



# ANNUAL REPORT

*Building Pride in Ohio*



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

Friends and partners of the  
Ohio History Connection,

**History never sleeps, as they say.  
Another year has flown by.**

It's hard to believe I've already finished my second year as Executive Director & CEO of the Ohio History Connection, as so much has happened in that short span of time. The changes that have been happening to our organization are rewarding to see, particularly on years-long projects that are coming to fruition.

A highlight from this last year was witnessing the inscription of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks on the UNESCO World Heritage list on September 19th in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. We have been able to bring a lot of attention to Ohio's incredible history in the months afterwards and look forward to growing that awareness even further this next year. Since the inscription, visitation to these sites has quadrupled! And speaking of Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks (again) we were able to announce the permanent opening of the Octagon Earthworks for public visitation starting January 1, 2025.

We've experienced a lot of physical changes this year including the completion of our Collections Care Center which houses over 900,000 artifacts on behalf of the citizens of Ohio. We also finished renovation of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati where you can step back into the 1840s and the 1940s, all under one roof.

This year also brought unique opportunities across our site system. This past April, I got to gather with thousands of people in Wapakoneta at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum to witness the eclipse that swept across our state. It was an amazing experience of being together with people from across the world and sharing an incredible natural phenomenon. It was the best of humanity and our relationship with the world around us.

We continue to deepen and grow our partnerships. We worked with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and three Federally Recognized Shawnee Tribes to create interpretive exhibits at the newly opened Great Council State Park in Xenia Township. My team and I were also able to deliver 14 grants (in person!) from the History Fund to support the work of local history projects.

While we wrapped up many major projects last year, our work on improving our site system continues. We are beginning construction to update Ohio Village over a two-year renovation period. We look forward to breaking ground in Marietta on the completed reconceptualized Ohio River Museum. And our plans move forward, thanks to many partnerships, on the Poindexter Village Museum and Cultural Center.



When I look back at all that has been accomplished this year, I'm filled with gratitude. To all our members, donors, volunteers, partners, and visitors, I thank you for being on this journey. Your support makes our work possible as we continue to spark discovery of Ohio's stories by embracing the present, sharing the past, and transforming the future.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Megan Wood**

*Executive Director & CEO*  
Ohio History Connection

# A YEAR IN NUMBERS

FY24  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



**4x**   
increase in attendance  
at World Heritage Sites  
Since Inscription

## CONNECTING PEOPLE

**\$49,411**  
received in in-kind support

**4,500** square feet designed for  
Great Council State Park

with consultation from three Shawnee Tribes.  
The new park averages 450 visitors per day.



## CREATING VALUE

**259,000**

views on the Hopewell  
Ceremonial Earthworks video  
on CBS Sunday Morning  
YouTube Channel.



**\$328,303,561**

in overall media coverage\*,  
a 246% increase.

*\*Advertising Value Equivalent*

## HISTORY EDUCATION

**4,127**

students  
served over  
25 immersive  
education  
program days

**5,571**

students took part in  
Ohio History Day.  
Of those, 1,139  
competed in regional,  
state and nationals.



**24** 

tribal partners attended the  
Tribal Nations Conference  
in 2023, representing  
11 different tribes.

**50,000**

natural history collections  
and 19,726 history  
collections moved into  
the completed  
Collections Care Facility.



**5,000**

pairs of sunglasses  
sold for the Eclipse at  
Armstrong Air & Space  
& an additional 5,000  
pairs given away.



## PRESERVING PLACES

**\$187,600**

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 136 grants to history and cultural  
organizations across the state, totaling  
more than \$1.4 million.

**33**

new nominations to  
the National Register of  
Historic Places for a total  
of 4,289 Ohio listings.



**90**

Historic Tax  
Credit Projects  
totaling \$306M  
were approved.

# OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION LEADERSHIP



## SENIOR STAFF

### Megan Wood

*Executive Director & CEO*

### Jen Aultman

*Chief Historic Sites Officer*

### Jen Cassidy

*Director, Ohio History Center  
& Ohio Village*

### Jerry Dannemiller

*Chief Marketing Officer*

### Stephen George

*Chief Strategist and Senior Advisor*

### Stacia Kuceyeski

*Chief Operations Officer*

### Bill Mahon

*Interim Director,  
Facilities Management*

### Jillian Ramage

*Director, Information Systems*

### Ann Ruege

*Chief Development Officer*

### Jeff Ward

*Chief Financial Officer*

### Charles Wash

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

### Diana Welling

*Director, State Historic  
Preservation Office*

### Elizabeth Woods

*Director of Cultural Resources  
& Libraries*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

#### Charley Moses

*President, Dublin*

#### Ann Bair

*Vice President, Columbus*

#### Melody Young

*Treasurer, Laurelville*

#### Alex Hastie

*Secretary, Grandview Heights*

### TRUSTEES

**Janenne Allen**, Columbus

**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

**Kathleen Owen Russell**, Hudson

**Gregory H. Simpson**, Milford

**Guadalupe Velasquez**, Columbus

## EX-OFFICIO

### Mike Dewine

*Governor, State of Ohio*

### Matt Huffman

*President, Ohio Senate*

### Senator Nickie J. Antonio

*Minority Leader, Ohio Senate*

### Representative Jason Stephens

*Speaker, Ohio House  
of Representatives*

### Representative Allison Russo

*Minority Leader, Ohio House  
of Representatives*

### Leslie Wagner

*President, Ohio Local History Alliance*

### Professor Daniel Rivers

*President, Ohio Academy of History*

### Mike Duffey

*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*

### Stephen D. Dackin

*Director for the Department of  
Education and Workforce*

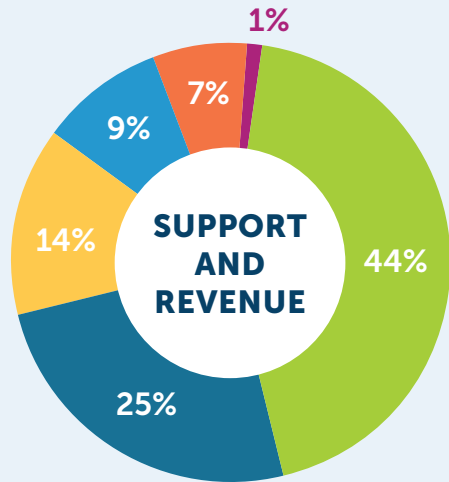
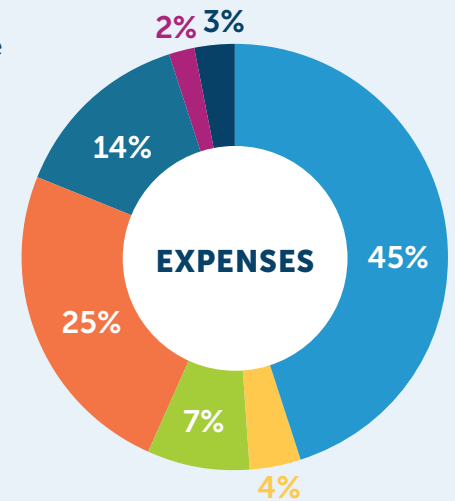


# FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REVENUE & EXPENSES

**547**  
volunteers donated over  
36,000 hours of their  
time, providing a value of  
\$1,235,172 in support.

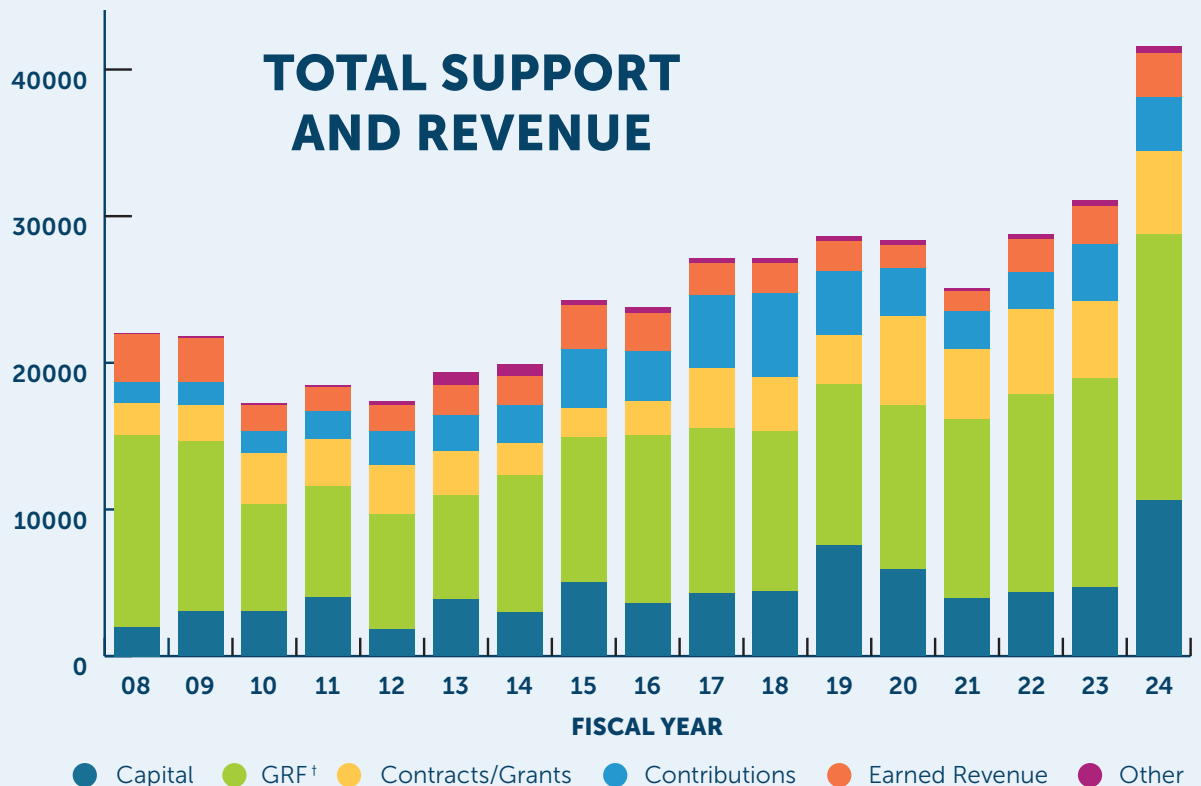


- Site Operations, Education and Interpretive Programs
- State Archives and Library
- Historic Preservation Office
- Capital Projects
- Management and General
- Development
- Contribution Services



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

**Total: \$ 41,584,000**



† General Revenue Fund