



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.

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

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5,172

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



HISTORY
EDUCATION

\$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.

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.

\$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

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.

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 Cultural Resources & 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

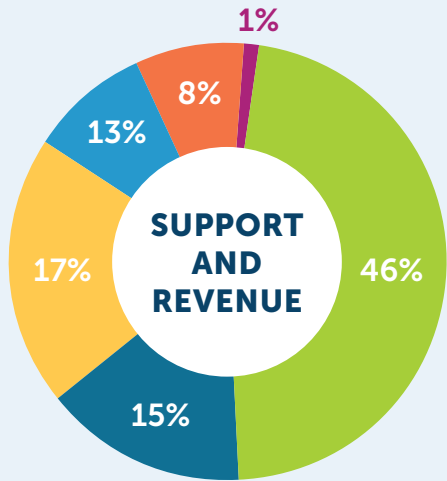
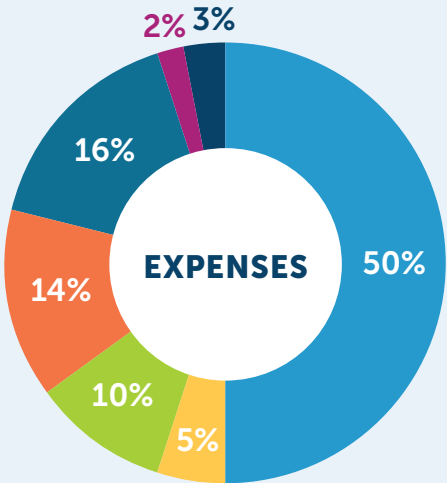
Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction



FISCAL YEAR 2023

ANNUAL
REVENUE &
EXPENSES

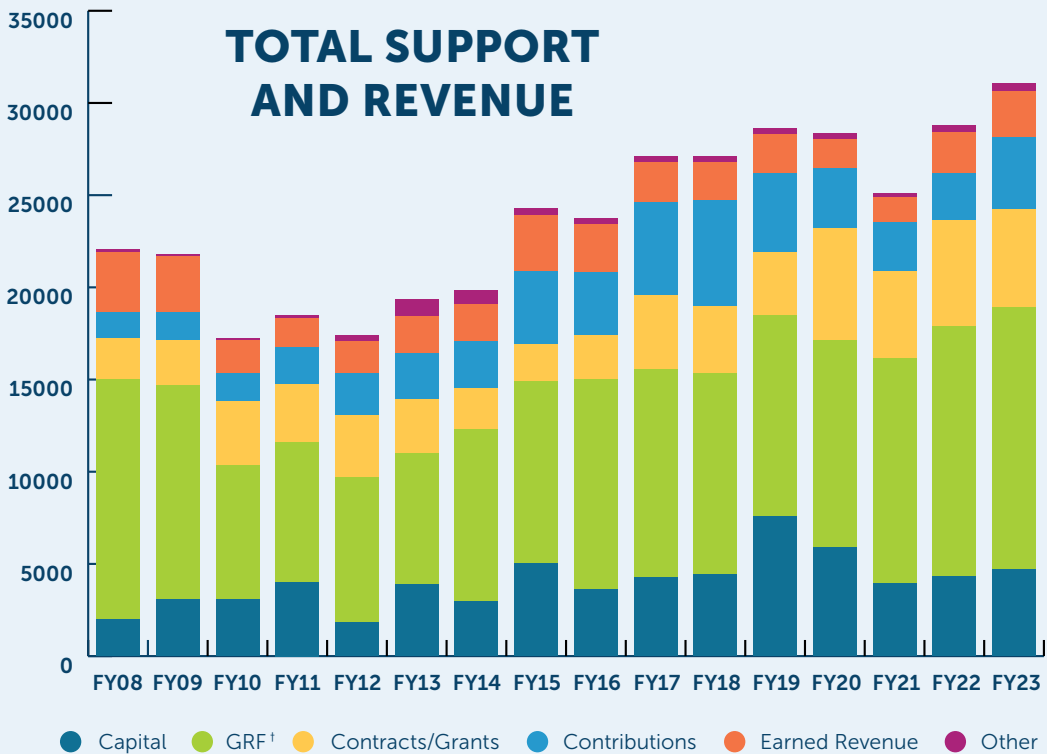
- Site Operations, Education and Interpretive Programs
- State Archives and Library
- Historic Preservation Office
- Capital Projects
- Management and General
- Development
- Contribution Services



- 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



† General Revenue Fund