



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE

Inspire. Connect. Educate.



2025 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Since 1960, the Ohio Local History Alliance, in partnership with the Ohio History Connection, has led the state in recognizing excellent projects, programs, and publications produced by Ohio's historical societies, museums, and related organizations, as well as the individuals who make them happen. Submit your nominations so others can be inspired by your achievements.

General Rules

- All nominations must pertain to Ohio state, regional, or local history. Nominated projects must be completed between June 30, 2023 and July 1, 2025.
- Any person or project is eligible to be nominated for the program; however, the nominator (person or group) must be a member of the Ohio Local History Alliance (to join, see page 4).
- Ohio Local History Alliance members may nominate their own projects. Members may not nominate themselves for Individual Achievement or Champion Awards.
- Nominations may be described or reviewed in the newsletter and electronic publications of the Ohio Local History Alliance without specific permission.
- Each nomination must be presented by
 - FIRST: completing the online Nomination Form, which includes a
 - Description of Project or Nominee, (250 words or less to be read at awards ceremony)
 - Description of Why Project is Exceptional for YOUR Organization. (Only required for History Outreach Awards.)
 - SECOND: submitting via email the following documents:
 - Narrative, specific to the award Statement About People Involved in Project (Only required for History Outreach Awards.)
 - Budget (Only required for History Outreach Awards.) Budgets must be formatted using the supplied format found at <https://tinyurl.com/OLHAawards>.
 - Letters of Support and
 - Publicity.
- Make sure to review all instructions specific to each award type on the following pages.

Deadline

The nomination form and necessary supporting materials must be sent no later than August 1, 2025.

Process

Soon after the deadline, a group of reviewers will evaluate the nominations. It is anticipated that the review will be completed in August and the award recipients announced by the end of the month. The awardees will be announced in October, 2025. Awards will be presented at the 2026 Regional Meetings. The recipients or their representatives should attend their Regional Meeting to accept the award.

OLHA OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CATEGORIES:

HISTORY OUTREACH AWARDS

History Outreach Awards recognize outstanding projects that have educational content, that have contributed to the promotion and understanding of local and state history, and that have had an impact on the community– in other words, projects that inspired, connected, and educated their audiences to local history. The awards committee is pleased to consider online projects for any category of the History Outreach Awards. Nominations will be accepted for projects in the following categories:

Public Programming

These include, but are not limited to, school programs, workshops, tours, and lectures. Programs will be judged on their historical and educational value and on their implementation. Please include in the award nomination materials a written description and photographs of the program. The judges will determine whether your public program is award-worthy based on your nomination materials.

Media and Publications

This is a broad category that includes local and regional history publications in the form of books, brochures, websites, newsletters, calendars, and posters, among other formats. Nominations must demonstrate that the publication accomplished its goal, reached its intended audience, and stimulated a greater interest in history. Style, creativity, and content will be considered. Please include a copy of the publication in the nomination materials.

Exhibits / Displays

Exhibits will be judged on the basis of historical significance, factual and contextual accuracy, organization, design and “look” of the exhibit, and understandable narrative. Please include in the nomination photographs and a physical description of the exhibit, brief excerpts from the exhibit script, and sample labels. Keep in mind that the judges will have to decide whether your exhibit is award-worthy based on these materials without having seen the exhibit in person.

Description Instructions

The online nomination form asks for a description of your project. The description should address the ways your project meets the criteria above. Please be sure to include numbers of people who engaged you're your project, if possible. Explain why this project represents an exceptional achievement for YOUR organization making sure to demonstrate how it goes beyond normal expectations.

Support Material / History Outreach Awards

For all projects nominated for History Outreach Awards, you must include:

- Detailed budget with itemized expenses. Nominations will not be considered without a budget using the format provided <https://tinyurl.com/OLHAawards>.
- At least two different examples of publicity material, which may include but are not limited to: press releases, articles, social media and photographs of the project and public who participated in the event. If possible, at least one example should have been created by someone outside your organization.
- At least two letters of support from people who can demonstrate how the project benefited the community. At least one must be from an outside entity (not from a representative of your organization). Letters must include a date and the author's name and contact information. Emails are acceptable.
- Brief narrative about the people involved in creating or implementing the project in which you explain their role in the project and their relationship to your organization (volunteer, paid staff, etc.).

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE CHAMPION AWARD

Do you know someone in your community who champions the advancement of local history? The Ohio Local History Alliance Champion Award recognizes individuals or groups who are not local historians or local history organizations for outstanding efforts in the support of and/or contributions to local history in Ohio. Nominees must demonstrate ongoing support for local history organizations and initiatives in Ohio; or exceptional service to local history in relation to one particular issue or initiative. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Support Material/Ohio Local History Alliance Champion Awards

Nominations must be accompanied by at least two letters of recommendation for the award. At least one support letter must be from an outside entity (not from a representative of your organization). One or more photograph of the nominee must be submitted for publicity purposes. Letters must include a date and the author's name and contact information. Emails are acceptable. As with the Individual Achievement Awards, support material is very important. The review panel needs as much material as possible to help them gain a clear understanding of the nominee's contributions to local history, such as news clippings, publicity, and documentation of advocacy actions.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Individual Achievement Awards recognize people who have made outstanding contributions to Ohio's historical societies or history museums or to the understanding and appreciation of state or local history. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Be involved in a historical society, museum, or related organization for at least five years.
- Demonstrate activity and excellence in more than one area of the organization's operations.
- If involved in teaching, demonstrate creativity in teaching methods and expertise in local and state history.

Support Material / Individual Achievement Awards

Nominations must be accompanied by at least two letters of recommendation for the award. At least one support letter must be from an outside entity (not from a representative of your organization). One or more photograph of the nominee must be submitted for publicity purposes. Letters must include a date and the author's name and contact information. Emails are acceptable. Support material is very important. The review panel needs news clippings, activity information, lesson plans, publicity, and other material to help them gain a clear picture of the nominee's contributions to local history, historical organizations, or teaching.

OLHA 2025 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS NOMINATION PROCESS

1. Submit your 2025 Outstanding Awards Nomination form online at www.ohiolha.org/nomination-form
2. The OLHA website will return a copy of your nomination form via email. Submit award nomination materials to ehedler@ohiohistory.org via email, Dropbox, Google Drive, or a similar file-sharing site. Each document should have an individualized file name in the following categories 1) Description of Project / Individual's Contributions to Local History, 2) Budget (if applicable), 3) Letters of Support, and 4) Publicity.

Please submit the form and all supporting materials by August 1, 2025. Your supporting materials are important to the review process. Provide enough information for proper evaluation.

**Ohio History Connection
Local History Office**
800 E. 17th Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
614-297-2538
www.ohiolha.org

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Save the Date!

**American Association for
State and Local History &
Ohio Local History Alliance
Annual Meeting & Conference**
Cincinnati, September 10-13, 2025



*The Ohio Local History Alliance
Awards program is coordinated
for the Alliance by the Ohio History
Connection's Local History Office*

Questions?

Have questions about the awards program or need assistance in preparing a nomination? Contact:



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Ohio Local History Alliance

c/o Ohio History Connection's Local History Office
Attn: Dr. Betsy Hedler
800 E. 17th Ave Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
614-297-2538; cell: 614-398-3491
ohiolha@ohiohistory.org

About the Ohio Local History Alliance

The Ohio Local History Alliance was organized under the sponsorship of the Ohio History Connection in 1960. The Alliance recognizes that Ohio's history is collected, preserved, and interpreted by a variety of organizations: local historical societies and history museums, historic preservation groups, archives, libraries, and genealogical societies. The Alliance's mission is to inspire, connect, and provide educational opportunities for Ohio's community of local historians. Visit the Alliance online at www.ohiolha.org.

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

Join at www.ohiolha.org/join-the-alliance

Your membership opens the door to inspiring ideas, resources, and opportunities. These include discounts to the regional and annual meetings and a subscription to the bi-monthly newsletter.

Organizational Member

Operating budget:

Over \$200,000 a year:	\$150 (\$290 for 2)
\$100,000-\$200,000 a year:	\$100 (\$190 for 2)
\$25,000-\$100,000 a year:	\$75 (\$140 for 2)
Under \$25,000 a year:	\$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individual Member

Affiliate:	\$45 a year (\$80 for 2)
Individual:	\$65 a year (\$120 for 2)
Student:	\$20 a year (\$30 for 2)

Business Member

\$130 a year (\$250 for 2)