



FISCAL YEAR 2016

Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM THE

Executive Director & CEO

It has been another outstanding year for Ohio History. We embarked on our new strategic plan, the *Initiative for Ohio History*, which allows us to reach wider audiences and extend our services all over the state. Already we have accomplished so much in the first year of our strategic plan:

- We commemorated the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, which has been instrumental in preserving the historic fabric of communities, towns and cities all over our state.
- We helped assure the future of the Ohio History Fund tax check-off program with broad public and legislative support.
- We reached new audiences when we brought the world-famous Superman suit to Ohio all the way from the Smithsonian.
- We explored new ways of showcasing Ohio's vast collection of artifacts with the Great Collections Experiment.
- We taught over 20,000 4th grade students with our online textbook *Ohio as America*.
- We acquired the Benjamin Lundy House and Free Labor Store in Mount Pleasant, which ensures an important chapter in the antislavery movement, and our state and nation's history will be preserved.

Of course none of these accomplishments just happen. They are the end result of tremendous effort by the community of Ohio History friends and advocates—local history partners, the board of trustees, staff, members, donors and supporters.

On behalf of everyone who has helped in these and all successes or who have been touched this year by some aspect of Ohio History, thank you. A special thanks to Gov. John R. Kasich, the Ohio General Assembly, our members, donors and volunteers across Ohio, who have helped us come this far and who will be there to support us in the coming year.

Finally, I want to recognize our outgoing board president, Glenda S. Greenwood and welcome our incoming board president, Robert W. Lucas. Throughout Glenda's nine years as trustee and four years as president, she has been a tireless champion for Ohio History all across the state, literally driving thousands of miles on behalf of Ohio History. She was one of the influential forces behind our recent name change and rebranding efforts and has encouraged us to think big and bold.

With the foundation that Glenda has laid during her tenure, and with Robert assuming the helm as our new board president, we are positioned to continue to accomplish big and bold things on behalf of Ohio History.

I look forward to sharing our continued progress on behalf of Ohio History throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Burt Logan



A MESSAGE FROM THE

Board President

I am thrilled to take on the mantle of Ohio History Connection board president. We all stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, and therefore, I am incredibly thankful for Glenda S. Greenwood's service on behalf of Ohio History. Through her leadership, we have a strong strategic plan, the *Initiative for Ohio History*, and a clear path as we move forward in preserving and sharing Ohio History with all Ohioans.

As a part of our new strategic plan, I'll be visiting each of our more than 50 historic sites across the state where local history thrives. There is tremendous value in the preservation and sharing of local history. Our historic sites are found in communities large and small all over Ohio. While they all have different stories to tell, they do share common traits—they provide us with an understanding of who we are and where we come from. They inspire local pride, a sense of community connection and allow us to discover our place in our shared history.

From the Armstrong Air & Space Museum in Wapakoneta to the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, our historic sites inspire a personal connection with history that allows us to better understand our society, gain an awareness of differing

perspectives and make informed decisions. It is through our experience with history that we become better, more engaged citizens.

Our partners at our historic sites work daily to share stories of the significant people and places in Ohio History in relevant and engaging ways. At the Rankin House in Ripley you learn of Eliza, the runaway slave who crossed a frigid Ohio River to find refuge and safety at John Rankin's home. Eliza inspired a story in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and helped illustrate the antislavery movement in Ohio. At Newark Earthworks you learn of the ancient native people who crafted the largest and most spectacular geometric earthworks in the world, inspiring awe in the expertise of our first inhabitants and their place in Ohio's story.

I'm eager to help share the stories of these important places, support the work of our historic site partners and continue to help them build a foundation for an appreciation of Ohio History among future generations.

It truly is an honor to serve as Ohio History Connection board president and to advocate for Ohio History. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and all Ohioans.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Lucas





Spark DISCOVERY OF Ohio's STORIES!

*Embrace the present,
share the past and
transform the future.*

Across the state, the Ohio
History Connection oversees

57 historic sites
and museums
located in **40** counties,
which include:

33 historic sites | **4** natural history sites

11 museums | **5,000** acres of land

9 archaeological sites | **300** buildings built
from 1788–2013

7 canal locks | **4** major bridges | **2** boats

CORE 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

Initiative for Ohio History

AND THE

Dear Ohio Tour

The *Initiative for Ohio History*, our strategic plan, is focused on sharing and providing access to Ohio's amazing stories. We want to put history in the hands of all Ohioans because we believe that the voices of Ohioans are the most important foundation of the *Initiative for Ohio History*. To hear from people all over the state, we hit the road for our *Dear Ohio Tour*. We're visiting all 88 counties in Ohio over the next few years to capture stories and find out what makes each county special.

DEAR OHIO, PHASE 1

In summer 2016, the first phase, we've visited festivals, baseball games and fairs in 20 counties.

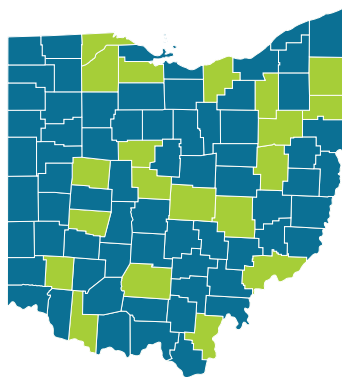
The *Dear Ohio Tour* gives us an opportunity to strengthen and build relationships in each county; capture Ohio's stories and identifying characteristics; and build awareness and support for the *Initiative for Ohio History*.

In phase 1 of the *Dear Ohio Tour* we've,

- Engaged with over 1,750 people.
- Collected 163 stories and anecdotes about living in Ohio.



On the *Dear Ohio Tour*, we're asking,
*if you could only tell
one story about the
town you grew up
or currently live in,
what would it be?*

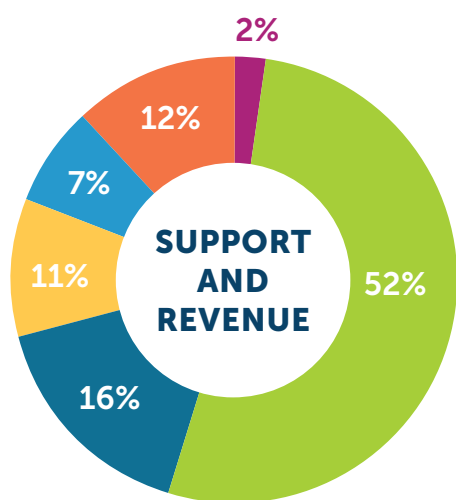


When I was little, I always remember looking up into the sky living in south Lorain on East 34th street. With my father being a steel worker he would always say once you saw the orange fire you knew that things were going well. Steel was being made and money was being made.

– Terri Soto, Lorain County

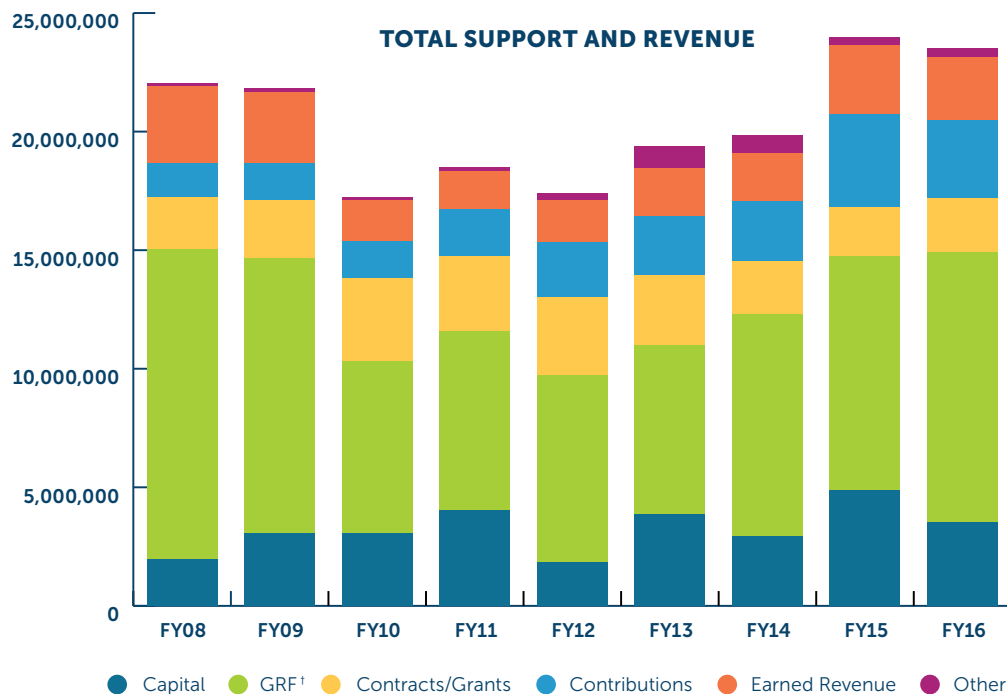
FISCAL YEAR 2016

Annual Revenue + Expenses



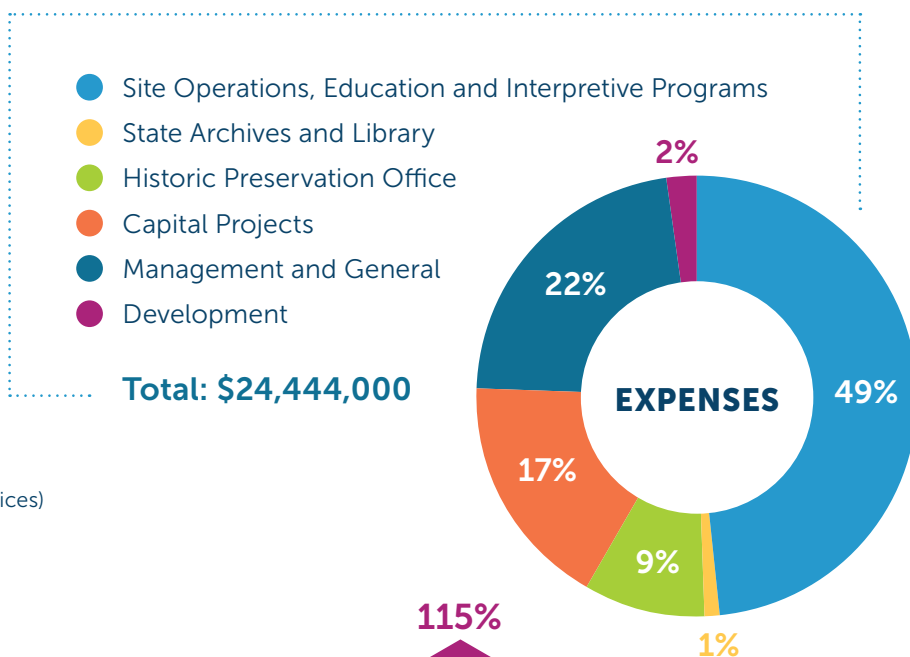
- State General Revenue Fund
- State Capital Projects
- Contracts and Grants
- Contributions (Financial, Materials and Services)
- Earned Revenue
- Investments

Total: \$21,794,000



Capital GRF† Contracts/Grants Contributions Earned Revenue Other

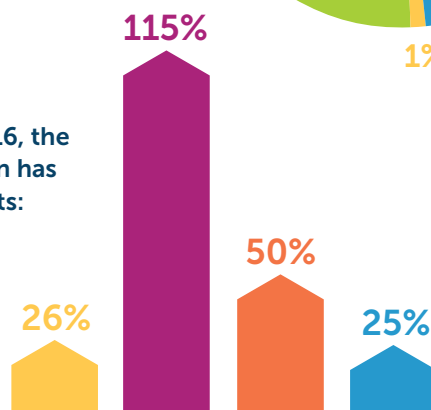
† General Revenue Fund



Total: \$24,444,000

From FY 2010* to FY 2016, the Ohio History Connection has seen the following results:

- Members
- Contributions**
- Earned Revenue
- Number of Visitors Across 57 Sites



* Membership and Visitor data came from the 2010 Annual Report.

** Contributions include Financial, Materials and Services

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

Leadership

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Executive Director & CEO

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Stephen George

Senior Advisor to the CEO

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George Kane

Director, Historic Sites & Facilities

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Roderick H. Willcox, Gahanna

**Elected board president for a three-year term starting June 23, 2016.*

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Governor, State of Ohio

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President, Ohio Senate

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Minority Leader, Ohio Senate

Cliff Rosenberger

Speaker of the Ohio House

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David Goodman

Director, Ohio Development Services Agency

William E. Carleton

Director, Capital Square Review and Advisory Board

Robert W. Lucas

Chair, Ohio History Connection Foundation Board



On June 23, 2016, Glenda S. Greenwood concluded nine years of service on the Ohio History Connection's Board of Trustees, including four years as president. We thank her for her service and commitment to Ohio History.

2016 BY THE *Numbers*

40

new historical markers proposed, written and installed by Ohio communities. To date, there are 1,525, at least three in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

100+

buildings and historic sites participating in Ohio Open Doors, a new collaborative initiative with local organizations to recognize the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.



18,691

school children visited Ohio Village and the Ohio History Center.

19

new properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places for a total of 3,854 Ohio properties.



100+

new activities added to the redesigned *Ohio as America*, an online textbook for fourth graders.

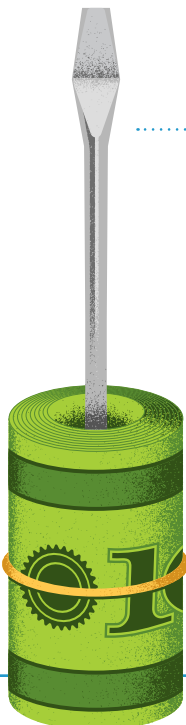


7,000

students participated in Ohio History Day.

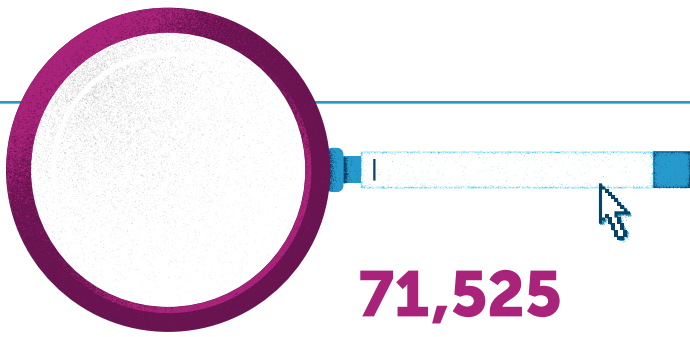
\$296.5 million

was invested in historic buildings in 2016 through the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, which brings the total to \$3.96 billion invested in Ohio.



3,989

projects, ranging from housing projects to road construction were reviewed with the goal of minimizing destruction of historic resources in the course of development.



71,525

online searches in our catalogue which offers one-stop searching of our library, newspapers, archives and museum collections.

9,612

research requests submitted from individuals, agencies, media and more.

5,938

new records added to the online collections catalog.



30 years

have passed in Ohio Village as it moved from the 1860s to the 1890s.

669,941

items in Ohio Memory, a statewide collaborative digital library.

\$100,000

granted from the Ohio History Fund to 14 organizations throughout Ohio.



17,000

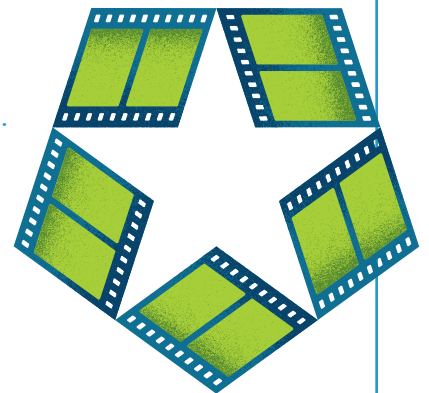
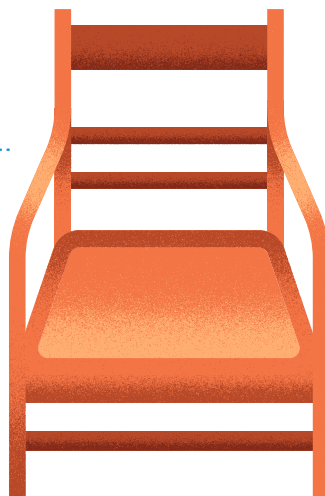
hours of service and 1,800 people trained in preserving and promoting Ohio History by ten AmeriCorps members.

100

years in partnership with the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums.

3,101

objects installed in the new Great Collections Experiment at the Ohio History Center.



37

interviews conducted and 95 hours of interview footage as part of the military oral history project.

MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS *Annual Supporters*



Thank you to the generous Ohioans and friends who support the mission of the Ohio History Connection. We are grateful to all those who have shown their commitment to Ohio History, and we take this opportunity to recognize those who have made a gift of \$150 or more during the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Although space does not permit us to list the many individuals who contributed less than \$150, we wish to thank them for their support.

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

This extraordinary group of leaders and visionaries embrace the mission and strategic initiatives of the Ohio History Connection. We are honored to partner with them and are grateful for their investment of \$1,200 or more to support innovation and excellence.

1885 COUNCIL **\$50,000 and above**

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Our Towne Mechanicsburg
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grateful for their generosity and
dedication to protecting Ohio's
history for future generations.

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NAMED ENDOWMENTS

Thank you to our friends who have established an endowment with a gift of \$15,000 or more to provide support in perpetuity for Ohio History or for specific sites and projects.

Adena Garden Endowment in Memory of Judge & Mrs. Howard Goldsberry
J.D. Britton Endowment for Local History
Conestoga Endowment
Mabel & Harvey Cutright Endowment for Fort Hill Earthworks and Nature Preserve
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Randall Worthington Endowment for Adena
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Thank you to our corporate partners who have shown their commitment to Ohio History and our mission.

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Thank you to the following individuals and organizations that have made generous contributions to support the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village.

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HONORIALS AND MEMORIALS

A tribute gift is a meaningful way to remember or honor a loved one or an occasion. The Ohio History Connection appreciates every tribute gift this year, all of which have made a significant impact on Ohio History.

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Janet Hickman
from Bill & Holly Heer
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from Mr. Robert Yopko

CONESTOGA

For the past 30 years, the passionate and dedicated members of the Conestoga support group have shared their time, talent and resources for the benefit of the Ohio History Connection. We are especially grateful for the loyal friendship of all Conestoga members. Listed below are individual and community partners who graciously contributed to Conestoga's fundraising success with gifts of \$150 or more.

Individuals

Bill & Helen "Lexie" Bickell
Dale Brubeck & John Merola
Robert & Norma Bruce
Karen E. Campbell
Roger & Laura Craven
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Mr. Parke has been a generous supporter of Ohio History, including the conservation of numerous battle flags, including the National Colors of the Black Brigade of Cincinnati and, most recently, the colors of the 1st Independent Battery, as well as our World Heritage nomination efforts and annual fund.

I have always been fascinated by historical objects. As a young boy, I loved to imagine the people who held an object one hundred, two hundred, one thousand or two thousand years ago. I learned quickly that what goes hand-in-hand with the passion for the objects and the stories was the draw to learn more about the subject. As an adult, I was overwhelmed to learn that the Ohio History Connection had one of the largest collections of Civil War flags and that many, if not most, were in desperate need of the tender loving care that a qualified conservator could provide. If not tended to, these extraordinary pieces of history and all of the amazing stories that are held within their stripes and patriotic images may go unshared with current and future generations. The "Save our Flags" campaign was the perfect way for my family and me to begin a long term commitment to supporting the care of battle flags and the Ohio History Connection's ongoing mission.

— Richard Parke, retired teacher

Caption: Mr. Parke, at his home in Shaker Heights, pictured with historic objects from his personal collection.



THE FUTURE OF *History*

Paris Cooks, fifth-grader at Atkinson Elementary in Fremont, Ohio, one of the winners of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums' essay contest as part of its centennial celebration. Paris is sitting behind a replica of the Resolute Desk in the Presidents Gallery of the Hayes Museum. Queen Victoria gave the original Resolute Desk to President Hayes. The original remains in the Oval Office of the White House and has been used by most U.S. presidents.



800 E. 17th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211-2474
800.686.6124
ohiohistory.org

SPARKING DISCOVERY IN OHIO'S

Super Stories

On October 10, 2015, children from Duxberry Park Alternative Elementary School in Columbus helped welcome the 1950s Superman suit on special loan from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and learned about the two Cleveland highschoolers who created one of the most iconic superheroes in the world. The Superman suit was on display for three months at the Ohio History Center and was made possible through our relationship as a Smithsonian Affiliate.