



*Engaging Ohio's Communities*

# Annual Report

**FISCAL YEAR 2023**



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun, right?

The last 12 months at the Ohio History Connection have been a bit of a blur—heaping amounts of fun, mixed with a dash of exhilaration, challenging, and hopeful—in so many ways.

Since my first days in the role of Executive Director and CEO since August of last year, I've had the privilege to lead the organization through a new chapter, one that hopefully will guide us on a new path for years to come. When I think back over the last year, a few highlights immediately come to mind.

Any leader is only as good as the team they have surrounding them, and one of our first tasks last fall was to build and align our senior leadership team toward key organizational priorities, with an eye on strengthening our site system, our relationship with government and historic preservation partners, and making our internal processes more efficient. Our board, led by new board president, Charley Moses, has been so critical in the past year, providing guidance, vision, and thoughtful stewardship in that regard and more.

Indicative of the change afoot were the groundbreaking ceremonies last Fall for our new 29,000 square foot Collections Care Facility on the northern edge of our footprint at the Ohio History Center in Columbus. When complete

next year, it will provide high-quality storage for approximately half the volume of the 1.8 million items in the state's collections, and caring for these irreplaceable artifacts in a safe, modern facility for our staff members is part of that mission.

In December, after many years of testimony and appeal, the Ohio State Supreme Court ruled in our favor to rightfully reclaim the leasehold on the Octagon Earthworks in Newark, thus enabling the property to finally be accessible to the general public more than four days per year.

Last year also saw a host of partnerships established, deepened, or rekindled with organizations across the state, such as the Cincinnati Museum Center, Western Reserve Historical Society, and many, many others. We are only as strong as our reputation among our peers, and last year saw our collaboration efforts ramp up significantly.

Scores of organizational projects or events were either initiated or continued on throughout the year at places like the Ohio River Museum, Great Council State Park, Poindexter Village, Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Schoenbrunn Village, and our own Ohio Village, just to name a few. Whether renovating or reimagining, our site system continued to improve and evolve.

And last but certainly not least, last year (OK, technically this September) saw the inscription of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks to the UNESCO World Heritage List, an achievement some 20 years in the making. While we can take



a minute to celebrate that achievement, the real work of growing public interest, understanding, and visitation to these magnificent sites looms large for the year(s) ahead.

Whether you have visited one of our 50-plus sites across the state or are a member, donor, or collaborative partner in our work, I want to express my gratitude on behalf of my team for the past 12 months. Bringing history to life takes fortitude, vision, and drive, but it also takes the support of so many of you who have made it such a memorable year.

With thanks,

**Megan Wood,**

*Executive Director & CEO*  
Ohio History Connection

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Ohio History Service Corps members served 184 local history organizations and provided over 15,578 hours of service.

8,659 MEMBERS



2,112 new members joined in FY23

CREATING VALUE

From TV coverage, newspaper stories and more, we reached

\$94,841,372

in earned media.



CONNECTING PEOPLE



358,918

total visitation across our historic site network.

2,286,762

unique page views on ohiohistory.org



23,226

fourth graders used *Ohio As America*, our electronic history textbook.



5,172

students took part in Ohio History Day. Of those, 1,303 competed in regional, state and nationals.

LOCAL HISTORY



353

local history organizations and individual members make up the Ohio Local History Alliance, supported by the Ohio History Connection.

# A YEAR IN NUMBERS

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

HISTORY EDUCATION

49

new nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for a total of 4,261 Ohio listings.



Ohio is third in the nation for the number of National Register listings.



\$1.65 BILLION

was invested in historic buildings via the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.

Often paired with the federal historic tax credit program, these credits are a vital economic driver for Ohio businesses.

PRESERVING PLACES

25



new historical markers were installed and dedicated by local communities.

To date, there are over 1,750 markers located around Ohio with at least 3 in every county.

\$185,624

granted from the Ohio History Fund to organizations throughout the state.



Since the program started in 2012, the Ohio History Fund has made a total of 122 grants to history organizations all across the state totaling more than \$1.2 million.



# OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION LEADERSHIP



## SENIOR STAFF

### **Megan Wood**

*Executive Director & CEO*

### **Jen Aultman**

*Director, Historic Sites & Museums*

### **Jen Cassidy**

*Director, Ohio History Center & Ohio Village*

### **Jerry Dannemiller**

*Chief Marketing Officer*

### **Stephen George**

*Senior Advisor to the CEO*

### **Stacia Kuceyeski**

*Chief Operations Officer*

### **Jillian Ramage**

*Director, Information Systems*

### **Ann Ruege**

*Chief Development Officer*

### **Fred Smith**

*Director, Facilities Management*

### **Jeff Ward**

*Chief Financial Officer*

### **Charles Wash**

*Director, National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center*

### **Diana Welling**

*Director, State Historic Preservation Office*

### **Alex Wesaw**

*Director, American Indian Relations*

### **Elizabeth Woods**

*Director of Archives & Libraries*



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

#### **Charley Moses**

*President, Dublin*

#### **Ann Bair**

*Vice President, Columbus*

#### **Betty Weibel**

*Vice President, Chagrin Falls*

#### **Melody Young**

*Treasurer, Laurelville*

#### **Alex Hastie**

*Secretary, Grandview Heights*

### TRUSTEES

#### **Steve Coon, Louisville**

#### **Jon T. Elsasser, Zoar**

**Chief Billy W. Friend,**  
*Wyandotte, OK*

#### **James B. Hadden, Columbus**

#### **Richard Hillis, Columbus**

#### **Anthony Joseph, Bexley**

#### **Jen Miller, Columbus**

#### **Betty Montgomery, Reynoldsburg**

#### **Renu Ramankutty, Columbus**

#### **Robert M. Roach, Upper Arlington**

#### **Heidi M. Samuel, Columbus**

#### **Gregory H. Simpson, Milford**

#### **Guadalupe Velasquez, Columbus**

## EX-OFFICIO

#### **Mike Dewine,**

*Governor, State of Ohio*

#### **Matt Huffman**

*President, Ohio Senate*

#### **Kenny Yuko**

*Minority Leader, Ohio Senate*

#### **Jason Stephens**

*Speaker of the Ohio House*

#### **Allison Russo**

*Minority Leader, Ohio House*

#### **Leslie Wagner**

*President, Ohio Local History Alliance*

#### **Professor Joan Cashin**

*President, Ohio Academy of History*

#### **Randy Gardner**

*Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education*

#### **Michael Woytek**

*President, Ohio Academy of Science*

#### **Lydia Mihalik**

*Director, Ohio Department of Development*

#### **Laura P. Battocletti**

*Director, Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board*

#### **Melody Young**

*Chair, Ohio History Connection Foundation Board*

#### **Dr. Christopher Woolard**

*Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction*

# FISCAL YEAR 2023

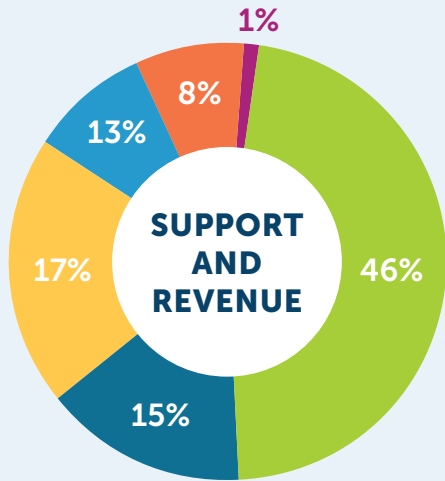
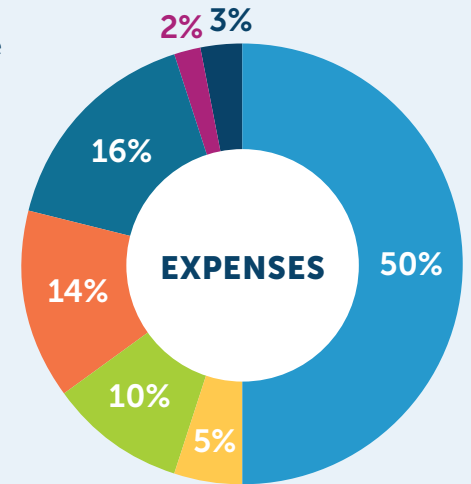
# ANNUAL REVENUE & EXPENSES

**537**

volunteers donated 31,603 hours of their time, providing a value of \$1,004,997 in support.



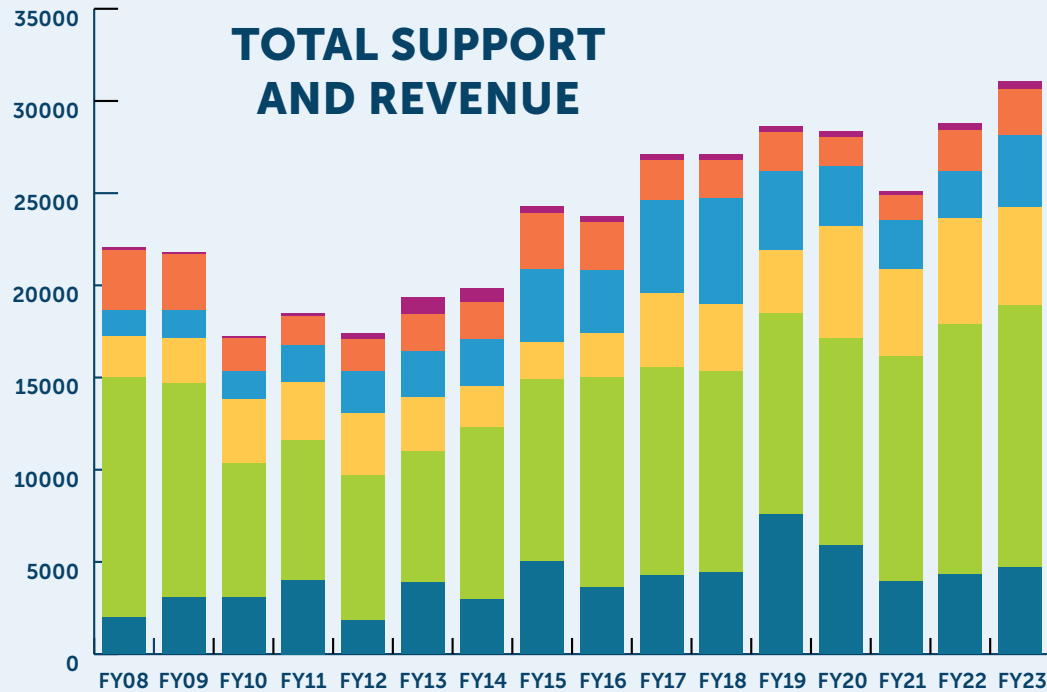
- Site Operations, Education and Interpretive Programs
- State Archives and Library
- Historic Preservation Office
- Capital Projects
- Management and General
- Development
- Contribution Services



- State General Revenue Fund
- State Capital Projects
- Contracts and Grants
- Contributions (Financial, Materials and Services)
- Earned Revenue
- Investments

**Total: \$31,073,000**

## TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE



- Capital
- GRF†
- Contracts/Grants
- Contributions
- Earned Revenue
- Other

† General Revenue Fund