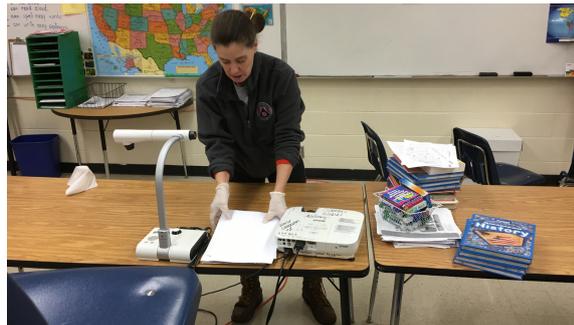
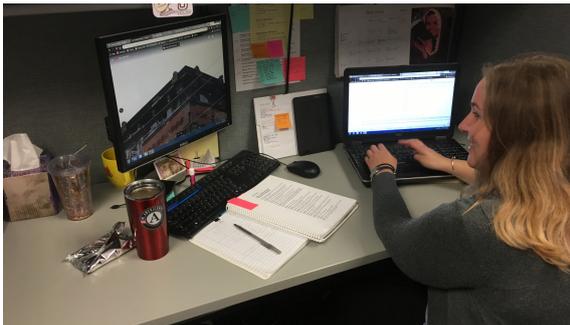


2018-2019 AMERICORPS REPORT



The Ohio History Service Corps AmeriCorps program is made possible through a matching grant to the Ohio History Connection from ServeOhio, the governor appointed commission on service and volunteerism.



Ohio History Connection's Mission: *Spark discovery of Ohio's stories! Embrace the present, share the past and transform the future.*

Core Values: *Relevance, Authenticity, Inclusivity, Stewardship, Working Together*



The Ohio History Connection is proud to be the sponsoring institution for the Ohio History Service Corps - an AmeriCorps program. Since 2010, members commit to a year of national service and provide needed support to Ohio's local history communities. Through their assistance on capacity building projects including collections management best practices, historic property research and documentation, strategic planning, marketing and outreach, community engagement, building community partnerships, and more, members provide organizations with the tools for continued success.

One of only two history-related AmeriCorps programs in the United States, including the territories of Puerto Rico and Guam, the Ohio History Service Corps is a unique AmeriCorps program in the state of Ohio when compared to the other 26 programs. In many instances, AmeriCorps is associated with education, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, healthy futures, disaster preparedness, and services provided to veterans and military families. The Ohio History Service Corps represents a subset of those primary focus areas - Capacity Building. The Corporation for National and Community Service defines Capacity Building as:

A set of activities that expand the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs and organizations. Activities may also leverage resources for programs and/or organizations. Capacity building activities tend to be indirect services that enable organizations to provide more, better and sustained direct services to their audience and stakeholders.

The 2018-2019 Ohio History Service Corps Annual Report, will highlight many of the accomplishments the 9th cohort of members and their lasting impact on the local history organizations and communities in the state. Through their service, they contribute to the Ohio History Connection's continued efforts to fulfill our mission and connect local organizations with best practices through working together within their local communities, demonstrate the relevance of their histories, strive for inclusivity in their operations and practices, be good stewards of their cultural resources and be authentic in their community engagement.

The program is proud of all of the member accomplishments and the progress they enabled local history institutions and communities to make during the 2018-2019 Program year!

For questions, visit: ohiohistory.org/ameriCorps or email AmeriCorps Manager, Sara Fisher (sfisher@ohiohistory.org). Also visit us on [Facebook](#).



BY THE NUMBERS

The Ohio History Service Corps is made possible through a matching grant award from ServeOhio, the state commission on service and volunteerism. During the 2018-2019 Program Year, the Ohio History Connection was awarded federal monies totaling: \$146,069 from ServeOhio. Our match totaled \$124,446.



10 Member slots were awarded. The grant tasked members with working toward meeting or exceeding a series of Performance Measure (listed below). Measures included:

- managing **282 volunteers** providing
- capacity building to **179 organizations**
- train **1,336** staff and volunteers
- leveraging **\$11,000** of cash support for their projects
- leverage **\$61,465** of in-kind support
- complete **20 National Register/local landmark designation** questionnaires
- add **200 properties** to the Ohio Historic Inventory

Members contributed a combined **14,491.5 hours of service**.

From September 2018 through August 2019, nine members combined their experiences, sense of community service, and expertise to meet and/or surpass a number of the goals set out at the beginning of the grant year.

Members also added **31 entries to Clio**, and online heritage tourism platform, and **313 properties to HistoryPin**. All of these are now accessible by visiting the websites, or downloading the app. These also provided members with publication credits to their names.

Compare the results with the measures outlined at right.

MEMBER EXPERIENCE

Spark Discovery of Ohio Stories - In a member's words

"[I] spent a lot of time in front of my computer, this winter and early spring. The biggest payoff for that time was the research I [did] in 'The Union,' the only Black newspaper available for research during the years surrounding women attaining suffrage. My research is very preliminary, but it will definitely help offer the local Colored Women's Federation some of their lost history of local club activities and members. It will also help indicate just how some of these local women were active in seeking women suffrage. It was fun to present it at the March On-the-Road Walnut Hills Historical Society Meet-Up!"

- Sue Plummer, Local History member hosted at Xavier University



As part of their service requirements, members spend between 10-20% of their time in professional development or training, or roughly 170 hours of their contracted 1700 hour minimum. Members attended the Ohio Local History Alliance annual and regional meetings, engaged with local non-profit organizations, and received training on the importance of Cultural Competency and Cultural Humility thanks to Equitas Health. Members also participated in the MLK National Day of Service at the Columbus Global Academy. The program takes pride in meeting the members needs and helping them grow as professionals.

One way to ensure the continued member experience and preparation for 'Life After AmeriCorps' was through a dedicated training focusing on the importance of transferable skills. Staff at the Ohio History Connection, alongside program alumni Mary Manning and Carmella Cadusale, participated in one-on-one meetings with members to provide guidance and mentor-ship as they continue their track to meeting their career and educational goals.

Throughout the program year, members received training on strategic planning, Community Engagement 101, Building Community Partnerships, historical mapping, leadership and team building, and more. Members are also encouraged to identify additional opportunities to gain broader understanding of the non-profit, museum, archives, and historic preservation fields.

Riley Thomas (left), Local History member hosted at the Oberlin Heritage Center, has a passion for collections and plans to enroll in graduate school for conservation. She applied for and accepted a pre-conservation fellowship at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian beginning in September 2019. She joined AmeriCorps to broaden her experience in the museum and non-profit field. During her year of service, she engaged with the Cleveland Grays Armory Museum in downtown Cleveland. As part of the museum's journey to incorporate best practices into their daily operations utilizing AASLH StEPs, Riley researched, developed, and presented an **Advanced Hospitality** workshop for the members of the Museum Committee.





NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2016, Local History members utilize the American Association for State and Local History's (AASLH) Standards of Excellence Program (StEPs) as a guide to their service to local organizations. During the 2018-19 program year, the members in Regions 3 & 8 guided the following organizations to achieving national recognition and certificates:

- **Harriet Beecher Stowe House** - Mission, Vision, and Governance (Bronze Certificate)
- **Cleveland Police Museum** - new enrollment; Mission, Vision, and Governance (Bronze Certificate)
- **Cleveland Grays Armory Museum** - Audience (Gold Certificate)



Standards and Excellence Program
for History Organizations

A Program of the American Association for State and Local History

Many of the projects members worked on over the course of their service year continue to make lasting impact on Ohio's communities. Alongside the individual projects, they found ways to connect and serve multiple organizations through building community partnerships. For example, the member hosted at the Ohio History Connection assisted in the planning of a WWI Teacher Workshop co-sponsored by the Ohio History Connection, the National WWI Memorial & Museum, and the Federal Reserve Bank. Members in Northeast Ohio successfully assisted an organization write a grant to Ohio Humanities which resulted in a 45% increase to the organization's visitor count. Donna, Local History member hosted at Cincinnati Art Museum, has been actively engaging with organizations on strategic planning. She is also an integral part of her host site's "Barrier Project" which is connecting with the local neighborhoods to identify barriers to visiting in, and engaging with the museum as a means for further informed decision making initiative.

"...Many of Ohio's history organizations are underfunded and understaffed, so it is difficult to complete projects that support their missions and further best practices. The Ohio History Service Corps provides essential support, guidance and expertise to local historical institutions in our community." -Mazie Adams, Director Cleveland Police Museum



Working Together

Members participated in planning activities for the Suffrage Centennial including connecting approximately 10 local organizations to develop a suffrage trading card program and "Suffrage Sundays" to take place in 2020. Together, the organizations are working to highlight the contributions of local residents, men and women, to the journey to attain women's suffrage.

In July, the three members in Cincinnati hosted their fellow members at the Harriet Beecher Stowe house. The day-long training included a walking tour led by the Walnut Hills Historical Society, and a panel discussion on the "Pros and Cons of Historic Preservation in a (Re)Developing Neighborhood" which included three experts from the University of Cincinnati, Walnut Hills Redevelopment Neighborhood, and the City of Cincinnati.



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The Ohio History Service Corps would not be possible without the continued support of the local history community. In the words of one organization, "The Ohio History Service Corps brought much needed expertise and support to our work, which is always under-resourced and over-tasked. Having someone with critical skills come in from the outside also gave us a new perspective on the value of our work and how to move forward in new ways."

But, the biggest thanks goes out to the members who committed to a year of service and their host sites. Without their dedication and host site contribution and mentor-ship to members, the Ohio History Service Corps would not be able to continue providing meaningful capacity building assistance to Ohio's vibrant local history organizations and communities. The Ohio History Connection is looking forward to another successful year building on the foundation that the 2018-2019 members laid. Thank you for your service!

- Daniel Clepper** - *Southeast Ohio History Center, Region 9*
- Donna Harris** - *Cincinnati Art Museum, Region 8*
- Courtney Misich** - *City of Cincinnati, Region 8*
- Cyrus Moore** - *Ohio History Connection, Region 6*
- Tanner Ogle** - *Cleveland Landmarks Commission, Region 3*
- Derrick Parker** - *Shawnee State University, Region 9*
- Sue Plummer** - *Xavier University, Region 8*
- Riley Thomas** - *Oberlin Heritage Center, Region 3*
- Brianna Treleven** - *Youngstown State University, Region 4*



For questions about the Ohio History Service Corps, visit: ohiohistory.org/amicorps or email AmeriCorps Manager, Sara Fisher (sfisher@ohiohistory.org).
Visit us on [Facebook!](#)