

REVITALIZE OHIO

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Canton



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REVITALIZE OHIO

Fall 2025

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Executive Director Note



Old buildings are nice, but it's the people that makes it all worthwhile.

Recently, Allen Wilson from Downtown Marion, Courtney Hendershot from Main Street Delaware, and Lynn Aventino from Uptown Westerville, joined me for a panel discussion at the Ohio

Conference of Community Development Annual Meeting in Lewis Center. We had a great conversation about downtown revitalization, how they track the impact of their work, how they foster authenticity in the community, and what was the favorite part of their job. Being a Main Street Manager is honestly one of the hardest yet most rewarding jobs you can ever have. During the Q&A of the panel, these three managers showed up with grace, honesty, and authenticity. The passion for their work in their communities was inspiring. Despite the long hours, weekend events, after hour emails, merchant grousing, and uncertainty in funding, they, along with others in the Ohio Main Street Program family, do the job because they love their community. They love seeing residents and guests smile while attending a special event, or overhearing someone rave about a local business.

A big part of community development and downtown revitalization is based on the relationships we build, and the openness we bring to the table. We recently hosted a financial incentives workshop for downtown development at Beanz Bakery in Greenville. The event was co-sponsored by Main Street Greenville and the Auglaize County Commissioners. During the morning set-up for the workshop, I had some time to talk with Sean, the owner of the bakery. Beanz Bakery

started as a hobby between Sean and his daughter, Corynna, who had an incurable genetic disorder. They kept busy looking up unique cupcake recipes and making them together to pass the time. Out of a tragic situation, Beanz (their nickname for Corynna) was born. Sean also shared the struggles of being a small business that started as a hobby and has grown exponentially into a very busy bakery and lunch spot in downtown Greenville. He shared that eggs used to cost about .05 each, and now they hovered around .25 each. He shared that his butter order had slowly risen in price to \$155 per order. After a call, he got that lowered to \$119, and saved \$10,000 a year in butter. He talked about expanding to offer dinner since a downtown restaurant was closing, but that would mean he and his wife would be there 7 days a week and he just didn't know if he was ready to make that leap. He turned his hobby into

a thriving business and didn't know how much more he wanted to extend himself. It was a real and authentic conversation between two strangers, sharing life stories and commonalities through Main Street. I was humbled by his openness of sharing the struggles of operating a small business. I was also grateful for his family, and for the thousands of other small business operators that enrich our local communities with their passion.

Fall is always a busy time at Heritage Ohio as we gear up for our annual conference and our awards ceremony. It's planning a huge party to which we invite all of our friends from across Ohio and the Midwest to see how we're pursuing our mission of saving the places that matter, building community, and helping people live better. Heritage Ohio has been the state coordinating agency for the Ohio Main Street

program since 1998. The Ohio program is very well respected within the Main Street community across the country, thanks in no small part to our outstanding OMSP leaders, Frances Jo Hamilton, and Lorna Swisher. They have consistently raised the bar, challenged the status quo, and pushed back when they felt the program needed more. We're thrilled this year to welcome Erin Barnes,



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CEO and President of Main Street America, as our keynote speaker at our annual conference. Barnes will share her perspective from the national level and share some new directions in which she is steering the organization.

Speaking of the conference, we're super excited to partner with host community, Canton, to present three days of outstanding sessions, tours, and networking opportunities. When we first announced our conference site, many people asked, "why Canton?" as in, why the heck would we want to go there? When we toured our board around the City in April and showed them all that it has to offer, they also replied, "why Canton?", but from the perspective of why the heck does Canton have so much cool stuff to offer? Canton is home to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the National First Ladies Library and Museum, the Canton Palace Theatre, the Canton Museum of Art, the President McKinley Presidential Library, the Canton Classic Car Museum, along with outstanding public art and amenities. Canton has a vibrant history as a former steel town on the rise despite a nearly 40% drop in population since the 1960s. Why Canton? Because Cantonians care. Because they banded together and said "what can we do to make our City a better place to live, work and play?". Because they've used targeted investment in their downtown and

have forged solid working relationships between the public and private sector. Because they are proud of their community and refused to give up when others did. I hope you'll join us October 14-16th. I think you'll fall in love with this city.

To be in the loop on all that Heritage Ohio is doing, please make sure to like and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Youtube.

We'll see you in Canton!



Matt Wiederhold,
Executive Director of Heritage Ohio

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17

Lessons Learned: Looking Back through the National Register & Historic Survey in Ohio with Barb Powers
Webinar

OCTOBER 14 – 16

Heritage Ohio Annual Conference
Canton

DECEMBER 16

Appalachia Heritage Luncheon
Columbus



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Meet a Main Street Director

Amy Breinich

Executive Director of Troy Main Street



How long have you been in your position and what excites you most about downtown revitalization? I've been "Downtown Amy" for nearly 12 years now. My first 11 years in Sidney and the last 10 months in Troy.

The most exciting thing about downtown revitalization is that no two days are the same. Doing this work is a holistic approach

to enriching the lives of those who live and visit our communities through economic development, preservation, and helping people develop a connection to the places that matter. Equally, it's exciting to see all sectors of a community work together to accomplish projects downtown.

What part of your job is the most rewarding?

Seeing people fall in love again with their community. It's easy to get jaded and burned out, but when the spark reignites... that's what makes it all worth it.

What is your professional background, what did you do prior to this position?

Prior to working in downtowns, I managed large rental properties in Columbus and Sidney. I guess that's where I fell in love with building a sense of community. I am also a licensed managing cosmetologist.

What is your leadership style and how does it serve you in your role as Main Street manager?

I definitely follow the transformational & servant leadership styles. My job is to support and empower people to make a difference with the skills and passion they possess. Decisions are made based on community needs rather than any one person's individual ambitions. Sometimes, people need to know that they and their community have amazing potential, they just have to do some hard things to get to where they want to go. We never do any of this work alone. It takes a strong network of people with vision and fortitude to keep pushing forward.

Favorite place to vacation or dream vacation?

Costa Rica (better than Hawaii in my opinion) has been my favorite destination so far, but you can also find me several times a year in my happy place: a heavy metal concert/festival.

Anything else you want to share?

Main Street directors wear a ridiculous number of "hats", sacrifice their mental/physical health, are WAY underpaid, and deal with a lot of stress. Directors, take care of yourselves, set boundaries, and take breaks when you need to. Don't feel guilty about it! At the end of the day, you are a person outside of downtown revitalization and need to live your life too!

I am grateful to do this work and for the support of Heritage Ohio throughout my journey. The only regret I have is not tapping in to all the support offered earlier.

Sandra Hedlund-Tunnell

Executive Director of Ashland Main Street



How long have you been in your position and what excites you most about downtown revitalization? Ashland Main Street came out of a community-wide strategic plan in 2010, and I was in from the beginning, so I've been doing this for 16 years. When I first came to Ashland over twenty years ago, I remember driving through the downtown and seeing all these beautiful (empty) buildings,

and thinking, "Look at all the potential here!" Seeing all these people who believe in our downtown and are putting their time and money and work into making our downtown even more gorgeous, and who really want to bring these downtown buildings back to their former glory, is so exciting to see. When we started, we couldn't give away a downtown building (really. We tried). Now, people are in bidding wars over our downtown, and they are turning their spaces into amazing businesses and homes. Being a part of that energy and progress has been awesome.

What part of your job is the most rewarding?

The lack of parking, because so many people are downtown! For the first three or four years on the job, I met a lot of resistance. "No one will want to come downtown." "We've tried this before and it didn't work; why do you think it will now?" When we started Ashland Main Street, we had a 75% occupancy rate downtown, and it was pretty empty here. This year, our occupancy is 95%. Not only did we prove the naysayers wrong, but it wasn't just us promoting downtown; some of our biggest advocates are people who don't even own a business or building here, but just love downtown so much that they tell all their friends to come visit. Looking out my window and seeing people walking on our sidewalks and visiting our stores and restaurants (and taking up all that parking!) is so exciting.

What is your professional background, what did you do prior to this position?

I have a very marketable degree in history AND English, so I have done all the classic liberal arts major's jobs- I was a waitress, a secretary, I worked in retail.... I was on city council when the county-wide strategic plan committee came to present on their findings. When they said one of their commissions was to create a vibrant downtown, I knew I wanted to be part of that!

Remembering Glenn Harper

Longtime Heritage Ohio Board of Trustees member Glenn Harper passed away on August 1, 2025. Glenn represented the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on both the Downtown Ohio and Heritage Ohio boards from 1998 to 2007. Glenn sponsored numerous scholarships to the Heritage Ohio Annual Conference to further the education of young preservationists in Ohio.

Glenn was born to Evelyn Harper (Bump) and Gordon Harper in Akron OH. He grew up in Akron and graduated from Kenmore High School. Glenn furthered his education and graduated from Antioch College with a degree in American History and a Master's degree in Historic Preservation/Architectural History from Ball State University.

Early in his career Glenn worked for Summit County Social Services for 10 years where he developed and provided recreational activities and camping opportunities for underserved youth. Glenn was employed for 22 years by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office where he served as Preservation Services Manager and Manager of Certified Local Government programs.

Glenn was also an adjunct faculty member in the History Department at Wright State University where he taught architectural history courses. He was a contributing author to more than 25 historic publications and over 40 historic presentations/projects including Canal Fever: The Ohio and Erie Canal from Waterway to Canal Way, Barns of the Midwest and the two-volume book, The National Road.

He was most proud of his work to promote and protect the National Road. In 1994 he secured funding, directed the first comprehensive historic property inventory of the Road, co-founded the National Road Alliance and guided the National Road's designation as an All-American Road National Scenic Byway. In recognition of his many years of leadership in promoting and protecting the Historic National Road, the Ohio National Road Association established the Glenn A. Harper Endowment for the Preservation on the Ohio Historic National Road.

Glenn loved to hike, bike, canoe, camp and garden. He especially enjoyed camping and hiking with his nieces

Lindsay and Erin since they were babies. He was very proud of hiking and/or biking in all 50 states plus 20 foreign counties with his wife Carole. In 2024, he and his wife completed hiking Ohio's 88 counties with long-time friends Peg and Rob.



Glenn was a sweet, gentle, kind person who willingly shared his love of history and architecture. His family and friends cherished having their own personal architectural and historic tour guide whenever they traveled together.

Glenn is survived by his loving wife of over 46 years, Carole Endres; brothers Bob Harper (Carol) and Tom Harper (Carla); sister Nancy Hurd (Lew); sisters-in-law Emily Shea (Mike), Mary Jo Grap (Terry); brothers-in-law Mark (Kay) Endres and Jim Cummins; and many special nieces, nephews and friends.

Remember Glenn's motto: "No matter what happens in life ... there will always be pie".

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

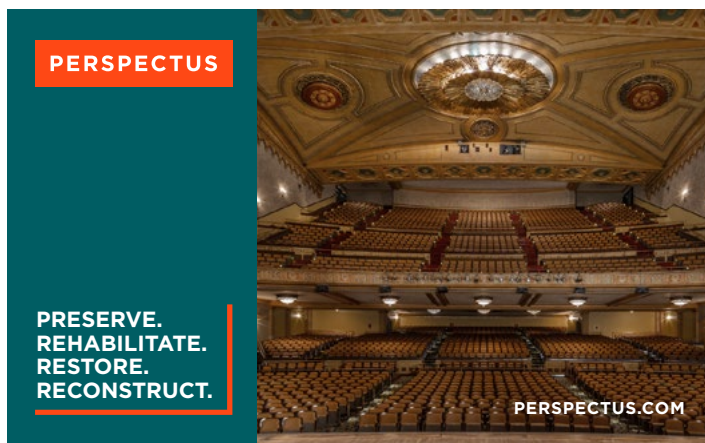
Memorial donations in Glenn Harper's name may be made to the following:

Glenn A Harper Endowment Fund for Preservation on the National Road

Springfield Foundation
333 N Limestone St #201, Springfield, OH 45503
www.springfieldfoundation.org

Ohio Hospice of Dayton

324 Wilmington Ave, Dayton, OH 45420
www.ohioshospice.org/dayton



MAIN STREET DIRECTOR

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What is your leadership style and how does it serve you in your role as Main Street manager?

I am very participative. Some of the best ideas about our downtown have come out of meetings with people who share their ideas about things they would like to see or issues that we need to overcome. Our board and committees make up a diverse group of people; downtown building owners, downtown business owners, and various people who just love downtown. They are all seeing things from different points of view, and differently from what I see. Bringing all those visions together makes our downtown and our projects stronger.

Preservation Across Ohio

Roche de Boeuf Interurban bridge Waterville



Roche de Boeuf, Phot by Williams Aerial Media.

A group of local residents and historians in Waterville have formed the “Save The Bridge Association” initiative to try and save the historic Roche de Boeuf Interurban bridge from demolition. The bridge was built across the Maumee River in 1908 as part of the Ohio Electric Railway, and was in use until it was abandoned in 1937. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The bridge has long been a favorite subject for artists as it resembles an ancient Roman viaduct. The bridge has been controversial from construction, as one of its iconic arch supports sits on the Roche de Boeuf, a very important site for Indigenous Americans. The bridge is currently owned by ODOT, and was scheduled for demolition in 2024, but that has been put on hold while the Save the Bridge group seeks alternatives. Their goal is to restore the structure and make it safe and available for recreational use.

Historic Black Churches Cleveland



East Mount Zion Baptist Church, photo by Greg Frost.

Cleveland Restoration Society continues to support their Sacred Landmarks program as they launch a dedicated fund for the preservation of Cleveland’s Historic Black Churches. This important work is gaining momentum,

thanks to a generous \$300,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Preserving Black Churches fund. They also recently secured a \$750,000 grant through the National Park Service African American Civil Rights Fund to help pay for a new roof for the historic East Mount Zion Baptist Church, built in 1908 in the Fairfax neighborhood.

East Mount Zion Church is a notable site in the Civil Right movement, being a leader in the 1967 effort to elect Carl B. Stokes as the first Black mayor of a major U.S. city, and also routinely gave a platform to Black women to speak about their influential work, including Cora Jordan White, who was active in civic and social justice issues in Ohio, and Bertha J. Diggs, the first Black person and first woman to head the New York State Department of Labor.

Pedals and Preservation Cincinnati

Cincinnati Preservation, in partnership with Queen City Bike, is launching Pedals and Preservation, an innovative way to explore the history of the Queen City. Pedals and Preservation will be a monthly guided bike tour celebrating Cincinnati’s historic neighborhoods and hidden gems. Cincinnati has an incredibly rich architectural legacy with scores of historic gems to discover.

They’ve also launched “Cincinnati Sites and Stories”, a free mobile app that brings the city’s rich history to your fingertips! Developed by Cincinnati Preservation, the app offers layered, map-based, multimedia stories that spotlight the people, places, and moments that shaped the Queen City. <https://stories.cincinnatiapreservation.org/>

ADA Ramps in German Village Columbus

German Village Society (GVS) has been working closely with the City of Columbus on ADA ramps within the historic district, to be more compliant with their district design guidelines. Rather than the bright orange or yellow textured ramp mats, the City has installed textured cast iron ramps at intersection corners.

GVS also welcomed Courtney Thraen as their new executive director. Thraen brings a wealth of experience in economic and community development to the organization.

German Village is a unique neighborhood in Ohio, enjoyed by many for its quaint appearance and walkability. They held their very successful 64th Annual Haus and Garden Tour, welcoming over 3,000 guests over two days. GVS staff will share the wealth of knowledge on producing a successful house tour with a session at our conference.

PRESERVATION

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Downtown Dayton Historic Walking Tours Dayton

Joining the movement for combining learning with a healthy lifestyle, Preservation Dayton recently launched Downtown Dayton Historic Walking Tours, which are 90 minutes, 1.5 mile tours of downtown. Many of the places that helped make Dayton a center of innovation have been lost to history, while others survived and adapted, representing the city's spirit of revitalization. Walkers will explore and learn about the diverse selection of retail, industrial, entertainment, and residential sites on guided walking tours of Downtown Dayton.

Arcanum Opera House Arcanum

The Arcanum Preservation Society has been working for several years to save, stabilize, and restore the historic Arcanum Opera House. They recently reported that all of the demolition is complete, many of the windows have been restored or recreated, and they're moving into a new phase of the project. The Society is in conversation with the Village of Arcanum to eventually become the owners and stewards of this impressive landmark, and they are working on a sustainable source of revenue to continue the progress.



Before



After

Advocacy Update: The Latest on Historic Preservation at the Federal Level

Rob Naylor, Preservation Action

It has been a very busy last couple of months for historic preservation efforts at the federal level.

While threats to key preservation programs and funding continue, thanks to strong advocacy we've also seen some successes.

Historic Tax Credit

After months of intense negotiations the House and Senate passed and the President signed H.R. 1 in early July. In spite of an outpouring of advocacy efforts throughout the year, no provisions to improve the Historic Tax Credit (HTC) were included in the final bill. However, it is noteworthy that the HTC was not targeted for elimination or reduction at any point in negotiations and

improvements were being considered up until the last moment. While this is certainly disappointing, we appreciate everyone's strong advocacy efforts and are looking toward future opportunities to enact these vital improvements.

Historic Preservation Fund

Grassroots advocacy works! After months of delays, fiscal year 2025 funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) was finally released. The long awaited Notice of Funding Opportunity for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices was posted in July, allowing these offices to apply for the annual funds to carry out their important work. It is clear the efforts of preservation advocates across Ohio and the country helped secure the release of this crucial funding. **Thank you for your advocacy!**

Last month, lawmakers in the House and Senate also released their fiscal year 2026 Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bills, which includes funding for the HPF and other preservation priorities. The



ADVOCACY UPDATE
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ADVOCACY UPDATE

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House bill included level funding for the HPF at \$168.9 million, but called for a staggering 33% cut for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and deeper cuts to the National Park Service. On the other side of the Capitol, the Senate bill included \$168.246 for the HPF, level funding for the ACHP and robust support for the National Park Service. While we didn't see the funding increases that Preservation Action and others have pushed for in either bill, we are very pleased to see these bills largely reject the severe cuts proposed by the Administration, demonstrating the continued bipartisan support for preservation.

Moving forward we know threats to preservation persist and the work of preservation advocates continues.

We continue to need your voice!

Here's how you can help:

1. Urge your Representative and Senators Moreno and Husted to provide necessary and robust funding for the Historic Preservation Fund and to protect funding for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

2. Ask your members of Congress to co-sponsor the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R. 2941, S. 1459) and to include these much-needed provisions as part of moving legislation.
3. Congress is back in-district/state for the remainder of August and multiple times throughout the Fall and are looking to fill their schedules. Invite your members of Congress to visit a HTC project or historic site. One of the best ways for lawmakers to understand the impact these federal programs have in their community is to see it first-hand.

Thank you for advocating for Ohio's historic places. Your voice is critical. To learn more about our ongoing advocacy efforts and how you can help, check out preservationaction.org.

Saved, Threatened, Demolished

SAVED – STARLING SCHOOL, FRANKLINTON NEIGHBORHOOD OF COLUMBUS

As the Franklinton Neighborhood in Columbus continues to rapidly transform, one former educational building recently celebrated the beginning of a new chapter as affordable housing. The former Starling Middle School recently celebrated its adaptive use into an affordable housing building. The project combined the rehabilitation of a former school with new construction to bring nearly 100 much-needed apartment units to Columbus.

THREATENED – ROCKEFELLER BUILDING, CLEVELAND

The formerly vibrant downtown Cleveland landmark, the Rockefeller Building, faces an uncertain future as escalating costs and deteriorating conditions scare off potential developers. Although the building is National Register-listed, the sheer scope of the building means that any viable project will cost upwards of \$100+ million. On the plus side, incentives could bring the price down, but for a project of this scope, the pool of capable developers is small.

DEMOLISHED – PARKWAY TOWER IN YOUNGSTOWN

The Parkway Tower, built in 1929 as a luxury apartment building in Youngstown's Wick Park Historic District, has been demolished following years of neglect. The 8-story building once housed 44 residential units.



Preservation Assessment Workshops Bring Accessible Expertise to Owners of Historic Buildings

Thanks to support from the Ohio Legislature and Governor DeWine, one of Heritage Ohio's new technical assistance offerings has been the Preservation Assessment Workshop, or PAW. Led by Dave Mertz, former director of Belmont College's Building Preservation/Restoration program, our PAWs give property owners access to an expert in preservation architecture. Each assessment includes a basic evaluation of the building on site, with

suggestions for priority action steps the owner should take to maintain and extend the life of the structure.

Not surprisingly, we've found bad drainage, mold and termites in the basement, missing downspouts, leaky roofs, water infiltration, and buildings where the only tenants are the local population of feral cats. We've also met a lot of passionate people who are preservationists through-and-through, with a deep connection to their building. We've also seen great potential with many buildings, if only the current owner would step aside to pass the building off to a new owner that gets the value of historic preservation.

Earlier this year we were in Salem, and we heard great feedback from one of their local stakeholders, and participant in the PAW:

"The Preservation Assessment Workshop and educational program from Heritage Ohio experts were extremely well received by the City of Salem, Ohio. It was very educational and assisted all participants having a better understanding of what preservation does and what we are about. The building owners found it informative and learned what improvements would be best be suited for their buildings and potential risk areas."

Kelly Bush, President of Salem Preservation Society



Dave Mertz begins each Preservation Assessment Workshop with an evening presentation highlighting building systems and the bad things that can happen when regular maintenance schedules aren't followed.

Young Ohio Preservationists – Toledo Takeover

By Abby Marshall, Chair, Young Ohio Preservationists

In the continued efforts of providing technical and trades skills to young professionals in the Historic Preservation field, the Young Ohio Preservationists group "took over" Toledo in June. The weekend events welcomed young professionals from across the field to participate in a series of workshops, tours, and networking opportunities. With early Twentieth Century historic light fixtures provided by Erin Claussen, owner of the rehabilitated Hotel Royal, attendees worked with Gross Electric to receive hands on experience in restoring a historic light fixture to take home. An expert tradesman from Gross Electric walked through the process with the group, instructing them on how to properly clean the fixtures, replace the sockets, rewire the light safely, and maintain historic integrity.

While in Toledo, Thomas Porter Architects lead the group on a walking tour in and out of current and past historic rehabilitation projects in Toledo's Warehouse District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Meeting with architects, owners, and developers – attendees learned about the history of the properties as they relate to Toledo's

history in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, how they changed over time, and how they are currently utilizing Rehabilitation Tax Credits to adaptively reuse the spaces. Tours of the Barber-Ferris Produce Building (affectionally known as the "Pink Building" to locals), the Sunkist Building, the Okun Produce Building, and Erie Street Market provided an up close look at how these economic incentives can be utilized to preserve Ohio's history. The group also made their way over to Ostrich Towne to tour the rehabilitated Westminster Church and enjoy networking over dinner and drinks at local Ostriche Town locations.

The final day of Young Ohio Preservationist's Toledo Takeover comprised of two tours at two very significant buildings in Toledo. First, the group got an in-depth walking tour of the Collingwood Arts Center. On the front elevation of the Collingwood Arts Center sits the Gerber House. The Gerber House is an architecturally stunning Second Empire

YOP
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house designed by Toledo Architect Joseph Morehouse in 1872. However, what makes the Collingwood Arts Center even more unique, is the large addition, designed by E.O. Falls, that extends off the rear elevation of the Gerber House. This addition was constructed in 1905 when the Ursuline Sisters bought the Gerber House and transformed it into Mary Manse College. The college was used as a Catholic Institution and operated by the Ursuline Order of Nuns. The addition mixes Gothic and Romanesque styles providing a perfect setting for the widespread claim as one of the most haunted places in Ohio.

Finally, the group ended their takeover at the renowned Libbey House. The Libbey House was the home of prominent businessman Edward Drummond Libbey, founder of Libbey Glass, who revolutionized glass making and was pivotal in boosting Toledo's economy. This National Historic Landmark is now owned and operated by a non-profit public charity that dedicates themselves to preservation.

If you are interested in being involved with or learning more about Young Ohio Preservationists and want to stay up to date on events, follow us on Instagram at @youngohiopreservationists. You can also reach out to Young Ohio Preservationists representative, Abby Marshall, at amarshall@ohiohistory.org.

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Pictured: the Carlisle Building in Chillicothe, OH



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Canton for the Win!

Heritage Ohio is thrilled to host our Annual Conference in Canton, Ohio, October 14-16, 2025. Home to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the National First Ladies Library and Museum the gorgeous Canton Palace Theatre, the McKinley Presidential Library, the Canton Classic Car Museum, and so much more, Canton is a notable Ohio rust-belt city on the rise, and its transformation is exciting.

The conference kicks off on Tuesday, October 14th, with several deep dive educational tracts, including an in-depth look at historic tax credits from the perspective of the State and Federal programs, a regional developer, and ending with a tour of a completed tax credit project in downtown Canton. Another tract will dive into the Ohio Building Code for historic properties and cover how it addresses historic fabric while meeting code. Finally, a day-long historic theater summit will bring together cultural landmark professionals from across Northeast and Central Ohio to share their insights on funding and financing, programming, restoration, economic development, and donor engagement. This is a must-attend for any small to mid-sized performing arts or cultural arts facility. We'll celebrate Canton at our Legacy Circle reception that evening in the beautifully restored Onesto Hotel lobby.

We're honored that Erin Barnes, CEO and President of Main Street America, will deliver our keynote address to kick-off the conference on Wednesday morning, with her thoughts and insights on how the Main Street approach is economic development, and how Main Street America is supporting State and local programs. The schedule on Wednesday is full of diverse and interesting sessions, including those on Arts Funding, engaging Young Professionals in preservation, Social Media Theory, Revolutionary Graves Project, National Register nominations, and a hands-on design charrette.

Wednesday evening, we hope you'll join us at the Preservation and Revitalization reception for complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and help us thank the vendors that support Heritage Ohio. Finally, we'll celebrate and recognize the best in historic preservation and Ohio Main Street Programs at our exciting Awards Ceremony and Film Festival, held at the historic Canton Palace Theatre.

Thursday sessions will cover America 250 programs and initiatives, The Great Migration and a fascinating partnership in Cleveland, preserving Latino heritage, insights for successful project management, insights on how to host a house tour, and much more.

Get all the details and register at www.heritageohioconference.com

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

CANTON, OHIO • OCTOBER 14-16, 2025

TUESDAY, 10/14				
Registration Open				
8:30AM-3:00PM	1st Morning Session		(8:30 - 10:00 AM) HTC Deep Dive Additional Funding Sources for Preservation Projects Gordon Goldie, Nathan Ware, et al	Historic Theater Summit 9:30-9:45 - Welcome & Organ Recital 9:45-10:30, Arts as Economic Development
9:00 AM-10:30 AM				
10:45 AM-11:30 AM	2nd Morning Session		(10:00 - 11:30 am) HTC Deep Dive FHPTC and OHPTC overview Mariangela Pfister & Lisa Brownell	Historic Theater Summit funding and financing tools for historic theaters
11:30AM-1PM	Lunch on your own Downtown Canton			
1:00-2:00 PM	1st Afternoon Session	Fostering Economic Vitality in Your Downtown Joi Cuarrero Austen	Application of 2024 Ohio Existing Building Code (OEB) to Historic Properties Scott Voelkerding & Laura Gagnon	Historic Theater Summit Programming & Activation: What Do Audiences Want?
2:00-3:00 PM	2nd Afternoon Session	Fostering Economic Vitality in Your Downtown Joi Cuarrero Austen	Application of 2024 Ohio Existing Building Code (OEB) to Historic Properties Scott Voelkerding & Laura Gagnon	Historic Theater Summit Historic Preservation & Restoration Initiatives
3:00-3:15 PM	Break			
3:15-4:30 PM	3rd Afternoon Session	Fostering Economic Vitality in Your Downtown Joi Cuarrero Austen	Application of 2024 Ohio Existing Building Code (OEB) to Historic Properties Scott Voelkerding & Laura Gagnon	Historic Theater Summit Donor Engagement, Capital Campaigns, & Grant Funding
6-8:00 PM	Legacy Circle Reception - Onesto Event Center Hosted by GBX Group / Sponsored by Marous Brothers Construction & Coon Restoration Ticket Required			
WEDNESDAY, 10/15				
Registration Open				
7:30 AM-1:30 PM	Opening and Welcome Erin Barnes Hotel Ballroom			
8:30-9:30 AM	Break			
9:30-9:45 AM				
9:45-10:45 AM	1st Morning Session	Main Street America Session Erin Barnes	Ohio Arts Council Programs & Funding Opportunities Patrick Roehrenbeck & Chaz O'Neill	Integrating Mechanical Systems into Your Historic Building Melinda Shah & Amanda Fuson
10:45-11:00 AM	Break			
First Ladies National Historic Site Tour				
Tours & Field Sessions Sponsored by the Gossman Group				



11:00 AM-12:00 PM	2nd Morning Session	Vibrant Communities Program Stephen Cavness	Exploring SIDs: A Model for Revitalizing Downtowns & Enhancing Community Development Downtown Canton Partnership	Cornerstone Redefined: How Community-Focused Rehabilitation Anchors Neighborhoods Amy Baade	Preserving Sacrifice: Documenting Ohio's Revolutionary War Veterans Graves and How You Can Help Krista Horrocks	Park Planning, Design, & Activation Arthur Schmidt & Jeremy Hinte	First Ladies National Historic Site Tour	
12:00-1:30 PM	Lunch on your own							
1:30 -3:00 PM	1st Afternoon Session	Reconnecting Academia & Community Dr. Stephen Ayers	Historic Theaters Panel Discussion Michael Hurwitz, Doug Spencer, Lori Kaup, Jill Andrews, & John Ellis	USDA Community, Economic, and Housing Programs Evan Kohler	How to Successfully Nominate a Property to the National Register of Historic Places Abby Marshall	Historic Development Forum Steve Coon, Jonathan Sandvick, Dave Williams Registration Required - Lunch Provided	The Revitalization of Downtown Canton Dann Angus	
3:00-3:15 PM	Break							
3:15-4:45 PM	2nd Afternoon Session	Revolutionizing Business Development with 3-D Spatial Scanning: Tools for Recruiting & Retaining Business & Developers & Inspiring Investment	Design & Maintenance of Public Art in Small Communities Lindsay Jones & Maureen Ater	Ohio Land Bank Association: Revitalization Through Housing Shawn Carvin, Tim Roseland, Meghan Reed, & Elizabeth Kukwa	Preserving Your Memories: Conservation of Historic Film & Photographs Zach Fox	TBD	Court Street Charrette Dann Angus	
5:00-6:30 PM	Exhibitor Reception - DoubleTree Hotel Ballroom							
7:00-8:30 PM	Heritage Ohio Awards & Film Festival - Palace Theatre							
THURSDAY, 10/16								
7:30-10:30 AM	Registration Open							
8:30-9:30 AM	1st Morning Session	You Can't Do It All—So Stop Tasha Weaver	Engaging Communities Through History, Community and Storytelling with America 250 in Ohio in 2026	Getting Your Downtown Retail Ready: Setting the Stage for Private Sector Investment Jeremy Murdock	Life in an Historic House Museum: Welcome to the Hamster Wheel Linda Bussey	TBD	Hard Hat Tour of Reker Bldg., Fowell Zollinger Bldg., & Landmark Tavern Steve Coon	
9:30-9:45 AM	Break Sponsored by project management consultants llc							
9:45-10:45 AM	2nd Morning Session	Collaborative Spaces: How Shared Business Models Can Lower Overhead & Expand Reach Downtown Canton Partnership	The Great Migration and Playhouse Square Craig Hassall & Robert Louis Brandon Edwards	Bite-Sized Preservation Jessica Stuck	Preserving Latino Heritage Sites in Ohio Hillary Morales Robles	Project Management Consultants, West Side Market project, from financing to project completion: public private partnerships Ken Kalynchuk & Rosemary Murdy		
10:45-11:00 AM	Break Sponsored by project management consultants llc							
11:00-12:00 PM	3rd Morning Session	Real Estate: The Black Sheep of Downtowns Ben Levenger	Theaters as Cultural & Economic Development Engines Craig Hassall	Community Through Collaboration Donna Gross	So You Want to Host a House Tour: Running a Successful Program Crystal Coon	Pro Football Hall of Fame Jon Kendle		
1:00 PM							Pro Football Hall of Fame Tour (Self Transport)	Main Street Board Members Roundtable

* Schedule Subject to Change



What I've Learned from America's Main Streets, So Far



By Erin Barnes,
CEO of Main Street America

September will be my two-year anniversary as Main Street America's President & CEO, and I've had the opportunity to visit forty Main Streets with the staff and Boards of those communities.

Walking down Main Street with the people who love it is my favorite part of this job. I love being in the places themselves, and hearing the stories of transformation that went into them directly from the people involved.

Great Main Streets are each unique to the place they're in. Each district has its own history, and reflects the customs of the people who shaped it through its public spaces, food, architecture and history. But I've now seen enough downtown districts to get the sense that great Main Streets also have a few things in common. Here is what I've learned, so far.

1. Great Main Streets are joyful! That's because they are for, and by, everyone

The most successful Main Streets are hubs for interpersonal connection and backdrops for civic life. In the Fields Corner district of Dorchester, a neighborhood district in Boston, Massachusetts, I was overwhelmed with emotion when we went to the Vietnamese American community center during the lunch hour. The seniors there have a tradition of dancing and singing karaoke during lunch, and the joy was electric as friends and acquaintances came together to be in community.

In Bastrop, Texas, Mike is a local business owner who spends much of the day singing and playing guitar on the sidewalk. Mike stopped our Main Street director on the street because he wrote a song about his town. A whole verse was about Micheala Joyce, the Main Street director!

These Main Streets are joyful, welcoming spaces for our entire communities, and they didn't get that way by accident. We know that creating distinctive, thriving places requires collaboration across all kinds of differences. Just because everyone is involved doesn't mean that we will always agree. In fact, we may have serious, substantive disagreements with others in our communities, even people we work with every day. But Main Street works across lines of difference, drawing on our shared love of our shared places. This continuity is our strength. We have been doing this for forty-five years, and we have the wisdom, and the joyful places, to show for it.

2. Great Main Streets are built on small details and small investments

The smallest Main Street community in our network has a population of 294. I haven't visited LaCrosse, Washington yet, but I did visit Ortonville, Michigan, which is a community of 1,331 people. More than 60% of districts our network are in communities of less than 10,000. Small communities, small towns, small cities are fundamental to our movement.

And small businesses are the essential components on which our Main Streets are built. When Americans support local businesses, they are helping money stay in our local communities, and helping create stable jobs. In 2024, collectively we created more than 6,000 new businesses, more than 35,000 new jobs, and invested nearly \$6 billion in our communities. Those small investments really add up!

From a pocket museum in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to an alley in Laclede's Landing in St. Louis, Main Streeters sweat the small stuff. And we have evidence that it pays off.

3. Great Main Streets practice good governance, taking care of what we love

I've also learned that Main Streeters share a belief in taking care of the things we love. Our movement has disproven the long-held myth that demolition and "starting anew" is a better, easier development path. We know that reusing older buildings and corridors is key to economic vitality. We know there is a value in spit and polish, in a fresh coat of paint, and in the Sisyphean act of bending down to pick up litter. And we know that the magic of preservation on Main Street is that we get to hold the history and the future in a single present moment.

Stewardship – like the culture of community care Frances Jo Hamilton created by washing the sidewalks in Delaware, Ohio that I wrote about on the Main Street blog – is the ongoing action of good governance upon which the Main Street model depends. Good governance is one of the Four Points (it's the O in DOPE!) and it's fundamental to how we work at the local level as a key partner in often complex public private partnerships. But Main Streets make something that sounds complicated as simple as just having great relationships.

It's these commonalities - building for everyone, with everyone, focusing on the small to make a big impact, and acting out of care for the places we love, that make our Main Streets shine. And strong Main Streets are not just places - they're economic engines and civic laboratories. Having seen forty of them in action, I'm sure there is plenty that I don't know yet, but I believe that our civic lives are dependent on our shared Main Streets, and on the ongoing shared practice of shaping them. This is what our movement is best at, and it is what we will continue to do, every day, together.

I'm so looking forward to being with you all soon in Canton!

How to Save Your Downtown

Often, when a downtown is struggling with high vacancy rates, buildings in decay, and a general lack of reinvestment, many people simply shrug their shoulders and accept it as is, but targeted building rehab and historic preservation can be the sparks that can start your community on the road to recovery. Canton could be considered the posterchild of a community on a comeback, and woven throughout our annual conference are several sessions led by Steve Coon, founder of Coon Restoration, Dave Williams, Senior Director of Real Estate Development with Cross Street Partners, and Jonathan Sandvick, founder and principal with Sandvick Architects, who will tell and show you how to save buildings, use financial incentives like historic tax credits, and how to be creative with architecture to create authentic places.

Small Historic Developer Workshop: The Canton Story: How They Changed Their Luck

Downtown Canton had blocks of historic buildings that stood in the crosshairs of demolition—empty shells waiting to be erased from the city’s memory. Where others saw decay, developer Steve Coon and architect and preservation consultant Jonathan Sandvick saw possibility. Alongside the City of Canton, they fought through doubt, setbacks, and enormous challenges to craft a vision that would defy the wrecking ball and reignite a community. Their bold redevelopment strategy transformed endangered landmarks into catalysts for growth, sparking a downtown revival that few thought possible. Come hear how luck was rewritten into legacy. Feel the passion behind saving a city’s soul, and walk away inspired by a story of grit, vision, and unstoppable determination.

Small Historic Developer Workshop: Bringing Buildings Back to Their Glory

Restoring historic buildings is never easy. It demands vision, diligence, and relentless tenacity. Every detail matters—how design dovetails with funding sources, how vision transforms into place, and how perseverance turns risk into reward. Historic preservation is more than saving bricks and mortar—it is one of the most powerful economic development tools we have. It creates architecturally significant spaces that anchor communities, spark investment, and restore civic pride. Behind every success lies a complex financial capital stack—layered with multiple sources, each with its own criteria and timing. Navigating that maze requires creativity, strategy, and unwavering determination. The result? A building reborn. A city revitalized. And a story of preservation that proves the past can be the foundation for the future.

Lunch Is On Us — Join the Developers’ Roundtable

We invite you to enjoy a great lunch and even greater discussion at this year’s Developers’ Roundtable. Come ready to share stories, passion, and pathways to the

redevelopment of downtowns across Ohio. Together, we’ll explore: The economic development tools shaping our cities, the critical role of public–private partnerships, the architectural significance of our historic fabric, and how vision and strategy come together to overcome today’s marketplace challenges in construction, commercial leasing, and retail. This is your chance to connect with fellow leaders, exchange ideas, and be inspired by the bold work of revitalizing Ohio’s urban cores. Lunch is provided — bring your insights, your questions, and your vision for the future.

Historic Theater Summit

Across Ohio, many communities are blessed with amazing and historic performance spaces that fuel local economies through the arts. From early opera houses to movie picture palaces, we love to enter these mysterious spaces and be transported to other places. Canton Ohio is home to the beautiful Canton Palace, a fully restored, 1926 John Eberson atmospheric theater, featuring his signature Spanish Baroque interior, atmospheric ceiling projections, and the original (and also fully restored) Kilgen Organ. The Palace will be featured as the host site for our 2025 Historic Theater Summit, kicking off our Annual Conference.

The Historic Theater Summit will cover many topics applicable for smaller to mid-sized historic theaters. The Summit will open with a thrilling performance on the Kilgen, courtesy of Palace organist, Jay Spencer. The full schedule includes a moderated panel discussion on the arts and theater as economic development, featuring Brianna Dance and Justin Nigro with the Ohio Arts Council, Craig Hassal of Playhouse Square, and Raymond Bobgan with Cleveland Public Theater/Gordon Square Arts District. The following session will focus on funding and financing tools for historic theaters, with panelists from Arts in Stark, Visit Canton, Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, and the Akron Civic and Goodyear theaters.

Sessions in the afternoon will include a roundtable on programming and activation and what today’s audiences want, with Georgia Paxos from the Palace, Howard Parr from the Akron Civic/Goodyear Theaters, and Jonathan Foreman from Cleveland Cinemas. Restoring historic spaces is a perennial topic of discussion, and Matt Janiak from DLR Group, and Eileen Grogan from Conrad Schmitt Studios, will share their experiences working on numerous theater restorations.

We’ll wrap up the Summit with a moderated panel discussion on donor engagement, grant funding, and capital campaign best practices, featuring Georgia Paxos from the Palace, Amy Cronauer from Cleveland MOCA, and representatives from the Stark Community Foundation.

Admission to the Summit is \$50 with a full registration to the conference, or it may be attended separately for \$100. Find out more at www.heritageohioconference.com

Beyond the End Zone: A Fall Journey Through Canton, Ohio

By Tonya Marshall, Visit Canton

Canton, Ohio, may be best known as the home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, a national shrine that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. But to stop there is to miss the full story. Look closer, and you'll discover a city rich with heritage, creativity, culinary pleasures, and architectural beauty.

Autumn in Canton offers a chance to slow down and experience a side of Ohio where small-town charm meets big-city culture. It's a season made for wandering: through vibrant neighborhoods, historic landmarks, tree-lined parks, and downtown streets where stories of presidents, first ladies, and innovators unfold throughout the community.

Presidential History

Urban greenspaces like Monument Park provide views of stunning fall foliage along scenic trails. The McKinley National Memorial rests atop a hill in Monument Park, where mature trees line the pathway to the domed mausoleum. President William McKinley's final resting place stands as a symbol not only of his life and leadership but also of Canton's deep historical roots.

At the foot of the memorial, the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum offers a fascinating dive into presidential and local history. But this isn't your typical dusty exhibit hall. You'll find interactive displays about Stark County's story, science exhibits that engage all ages, and a planetarium that dazzles kids and adults alike.



The President McKinley Monument

Heritage Ohio Annual Awards and Film Festival Preview

Once a year, Heritage Ohio hits the big stage to celebrate the great preservation and revitalization work taking place across Ohio. A select jury of industry professionals review award nominations and by consensus, they choose the top projects and people to be recognized for excellence.

This year, the awards and film festival will take place in the stunning Canton Palace Theater, and outstanding 1926 John Ebersson atmospheric showpiece. Awards this year will be given for both Main Street and Preservation projects. Main Street categories include Best Main Street Committee Project, Best Main Street Committee Event, Main Street Business of the Year, Main Street Director of the Year, Main Street Volunteer of the Year, and Spirit of Main Street. Preservation award categories include Best Commercial Rehabilitation, Best Residential Restoration, Best Downtown Placemaking, and Best Historic Theater Restoration. Individual awards categories include Young Preservationist of the Year, and the Joyce Barrett Historic Preservation Hero.

In 2022, Heritage Ohio piloted a short film festival, showcasing the work we do in communities across Ohio. It has become a favorite part of the conference, and since the films are posted on our YouTube channel, the shorts have been very useful beyond the conference as

educational tools to explain the transformative power of preservation and the Main Street program. This year, our film shorts will highlight the City of Kent and Main Street Kent for their decades long work in downtown revitalization and the Ohio Main Street Program. The Bowery Block and the Akron Civic Theater will be showcased as outstanding examples of how the Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits can transform communities. Historic neighborhoods and their appreciation are a growing concern of Heritage Ohio, and we're thrilled to highlight the venerable German Village Society for their amazing work in preserving an excellent sense of place and preservation best practices.

Heritage Ohio has a long-standing reputation of providing excellent training and technical assistance to local programs, communities, leaders and more, to help build capacity at a grass roots level for revitalization. We'll hear from Ohio Main Street Program Leaders in Lorain County how Heritage Ohio helps them in their daily work and in their respective communities. Finally, for nearly 40 years, Heritage Ohio has been a leader in the country for creative thinking, positive solutions, and acting as change agents. Our final film of the evening will showcase where we started, where we are, and where we're going.

Historic Downtown

Strolling through downtown Canton, the city's story continues in every direction.

Scattered throughout downtown are additional landmarks and plaques that honor McKinley's contributions and Canton's civic heritage. You'll pass the Saxton-McKinley House, the restored Victorian home of former First Lady Ida Saxton McKinley. It stands today as part of the National First Ladies Library & Museum, where stories of women's influence on American life unfold. This fall, the museum presents *The Eras Exhibit: 250 Years of First Ladies' Progress and Power*, on view through April 2027. It's a rare look into the evolving roles of first ladies in public life—from Abigail Adams to Jill Biden—and how they've helped shape our national character.

Just a few blocks away, the grandeur of the Palace Theatre awaits, its 1920s-era interior adorned with intricate plasterwork, velvet drapes, and a rare Kilgen pipe organ. Catch a concert, movie, or other special event inside the historic, atmospheric theater with twinkling stars on a moving night sky ceiling.

Down the road, at the Canton Museum of Art, rotating exhibits highlight contemporary artists alongside an impressive permanent collection of American watercolors and ceramics. Exhibitions on view in Fall 2025 include *Impressions En Plein Air: A Juried Exhibition of the Ohio Plein Air Society* (Aug 26–Oct 26, 2025). Alongside the juried show, the museum showcases historic plein air pieces from its own archives. In late autumn, another compelling exhibit shines a light on trailblazing American women artists, *Shattered Glass: The Women Who Elevated American Art* (Nov 25, 2025–Mar 1, 2026).



The Canton Classic Car Museum

Also located in downtown Canton, the Canton Classic Car Museum invites visitors to take a nostalgic journey through time—featuring a dazzling collection of classic automobiles, vintage memorabilia, and surprising stories that connect local heritage to the broader American experience.

Savor the Season

No visit is complete without discovering Canton's dynamic food scene—a mix of beloved institutions and bold newcomers that reflect the city's evolving palate.



Bender's Tavern

Start with the classics. Bender's Tavern, operating since 1902, is a Canton institution and gold standard for classic, fine dining. Walk through its doors and you're met with oak-paneled walls, white-tablecloth service, refined wine lists, and top-tier seafood, along with the kind of attentive service that has nearly vanished elsewhere.

Just around the corner, a stalwart since 1959, George's Lounge delivers something entirely different. Step back in time to a cozy, throwback dive bar and classic burger joint. Their locally sourced burgers and house-cut fries have earned cult status. Or, try the simple but delicious menu at the Conestoga Grill. With daily specials and homemade soups, it's the kind of place locals love—casual, friendly, and unpretentious.

Craving something more global? Basil Asian Bistro offers a culinary passport. Think Szechuan spice, Thai curries, sushi selections, and a nearly encyclopedic offering of stir-fries—all served in an upbeat, inviting downtown setting. The Desert Inn has been another beloved Canton institution since 1970, now run by the third generation of the founding Shaheen family, serving up personal hospitality and high-quality Mediterranean-inspired cuisine. The restaurant specializes in generous, family-style meals and a wide array of Arabic appetizers like hummus, baba ganoush, tabbouleh, and kibbeh. Their popular Friday night belly-dancer shows add a festive dash of flair.

Downtown Canton also offers several newer dining experiences. Fronimo's delivers with a menu of small plates and large plates alongside cocktails, served in stylish surroundings. A few doors down, Good Fortune serves seasonal, sustainable flavors with a menu that emphasizes fresh, locally sourced ingredients, offering a modern take on classic dishes. These and other new establishments blend seamlessly with Canton's longstanding favorites, creating a diverse and dynamic food scene.

Just ten minutes from downtown, Gervasi Vineyard offers one of the most picturesque dining settings in Northeast Ohio. Set on a sprawling Tuscan-inspired estate, the

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George's Lounge

property includes a working vineyard, boutique inn, wine tasting room, and three distinct restaurants. On a fall evening, nothing beats a glass of estate-grown wine enjoyed outdoors on The Piazza, with grapevines tinged in gold and live acoustic music echoing across the lake.

Where to Stay

Canton offers places to stay that are as memorable as your day's adventures.

Gervasi's boutique and resort-style accommodations are a standout for fall getaways, offering luxe suites with fireplaces, heated floors, and lakeside verandas.

For travelers seeking historic ambiance, Hambleton House Bed & Breakfast delivers. Located in a restored early 20th-century home, its four guest suites feature private

bathrooms, antique furnishings, and a cozy atmosphere perfect for a fall weekend retreat.

Prefer something more urban and convenient? The DoubleTree by Hilton Canton Downtown places you right in the center of the action—just steps from museums, dining, and nightlife.

Fall Events Bring the City to Life

Canton's seasonal events offer something new to experience every weekend.

From now through October 4, the Downtown Canton Farmers Market is hosted in the heart of the city, blending fresh flavors, local art, live music, and family-friendly fun. Whether you're grabbing dinner ingredients, snapping seasonal photos, or savoring a tasty treat, the market captures the heart of fall in Canton.

First Friday is a monthly downtown tradition where the city comes alive with themed festivities. On October 3, Superfly Car Show fills the streets with classic and custom rides, vintage flair, and DJ-fueled energy. Whether you're there for the art, the engines, or the ambiance, First Friday captures the energy and spirit of a vibrant community.

Canton shines bright in the fall—crisp air, golden foliage, and rich cultural charm combine to craft a perfect seasonal getaway. From presidential pathways to pumpkin-flavored treats, it's a place where Ohio's heritage comes alive in unforgettable ways. Plan your visit at VisitCanton.com.

Understanding the Standards: Can I ever Use Vinyl on My Historic Building?

Love it or hate it, vinyl flooring is quickly becoming ubiquitous in construction projects. Once relegated to the exterior of the house, vinyl materials continue to find their way into different areas. And flooring is no different, so much so that the National Park Service recently issued new guidance to help building owners interested in evaluating when using vinyl flooring may be acceptable. But when is it acceptable? As happens so often with a historic rehabilitation, the answer begins with "it depends..."

Among the considerations we have to weigh include: what amount of original flooring remains and what condition is it currently in? Is the space under consideration for replacement a primary building space (think front entry hall to leading into public spaces) or secondary building space (think servant's quarters in the back corners of an



Caption: While this historic flooring was saved and successfully reconditioned to provide more decades of use, not every old floor can be salvaged. New guidance from the National Park Service can give you a better sense of what you should do with your old flooring, especially if it isn't in the best condition.

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upper floor)? And, how well does the proposed replacement flooring mimic the look of the existing flooring?

Old flooring in a building might be considered an important character-defining feature (think maple strip flooring on the gymnasium floor in a historic school). If the old flooring remains relatively intact, and hasn't been shredded by decades of neglect, chances are that SHPO and NPS will want you to repair and maintain that old flooring. However, if portions of the flooring has been removed, reconfigured, seriously damaged, or is completely hidden by newer flooring overlays, you will likely have more latitude to explore alternatives.

However, as the spirit of the Standards stress, replacement, if needed, should be undertaken with a similar

material (if your old oak flooring is missing, it would be great to replace it with new oak flooring that matches the original). Scenarios where flooring replacement with vinyl plank makes sense will be limited, but the new guidelines open the door for vinyl as a possibility.

And consider this: while "vinyl" is a four-letter word in many preservation circles, vinyl materials have been in use in the residential market for 50+ years, and Standard 4 does state: Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

In the next issue of Revitalize Ohio, we'll get more in-depth with Standard 4 and how it can guide, but also complicate how we go about planning a building project.

Section 106 Review

Julia Molnar, OSU creative writing intern

Historic properties can be found in every corner of the United States. The preservation of these sites ensures not just the protection of the buildings themselves, but the safeguarding of American history. The ability of 21st century citizens to visit these sites and immerse themselves in history that they can see and touch first-hand gives an entirely new dimension to our history. The value of historic preservation is established and understood, but how does it compare to the value of new projects? How do we balance the two? Under federal law, the answer is Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA).

The NHPA was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966. The National Parks Service explains that "by the mid-1960s, federally-funded infrastructure and urban renewal projects had resulted in the rapid destruction of places significant in the nation's history." Furthermore, Congress acknowledged that the current government preservation programs were inadequate to preserve these sites. The NHPA changed this by establishing a "national preservation program and a system of procedural protections, which encourage both the identification and protection of historic resources." The significance of the NHPA lies in the fact that it was the most extensive preservation legislation ever passed in the U.S.

Section 106 of the NHPA provides that "the head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking in any State and the head of any Federal department or independent agency having authority to license any undertaking, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license, shall take into account the effect of the undertaking on any historic property." This means that for any federally assisted project, the head of the Federal

agency who has jurisdiction over the project must consider its effect on historic property before the project can receive Federal funds. For example, if the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity wanted to undertake a project in which the building of low-income housing would affect a historic property nearby, they would have to go through a Section 106 review to consider the effects of the project on the historic property before they could receive federal funds. Section 106 exists to ensure that new federal projects will not be undertaken without consideration for historic properties.

The first step in a Section 106 review is to "initiate consultation by notifying the appropriate consulting parties." Consulting parties include the federal agency involved in the project and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Additional consulting parties may include local governments, individuals with a vested interest in the project, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), or more. From this point, the majority of the review takes place between these consulting parties. The ACHP explains that "Consultation does not mandate a specific outcome. Rather, it is the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of consulting parties about how project effects on historic properties should be handled."

The second step in a Section 106 review is to "identify properties that may be affected by the project and determine if the property or properties are historic as determined by eligibility or listing in the National Register of Historic Places." The two criteria for determining eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places are age/integrity and significance.

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According to the National Park Service, the question of age/integrity is “Is the property old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and does it still look much the way it did in the past?” These criteria essentially require that the property has aged enough to be seen as historic, and that the integrity of the structure is intact so that it has maintained the same qualities over the years. For example, even if a structure is over 50 years old, if it has not maintained the same facade or other characteristics, it may not have the same historical qualities. The question of significance is “Is the property associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past? With the lives of people who were important in the past? With significant architectural history, landscape history, or engineering achievements?” Protecting properties with historical significance, such as these, is the expressed purpose of Section 106 and is in keeping with the original goals of the NHPA. Therefore, if any properties that may be affected by the project fall under these criteria, a Section 106 review is necessary.

The third step of a Section 106 review is absolutely essential for the purpose of these reviews. This step consists of “assessing the effects of the undertaking on the resources in consultation with interested parties and establish if they are adverse.” The criteria for determining whether a project may have adverse effects are laid out by the ACHP. The ACHP explains that “if a project may alter characteristics that qualify a specific property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property, that project is considered to have an adverse effect.” As the integrity of a property is one of the main characteristics that qualifies it for a place on the National Register, any project that could decrease the integrity of a property diminishes its historical value and therefore must be addressed according to Section 106. The ways in which a project may diminish the integrity of a property include but are not limited to “physical destruction or damage”, “alteration inconsistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties”, “relocation of the property”, “change in the character of the property’s use or setting”, “introduction of incompatible visual, atmospheric, or audible elements”, or “neglect and deterioration.”

In addition to considering adverse effects, Section 106 also requires federal agencies to consider the views of the public in proceeding with projects that may affect historic properties. For example, “agencies must give the public a chance to learn about the project and provide their views” and “public meetings are often noted in local newspapers and on television and radio.” Furthermore, individuals with an interest in the project or review can work to influence project outcomes through the consulting parties involved in the review. The ACHP explains “Other individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the project may participate in Section 106 review as consulting parties ‘due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern

with the undertaking’s effects on historic properties.’ Their participation is subject to approval by the responsible federal agency.” Essentially, “a vigilant public helps ensure federal agencies comply fully with Section 106.” These provisions within Section 106 ensure that the public has the opportunity to play a role in the protection of historic properties that matter to them.

The final step in a Section 106 review is the resolution of adverse effects. The General Services Administration explains that adverse effects can be resolved through “developing and evaluating alternatives that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate these impacts on historic resources. The result of consultation may be a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or a Programmatic Agreement (PA).” Once adverse effects have been identified, it is the responsibility of the federal agency to minimize these impacts. The Section 106 Review is complete when the consulting parties have created a formal agreement, such as a MOA or a PA, “which records the resolution measures agreed upon to resolve adverse effects.” At this point it has been confirmed that the parties have developed satisfactory methods or alternatives for resolving any adverse effects that may result from the federal project.

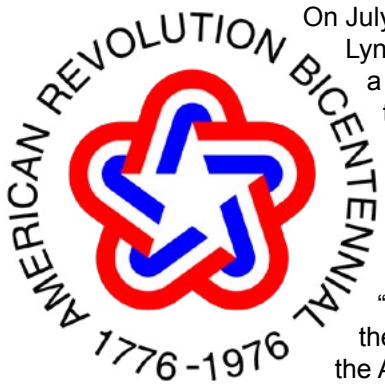
Section 106 may come into play for federal agencies at the most unexpected of times. One notable example is the work done by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused \$108 billion in damage to the city of New Orleans. New Orleans, founded in 1718, is one of the most historic cities in the country. Therefore, reparations done in the wake of Hurricane Katrina fell under Section 106. The ACHP explains that FEMA, being the federal agency responsible for this project, considered two criteria: “identifying properties that needed to be demolished” and “identifying historically significant properties that could be salvaged.” To begin their work in New Orleans, FEMA conducted a Section 106 review.

The second (identifying historic properties) and third (analyzing adverse effects) steps of a typical Section 106 review were completed by FEMA with help from the National Park Service. The NPS used their Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Facility to “construct a methodology to identify and evaluate affected properties using GIS and GPS technologies.” Beyond the NPS, FEMA worked “closely with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office and numerous consulting parties” to assess damage to historic properties across the state. While the wreckage caused by Hurricane Katrina was so immense that the demolition of several historic properties was necessary, FEMA’s Section 106 review ensured that numerous properties were protected, and the number of demolitions was “greatly reduced” (ACHP). The ability of these federal agencies to work together, even in a time of intense crisis, to preserve the historic character of a city like New Orleans, is the exact purpose of Section 106, and demonstrates its necessity.



America 250 Through the Gen-Z Lens

Julia Molnar, OSU creative writing intern



On July 8, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a resolution establishing the "American Revolution Bicentennial Commission". In a statement announcing the signing of this resolution, President Johnson declared that "the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution is, therefore, of interest and concern, not only to Americans, but to men everywhere." He promised that the commission would "give assurance that the American Revolution and the ideas for which it stands will be commemorated with all the dignity and spirit which the occasion deserves." 10 years later, after a decade of careful planning from the commission, the Bicentennial was underway. The Bicentennial celebration ended on December 31st, 1976, but as we stand 50 years later, the Semiquincentennial, or "America 250" approaches.

The stated mission of the national America 250 commission is to "celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence." To accomplish this, the commission plans to "foster shared experiences that spark imagination, showcase the rich tapestry of our American stories, inspire service in our communities, honor the enduring strength, and celebrate the resilience of the United States of America." The celebration will take the form of multiple initiatives across the country, including a concert series, athletic competitions, field trips, service projects, and of course, a massive celebration on July 4th.

To gauge how the celebrations for America 250 may look, I went back in time and researched the Bicentennial of 1976. Looking back on the extravagantly patriotic events that took place for the Bicentennial may lead one to wonder if celebrations like this would be appropriate or even supported by the public at all in the year 2026. In today's climate, many Americans may not feel extremely patriotic. A Gallup poll from 2024 reveals that "the 67% combined share of Americans who are extremely or very proud is consistent with readings since 2018 and among the lowest in Gallup's trend, just four percentage points above the record low of 63% in 2020.

Generation Z generally represents those born from 1997-2012, therefore the members of Generation Z will be between the ages of 14-29 during America 250. However, amongst Generation Z there is a sense of declining patriotism. For a generation that grew up in the wake of events like 9/11, the 2008 financial crisis, and the 2016 presidential election, patriotism often feels foreign and

even inappropriate. The only political climate that Gen-Z knows is one that has become overwhelmingly partisan, drifting further away from a unified, patriotic front. To understand more clearly the level of patriotism amongst Gen-Z and how it may affect their participation in America 250, I spoke to some of my peers who are all either aged 20 or 21, and right in the middle of Gen-Z. Along gender lines, 60% of those interviewed were female and 40% of those interviewed were male.

The first question I asked was "How do you feel about the upcoming America 250 celebration?" Unsurprisingly, the majority of those I spoke to were unaware of the celebration. In response to this question, they said things like "I don't really care", "I didn't know that was a thing", "I would not plan to celebrate", "I didn't even know it was happening". The fact that the majority of Gen-Z individuals who I spoke to did not know anything about America 250 prior to our conversation is important to remember in examining their thoughts about the event, as they were all based on new information.

Upon finding out that my peers knew next to nothing about America 250, I briefly explained that it was the upcoming semiquincentennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Following this, I showed them photos of memorabilia from the bicentennial celebration of 1976 to gauge their opinions on it. These memorabilia came from the Gerald Ford Presidential Library and Museum and included items like a bicentennial rifle, a '76 diamond ring, bicentennial artwork, a bicentennial denim shirt, beer can hat, and more.

Opinions from Gen-Z on these memorabilia were largely negative.



AMERICA 250

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AMERICA 250

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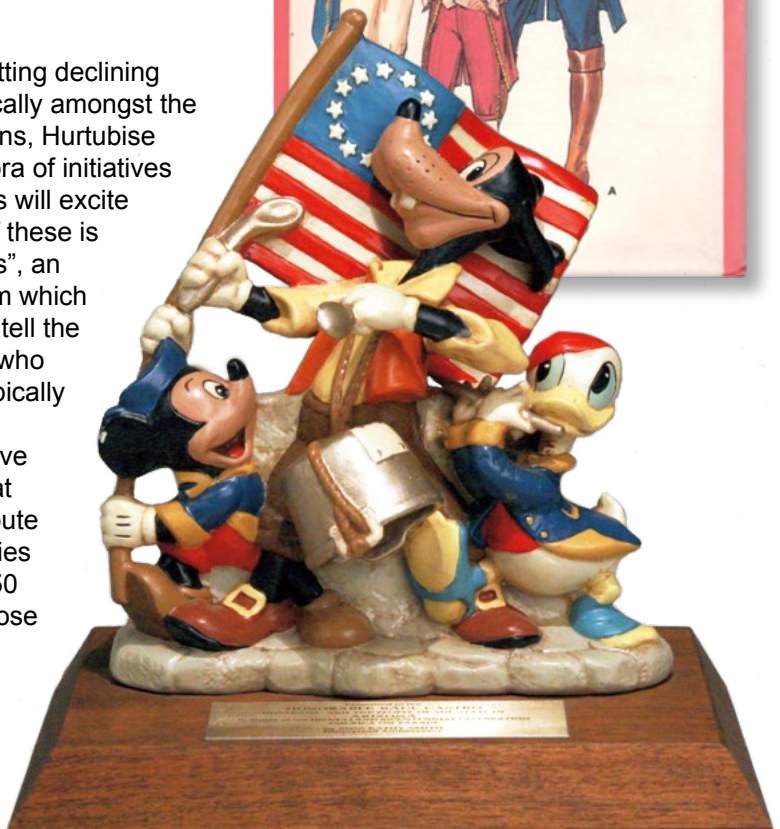
When asked to give a few words to describe these items, respondents used words like “corny”, “ugly”, “over-the-top”, and “weird”. However, there were a few people who I spoke to who had positive responses to the memorabilia, describing it as “cool”, “interesting”, “fun”, “charming”, and “patriotic”. The fact that so many members of generation Z had a negative response to the memorabilia representative of the bicentennial celebration may indicate that the upcoming celebration will look much different from the bicentennial, if young people are to be involved.

While these responses/data demonstrate a decreased level of patriotism amongst Gen-Z, this does not mean all hope is lost for America 250. Instead of discouraging a celebration altogether, a new angle may simply be needed to get the younger generation involved and excited for America 250. For example, organizations like Made By Us have put a new spin on the semiquincentennial. With their Youth 250 initiative, the organization seeks to “capture young people’s imaginations, ideas and input as the United States turns 250 years old in 2026.” Through listening to the voices of Generation Z and following the lead of initiatives like Youth 250, the semiquincentennial can act not just as a celebration of traditional American values, but as a turning point for the America we wish to become.

To understand how the America 250 organization plans to get Gen-Z involved in the upcoming celebration

despite declining patriotism, I spoke to Chris Hurtubise, the communications director for the Ohio America 250 Commission. Hurtubise explained to me that the overall theme for the celebration is the history of Ohio, specifically Ohio’s role in the American Revolution. She emphasized to me that the “theme is that the U.S. would not be the same if weren’t for Ohio.” While there is a national commission for America 250, there are also individual commissions for each state, so Hurtubise’s job as the communications director for the Ohio branch is to get “people feeling excited about Ohio’s history!”

In terms of combatting declining patriotism, specifically amongst the younger generations, Hurtubise described a plethora of initiatives which she believes will excite Gen-Z. The first of these is “Under-told Stories”, an interactive program which allows Ohioans to tell the stories of “people who would not have typically made the history books.” The initiative is interactive in that people can contribute their personal stories via the America 250 website. The purpose of the initiative is to “highlight the spectrum of experiences and contributions to Ohio’s





evolution over 250+ years.” Along the lines of Under-Told Stories, Hurtubise explained that there will also be an interactive Revolutionary War Veteran’s Project. The goal of this initiative is to create a database of Revolutionary War Veterans, and it is a public use project, so citizens can send in information about their family members.

Hurtubise explained that the goal of these initiatives is “not to try and persuade people to be patriotic”, but rather to educate and engage the public about history. These insights demonstrate a potential new angle for America250 in comparison to the Bicentennial: education and engagement as opposed to pure patriotism. In light of the data showcasing declining patriotism amongst Gen-Z, this approach may be the best way to get them involved in America 250, by allowing them to celebrate in a way that feels personal, educational, and exciting.

Saving the History of Fort Laurens State Memorial

Jonathan Brewster, Ohio History Connection

The 2025 archaeological field season at Fort Laurens State Memorial in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, has been a busy one so far. Since breaking ground in early June, the, archaeological crew from Ohio History Connection has been hard at work unearthing pieces of the past. So far, the team has uncovered a mix of artifacts, from pre-contact era projectile points and flakes (created during the manufacture of stone tools) to artifacts from the fort area that include nails and fired and unfired bullets.

“This first field season, we’ve been focused on uncovering some areas of the fort that we have some questions about,” said Jonathan Brewster, the Ohio History Connection’s lead archaeologist for the excavation. “Studying the traces we’re finding allows us to finally answer some long-standing questions about the fort’s construction.”

One of the exciting events of the 2025 field season was the restoration of the fort’s original flagpole. Once the location of the 1778 flagpole was located, the area was carefully excavated, and a replacement timber flagpole was installed in the same location. A few days later, two long-time supporters of Fort Laurens, Doug Angeloni and Marty Zawackey were on hand to raise the 1777 Hopkinson version of the American flag. It was an important first step in the planned reconstruction of the fort, and marks the first time a flag has flown over the fort (in the original flag’s location) in 246 years.

While archaeology and reconstruction are critical to the Fort Laurens project, just as important are the public archaeology events held every other Saturday.

“Working with the public has been very rewarding,” said Archaeological Technician Hope Scott. “We’re able to share our latest discoveries with members of the community, spreading the excitement and interest in Ohio’s Revolutionary War history.”

While the work is rewarding, it’s not without its challenges. After a wet start to the season, the summer of 2025 is

shaping up to be one of the hottest recorded in 131 years. Brewster and the rest of the crew; Peter Ellis, (crew lead), Owen DiMali, and Hope Scott (archaeology technicians) work in the shade or in front of fans wherever possible.

“Difficult weather is always part of archaeology,” said Brewster with a laugh. “Seeing the physical traces of the fort reappear makes it all worth it in the end.”

Looking ahead, the crew plans to continue excavating the remainder of the planned excavations for the field season and continuing the twice monthly public outreach events until the 2025 field season wraps up this fall. Then, the field crew will move on to other projects at that point while Brewster’s focus will shift to mapping and analysis of the season’s discoveries and planning next year’s field season.





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