

# BeecherHill



---

## Position Profile

Director, State Historic Preservation Office

## Date Prepared

October 2022



# Content Summary

- 4 | About Ohio History Connection
- 5 | Ohio History Connection Programs
- 6 | 2021– 2031 Strategic Plan
- 7 | Introduction of Opportunity
- 8 | Key Qualifications and Competencies
- 9 | Executive Biography
- 10 | Columbus: Find It Here



# About Ohio History Connection

The Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, is a statewide history organization with the mission to spark discovery of Ohio's stories. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization chartered in 1885, the Ohio History Connection carries out history services for Ohio and its citizens focused on preserving and sharing the state's history. This includes housing the state historic preservation office, the official state archives, local history office and managing more than 50 sites and museums across Ohio.

Some of the breadth of work and assignments of the Ohio History Connection include:

- Oversee 58 historic sites and museums in 40 counties across Ohio, including the state's history museum located in the Ohio History Center
- Serve as the state's steward of Ohio's significant collection and the state archives
- Promote and assist local history groups and make grants on history-related projects
- Provide curriculum and resources regarding Ohio history to Ohio schools and educators
- House the State Historic Preservation Office

## Mission

Spark discovery of Ohio's stories. Embrace the present, share the past and transform the future.

## Values

- Relevance—Addressing and communicating the significance of history with Ohio's diverse people
- Authenticity—Valuing artifacts and true stories of history
- Inclusivity—Appealing to all Ohioans, especially underserved audiences
- Stewardship—Protecting the evidence of Ohio history
- Working Together—Pursuing teamwork and sharing authority and responsibility

## Ohio History Connection Promise

Through preserving and sharing, the Ohio History Center provides a way for people to connect meaningfully with Ohio's past—the places and people who came before us. The ultimate benefit is an experience that creates a deeper sense of individual and community identity.

Preserving... places, objects and memories

Sharing... ideas, critical thinking, skills





# Ohio History Connection Programs

## American Indian Relations

American Indian history is central to Ohio's story and telling this story today is central to the Ohio History Connection's work. To connect the history of Ohio and its American Indian tribes, the Ohio History Connection is working to strengthen and deepen relationships with federally-recognized tribes whose ancestral grounds were in Ohio, helping tribes recover and reclaim their cultural heritage, and helping Ohioans understand and appreciate the legacy of Ohio's federally-recognized tribes.

## Collections and Archives

From automobiles to wedding gowns, the Ohio History Connection's history collections document both the ordinary and extraordinary stories of our state. The organization collects, preserves, catalogs, manages and makes available to the public a vast collection of about 1.9 million objects in its museums across Ohio, and in its flagship museum in the Ohio History Center. Additionally, serving as the state archives, the Ohio History Connection allows people to discover the stories of the Ohioans who built our state's farms, industries, businesses, schools, churches, social organizations, governments and communities.

## Historic Museums and Sites

Ohio History Connection's network of historical sites includes homes and memorials associated with historical figures such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and United States presidents such as Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes and Warren G. Harding. It includes ancient cultures and American Indian sites including Serpent Mound, Ft. Ancient and Newark Earthworks. Some historic sites help visitors learn about the entrepreneurial and literary genius and diversity of Ohioans. Other historic sites in the network are nature preserves and are great places to hike and take photos such as Cedar Bog or Wahkeena.

## National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center

Visitors explore the permanent home of one of the nation's largest collections of Afro-American materials, with over 9,000 artifacts and artwork, 350 manuscript collections and thousands of photographs. Items include a dress uniform owned by General Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., Alex Haley's typewriter and his final draft of *Roots*, the NAACP Spingarn Medal awarded to Carter G. Woodson, a buffalo hide coat worn by a Buffalo Soldier and Gregory Hines' tap shoes.

## Outreach

Connecting people to the stories of Ohio is part of the daily work of the Ohio History Connection, which is accomplished in part through educational efforts such as sponsoring National History Day in Ohio, and *Ohio as America*, an online textbook and curriculum for teaching the history of Ohio. Overseeing the Historical Markers program and the Local History Office are additional ways of connecting people to Ohio history.

## State Historic Preservation Office

Preserving Ohio's historic buildings and communities, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) prepares and distributes a state historic preservation plan, which is a guide for Ohio's preservation priorities and activities. The SHPO identifies and documents Ohio's historic places and archaeological sites within Ohio, nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places and offers consultation on conservation efforts. They also review rehabilitation work to income-producing National Register properties for federal investment tax credits, consult on significance and proposed federally-assisted projects for effects on historic, architectural and archaeological resources, and qualifies communities for the Certified Local Government program.

## Ohio Open Doors

The Ohio History Connection created Ohio Open Doors in 2016 to promote and inspire pride in Ohio's heritage and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Oct. 15, 1966, the Act has proven instrumental in transforming the face of communities from coast to coast, establishing the legal framework and incentives to preserve historic buildings, landscapes and archaeological sites. It drives economic revitalization by attracting investment, supporting small business, stabilizing neighborhoods and creating jobs. Ohio Open Doors shares stories of important landmarks and interesting sites right in our backyards, highlighting the history and unique nature of some of Ohio's most treasured places.

# 2021 – 2031 Strategic Plan

Sustainability, equity and relationship-building are the guiding concepts for the Ohio History Connection in the years ahead and will inform the services provided to Ohioans whether internally or externally-focused. These priorities meet the needs of this moment and will help the Ohio History Connection emerge from the current economic downturn to achieve its desired impact and objectives.

The strategic planning process yielded three broad organizational strategic priorities that support the Ohio History Connection’s mission. The strategic priorities were then connected to strategic objectives and tactics. Major organizational and divisional projects are the cross-functional output of this process. Sustainability, equity and relationship-building will be guiding concepts for the Ohio History Connection in the years ahead and will inform the services we provide to Ohioans whether internally or externally-focused. These priorities meet the needs of this moment and will help us emerge from the current economic downturn to achieve our desired impact and objectives.

## Sustainability

*All the ways that we support the ongoing impact of the organization, our sites and the communities in which we work*

Sustainability will enable us to maintain consistent service to Ohioans by moving toward a diversified funding model. This will allow the Ohio History Connection to weather economic downturns and make necessary investments in infrastructure and visitor or customer experience. Sustainability requires ensuring that experiences, online and in-person, parallel the nation’s top-tier state history organizations. Visitor and customer experience is the foundation of our reputation; it sustains us and will drive support. A strong reputation is the result of cultivated excellence and we have achieved excellence in a number of areas. However, there are several key aspects of our work that fall short and therefore are the focus of our strategic plan objectives and major projects. Finally, as a natural history organization, we hold evidence of the of the existential threat climate change poses to the environment; and, so, we are addressing environmental sustainability within this plan.

## Equity

*All the ways that we address structural inequities and ensure representation, access and inclusion*

Equity is a strategy for excellence and an obligation to our stakeholders. Telling the most robust and representational history of Ohio will ensure that our impact crosses demographic lines and that our offerings support the learning, vision and imagination of all Ohioans, as well as our American Indian stakeholders (and others) living outside the state. Representation means, in part, that the staff, volunteers and trustees of the Ohio History Connection reflect the demographics of Ohio and also reflect all the histories we are charged with preserving and sharing. Having a diverse staff and inclusive workplace culture is one key element in ensuring relevance and excellence across our functions. Equity also means recognizing that some communities have been excluded from, or misinterpreted, in the historical record. Widening the lens we hold up to history to include a larger set of experiences will allow everyone who engages with us to see their heritage reflected in our places, programs and products.

## Relationship Building

*All the ways that we strengthen our partnerships and connections with stakeholders across Ohio and beyond*

Relationship building is essential to amplifying impact, ensuring relevancy and improving outcomes. Since resources are not infinite, building meaningful partnerships allows us to accomplish work we couldn’t achieve on our own. Working together, we will ensure that our partnerships and relationships are valuable for all parties involved and the people we aim to serve. Growing and strengthening relationships in three areas will ensure that a larger group of stakeholders are invested in our success and view us as essential. These are: partner organizations; municipal, county and statewide office-holders; and individual supporters (customers, donors, members, and influencers, among others).

[Read more here.](#)



# Introduction of Opportunity

The Ohio History Connection seeks an accomplished Director, State Historic Preservation to oversee the responsibilities and operations of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (a division of the Ohio History Connection) and serve as the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Director, State Historic Preservation reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio History Connection, Megan Wood, and serves as a member of the CEO's leadership team.

The State Historic Preservation Office:

- prepares and distributes a state historic preservation plan,
- identifies historic places and archaeological sites,
- nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places,
- reviews rehabilitation work to income-producing National Register properties for federal investment tax credits,
- consults on significance and proposed federally-assisted projects for effects on historic, architectural, and archaeological resources,
- qualifies communities for the Certified Local Government program and administers matching grants to them,
- consults on the conservation of buildings and sites, and
- offers educational programs and publications.

In addition to leading the State Historic Preservation Office, the Director also has direct oversight over the departments of Education & Support Services, Inventory & Registration, Resources Protection & Review, and Technical Preservation Services.

## Key Responsibilities:

- Serve as the State Historic Preservation Officer overseeing the responsibilities of the state historic preservation office as outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act and relevant sections of the Ohio Revised Code, with program-wide signatory authority for the state historic preservation officer.
- Supervise approximately 40 historic preservation division personnel, ensuring overall compliance with OHC employment policies and procedures, defining job duties, establishing work goals, setting performance standards, evaluating performance, and recommending the hire and promotion of staff.
- Develop, administer, and oversee the operating budget for the division.
- Oversee the annual Historic Preservation Fund grant, including fulfillment of the annual work plan and attendant reporting requirements.
- Coordinate Ohio's participation in annual Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.
- Serve as executive secretary to the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.
- Cooperate with the marketing office on implementation of effective public relations and marketing activities.
- Cooperate with the Development Office to identify grant opportunities; write, supervise, and/or assist in the preparation of grant applications as necessary.
- Pursue ways to expand institutional involvement with a variety of stakeholders and constituents. Address feedback from public and local communities and establish and maintain an effective working relationship with the local communities.
- Cooperate with state offices and legislators, federal, state and local agencies, historic preservation organizations, academic institutions, public history organizations, and other potential institutional collaborators.

# Key Qualifications and Competencies

## Preferred Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in history, architecture, historic architecture, architectural history, archaeology or related field and/or must meet the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification Standards
- Extensive knowledge of federal and state historic preservation laws, regulations and programs
- Extensive experience working with various aspects of the national historic preservation program
- Minimum of eight years of progressively responsible administrative, managerial, budgetary, and leadership experience

## Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to communicate effectively, verbally and in writing, with a wide variety of constituents, including elected officials, governmental agency staff, historic preservation organizations and the business community
- Ability to assess complex situations and respond effectively to high-pressure or sensitive issues.
- Ability to make effective and persuasive speeches and presentations to colleagues, stakeholders and/or key constituents on controversial or complex topics
- Ability to manage operating and project budgets with a working knowledge of Microsoft Excel
- Ability to define problems, conduct research, analyze data and draw relevant conclusions
- Ability to analyze and interpret complex documents, laws, regulations and guidelines
- Ability to lead and carry out effective advocacy and education efforts with key constituencies and governmental officials and staff
- Sound computer skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Office suite with an ability to use GIS software and data management applications
- Extensive experience in leading, managing, and coaching staff

## The Ideal Candidate Will Also:

- Provide inspirational leadership to the team
- Define and execute a vision for historic preservation in Ohio
- Work collaboratively, as part of Ohio History Connection's leadership team, across divisions in creating strategies for advancing the organization's mission and vision
- Be committed to high-quality customer service
- Build and strengthen relationships
- Increase engagement with and service to diverse communities in Ohio and those with historical ties to Ohio
- Seek innovative ways to increase relevancy, partnerships and funding
- Be confident but humble
- Be energetic and persuasive
- Be intellectually curious and be a good listener
- Be consultative yet decisive
- Be politically savvy



# Executive Biography



## Megan Wood

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Ohio History Connection

The Ohio History Connection board of trustees has named Megan Wood, 41, of Worthington as the organization’s next executive director and CEO, effective August 1, 2022.

Wood, who has served as director of cultural resources for the Ohio History Connection since 2019, is the first woman to lead the private, nonprofit organization that was established in 1885. The organization functions as the state’s partner in preserving and interpreting Ohio’s history, archaeology, natural history and historic architecture across a network of 58 sites, 1.8 million collections items and hundreds of exhibits.

Wood succeeds Burt Logan, who in late March announced his plans to retire in 2023.

“I am delighted Megan was chosen to become the 13th executive director and CEO for the Ohio History Connection,” Logan said. “She inspires nothing but confidence with her institutional knowledge coupled with a demonstrated ability to help the Ohio History Connection navigate the ever-changing waves of the future.”

That future includes a UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription nomination for the eight Hopewell Ceremonial earthworks sites in Ohio. If inscribed in summer 2023, they would comprise the first World Heritage listing in Ohio and only the 25th in the U.S.

Wood and the Ohio History Connection have worked on the World Heritage nomination in close consultation with many of the 46 federally recognized American Indian tribes from Ohio, including the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

Wood also has been a part of building relationships at the federal, state and local levels via individuals, agencies and foundation support.

Wood joined the Ohio History Connection in 2006 as state coordinator for National History Day in Ohio and in 2011 became the visitor experience department manager.

From 2014-2015, she moved to the Historic Ford Estates near Detroit and served as the associate vice president for education and visitor experience.

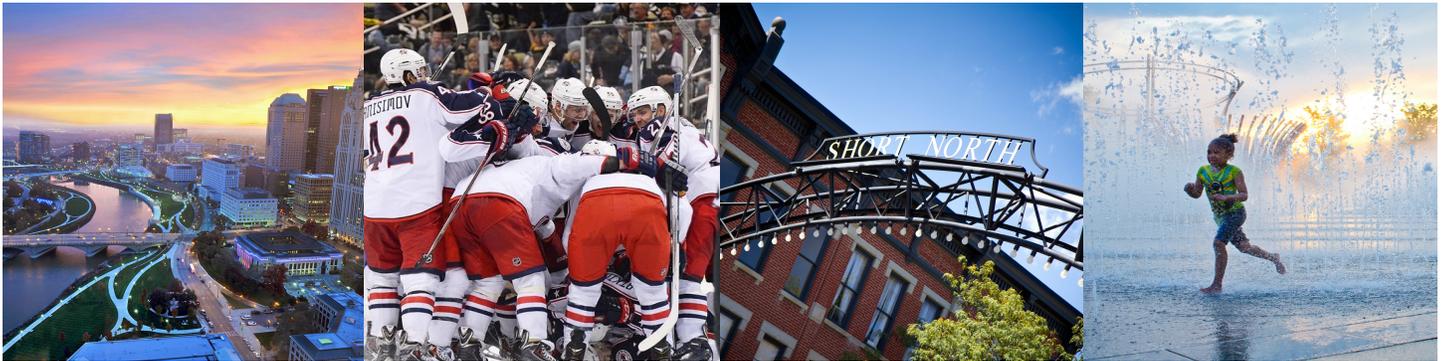
In 2015, Wood returned to the Ohio History Connection as the director of museum and library services, which forged a deeper work connection with the organization’s site system. In that role, she also oversaw a major project to improve the state archives storage.

In 2019, she became director of cultural resources, overseeing all of the Ohio History Connection’s historic sites, collections items and exhibits.

Wood earned a bachelor’s degree in public history from Western Michigan University in 2003 and master’s degree in history museum studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in 2005.

She lives in Worthington with her husband and two children.

# Columbus: Find It Here



The Central Ohio Region is a dynamic 11-county metropolitan area in the midst of unprecedented economic growth. The Region is home to today's business leaders and is at the forefront of the industries of tomorrow, from advanced manufacturing to smart mobility research and development. Centrally located between Chicago and New York, the city of Columbus boasts the greatest market access of any major metro—with 46% of the U.S. population within a 10-hour drive.

## Dynamic Communities

The region offers a wide variety of housing options, from charming historic neighborhoods and downtown lofts to new suburban developments and multi-acre living just beyond the city limits. Nearly 70% of Columbus residents earning the median income can afford home ownership – an incredible number compared to Chicago's 47% or New York's 57%.

## Diverse, Strong Economy

Columbus ranks seventh in economic strength among the 102 largest metropolitan cities in the country. Columbus benefits from a dynamic yet stable economy, with a collaborative business environment earning it recognition as one of the top metros for job creation. As an emerging tech city, its research and technology institutions attract the brightest minds from around the world. The Columbus Region is located at the center of the most densely populated areas of the U.S. That makes it a premier location, providing companies with superior access to the North American consumer population, corporate headquarters locations and U.S. manufacturing capacity.

## Arts and Culture

Fueled by a workforce more educated than the national average, Columbus has an energy that radiates throughout thriving industries, communities and educational institutions. Art lovers will savor the collections at the Columbus Museum of Art and revel in Gallery Hop, a monthly celebration of culture in the Short North Arts District.

## Education

The Columbus region's K-12 education options include U.S. News & World Report top-ranked high schools as well as U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon schools. The region has excellent public schools, 140 private institutions and 52 higher education campuses, with nearly 150,000 college students.

## Innovation and Smart City

Columbus is the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge winner, after competing against 77 cities nationwide, and as a result is the nation's living laboratory for the advancement of smart mobility. Foundational elements of the Smart Columbus initiative include grid modernization, mass deployment of electric charging stations, and an open data platform where shared data will power applications for multimodal trip planning, fare payment, parking and more.

In 2022, Intel announced its plan to invest more than \$20 billion in the construction of two new leading-edge chip factories in Ohio, signifying the largest manufacturing investment in Ohio history. The project will add over 3,000 jobs and result in an economic impact that touches all corners of the state. In addition to bringing in an industry that is new to the Midwest, Intel's investment places the state and region at the forefront of solving a national challenge.

## Highlights

- A Top 50 Cities in America city (Bloomberg Businessweek)
- One of the Top 7 Intelligent Communities in the World (Intelligent Communities Foundation)
- Columbus is the number 1 opportunity city (Forbes)
- Cost of living is 11% lower than the national average
- Ranked #2 in venture capital growth
- Ranked first in the nation for public library system, museum of art, zoo and aquarium and COSI science center
- Second shortest average commute of any metropolitan area with over 500,000 people
- Columbus is home to 16 fortune 1000 headquarters, including 5 fortune 500
- Number two best city in the nation for African American families
- Top 15 best city for female entrepreneurs
- 87 miles of bike lanes, paths and trails

Learn more about Columbus at [www.experiencecolumbus.com](http://www.experiencecolumbus.com) and <https://columbusregion.com/>



---

Ohio History Connection is an equal opportunity employer.

---

## BeecherHill

BeecherHill is pleased to partner with the Ohio History Connection on its search for the next Director, State Historic Preservation Office. Please submit expressions of interest and nominations to: [OHCDirector@beecherhillsearch.com](mailto:OHCDirector@beecherhillsearch.com).

---

**Meredith Harper Bonham, PhD**  
[bonham@beecherhillsearch.com](mailto:bonham@beecherhillsearch.com)

**Katie Bloom**  
[bloom2@beecherhillsearch.com](mailto:bloom2@beecherhillsearch.com)

BeecherHill  
250 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614.939.4240

The information herein has been copied, compiled, and/or quoted in part from Ohio History Connection documents and/or personal interviews with Ohio History Connection's approval. The information herein is believed to be reliable, but while every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, original source documents and factual situations govern. Although BeecherHill and Ohio History Connection have done their best to include relevant information, information herein should not be viewed as all-inclusive. Information about compensation, benefits, and other terms and conditions must ultimately come from Ohio History Connection or resources made available by Ohio History Connection. © 2022 BeecherHill. All rights reserved.