

Common Challenges Faced by Historic House Museums: A Conversation with the Fairfield Heritage Association

By Laura Heron,
Local History AmeriCorps
Member, Ohio History
Connection, Columbus

Any visitor to the Georgian Museum or the Sherman House Museum in downtown Lancaster will immediately be impressed by how much the Fairfield Heritage Association (FHA) is getting right. With a professional staff of three, including Executive Director Andrea Brooker, Office Manager Mary Lawrence, and Assistant Office Manager Kady Wolfe, as well as a dedicated cadre of hard-working volunteers, FHA's two major sites reflect the organization's commitment to best practices. During a recent visit to the Georgian Museum, I sat down with Andrea, Mary, and Kady to discuss common challenges of running historic house museums: collections and volunteers. They shared some strategies that help manage these issues.

Storage and maintenance top the list of collections issues. While the museum standard for artifact storage is a constant environmental temperature between 68 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 50%, it can be difficult to maintain storage areas at that level due to budget constraints or an inability to convert a historic structure. In this case, the best storage option is to utilize spaces that offer the best protection from the elements, like interior closets, dresser drawers, and even areas under beds. Or, you can put the entire collection on exhibit, but this is seldom practical. In all cases, it is essential to carefully inspect the condition of both the building and collection items regularly. As Mary quipped, "Don't forget about what's in the closet!"

Some storage shortages can be avoided by writing a collections policy. As the FHA team all agreed, "You can't be the com-



The basement of the Fairfield Heritage Association's Sherman House Museum. Photo courtesy of the Fairfield Heritage Association.

munity's attic." This is a particularly crucial point for FHA because in addition to operating the house museums, it serves as the historical society for Fairfield County. Andrea noted that they have been fortunate because their organization implemented a policy early on, a decision that has helped keep their collection manageable. "It buys you time to stop and think," she said, "about what you collect and why you collect it. It defines your mission and outlines your interpretive plan."

FHA is also exploring ways to present the county's history more broadly. Currently, the staff and board of directors are working to develop a county history collection that does not require storage space. One solution already in place is the use of temporary exhibits. These changing attractions give even long-time members a reason to rediscover the museums. Another potential solution is a "virtual museum," which functions as a digital catalog of artifacts and documents in private collections.

The second great challenge for any historic house museum is attracting and retaining volunteers. Like many other history organizations, FHA relies on people who have retired from full-time employment. While these volunteers are dependable and dedicated, the organization needs to also attract younger members who will remain invested into the future. The FHA staff had three recommendations: be proactive, be flexible, and keep the lines of communication open.

FHA has been proactive in attracting interns from local universities. In fact, Kady served as an intern before she was hired as a permanent employee. Andrea recommends reaching out to local universities and high schools, as well as looking beyond history majors for potential interns. Education, graphic art, non-profit management, and urban development are also majors from which to draw talented young volunteers. Drawing volunteers from younger age brackets requires thinking outside the box and breaking out of the traditional volunteer categories. While *(Continued on page 3)*

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President's Message:

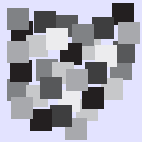
Behind the scenes, the Education Committee has been hard at work putting together our best annual meeting yet. It is slated for October 3rd and 4th at the Worthington Holiday Inn. Once again, we are partnering with the Society of Ohio Archivists. Their sessions will take place on Friday, and OLHA members are invited and encouraged to take advantage of the concurrent annual meetings to experience expanded offerings. Alliance sessions will take place both Friday and Saturday. Wondering what some of the sessions include? We have carefully selected a

broad range of topics, so that there is something to appeal to everyone. Looking to add a digital or social media offering? Check out *Walking Tours Using Mobile Apps or Social Media Trends: Why Should Your Museum Care?* Perhaps you're hoping to make improvements to your collections and collections storage. You may want to attend *Managing Your Collections or Conservation, Preservation, Care & Handling Basics*. There are management sessions on boards, copyright law, standards, and how to run an effective meeting. If you are looking for ideas to amp up your program offerings, check out *Common Core: How Do Historical Organizations Fit In*, *Youth Camps 101*, or *Teen Programming in Museums*. If you are looking to meet colleagues and make connections, be sure to sign up for our *Speed Networking session!* We are changing up our Friday evening event this

year. Participants will enjoy food and fellowship at the nearby Wine Bistro restaurant. With all this and more, there's sure to be something for everyone. We're looking forward to seeing you in the fall!

Maggie Marconi

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OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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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Last Chance to Nominate Projects for 2014 Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards

Nominate the fantastic local history work being done in your community for a 2014 Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award! The Alliance presents awards in two categories – Individual Achievement and History Outreach.

Individual Achievement Awards recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to Ohio's historical societies, history museums, or the understanding and appreciation of state and local history. Nominees must have been involved in a local history organization for at least five years and have demonstrated excellence in more than one area of that organization's operations. If the nominee is a teacher, he or she must demonstrate creativity in teaching methods and expertise in local and state history.

History Outreach Awards recognize outstanding local history projects. These projects must have educational content, contribute to the promotion and understanding of local or state history, and impact the local community. Nominations will be accepted in the following



categories: public programming, media and publications, and exhibits/displays.

Nominations must be postmarked by **August 1, 2014**. Download a nomination form at <http://www.ohiolha.org/outstanding-achievement-awards/> or contact the Local History Office at 1.800.858.6878 or 614.297.2340. You can also email localhistory@ohiohistory.org.

Good luck! ■

Recipients of the 2013 Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for this year's awards are due August 1. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

Common Challenges Faced by Historic House Museums

(Continued from page 1)

people with full-time jobs or younger children might like to be involved, they are usually not available during daytime museum hours. However, they might be able to assist with special events in the evenings or on weekends. A "once-in-a-while" commitment can grow to more when they have greater availability down the road.

While attracting new faces is important, retaining veterans deserves just as much effort. The keys are flexibility and communication. Andrea and Mary recommend regularly reevaluating how both the physical environment and scheduling are working for volunteers. Are the facilities accessible to them? For older volunteers, installing handrails and adjusting lighting are accommodations that can reduce stress and increase safety. Scheduling more than

one volunteer per shift can reduce fatigue and may encourage people to increase their hours. Some museums might consider making upstairs exhibits self-guided, as FHA has done in the Sherman House. If a volunteer is experiencing decreased mobility, he or she can take on tasks that can be done at home, such as making calls or helping with mailings. The main thing is to keep the lines of communication open.

While the FHA staff has plenty of useful tips to offer, they are also interested in receiving input from other local history organizations, particularly regarding a major project they are undertaking. With funding from the state's capital improvement budget for 2015-2016, they will be adapting the basement of the Sherman House and the unfinished attic of the Georgian Museum to increase storage space and create secure,

climate-controlled spaces. The FHA team would love to hear from anyone willing to share their experiences with this type of project. The staff may be reached at 740.654.9923 or director@fairfieldheritage.org. ■

Fundraising Frenzy: Tips to Get the Grant

By Jen Graham, Local History AmeriCorps Member, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin

[Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in The Present Past: A Regional Local History Publication from Northeast Ohio. It is reprinted here with permission.]

For a non-profit organization, finding the money to implement a project can be frustrating. Knowing where to start is sometimes the hardest part. It can be difficult because non-profits are often competing with each other for a share in a shrinking pool of funds. Below are a few tips and resources for raising funds, taken from a presentation by Jerolyn Barbee of the Ohio History Connection.

Know Your Markets:

In 2012, for the third consecutive year, total giving in the United States increased. Foundations, corporations, and private individuals all stepped up their donations to non-profits, reaching nearly \$1.5 trillion that year. When examining philanthropic trends, it is interesting to note that 72% of gifts came from individuals, rather than foundations or corporations, and that lower income families actually gave a higher percentage of their annual income than either the wealthy or middle-classes. These facts are important to keep in mind because they indicate a significant market for fundraising that should not be overlooked.

Know Your Project:

Develop your project by considering some of the following questions:

- What is the problem or issue at hand, and how will your organization address that need?
- Which audiences will your project serve?
- What unique experiences and quali-



Knowing your markets, your project, and your grantmaker can lead to the perfect match of your idea and a funder. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

fications does your organization bring to the table?

- Are there opportunities to collaborate with other organizations?
- What is your project's budget, and how will the funds be divided between direct service and program operations?
- How much money can your organization contribute?
- What is the timetable for the project?
- Can the project be sustained after the grant?
- How will you evaluate and report the progress of your program?

Understanding how these questions

relate to and affect the development of your project can help the clarity and focus of your fundraising proposals, as well as in the implementation of your program.

Know Your Grantmaker:

If you are applying for a grant, it is okay to use a template or an old proposal to start, but remember to customize your new proposal to meet each grant's unique criteria. Not every grant will be a good match for your project, so it is useful to do some research ahead of time. The Foundation Center (<http://foundationcenter.org>) is a leading source of information on philanthropic organizations worldwide and provides the most comprehensive database of grant-making foundations in the United States. There is even a Foundation Center learning center in Cleveland (<http://foundationcenter.org/cleveland>) that offers a library of resources and various workshops for grant research.

Other great resources for grant opportunities and workshops include the Grantsmanship Center (www.tgci.com), Philanthropy Ohio (www.philanthropyohio.org), Grants.gov (<http://grants.gov>), and GrantSpace (<http://grantspace.org>).

When researching a grantmaker, you can use websites like those listed above to determine whether a funder would be a good match for your proposal. 990-PF forms show how foundations spend their money. Look over the forms to see which types of groups the organization supports and how much money they typically give. If possible, look for grantmakers that have connections to your non-profit, whether through past projects or a current employee.

Chances are, your organization is sitting on an awesome project waiting for funding. These tips cover only the beginning of the process, but a solid start leads to a successful finish. **Happy fundraising!**



The attic storage space of the Georgian Museum. Photo courtesy of the Fairfield Heritage Association.

Housing Heirlooms

By Tennile Jackson,
Collections Assistant,
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum,
Clewiston, Florida

Family heirlooms play a significant role in preserving and understanding your community's history. These treasured items often require extra care. One of the most important things to consider when caring for these objects is their storage environment. Improper storage spaces and materials can cause damage that is oftentimes irreversible. Providing appropriate housing for these objects in your collection is essential to their long-term preservation and should be a top priority.

When scouting for storage locations in your buildings, there are a few areas that you will want to avoid whenever possible. Steer clear of areas under pipes and directly on the floor to prevent potential water damage from leaks and floods. Wooden shelves and drawers should also be avoided because wood is acidic and can tarnish metals and cause fabrics to yellow. If wood is your only option, line your drawers and shelves with aluminum foil. The foil will act as a barrier and prevent acids and other harmful substances emitted by wood from migrating to items and causing discoloration.

Once you have found an appropriate space, determine the type of housing needed for each object. Many people do not realize that everyday items can threaten the survival of their objects. For example, traditional file folders, tissue paper, and cardboard boxes you may be using to store old photographs, documents, or textiles can cause a great deal of damage over time. These commonly used materials are highly

acidic and will hasten the deterioration of your items. Ideally, storage materials should be of archival quality, which means that they are chemically stable and are known to be safe for long-term storage.

When shopping for storage materials for your artifacts, look for terms such as acid-free, buffered, or lignin-free. Buffered materials contain calcium carbonate, which helps to neutralize acids released by items such as paper. Lignin is an acidic component of wood that can damage certain materials. If you have a penchant for plastic storage containers, choose items made of polyester, polyethylene, and polypropylene. These plastics can be identified by their recycle symbols (4 or PP for polypropylene, 5 or PE for polyethylene). If you are in doubt about whether a material is safe or not and are having difficulty with identification, a simple smell test can help. Most harmful materials release odors when they off-gas, or release damaging volatiles. A good example of this is the smell when you open new shower curtains.

Be sure to keep in mind that some archival materials can be harmful to certain items. For example, if you have artwork containing charcoal or pastels, avoid storing them in any kind of plastic container. The static electricity from the plastic can lift the images from their surfaces. This vanishing act is sure to leave you both mystified and irritated by the loss of your art. You should also avoid storing textiles in any plastic film or container because this can cause

moisture condensation and encourage mold growth. Instead, textiles can be stored using acid free boxes and tissue. For documents that are handled frequently, consider storing them in polyester sleeves, which will prevent damage caused by fingerprints and will keep dirt and pests at bay. Placing a sheet of buffered paper behind the document will neutralize acids being released from the paper and prevent further damage. Additionally, before storing paper documents, remove materials like paper clips, which can rust and stain paper, and rubber bands, which crumble as they deteriorate.

Remember, organization is key. If you have a large number of objects, be sure to organize your items by weight, size, and material. Labeling boxes will prevent the need for rifling through materials. Taking these simple steps will ensure that your collection's heirlooms are around for years to come. ■



Take Advantage of the Local History Office's Services

By Mark Sundlov, Department Manager, Ohio History Connection's Local History Office, Columbus

One of the many services the Local History Office offers is strategic planning for local groups. Here, the OLHA Board is undergoing its own strategic planning process. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

The goal of the Local History Office of the Ohio History Connection is straightforward: we are here to help you help Ohioans connect with our state and local history. Currently, we are trying to meet that goal through a number of key services we offer to you. Two of these key services are the History Fund and our AmeriCorps program.

History Fund! Quite simply, the History Fund is the premier local history granting program in the nation – and it is all for Ohio's history organizations. The money that is granted by the History Fund is provided by generous people like you who donate a part of their tax refund and purchase the special Ohio History mastodon license plate (and some who make direct donations to the History Fund). Each year, after the funds have accumulated, we accept grant applications from Ohio history organizations who are requesting a bit of those funds. To evaluate those requests and to distribute the fund, we put together a statewide team of experts who review the grant applications and decide which projects show the most promise of success. Once those difficult decisions are made, we distribute the money at the annual Statehood Day celebration. We have placed special emphasis on making the grant application process accessible to all history organizations. We provide three webinars each summer to teach people how to best complete the application. For details, important dates, and much more on the History Fund, see page 8 of this issue, [visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund), or call Andy Verhoff, our History Fund Manager at 614.297.2341.

AmeriCorps! AmeriCorps is another of our hallmark programs that is focused on helping you help Ohioans connect

with local history. This vital program places ten AmeriCorps members at history organizations across the state. While these members are graciously hosted by a home organization, each service-minded member dedicates 50% of their time to organizations outside of their host site. Through this system, the member is able to not only support their host site, but also to have a regional impact and provide direct assistance to numerous organizations. One of the overarching objectives of the AmeriCorps program is to increase the long-term capacity of Ohio's local history groups. This means AmeriCorps members help to establish programs and procedures that strengthen the organization long past the member's departure, and members have a proven track record of successfully doing just that.

As the program has grown over the past four years and more history organizations have seen the remarkable value of hosting an AmeriCorps member, the application process to be a host site has become more competitive. We encourage you to do a couple of things to take advantage of this program: first, reach out to the host site in your area and assist in developing a working relationship with your neighboring AmeriCorps member; second, consider applying to become a host site for the 2015 year. For details, important dates, and much more on the AmeriCorps program, visit www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/ameri-corps or call Amy Rohmiller, our AmeriCorps Program Director at 614.297.2609.

Of course, we offer a number of other important programs that help connect Ohioans to our shared history. One of our most visible programs is the **Ohio Historic Markers Program** – with over 1,470 markers, at least one marker in

every Ohio County, and growing, nothing else quite demonstrates Ohio's pride in its history. We take great pleasure in this readily accessible and always available link to Ohio's past.

Over the past four years, we have also organized and assisted the Advisory Committee of the **Civil War 150** program, which has participated in countless Civil War commemoration events across the state.

While they do not get nearly as much attention as our big programs, we are also very proud and happy to offer an affordable **Needs Assessment** program and **Strategic Planning** program. If you are an organization that wants to set a new direction or just take a good, hard look at where you are and where you could go, these programs are for you. A Needs Assessment is an intensive, one-day visit by the Local History Office that provides an assessment of your organization and leads your board (and invited others) through an honest discussion of your organization. The result of the Needs Assessment is a multi-page document that provides our analysis and some guidance for improvement. The Strategic Planning program is much more involved than the Needs Assessment and leads your staff and board in a multi-month, detailed approach to gaining an understanding of your organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The end result is a strategic plan that will guide your organization for the next three to five years. For details and more information on these programs, visit www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/lho-services or call Mark Sundlov, the Local History Office Department Manager at 614.297.2343. ■

Congratulations!



Alliance First Vice President Beth Weinhardt with the Junior Division winner of the Alliance's prize for outstanding History Day projects based on a local history topic, Ryan Walker. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

2014 Ohio History Day Winners

On April 28, over 500 students presented exhibits, performances, documentaries, papers, and web sites to volunteer judges at Ohio History Day. The National History Day (NHD) theme for 2013-2014 was *Rights and Responsibilities in History*.

Two projects were awarded the Ohio Local History Alliance Award for creating outstanding entries based on a local history topic, one each in the Junior and Senior divisions. The Junior division winner was Ryan Walker, from Norwalk Catholic School, for his project "Ohio's Underground Railroad." The Senior winners were Jacob Voyzey and Josh Podl, from Shaker Heights High School, for their project "Ludlow: A Revolution in Grassroots Integration."

The top two projects in each category were selected to represent Ohio at National History Day. Projects were also honored as National Alternates, Honorable Mentions, and a series of Special Prizes that are sponsored by state and local organizations.

The 61 Ohio finalists competed at National History Day at the University of Maryland June 15-19, where they competed with other students from across the country, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and Department of Defense Schools. Ohio was well-represented at National History Day. Of the 36 projects, eight placed in the top 14 in the country. Ohio also had one special prize winning project and a scholarship winner! The full lists of winners for state and national history days can be found online at www.ohiohistoryday.org.

Latest Round of Marker Grants Made This Spring

The Ohio Historical Markers grant committee had yet another round of difficult choices to make. For the five marker grants available, the committee received 20 applications by its April 1 deadline. After deliberation, the committee is pleased to announce this round's grant recipients:

Cincinnati: James Norris Gamble, submitted by Westwood Historical Society. The marker, scheduled to be dedicated August 9, honors the philanthropic and civic works of the inventor of Ivory soap. Gamble served on the Village of Westwood's council, and as its last mayor guided the community as it was annexed to Cincinnati in 1896.

Cleveland: The Templeton-Bradley Company/Penny Packet Seeds, submitted by the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization. The marker will commemorate the history of a company that became one of the nation's largest distributors of seeds for school garden programs and cultivated generations of gardeners.

Huron: Lake Shore Electric Trail, submitted by Huron Historical Society. The marker will relate the history of Lake Shore Electric Railway, an interurban that ran between Cleveland and Detroit. A quick and cheap alternative to the regular railroad or horse power, the interurban became a popular method of travel nationwide in the early 20th century.

Oberlin: Antoinette Brown Blackwell/First Church of Oberlin, submitted by the First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ. The marker will chronicle the life of Blackwell, the first woman elected to serve as pastor to a Christian congregation in the U.S. in 1853. Rev. Blackwell worshipped and led prayer meetings at First Church and was a graduate of Oberlin College.

Westlake: Astronaut Robert Franklin Overmyer, submitted by the Westlake Historical Society. Scheduled to be dedicated August 23, this marker commemorates the life of Overmyer, a graduate of



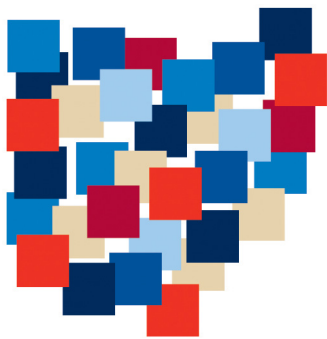
Funded in part with a grant from the Ohio Historical Markers grant program, this marker in Greenfield for the C.R. Patterson & Sons Company tells the story of the only known African-American-owned truck and car maker in United States history. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

Baldwin-Wallace College, a Marine Corps fighter pilot, and most famously, the pilot of the first fully operational space shuttle mission in 1982 and the commander of a mission of the shuttle Challenger in 1985.

Receiving a marker grant is not a prerequisite to erecting a marker. Ohio Historical Markers are a permanent and relatively easy way to share your community's history with everyone.

The next deadline for marker grants is October 1. Visit the Remarkable Ohio website at www.remarkableohio.org for details and to download an application and price list.

Professional Development



2014 Alliance Annual Meeting October 3 & 4

Mark your calendars for the Ohio Local History Alliance's 2014 Annual Meeting and Conference, *Engage, Educate, Empower: Taking Your Organization to the Next Level*, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Worthington October 3-4. This year features a great lineup of exciting sessions. Topics covered include grantwriting, collections identification and care, online engagement, and programming for teens and youth. In addition, we are again partnering with the Society of Ohio Archivists, who will be offering a full slate of sessions on Friday, October 3. All are invited to attend!

This year's meeting features many fantastic opportunities to network and learn from your colleagues as Speed Networking returns and the popular sharing time from the Regional Meetings has been added to the Annual Meeting's schedule. You can also hear a moving keynote address on the Kent State shootings from survivor Alan Canfora on Friday, and leave inspired by the outstanding local history projects from around Ohio at the annual Awards Luncheon on Saturday.

Watch your mail for the Annual Meeting brochure or check <http://www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/professional-development/alliance-annual-meeting> for more information.

Museum Educator Series of Webinars Presented by Creative Learning Factory

The Creative Learning Factory of the Ohio History Connection is pleased to offer another series of webinars specifically for museum professionals. The full series of ten webinars covers topics that address all aspects of museum education, from developing participatory experiences for visitors, led by Nina Simon of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History and the popular Museum 2.0 blog, to developing sensory-friendly programming for people on the autism spectrum, to developing new ways to tell the story of African American history by the Ohio History Connection's own Anthony Gibbs.

Upcoming webinars include "Where Mission Meets Money: Building Entrepreneurial Strategies into Your Education Program" by Tim Hoogland of the Minnesota Historical Society on July 22. Tim will discuss strategies the Minnesota Historical Society has used in order to create quality educational products that can make your organization money. On August 21, Joy King will present "Making Your Museum Teacher Ready." An experienced high school teacher, Joy will discuss museum education and outreach from a teacher's perspective, explore strategies for improving the "teacher experience," and generate ideas on how to exceed teachers' expectations before, during, and after they participate in your programs.

You can find the complete schedule and descriptions for the Museum Educator Series at www.creativelearningfactory.org/programming/webinars-workshops. Webinars, including previously recorded sessions, can be purchased individually, for a group of participants within your institution, or as a full season with a season pass! For the group rate or season pass, email info@creativelearningfactory.org.



Representatives of Dayton History receive their "big check" at the 2014 Statehood Day. Dayton History attended a History Fund Help webinar and is a member of the Ohio Local History Alliance. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

History Fund Grant Application Available

The Local History Office of the Ohio History Connection is happy to announce that the application for History Fund grants for 2015 is now available! To apply, visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund and click on "History Fund Application." Applications are due **September 3, 2014** by 11:59 pm.

To help you with the application process, we are also hosting "History Fund Help" webinars. They are scheduled for **July 16** and **August 6** from 10-11:30 am. Both of the webinars are the same; just pick the one that is convenient for you to attend.

The webinars are free, but registration is required. The registration deadline is the Friday before the webinar you plan to attend. Register online at www.ohiohistory.org/register. (FYI: Five of ten grant recipients from this year attended last year's webinars, so attendance may give you a "leg up" as you complete your application.)

Grant recipients will be announced at Statehood Day on March 4, 2015.

Have questions? Please call or email Andy Verhoff at 614.297.2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org. **Good luck!**

Professional Development



Sustainable Preservation Practices: A Partnership of Facilities and Collections Care Staff

"An optimal preservation environment is one that achieves the best possible preservation of collections with the least possible consumption of energy, and is sustainable over time."

"Optimal practices can yield a 10% to 30% reduction in energy costs using existing equipment without risk to long-term collection preservation."

Jeremy Linden, Senior Preservation Environmental Specialist at the Image Permanence Institute (<https://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org>), will present a one-day workshop that brings facilities and collections care staff together to achieve a shared goal – the best preservation of collections with the least possible consumption of energy, in a program that is sustainable over time.

The goal of the workshop is to bring together facilities and collections care staff from cultural heritage organizations as a team, to assist them in understanding how they can work together to assure preservation quality and energy savings. Topics covered will include the role of environment in deterioration, the factors that shape the storage environment, best practices for monitoring and data analysis, and energy saving opportunities. The program will also include time to talk with colleagues about their individual successes and solutions.

This program will take place at the State Library of Ohio on October 21, 2014. Look for registration details coming soon at <http://www.webjunction.org/partners/ohio/oh-programs/connectcollect.html>. This project is funded by an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Connecting to Collections grant awarded to the State Library of Ohio.

New!



New Mastodon License Plate Supports Ohio's History Fund

Ohio drivers now have a new choice when it comes to selecting a license plate. When you buy the new Ohio History license plate featuring a mastodon for an additional \$30, \$20 of your purchase goes directly into Ohio's History Fund. This matching grant program offered through the Ohio History Connection helps history and preservation-related organizations in communities throughout our state preserve and share Ohio's past. To learn more about the new Ohio History license plate, visit your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles or <http://oplates.com/PlateSpecial>.

MEMBERSHIP

List as of June 12, 2014

Welcome New Member

Organization

Sandusky County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Fremont

Thank you Renewing Members

Individual

Elizabeth Swartz-Khan, Kent

Organizations

Allen County Historical Society, Lima
 Berlin Center Historical Society, Berlin Center
 Betts House Research Center, Cincinnati
 Darke County Historical Society, Greenville
 Dover Historical Society, Dover
 Fayette County Historical Society, Washington Court House
 Harrison County Historical Society, Cadiz
 Hiram Historical Society, Hiram
 International Women's Air & Space Museum, Cleveland
 Jackson Historical Society, Jackson
 Mantua Historical Society, Mantua
 Miami University Art Museum, Oxford
 Mogadore Historical Society, Inc., Mogadore
 Morrow County Historical Society, Mount Gilead
 National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association, Niles
 Niles Historical Society, Niles
 Northampton Historical Society, Cuyahoga Falls
 Perry Historical Society of Lake County, Perry
 Pioneer & Historical Society of Muskingum County, Zanesville
 Price Hill Historical Society, Cincinnati
 Randolph Historical Society, Atwater
 Reynoldsburg Truro Historical Society, Reynoldsburg
 Ross County Historical Society, Chillicothe
 Sandusky Library Follett House Museum, Sandusky
 South Boulevard Historical Society, Cleveland
 The Sylvania Area Historical Society, Sylvania
 Treaty of Greenville Bicentennial Commission, Greenville
 Trotwood-Madison Historical Society, Trotwood
 Warren County Historical Society, Lebanon
 Washington Township Historical Society of Stark County, Alliance

ON THE WEB

Center for the Future of Museums Blog

<http://futureofmuseums.blogspot.com/>

This blog is primarily written by Elizabeth Merritt, the founding director of the Center for the Future of Museums, an initiative of the American Alliance of Museums. Merritt posts several times a week, musing on the future role of museums in society. She covers innovative programs, technology trends, sustainability, and other issues to get you inspired and thinking.

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

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

Organizational Member

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

Operating budget:

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

Individual Member

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

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

Business Member

\$100 a year (\$190 for 2)

Join at <http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx>

CALENDAR 2014

July 16, August 6

History Fund Help Webinar. For more information, see page 8.

July 22

Where Mission Meets Money Webinar. For more information, see page 8.

August 1

Nomination Deadline, Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards. For more information, see page 3.

August 21

Making Your Museum Teacher Ready Webinar. For more information, see page 8.

September 3

Application Deadline, History Fund Grants. For more information, see page 8.

October 1

Application Deadline, Ohio Historical Marker Grants. For more information, see page 7.

October 3-4

Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting. For more information, see page 8.

October 21

Connecting to Collections Sustainability Workshop. For more information, see page 9.

Calendar items are chosen on the basis of available space and applicability to the largest number of our readers, who are mainly volunteer and professional leaders of local historical societies, history museums, archives, libraries, historic preservation groups, and genealogical societies in Ohio. We cannot include events mainly of local interest; for these we suggest local newspapers, broadcast media, Ohio Magazine, 1-800-BUCKEYE, and, if arts related, www.ArtsinOhio.com.

News from the Regions

Region 1

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

The **Toledo Area Metroparks** hope to open the Fallen Timbers Battlefield to the public in 2014. Plans for parking, interpretive signage, trails, and facilities are in the works with input from the **Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission**. Passage of a levy in 2012 enabled the park to begin planning. Though weather and construction issues may delay progress, the park could be open as early as August 20, 2014, the 220th anniversary of the battle. For more information, visit http://www.metroparkstoledo.com/metro/parksandplaces/index.asp?page_id=516.

Region 2

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

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Bedford Historical Society** announced the launch of Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the **National Endowment for the Arts**, **Blue Star Families**, the **Department of Defense**, and more than 2,000 museums across America. The program offers free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2014. It provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and to learn more about their new communities after a military move. Leadership support has been provided by **MetLife Foundation** through Blue Star Families. A complete list of participating museums is available at <http://arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums>. Learn more about the Bedford Historical Society at www.bedfordohiohistory.org.

The **Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument** has announced a flag collection program that began on Saturday, June 14 (Flag Day) and will continue through Labor Day, September 1. The public is invited to drop off flags at the Monument that are worn or faded to the point where they are no longer fit to display. The Monument's Commission is partnering with local veterans' groups to ensure that the collected flags will be properly and respectfully disposed of. For more information, go to www.soldiersandsailors.com.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **John Stark Edwards House Museum** in conjunction with the **History Department at Youngstown State University (YSU)** opened a new exhibit, *To Each Community its Own: The Development of Educational Systems* in Trumbull County. YSU students researched three areas of Trumbull County to compare schools in small, medium, and large locations. The students also wrote the text and placed the photographs and artifacts. To learn more, go to www.trumbullcountyhistory.org.

Region 5

Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties

The Smithsonian's traveling exhibit *Changing America* will find its temporary home at the Constitution Center in Louisville this summer. *Changing America* commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and the March on Washington in 1963, highlighting the effect these two events had on our country's history. The **Louisville Public Library** and the **Louisville Nimishillen Historical Society** were awarded a grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. They, along with the **Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture**, the **National Museum of American History**, and the **American Library Association Public Programs Office**, are bringing this exhibit to Northeast Ohio. For more information, visit www.louisvillelibrary.org.

Region 6

Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties

Region 7

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

The **Bradford, Ohio Railroad Museum** is working with Exhibit Concepts Inc. to design, construct, and install permanent exhibits that interpret 130 years of railroad history at Bradford Junction. The exhibits will highlight the birth of the town in the days of wood powered locomotives through the diesel era. They will include information on the changes in technology that transformed communication from telegraphs to radios to telephones. The project is being supported through the State of Ohio's capital appropriation process. More information can be found at www.bradford-museum.org.

Region 8

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

Region 9

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

Shawnee State University's Digital History Lab has created a website, **Scioto Historical**, that lets the public explore the people, places, and moments that have shaped the history of Scioto County in south-central Ohio. Visitors to the site can learn about the region through layered, map-based multimedia presentations, use social media to share their stories, and experience curated driving and walking tours. To view all ten tours and 82 stories, visit the site at <http://sciotohistorical.org>.

Region 10

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

In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization? Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of *The Local Historian*. Contact information for the representatives in your region is on page 2 of this issue. Of course, you are welcome to forward your news directly to the editor of *The Local Historian* at arohmiller@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.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Classic Restaurants of Youngstown, published by the History Press in April, was authored by **Thomas G. Welsh and Gordon F. Morgan**. *Classic Restaurants* provides an historical overview of the city's restaurant industry, moving from 1945 to the present. While the book describes the manner in which trends like suburbanization and deindustrialization contributed to the decline of the city's restaurant industry, it also calls attention to establishments that have served as symbols of continuity in changing neighborhoods. The book was produced in partnership with the **Mahoning Valley Historical Society**, which provided historical images as well as access to menus, advertisements, and other materials related to the local restaurant industry.

Tammi Mackey-Shrum is the new director of the **Dover Historical Society**. Previously, she served as the site manager at the Fort Laurens State Memorial and has worked with the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum. Mackey-Shrum has a bachelor's degree from Kent State University and a master's degree in history from the University of Akron. In 2013, she was named Emerging Professional of the Year by the Ohio Museums Association.

Kelly Falcone-Hall has been named the Chief Executive Officer of the **Western Reserve Historical Society**. She had previously been serving as the organization's interim CEO. Falcone-Hall has been with the organization in a variety of positions since 1995, including Director of Interpretation and Vice President of Hale Farm & Village, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and Chief Operating Officer.

Need to Contact Us? *We at the Local History Office love hearing from you.*

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