Opportunities: partner with community leaders, local businesses, young people, educators, and property owners to host multiple Ohio Open Doors events in your community.

Stipends Available

- To help you promote your Ohio Open Doors event, Marketing Materials Stipends of up to \$150 are available from the Ohio History Connection.
- Thanks to the Ohio Arts Council, we also have stipends so that you can add an arts component to your event, such as live music, a storyteller or other performer, and/or visual arts. Arts-

Related stipends are up to \$250.

- Marketing Stipends and Arts Stipends are available only on a first come first served basis. Register your event today to be eligible!

Questions?

- Visit the Ohio Open Doors at ohiohistory.org/host
- Contact the State Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio History Connection: shpo@ohiohistory.org or 614-298-2000.

Offered on even number years, the Ohio Open Doors was created in 2016 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Ohio Open Doors is a partnership of the Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office, the Ohio Arts Council, Heritage Ohio, Ohio Tourism, and the Ohio Travel Association. We look forward to your participation this September!



IN MEMORIAM:

Charles Courtland Hall

Charles Courtland Hall Jr. (Court) passed away on March 28, 2024 at the

age of 91. Court was born in Columbus on January 3, 1933 to Charles Courtland Hall Sr. and Helen (Meggers) Hall. Court was preceded in death by his parents, brother Dr. Frank P. Hall, and sister-in-law Priscilla (Ward) Hall. He is survived by brother Dr. Timothy C. Hall Sr. and sister-in-law Carol (Kahle) Hall; nieces Jennifer Hall McGonagle (Pat), Linda Hall Medaglia (Tom), and nephews William P. Hall (Robin), Timothy C. Hall Jr. (Christy), Brian D. Hall (Stacey), Dr. Jeffrey A. Hall (Dr. Kelly); nineteen “Grands,” six “Greats,” and friend George W. Haenszel (Laurie).

Court was a man whose family and friends were most important to him, evidenced by the interest, care and generosity he bestowed on them. He lived life to the fullest with enthusiasm, curiosity and positivity. Although he faced physical limitations the past few years, Court's intellect and sense of humor remained sharp. He was compassionate, and particularly attuned to the needs of the aging, ill, and disadvantaged. He donated generously, always anonymously. His love of history and genealogy permeated his life. He was an “antiquer” who delighted in finding a bargain, made all the more exciting if the piece had a backstory. As he put it, he liked to “connect the dots” between people, places and things. He was a storyteller who creatively developed ways to reach and teach many audiences--German Village tourists, schoolchildren, friends, family and others--a history or life lesson.

Court grew up on a farm on Big Walnut Creek. A self-described mischievous child, Court enjoyed quoting the advice his older brother Frank often gave him “Court, whatever you are thinking or planning, don't do it!” It was on the farm where Court developed a love and appreciation for agriculture and animals. He was active in 4-H, and raised pigs,

horses and sheep. Winning blue ribbons at the Ohio State and Franklin County fairs for his Duroc Jersey sow was a source of pride. A 1951 graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School, Court was a drum major, an accomplished track athlete, and half of a vaudeville act. Proud of his alma mater Ohio State University, he was a loyal Buckeye fan. After a stint in the Army National Guard, Court taught high school, co-owned a Christmas tree farm, worked for the Morrow County farm bureau, and eventually became Executive Director of Professional Insurance Agents Association of Ohio. Court was an early and avid supporter of German Village where he lived, volunteered, and rehabilitated properties. Court was an enthusiastic flower gardener for which he earned awards in various competitions, and was very supportive of the German Village Garten Club.

Court was proud of publishing the book *Six Generations: The Story of German Village*, in 1991; being named the recipient of the German Village Society's Frank Fetch award for outstanding service to German Village in 1993; locating, through tedious research, the site of the first home Ohio State Football game (against the University of Wooster on Whittier Street in 1890) where an Ohio Historical Marker now stands; and of his ancestors Illinois Congressman Owen Lovejoy, an abolitionist and advisor to Abraham Lincoln, and Dr. Mary Walker, a Civil War surgeon. The only female recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Dr. Walker has been commemorated in the renaming of Virginia Fort A.P. Hill to Fort Walker, with a postage stamp, and a soon-to-be released quarter. Court was also a generous supporter and lifetime member of the Ohio Local History Alliance. His donations to the Alliance's J.D. Britton Endowment Fund help provide professional development for other local historians.

In the words of one dear friend “Court enriched our lives in so many ways. His warmth and generous heart. His energy. The thoughtful gifts, just because. We loved Court--one of those great people we were privileged to know.”

OLHA Ohio History Day Awardees

Every year at the Ohio History Day contest, the Ohio Local History Alliance offers a Special Prize for projects who do an especially good job of researching and sharing Ohio topics.

Join us in congratulating the 2024 winners!



Junior Division

Olivia P. and Sophia P.

“From Ohio to the Skies: Orville and Wilbur Wright's Pioneering Journey in Aviation”



Senior Division

Isaiah F.

“Fallen Timbers: Exile and Urbanization”



America 250 – Ohio Commission Announces Spring Grant Awardees

As Ohio prepares to celebrate and commemorate America's 250th anniversary, the America 250-Ohio Commission recently awarded \$600,000 in grants to 61 projects statewide. Earlier this year, the America 250-Ohio Commission awarded nearly \$400,000 in grants to 23 communities and organizations across 15 counties as part of the Commission's first funding cycle. More than 170

organizations throughout the state submitted applications for the second grants round, which is managed in partnership with Ohio Humanities. Projects funded in this round must be completed between June 15, 2024, and May 31, 2025. Two types of grants were awarded: Trillium Local Activity Grants and Buckeye Impact Grants.

*Indicates an OLHA member organization

TRILLIUM LOCAL ACTIVITY GRANT RECIPIENTS – SPRING 2024

Trillium Local Activity Grants offer up to \$5,000 for projects with a local or community-wide impact. These projects may include exhibitions, interpretative panels, local commemorative programs or activities, local public events, educational, public programs, and smaller digital and documentary media projects. The following projects are receiving a Trillium Local Activity Grant for the Spring 2024 grant cycle:

THE WILDS (INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS INC.)

Connecting the Guests to the Big Muskie
Guernsey County
\$2,000

The project will develop signage for the mining history of the region as well as donor recognition and will create an interpretive video about The Big Muskie's creation and use. The Wilds recently received a hand-crafted replica of "The Big Muskie," a piece of equipment used by Central Ohio Coal to surface-mine much of the land that would one day become The Wilds.

*FRIENDS OF THE HARRIET BEECHER STOWE HOUSE

Harriet Beecher Stowe: Writer & Theologian
Cincinnati
\$5,000

The project is to create a tour specifically to focus on the religious aspects of Stowe's life and works. She was a theologian, not unlike her male relatives, but this side of her life is not as well-known as her abolitionist views. These tours would engage all audiences (youth to lifelong learners) and will be offered on a scheduled basis and available by request for groups (including school/community groups).

*HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUMS, INC.

Hardin County History from the time it was formed from Indian Territory in 1820 to present
Kenton, OH
\$3,500

Grant funds will be used to purchase tablets and to cover speakers' fees of experts who have advanced knowledge of Hardin County history. The museum will host speakers at the Hardin County museums, Hardin County schools, Hardin County libraries and the Hardin County Fair. Possible topics will include historical sites, events, American Indian heritage, arts and culture, military history, sports and personalities.

OHIO DESIGNER CRAFTSMEN

Ohio Designer Craftsmen Open House—Traditional Crafts
Columbus
\$4,000

Ohio Designer Craftsmen will hold a free open house for the community at the Ohio Craft Museum to celebrate the history of fine craft in Ohio and the country, from the founding of the United States and the settlement of Ohio to the innovative techniques of contemporary artists. Demonstrations, hands-on craft activities, story panels, and examples of historical and contemporary crafts will convey the impact of Ohio's craft traditions and the numerous renowned artists who built on those traditions.

INGENUITY CLEVELAND

Celebrating Jazz Heritage in East Cleveland
Community: Cleveland
\$5,000

Celebrating Jazz Heritage in East Cleveland is a multifaceted community engagement initiative which will result in the creation of a new collaboratively visioned and created mural celebrating local East Cleveland heroes with connections to the neighborhood's rich history surrounding jazz music.

SHELBY CYCLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ohio Firsts—The Shelby Steel Tube Company
Richland County
\$5,000

A traveling self-guided exhibit throughout Ohio with interpretive panels containing QR codes linked to websites will tell the beginning of the seamless tube industry from 1890-1909. The period includes founders and factory construction, expansion into a steel trust, as well as the 1908 fire that destroyed the factory, and the monumental community effort to quickly rebuild the factory.

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*SOUTHEAST OHIO HISTORY CENTER

Defining American Liberty—

New Perspectives on the Fort Gower Resolves

Athens

\$5,000

On November 5, 1774, a group of American officers who had taken part in Lord Dunmore's War gathered at Fort Gower on the banks of the Hockhocking River. There, they drafted a series of resolves that articulate their defense of American rights and privileges, while still professing loyalty to King George III. In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Fort Gower Resolves, the Southeast Ohio History Center is planning a two-day commemorative event that will include educational programming with schools on Friday, November 8, 2024, and a conference hosted at the History Center on Saturday, November 9, 2024. The conference will include speakers who will put the Fort Gower Resolves in a broader context of Lord Dunmore's War, the Enlightenment ideas of the time period, and their effects on American Indian's struggle for independence in the Ohio Country.

VILLAGE OF CHAUNCEY

History Mural

Athens County

\$4,000

Grant funds will be used to paint a historical mural on the side of the Chauncey Village Hall on Converse Street.

MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revolutionary War Veteran and Family History Project

Medina, OH

\$4,000

The project will solicit researched essays about American Revolutionary War Veterans and their families that settled and lived in Medina County. A panel of local published historians and educators will serve as an editorial board to compile and publish these historical accounts. The editorial board will identify local historians and genealogists to serve as mentors throughout the writing process.

OHIO POETRY ASSOCIATION

Ohio Underground Railroad Whistle-Stop Poetry Tour

Columbus

\$4,000

The project will fund the remaining 6 of 11 events of the Ohio Underground Railroad Whistle-Stop Poetry Tour including poetry readings, social justice writing workshops, and cultural programming. A capstone celebration at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus concludes this series featuring poets and docents from all our event locations, music, performance, workshops, and a special keynote address, as well as exhibit tables.

FORT GREENEVILLE CHAPTER - DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

America 250—Darke County Traveling Educational Exhibit

Darke County

\$3,700

The project will create eight exhibit panels to illustrate the America 250 Ohio theme "Past, Present, Future." The exhibit will display different aspects of Darke County. It will be available to all Darke County schools, libraries, museums, the Great Darke County Fair, and any other public display opportunities in 2025 through 2026, and beyond. The exhibit will also be available outside of the county.

OUTDOOR SYLVANIA COMMUNITY PARKS

Oak Openings During the Ohio Frontier—

Animal Conservation Then and Now

Lucas County

\$2,800

The project will produce an illustrated booklet about the history of species extirpated from Ohio during the 18th and early 19th centuries and examples of endangered species today. The booklet will also include essays about the philosophy of nature and archaeology. This project will give context to conservation and the history of human behavior towards animals. The digital and print booklet will be distributed by Outdoor Sylvania Community Parks.

GALLIPOLIS MUNICIPAL COURT

Preservation of History

Gallia County

\$3,000

The project will create a time capsule that will include photographs of events, newspaper articles, items donated by vendors, and letters written by students. The time capsule will be opened in 10 years.

*OLD FORT STEUBEN PROJECT, INC.

Surveyors' Museum at Historic Fort Steuben

Steubenville, OH

\$4,000

The project will transform one of the blockhouses in the fort into a museum describing the history of surveying from the Egyptians to modern times with a particular emphasis on the tools and procedures used during the 18th century. The focus is on the survey of the Seven Ranges of the Northwest Territory which started at the Point of Beginning in East Liverpool, Ohio.

*OBERLIN HERITAGE CENTER

Local Leaders, National Impact Video Series

Lorain County

\$4,000

The Oberlin Heritage Center will create a series of five mini documentaries about how local individuals organized to create

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institutions or movements that led to national change. The goal of these videos is to 1) highlight stories that celebrate the experiences and actions of past Ohioans who effected positive change on a larger scale, and 2) inspire civic engagement to solve challenges today. The organization will work with community partners-including the local middle school-to make these videos engaging for all ages and to serve as free educational tools.

JAMES A. GARFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Unveiling Our Roots
Portage County
\$3,000

The Unveiling Our Roots project will center around opening a 100-year-old time capsule and placing a new time capsule that will be opened on Garrettsville's 300th anniversary in 2104. This two-day event will combine archival displays, character actors, soldier memorial walking tours, video streams of family history stories, and a commemorative book.

AUGLAIZE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Auglaize County WPA Veteran Cemetery Plot Map Imaging
and Online Viewing Project**
Wapakoneta, OH
\$2,890

Grant funds will cover costs for imaging and online viewing of a cemetery plot map book with burial locations of all Auglaize County Military veterans, American Revolution War through World War I.

MEIGS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DAR America 250—
Meigs County Revolutionary War Patriot Marker
Pomeroy, OH
\$4,800

The project is to place a DAR America 250 Patriot Marker on the grounds of the oldest standing courthouse in the Northwest Territory, in Chester, Ohio. Landscaping will be completed, with the possible addition of bricks displaying the individual names of the soldiers. A large unveiling ceremony involving local historical societies and veterans' organizations will take place on Memorial Day 2025.

GEAUGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Voices of Geauga County
Chardon, OH
\$4,000

The Geauga County Public Library will create a traveling interactive exhibit that will include recently digitized Oral History Project recordings from the 1970s and 1980s. Grant funds will be used to purchase an interactive touchscreen display and to pay for employees to curate the exhibit. The collections will be accessible on the organization's website as well as on the traveling display.

BUTLER INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN ART

Joseph B. Butler, Jr.—Collections of Our Nation
Youngstown
\$4,000

Grant funds will support an exhibition highlighting the 300 years of America's history in relationship to the founder of the museum and Ohio native, Joseph G. Butler, Jr. along with his contributions as a patron of the arts, philanthropist, and civic leader. New biographical didactics about Mr. Butler will be designed and installed throughout the permanent collection galleries, in addition to the production of a digital and printed exhibition publication, and featured public lectures from contributing historians.

HURON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Huron, Ohio, and America—Linked in History
Erie County
\$1,800

Four expert speakers on topics related to Ohio history will present programs in the 2024-2025 speaker series. Topics include The Story of Ohio's Canals, The History of Travel in America, Black Men in Blue, and Let Ohio Women Vote. Additionally, the Huron Historical Society will present a program on the Interurban Railway (Lake Shore Electric).

AKRON BLACK ARTISTS GUILD

Our Eyes See the Sun
Summit County
\$3,710

The project is to produce a documentary profiling BIPOC artists as they create a piece embodying their story, culture and triumph. Through interviews and candid footage, this documentary will investigate the richness and struggles of artists of color-as well highlight common threads that exist within all Ohioans. The film will conclude with these artists completing their journey by presenting their finished pieces at an exhibition.

LITERARY CLEVELAND

Veterans' Voices Anthology
Cuyahoga County
\$4,000

Veterans' Voices provides free creative writing workshops to Northeast Ohio military service members and veterans to help them craft poetry and prose about their military experiences. The project culminates in the publication of a print and digital anthology, Celebrating Service Volume II, featuring the writing of participants which will be shared with the public through readings, panel discussions, and media appearances.

WOODLAND ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum's History on Display
Dayton
\$3,300

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Grant funds will be used to purchase two display cases for the organization's visitor's center. The cases will display documents and artifacts from Woodland's history that is currently housed in Wright State University's archives.

UNION TOWNSHIP OF PUTNAM COUNTY

The Forgotten Pioneers of Kalida QR Codes

Putnam County

\$1,800

This project will document the stories of everyone buried in the Old Union Township Cemetery and make those biographies available free online through QR codes. The QR codes will be posted at each grave site in the cemetery.

*GREENE COUNTY RECORDS CENTER & ARCHIVES

"Xenia Lives," 50 Years Later—Exhibiting the 1974 Tornado as a Catalyst for Advancements in Disaster preparedness and Severe Weather Monitoring

Xenia, OH

\$3,500

The project is to design and install a five-panel exhibit in the central lobby of the Greene County Ledbetter Road facility to display the history of the 1974 Xenia tornado and its impact on the ways severe weather is monitored and reported.

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Develop and Produce Exhibit and Interpretive Materials for the Dr. Kersey G. Thomas House

Stark County

\$3,500

The grant will fund a modular 7-panel curated exhibit and slide deck telling the story of the Dr. Kersey G. Thomas Home and Office. The exhibit will highlight Dr. Thomas and his wife, Dr. Eliza L. (Smith) Thomas, their roles in abolition and anti-slavery activities in the region, their regular association with other prominent Quaker visionaries and radicals in the region, their commitment and involvement in the women's rights movement, and their home's use as a regional training ground for female physicians in the earliest era of women's medical education.

LITTLE CITIES OF BLACK DIAMONDS

Little Cities Day

Perry County

\$3,500

Little Cities Day will be a coordinated multi-site festival of regional history. It will take place on October 12, 2024, in the villages of Corning and Rendville in Perry County, Ohio. The event will feature talks, musical performances, an exhibit hall and tours of local historic landmarks. Content from the event will also be shared online for virtual attendance.

PRESERVING GALION, INC.

205 Years, One Family, A National Story

Crawford County

\$3,000

This project will present the story of generations of one family through a stand-alone exhibit at the Gill House in Galion. Included will be information on the Gills' relationships with well-known family friends Thomas Alva Edison and his wife, Mina; Henry Ford; and the house's designer, famed Detroit architect Louis Kamper, all of whom visited the house. Family members also include the implementer of the zip code system and an Oscar-winning playwright. The exhibit will include several items from the organization's collection of family and city-related artifacts.

*MCKINLEY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Black History Exhibition

Canton

\$5,000

This grant will be used towards the creation of an exhibition to share the rich history of Stark County's Black community. The grant will fund the salary of the exhibition curator, the materials needed to create it, and the publicity for a series of Archive Days to better connect with the members of the Black community who have artifacts, archival materials, and stories to share.

HISTORY DETECTIVES OF BELMONT COUNTY

Uncovering the History of the Ohio Valley

Flushing, OH

\$3,500

The project will include a series of documentary videos, an interactive map, a brochure, and a kick-off event. The videos will use local historians and experts as well as OU Eastern students to create an informative series about the history and heritage of the Ohio Valley. An online presence will include an interactive map showing the region and historical sites. A printed component will include a brochure with a trackable QR code, driving traffic to the video series, and an interactive map online.

CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT

Educating Youth About Ohio's First Municipal Court

Cuyahoga County

\$5,000

The project will produce an animated video for Cleveland-area youth highlighting key topics about the history of the court system in Cleveland from the settling of the "area of the Western Reserve" by Moses Cleaveland in 1796, to the traveling "circuit" judges in the early 1800's, to the opening of Ohio's first municipal court in 1912, to the "problem-solving" specialized court dockets grappling with the social problems of today. The grant will allow us to hire a video animator by July 2024 and create an animated video about the Court's history which will be available for release by January 2025.

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DENISON MUSEUM

**Echoes of Ohio's Indigenous Legacy—
Bridging Past and Present
Granville, OH
\$5,000**

This project delves into the Indigenous history of Ohio through two immersive exhibitions and programming. These exhibitions aim to shed light on the complex historical narrative of the displacement of Indigenous peoples from Ohio. 1) New work by Indigenous artist Carey Newman (Hayalthkin'game) inspired by the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks. This exhibit builds on our partnership with the Great Circle Alliance and UNESCO's World Heritage Site at the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Licking County. 2) Indigenous Art and History Exhibition featuring works by contemporary Indigenous artists, including those with ancestral ties to Ohio. Also, in collaboration with the Eichelberger Center for Community Voices and WYSO, the Museum will integrate the "Ohio County Project" podcasts into the exhibition (via QR codes), enriching the visitor experience with expanded perspectives.

FULTON COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

**250 Experiences on the NW Ohio Yellowstone Trail & US
250-OH
Wauseon, OH
\$5,000**

The National Yellowstone trail was established in South Dakota in 1912 and eventually stretched from Puget Sound to Plymouth Rock. The Yellowstone Trail reached Ohio in 1916. Travelers will discover 250 fun places to stop and visit along the way from Hicksville, OH to Sandusky County, OH, including historic sites and museums, art venues, natural features and landscapes, local food, hospitality, merchandise, lodging, events and more.

*GARNET A. WILSON PUBLIC LIBRARY OF PIKE COUNTY

**Celebrate Ohio—Honoring History & Community
Waverly, OH
\$2,000**

The organization will hold special programs marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, raising awareness of Ohio's unique contributions to the nation over the years. In collaboration with the local retirement community, the celebration will present an event that pays homage to both the nation's and Ohio's past. This main event to be held on Saturday, May 24th, 2025, will honor veterans.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION)

**The Time Capsule Semiquincentennial Commemoration
Project
Cleveland
\$2,000**

This project will commemorate the importance of the Ohio judiciary and celebrate the anniversary of our Founding Fathers

adopting the Declaration of Independence. The Court will hold a public ceremony, placing several items related to the Semiquincentennial and Ohio judiciary in the time capsule to be opened on July 4, 2276. After the public ceremony, visitors will be able to view the full display at the Cuyahoga County Old Courthouse. The time capsule and display boards can also be used throughout the community at various events up to and beyond the 2026 Semiquincentennial Celebration.

*FRIENDS OF WHITE WATER SHAKER VILLAGE, INC.

**Simply Shaker—
Preserving and Sharing the Shaker Story of Southwest Ohio
Harrison, OH
\$5,000**

The project will create an exhibit about Shaker culture through historical photographs, text, and timelines in an engaging, informative permanent exhibit in the 1832 Shaker Dwelling by sharing the intriguing lifestyle, architecture, contributions, and historical events of the last remaining Ohio Shaker community, White Water Shaker Village.

ASHTABULA COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

**Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival
Jefferson, OH
\$5,000**

The Covered Bridge Festival brings people from all over the country to learn about the history of our covered bridges. For our 40th anniversary this year we want to have even more historical re-enactors and demonstrators such as a glassblower who will teach about the history of the glass industry in Ohio while also teaching about blowing glass and a Lincoln and Garfield re-enactor teaching about Ohio and presidential history at the central festival on the fairgrounds.

*TOLEDO HISTORY MUSEUM

**"Made in Toledo," a Virtual and Physical Exhibit
Demonstrating Toledo's Past and present Contributions to
Industry
Lucas County
\$3,700**

"Made in Toledo" is an exhibit highlighting Toledo's contributions – both well-known and lesser known – to the industrial success of America. The exhibit will be both physical and digital, with a small installation and accompanying materials housed in our downtown location, open to visitors in the spring and summer of 2025, as well as a virtual exhibit that can be accessible indefinitely to Toledo residents and those from elsewhere, too.

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BUCKEYE IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENTS – SPRING 2024

The Buckeye Impact Grants offer up to \$50,000 for projects with a statewide, regional, or significant local impact. These projects may include significant exhibitions, regional commemorative activities, substantial digital and documentary media projects and signature public events. These are the projects that are receiving funding through the Spring 2024 grant round:

RICKENBACKER WOODS FOUNDATION

**Granville T. Woods—How to Document Truthful Narratives
Columbus
\$10,000**

Granville T. Woods (GTW): How to Document Truthful Narratives is a pre-production project on GTW that illustrates how research can fill biographical gaps, correct untruths or add important contextual information. This planning grant will help initiate a series of six short videos that will demonstrate how to find overlooked sources/archives and help novice researchers begin by using the life of GTW as an example of a “hidden” story revealed. In addition to collecting documentation on Granville T. Woods, educational modules, community conversations with a humanities scholar are planned. Traveling exhibit boards will be produced to invite others to engage in the conversation and make connections.

CORPORATION FOR FINDLAY MARKET

**Historic Market Buildings Plaques and Tours
Cincinnati
\$15,000**

The Corporation for Findlay Market (CFFM) is seeking funds to create and install 31 commemorative plaques. These plaques would summarize the buildings' historical significance and share the stories of individuals who immigrated from all over the world to make Ohio their home. CFFM would host a special public unveiling event, QR codes for the Cincinnati Sites & Stories self-guided tour, along with maps and additional historical building information, will be housed on the Findlay Market website.

EXPERIENCING VETERANS & ARTISTS COLLABORATION (EVAC) PROJECT, INC.

**EVAC Project Book
Perrysburg, OH
\$6,000**

This proposal seeks to fund a digital catalog and book of EVAC Project interviews and artwork to celebrate Ohio veterans and artists. Using storytelling and art, the EVAC Project bridges the gap between civilians and veterans by educating the public about life in the military.

FRIENDS OF THE ST. MARYS THEATER

**From Auglaize County to Hollywood—
A Celebration of two Early 20th Century Artists
Auglaize County
\$7,500**

From Auglaize County to Hollywood: A Celebration of Two Early 20th Century Artists is a weekend event at the St. Marys Theater honoring the literary and cinematic contributions of

William K. Howard and Jim Tully. Our program will consist of an educational and entertainment filled weekend involving a silent movie with organ accompaniment provided by a world-renowned musician, re-enacting a world premiere that was held at the St. Marys Theater in February of 1939, lectures, scholar performers portraying the life of Jim Tully and visual exhibits of illustrating Auglaize County life during the Howard and Tully's life here and in Hollywood.

FRIENDS OF THE HARTMAN ROCK GARDEN

**Hartman Rock Garden Audio Tour
Springfield
\$10,000**

The Hartman Rock Garden is plans to transform the visitor experience at our artist-built environment with the creation of an audio tour focused on ten of Ben Hartman's most important Depression-era art relating to American History.

CAESAR'S FORD THEATRE, INC.

**Shawnee Living History Tour,
Phase III Implementation/Production
Xenia, OH
\$27,000**

The Shawnee Living History Tour project and concurrent educational program recounts the history of the Shawnee Nation in Southwest, Ohio through a series of events in outdoor venues. Participants will travel by bus to Caesar's Ford Park, John Bryan State Park, Glen Helen Nature Preserve, and George Rogers Clark Park. Each site will offer an outdoor performance, where a variety of historical figures will recount how they lived, their connection to the land, and their connection to each other.

TAFT MUSEUM OF ART

**Duncanson Program at the Taft Museum of Art
Cincinnati
\$35,000**

Grant funds will be used to expand the Duncanson Artist in Residence program from a 2-week residency to year-round programming. The expanded program will: 1) celebrate the region's cultural heritage by bringing awareness to the history of Robert S. Duncanson; 2) reach underrepresented and underserved communities; and 3) provide Black artists with opportunities to showcase their work.

CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM

**Ohio Originals at Cincinnati Art Museum
Charley Harper and Nancy Rexroth
Cincinnati
\$25,000**

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In Fall 2026, the Cincinnati Art Museum will mount major exhibitions illuminating the achievements and significance of two nationally important Ohio artists: photographer Nancy Rexroth (b. 1946) and illustrator Charley Harper (1922-2007). These concurrent exhibitions anchor the museum's Fall 2026 focus on Ohio artists. Specifically, CAM requests AM250-OH support for these project activities: (a) Production of Rexroth multimedia didactics (b) Printing for exhibition of works by Nancy Rexroth (c) The Rexroth Project Assistantship.

OHIO NATIONAL ROAD ASSOCIATION

Reprint of *Traveler's Guide to the Historic National Road in Ohio—4th Edition*

Zanesville

\$7,500

This project will reprint the fourth edition of "A Traveler's Guide to The Historic National Road in Ohio." It includes printing and distributing 10,000 copies throughout the state at museums, libraries, schools, historical attractions, and visitors' bureaus, as well as publishing online to the ONRA website with page-flipping software to enhance the digital viewing experience. A shareable curriculum sheet will also be created for educators to use with the booklet. That additional resource will highlight the 200th Anniversary of the road in 2025 and its significance and ties with AM250-OH themes.

LEADERSHIP OHIO

Join In—Uniting Communities in Ohio

Franklin County

\$35,000

To counter the declared "epidemic of isolation and loneliness" in the US while working towards a more united Ohio, Leadership Ohio (LO) will show seven screenings of the new documentary *Join or Die* across all five regions of the state. The film highlights the importance of civic associations or "clubs" for creating community and strengthening democracy and is based on the research of Ohioan Robert Putnam. Working with partners, this project will touch Ohioans in 44 counties. Attendees will discuss the film's themes and gain information about local clubs to join. LO, with expert historians, will create the *Join In: Community Toolkit*, which will highlight Ohio's rich club history, share stories of past Ohioans who started clubs, and help current Ohioans start or join clubs all with the goals of highlighting points of pride and unity for our state's residents.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI PRESS

"Thinking About Ohio" Book Series

Hamilton County

\$20,000

The University of Cincinnati Press will publish *Thinking About Ohio*, a series of paperback and open access books highlighting Ohio's heritage, history, and innovation starting in 2025. The grant provides royalty advances for the first 8 authors placed signed, and peer review honoraria for these manuscripts, and funds to publish the first 3 in the series by June 2025. Also included are marketing efforts to achieve these results including

publicizing the call for proposals and series using email campaigns to faculty and scholars, advertising on NPR and promotion at tabling at the 2024 Columbus Book Festival.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY – RICHARD AND CAROLE COCKS ART MUSEUM

Culture Crops Photography Project

Oxford, OH

\$12,500

This project engages fine arts photographer Tina Gutierrez to conduct site visits to create photographic portraits that serve as a celebration of Ohio's history and diversity of food growing communities. Culture Crops includes stories of Indigenous, immigrant, and local community and family farmers, and the history of the food they produce. The project raises awareness of the depth and breadth of Ohio residents and the land they cultivate across SW Ohio and beyond. The resulting series of photographic portraits and selected video interviews tell the stories of these present-day Ohioans, their experiences of food growing, and the history of food growing and farming traditions.

MAC-A-CHEEK FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES

From Mekoche to Mac-A-Cheek—Identity and Place

Logan, OH

\$20,000

This grant will fund a statewide campaign promoting a multi-faceted exploration of Ohio history. In consultation with Chief Glenna Wallace, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and Chief Benjamin Barnes, Shawnee Tribe, the site will be a place for visitors to consider the meaning of identity for the Mekoche division of Shawnee living here in the 1700s and these tribes' story of resilience. Recent research will be integrated into exhibits, tours, a children's book, workshops, and free events.

OHIO BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Heart of it All was the Start of it All—

Celebrating Ohio's Native Flora and Northwest Expansion

Hilliard, OH

\$30,000

The project centers on the legacy of Ohio's natural heritage captured in the notes of the first surveyors to cross into this wilderness in the 1780s. The project highlights the stories of Thomas Hutchins and Rufus Putnam (the surveyors), whose teams provided vegetation data that is scientifically relevant today; builds on that data to create a free, digital, interactive vegetation map to inform research, education, and land-use planning; commemorates the important, often difficult stories of conflict between early settlers and indigenous people; and offers visitation to historically important natural areas. Deliverables (free, available statewide) include: a regional historic tour brochure, study guides, curated content on dedicated webpages, 7 public programs at state nature preserves, displays at 3 conferences, and interactive displays for 12-days of the 2024/2025 Ohio State Fairs.

(continued on page 18)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER

**OhioReflections250—
Reflecting on Ohio's Past to Illuminate our Future
Butler County
\$20,000**

The OhioReflections250 Project (OR250 Project) is a collaborative endeavor illuminating Ohio's rich history through the captivating lens of glass artistry. Led by the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) and the vision of master glass artist Darren Goodman, this ambitious project brings together community stakeholders, historians, educators, artists, and regional organizations to showcase Ohio's profound impact on local, state, and national levels. By intertwining art and history, the OR250 Project seeks to foster a deeper understanding of Ohio's past, celebrate its present achievements, and inspire a shared vision for the future.

*FORT RECOVERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Sharing a "New View" of Ohio's Northwest Indian War Legacy
Mercer County
\$25,000**

"Sharing a 'New View' of Ohio's Northwest Indian War Legacy" is a proposal to reformat an NEH-funded exhibit to fit on 23 retractable panels. Fort Recovery Historical Society would like to print two sets of the panels: One to stay at Fort Recovery, and one to travel the state.

*NATIONAL FIRST LADIES LIBRARY

**American Icons—The Untold Stories of Ohio's First Ladies
Canton
\$37,500**

"American Icons: The Untold Stories of Ohio's First Ladies" aims to provide an interactive traveling exhibit focused on the untold and inspirational stories of how Ohio's eight First Ladies have impacted our nation over the past 250 years. The exhibit will debut at the National First Ladies Library & Museum in Canton, Ohio, in June 2025 and will travel to numerous other presidential historic sites and cultural museums across the state during the America 250 celebration throughout 2026.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

**The Last Tribe in Ohio—The Wyandot Removal Trail
Cincinnati
\$22,500**

The Wyandot Removal Trail will develop 1) a historic marker series across 13 Ohio communities; 2) community-engaged groundbreaking ceremonies; 3) a companion website with an interactive timeline and map, short biographical sketches, and resources for educators, students, and life-long learners. This project is a collaborative partnership between the Wyandotte Nation and the University of Cincinnati.

WESTCOTT HOUSE FOUNDATION

**Frank Lloyd Wright's Westcott House—Past, Present & Future of an American Icon
Springfield
\$12,500**

The celebration of America 250-Ohio coincides with the 20th anniversary of the completion of the major restoration and public opening of Frank Lloyd Wright's Westcott House. The Westcott House plans to produce a documentary that reflects on the site's fascinating and dramatic past; its significance and impact at the present, and the aspirations for this landmark's ongoing relevance for future generations.

NORWOOD TOGETHER

**Norwood Indian Mound—Historic, Educational and Interpretive Markers and Placemaking Landscaping
Hamilton County
\$27,500**

The Norwood Mound is an earthwork believed to be constructed by the Adena – a Pre-Columbian indigenous people. In 1875, the Mound was dedicated for public stewardship. The City plans to reverse this by highlighting the Mound and improving the adjoining park with an historical marker, an educational "History walk" and native plant landscaping.

SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (GENERAL DIVISION)

**Discovering Justice
Akron
\$17,500**

This project aims to educate Ohioans about the American justice system through an innovative approach. Utilizing an activity book and community workshops, the program will delve into the workings of federal, state, and local courts. The highlight of this initiative will be three public mural displays in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas juror's room, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States, focusing on the significance of the Juror's Oath in safeguarding American freedom and justice. By engaging students and participants statewide in creative exercises, the project will foster a deeper understanding of the courts' function and responsibilities.

WOSU PUBLIC MEDIA

**Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks Digital Series
Columbus
\$30,000**

The project will produce a digital video series on the history of the Hopewell Culture and their Ceremonial Earthworks, which were inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage sites in September 2023. This series will illuminate the Ohio Hopewell sites, including the Great Circle and the Octagon in Newark, Fort Ancient in Warren County, and 5 National Park Service sites in Chillicothe-Mound City, Hopeton Earthworks, High Banks Works, Hopewell Mound Group, and Seip Earthworks.

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

In an effort to strengthen promotional activities and awareness in Crawford County a committee was formed, the Crawford County History Alliance, in 2022. This included twelve 501c3 organizations whose mission includes local history. Besides sharing costs to clean a local monument, in 2023 a one-day history fair kicked off a newly-conceived passport program which culminated in two bus trips to all museums and attractions in the county that autumn, involving kids and adults alike. This event was acclaimed by the participating public, many who'd never set foot in most of these museums. More than 150 persons were engaged.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Cleveland Heights Historical Society** co-sponsored a talk by photographer Lauren Pacini at the Cleveland Hts.-Univ. Hts. Main Library devoted to the lives of the Van Sweringen brothers and their impact on the development of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, and University Heights. His newest book became available in June - *Empire Builders: An Illustrated History of the Rise and Fall of the Van Sweringen Brothers*.

The **Lorain Historical Society** earned a Silver STEPS Certificate in Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes. The AASLH Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (STEPS) is a self-assessment program that your organization can use to meet national standards in these and four other areas of operations. [Click here to learn more about STEPS.](#)

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 3 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.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Trumbull County Historical Society** received a \$4,570 Ohio Archives grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board for digitizing Old Mahoning Cemetery Records. The project aims to create a fully searchable online database of cemetery records, photos, surveys, and related archives. This initiative will enhance public access to these valuable records, shedding light on the lives and experiences of Warren's early settlers and underrepresented communities. For more information, visit trumbullcountyhistory.org.

The **Niles Historical Society** is grateful to Bianca Rozenbald, grant coordinator for the City of Niles, for securing an \$18,981 Ohio History Fund grant. The Ward-Thomas ADA Improvements and Estate Upgrades project will include multiple repairs, an ADA Entry Door Operator, updates to the Greenhouse bathroom, ADA upgrades to the Main House and parking lot, and new walkways. The total project cost is \$30,300. Work begins in May. For more details, visit nileshistoricalsociety.org.

The **McKinley Birthplace Museum and Memorial** welcomes new intern Dana Kolesar, who is working on the McKinleypedia project, set to launch in the fall. This multi-leveled project aims to expand the museum's offerings. Additionally, the museum is seeking display cases to exhibit more artifacts currently in storage. Stay tuned for these exciting developments at mckinleybirthplacemuseum.org.

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 **Gahanna Historical Society** is partnering with the City of Gahanna in celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding in 1849. This year-long commemoration has included a diverse array of events, from engaging historical storytelling sessions that delved into the city's past to community festivals that showcase its vibrant present. An exciting Jubilee celebration was held August 9-11, and the Gahanna community came together to enjoy an old-fashioned baseball game with the Ohio Village Muffins, many fun activities, live entertainment and delicious food to celebrate Gahanna's unique history! Visit Gahanna175.com to learn more.

On June 28th, the City of Dublin held a dedication ceremony of the Brown-Harris Cemetery. After this historically Black cemetery was rediscovered, the City of Dublin partnered with the Brown and Harris families, The Ohio State University and engineering firm EMH&T to preserve the site and create a monument that properly illustrates the space's significance and importance to Dublin's history. The ceremony came after years of strategic restoration and coincided with the time of year our country is focused on commemorations and celebrations of Juneteenth and African American history. This historic moment for the city was shared with the members of the Brown and Harris families as well as Dublin City Council, residents and visitors.

(continued on page 20)

Region 7

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

The **Beavercreek Historical Society** presented a program on American Indian impacts in Beavercreek Township Prior to 1800 on Tuesday, April 23. The program explored this influence through a look at 1800's public land survey records from the National Archives. Presenter Dave Nolin is a Fairborn native, retired from Five Rivers MetroParks, a former president of Beaver Creek Wetlands Association, and the author of *Discovery and Renewal on Huffman Prairie*.

Region 8

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

Craig Niemi of the **Cincinnati Observatory** received a Preservation Champion Award from the Cincinnati Preservation Association for his ongoing accomplishments in preserving and maintaining this National Historic Landmark. Read more at cincinnatiobservatory.org/2024awards/

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

Joined or renewed between February 21 and April 18, 2024.

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS

Debra Mason, *Westerville*

Joyce Pogany, *Austintown*

ORGANIZATIONS

Bolivar Area Historical Society, *Bolivar*

Cat's Meow Village, *Wooster*

Thank You, Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Mazie M. Adams, *Cleveland Heights*

Jennie L. Self, *Massillon*

David J. Brown, *Cuyahoga Falls*

Michelle Sweetser, *Perrysburg*

Ann Cramer, *Logan*

John Swearingen, Jr., *Wauseon*

Todd McCormick, *Bellefontaine*

Roselia C. Verhoff, *Ottawa*

ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance Historical Society, *Alliance*

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, *New Albany*

Ashland County Historical Society, *Ashland*

New Washington Historical Society, *New Washington*

Beavercreek Historical Society, *Beavercreek*

Niles Historical Society, *Niles*

Canton Preservation Society, *Canton*

North Canton Heritage Society, *North Canton*

Clermont County Historical Society, *Batavia*

Perry History Club, Inc., *Canton*

Cleveland Police Historical Society and Museum, *Cleveland*

Putnam County Historical Society, *Kalida*

Clinton County History Center, *Wilmington*

Reynoldsburg Truro Historical Society, *Reynoldsburg*

Deerfield Historical Society, *Deerfield*

Richland County Historical Society, *Mansfield*

Erie County Historical Society, *Kelleys Island*

Salem Historical Society, *Salem*

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

Springboro Area Historical Society, *Springboro*

Harrison Coal & Reclamation Historical Park, *Holloway*

The Dawes Arboretum, *Newark*

Historic Fort Steuben, *Steubenville*

Tippecanoe Historical Society, *Tipp City*

Indian Hill Historical Society, *Cincinnati*

Toledo History Museum, Inc., *Toledo*

Logan County Historical Society, *Bellefontaine*

Trenton Historical Society, *Trenton*

Madison Historical Society, *Madison*

Tuscarawas County Historical Society, *New Philadelphia*

Magnolia Area Historical Society, *Magnolia*

Union County Historical Society, *Marysville*

Mahoning Valley Historical Society, *Youngstown*

Vermilion History Museum, *Vermilion*

Muskingum County History, *Zanesville*

Walnut Hills Historical Society, *Cincinnati*

National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association, *Niles*

Wayne County Historical Society, *Wooster*

Whitehall Historical Society, *Gahanna*

JULY 16:

Digitization 101 Workshop, Southwest. For more information, see ohiolha.org/events/

JULY 31:

Digitization 101 Workshop, Northwest. For more information, see ohiolha.org/events/

JULY 31 – AUGUST 3:

Association of Midwest Museums Conference in Columbus. For more information, see www.ammconference.org

AUGUST 2:

Digitization 101 Workshop, Central. For more information, see ohiolha.org/events/

AUGUST 14:

Digitization 101 Workshop, Southeast. For more information, see ohiolha.org/events/

AUGUST 28:

Digitization 101 Workshop, Northeast. For more information, see ohiolha.org/events/

SEPTEMBER 6-15:

Ohio Open Doors. For more information, see page 9.

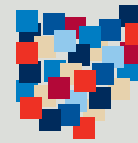
OCTOBER 4-5:

Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting in Columbus. For more information, see page 5.

OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 2:

Oral History Association Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. For more information, see oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/

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:

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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)

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Student:	\$20	

Business Member:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

Join at:

<https://www.ohiohistorystore.com/collections/ohio-local-history-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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www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance

Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:

Annual budget over \$200,000: \$150 (\$290 for 2)
Annual budget \$100,000-\$200,000: \$100 (\$190 for 2)
Annual budget \$25,000-\$100,000: \$75 (\$140 for 2)
Annual budget below \$25,000: \$35 (\$60 for 2)

Individuals:

Affiliate: \$45 (\$80 for 2)
Individual: \$65 (\$120 for 2)
Students: \$20 (\$30 for two)

Business:

\$130 (\$250 for 2)

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