



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.



\$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 Archives & 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*

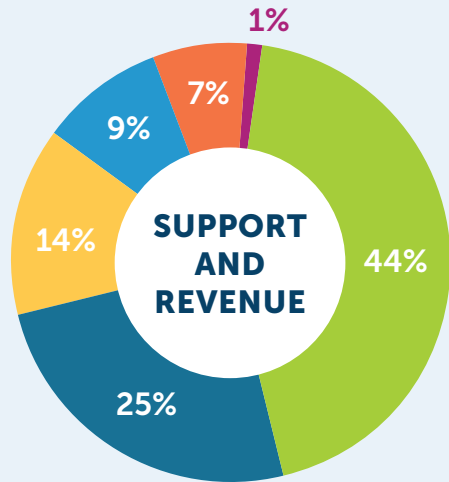
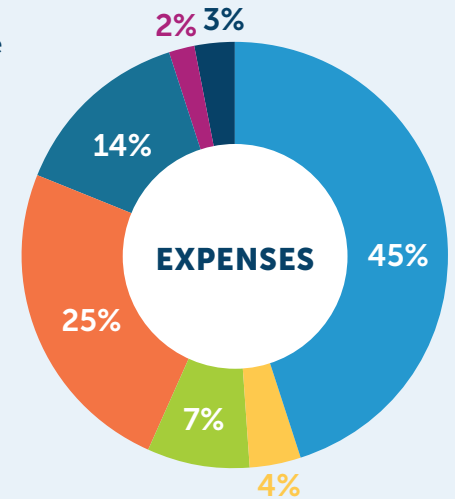


FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REVENUE & EXPENSES

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

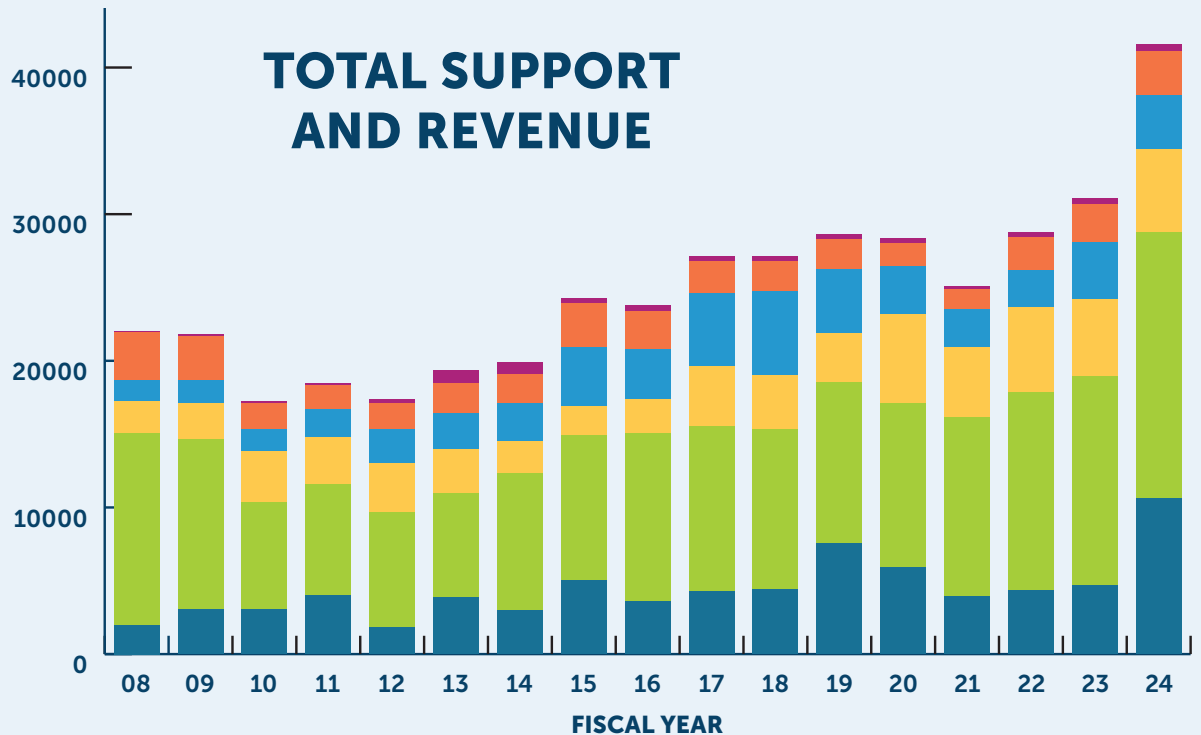


- Site Operations, Education and Interpretive Programs
- State Archives and Library
- Historic Preservation Office
- Capital Projects
- Management and General
- Development
- Contribution Services



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

Total: \$ 41,584,000



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

† General Revenue Fund