

REVITALIZE OHIO

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REVITALIZE OHIO

Summer 2026

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On the Cover

The winner of this year's Preservation Month Photo Contest is Preserving Memory: The Cemetery Blitz by photographer Ahmed Aly. Read the story behind the winning image on page 12.



Executive Director Note



In mid-April, I had the great fortune to attend the National Preservation Partners Network Spring Retreat and Historic Properties Redevelopment Program conference in historic Philadelphia. It was a wonderful event, full of educational sessions and meaningful

conversations focused on the numerous aspects of historic preservation. I left the gathering feeling invigorated and emboldened to return to Ohio with a fresh perspective in preservation best practices.

What I also realized is that the preservation field is one of constant change and evolution. When we speak in general about medicine and law, we say a doctor has a practice, and an attorney is practicing law. I feel that way when we talk about preservation, which has numerous levels of practice: reconstruction, refurbishment, rehabilitation, renovation, restoration, preservation, but in the end; we're all working to save historic sites that mean something to someone. We're actively practicing preservation, and it's exciting to experience.

With new technologies, I think it's fascinating to see how we've been able to more accurately restore—truly restore—a property. I remember the Sponge Painted Walls phase of the 2000's, the Laura Ashley prints and decorative wallpaper borders of the 1990's, the Colonial Williamsburg Blue era of the 1980s, the Flat Black Paint and Gold Eagle era of the 1970's. None of those were based in true preservation, but they were valid (if questionable) examples of trying to capture the essence of an era. Today, thanks to advances in science and scholarship, the interiors of Mount Vernon are painted in vibrant hues of green and blue, as authentic as our current resources allow.

Preservation is an evolution, and we need to allow for the ebb and flow of authenticity. At the end of the day, if a historic building still

stands and it's not compromised beyond repair, we should take that as a win.

This fall, we're excited to host our annual conference in the Queen City of Cincinnati (September 29-October 1). Our board held our April board meeting and strategic planning session there, and it's absolutely inspiring to see the level of investment taking place. We think you'll be thrilled at the visual delight of the Over the Rhine District, or with the stunning majesty of the Cincinnati Union Terminal. Read more about what Cincy has to offer on page 18, and start making your plans to join us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Wiederhold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Wiederhold,
Executive Director of Heritage Ohio



A view of the Cincinnati Music Hall from inside Over-the-Rhine's Washington Park.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 24

**Revitalization Series Workshop:
Strong Communities Start with
Connection**

Troy

JUNE 26-28

**Young Ohio Preservationists:
Cleveland Takeover**

Cleveland

JULY 11

**Young Ohio Preservationists:
Wood Window Maintenance &
Restoration Workshop**

Columbus

JULY 14

**The Dollars & Sense of Historic Real
Estate Redevelopment**

Dayton

JULY 22

Webinar: Low Cost, High Impact Events

AUGUST 15

**Young Ohio Preservationists:
Wood Window Maintenance &
Restoration Workshop**

Columbus

AUGUST 26

**Webinar: When it's Time to Retire
an Event**

Upcoming Revitalization Series Workshops

The final two Ohio Main Street Revitalization Series Workshops of the year will take place in Troy and Wadsworth, each focusing on a different aspect of the Main Street America Four-Point Approach. The June 24 training in Troy will center on Promotion, while the September 16 training in Wadsworth will focus on Economic Vitality.

The June workshop will feature Shane Hampton of Main Street America. Hampton is a Senior Program Officer who leads programs focused on planning and place-based strategies for downtowns and commercial districts. An AICP-certified city planner based in Oklahoma City, he will guide an interactive session focused on the importance of social connection in building strong communities.

Grounded in the Chamber of Connection's Six Points of Connection framework, the workshop will explore how meaningful, everyday connections impact everything from customer loyalty to long-term investment. Participants will leave with practical ideas they can immediately apply in their own downtowns and organizations. The session is designed to encourage discussion, idea sharing, and peer learning, with opportunities for attendees to hear what is working in other communities and exchange realistic strategies for strengthening connections locally.

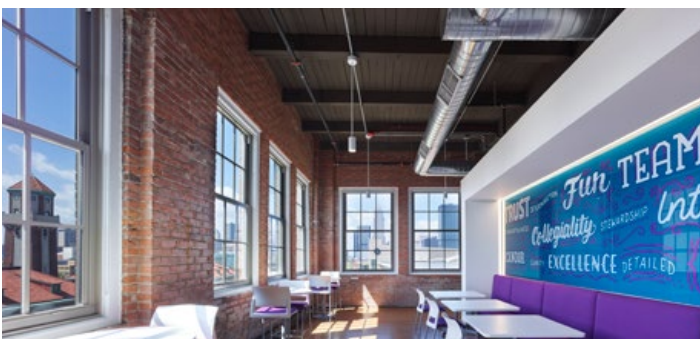
The afternoon session will focus on communication and storytelling. Attendees will learn from peers about both traditional and non-traditional communication tools, including social media, podcasting, LinkedIn, and the growing role of AI in outreach and storytelling.

The Troy workshop will be held at The Mayflower and is sponsored in part by the Miami County Visitors and Convention Bureau.

The September 16th Revitalization Series Workshop in Wadsworth will focus on the role downtown redevelopment plays in broader community economic development. Featured speakers include Suzie Graham Moore, the Director of Economic Development for the City of Akron and David Zak, President & CEO of the Ohio Economic Development Association who will share insights on how downtown investment supports long-term community growth and economic strength.

The Wadsworth training will be held at Mosaic Church, 118 High St, Wadsworth, OH 44281.

Additional information about these trainings and other educational opportunities is available through heritageohio.org



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The Dollars and Sense of Building Rehabilitation

DAYTON ON JULY 14

Perhaps you've been eyeing that old downtown building. It's empty, but full of potential. But is it? Can you rehab that building and rent it out without going broke in the process? Is your bank willing to loan you money to cover construction costs? Will your local commercial rental rates support your long-term debt?

While redeveloping these properties can be rewarding, you need to understand the process going in. The Dollars & Sense of Building Rehabilitation is your guide to learning how that process works.

Join Corey Leon, Senior Field Director with Grow America, for a full day, deep dive course on real estate development to transform white elephant buildings into vibrant income-producing properties. While tax credit incentives (Ohio's 25%/35% and the federal 20%) can be valuable tools, they only cover a portion of a project's funding. That means

the remaining construction costs must come from other sources like debt and equity tied to cash flow.

Participants will learn about the critical role of TIME (both as a concept and an acronym), how banks determine loan amounts, and what drives equity investors' decisions. The day concludes with a practical case study, giving attendees a chance to apply these insights to a real-world scenario.

This deep-dive workshop will equip those new to real estate development with the tools and knowledge they need to evaluate potential projects in their community. You can learn more about these workshops, and register at Heritage Ohio's website, www.heritageohio.org and click on Calendar.

Heritage Ohio thanks AT&T and the Ohio Department of Development for their financial support to make these workshops possible.

Meet Our Newest Board Trustees



James Schimmer,
Columbus
Blue Sky Thinking, LLC

What got you interested in serving on the Heritage Ohio Board?

It's about time. In my retirement, it is time for me to give back as my passion for historic preservation

and downtown development has never gone away. I believe heritage and special places can foster economic development and historic properties can become assets rather than liabilities. I love how historic preservation promotes the adaptive reuse of existing resources and provides new meaningful places for future generations.

What is your connection to historic preservation?

I've always had a passion for old things, archaeology, architecture and historic landscapes. I believe the past is the foundation of the future. I grew up in the Town of Tonawanda, NY about halfway between Buffalo and Niagara Falls, and loved exploring the abandoned warehouses and buildings associated with the western terminus of the Erie Canal. They represented former industrial sites, liveries, boat yards, docks, swing bridges and even an abandoned interurban railroad which was a real mystery. Sadly, many of the historic canal buildings I knew were bulldozed for surface parking lots. Once gone, they are gone forever.

What do you collect and why?

I collect many things, but I'm proud of my barometer collection. I have maybe 20. I've been a weather person all my life, and barometers are a simple scientific instrument people use to predict the future – the future of the weather! For hundreds of years, (barometers were invented in 1643 - just in case you wanted to know) they were as commonplace as clocks, but today they are relatively hard to find. If you watch old movies closely, chances are, you'll see a barometer on the wall of some set. A piece of technology which can predict the future of our weather. Cool, huh?

What is your favorite building or historic spot in Ohio?

Early in my career with the City of Columbus, I was asked what historic building needed to be saved to set an example of how preservation supports economic development, and I said the Smith Brothers Hardware Building. Sure, it caught fire several times, had a large homeless population and sported some of the best graffiti Columbus had to offer. It was truly a poster child of urban blight. But, under all that neglect, it was still a great building. The former industrial warehouse's highly visible location sandwiched between highways made it a prime target for rehabilitation. Others saw the potential, too. Todd Kemmer of Capital Equities worked with Mayor Coleman and my department to set the stage for a marvelous transformation of a one-time downtown eyesore. The

MEET OUR TRUSTEES
Continued on page 6



MEET OUR TRUSTEES

Continued from page 5

successful project raised awareness of historic preservation as a viable alternative to demolition. Smith Brothers was an early example of how to adaptively re-use former industrial warehouse buildings into exciting new downtown office space. Next time you are in Columbus I hope you'll take a look – you can't miss.

Thus far, what has been the highlight of your professional career? Of what are you most proud?

I had the privilege of serving as Franklin County's Director of Economic Development and Planning for several years, and we employed the philosophy of using the redevelopment of existing resources as a focus for economic development. A prime example were the re-uses of three former brownfields sites at Harrison West, Gowdy Field and Grandview Yard. Today all have been successfully "re-used" for new commercial, single and multifamily housing, retail, entertainment and park space. To see first-hand that former dump sites can become dynamic new neighborhoods (now proven over 20-years) has been professionally fulfilling for me. I believe this thinking is at the heart of historic preservation and downtown development.

What is your hidden talent that you're willing to share?

I can read cultural landscapes very well, by observing the historic buildings or the landscape, I can, with some accuracy, tell you who settled the area and how it evolved over time. If I see a certain kind of bank barn for example, I can tell you German settlers built it and when. The natural and built environment tells stories and provides clues into our past if you can read them.

What is your vision or dream for Heritage Ohio?

I hope to see Heritage Ohio remain on the cutting edge of historic preservation activities, by supporting vital places in both small communities and large cities. In 50 years from now, I hope that our stewardship of the natural and built environment will still resonate, and by saving these existing places they can be passed on to the next generation of preservationists.



Lucas Witters,
Cleveland
BakerHostetler

Lucas Witters, Baker &
Hostetler, LLP

What got you interested in serving on the Heritage Ohio Board?

I love historic buildings, and do a lot of work in saving them through my work as a tax attorney and tax credits. I learned about Heritage Ohio through our board chair, Dave Williams, and accepted his invitation to get more involved at a leadership level.

What is your connection to historic preservation?

I'm connected to historic preservation through my work, and I work with historic properties on a daily basis.

What do you collect and why?

I'm a non-traditional collector. I'm a big outdoors person, so I have a ton of outdoor gear, like tents, fishing poles, hiking gear. Pretty much anything you'd need for outdoor adventures, I probably have it.

What is your favorite building or historic spot in Ohio?

I love the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and the Tow Path hiking trail along the Ohio Erie Canal.

Thus far, what has been the highlight of your professional career? Of what are you most proud?

I tend to embrace the most complicated deals in financing, and I'm proud to have helped close the deals to save the Dayton Arcade in Dayton, and most recently, the Park Synagogue in Cleveland Heights. Both are incredibly historic spaces.

What is your hidden talent that you're willing to share?

Well, I'm definitely not a karaoke person; I'm a tax attorney. I guess my hidden talent is that I'm a pretty good cook.

What is your vision or dream for Heritage Ohio?

In my short time on the board, I've really loved the work we're doing so far, and I'd love to see us continue to grow and do more.



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Remembering Heritage Ohio Board Member Katie Meyer



Katie Meyer, beloved wife, daughter, mother, sister, grandmother, and friend, passed away on the morning of April 16 after a courageous battle with cancer. Katie will be remembered for the way she lived: fully, generously, and fearlessly. She was brilliant, vibrant, thoughtful, and kind. Her spirit, humor, and compassion left a lasting mark on everyone who knew her.

Her loss is immeasurable, but so is the impact she leaves behind in the countless lives she touched around the world, in her community, and in her family.

Katie was a proud Covingtonian; wherever she was in the world, Covington was always home. Katie earned a Bachelors from the University of Kentucky and a Masters in Urban Policy from the New School in New York City. She travelled the world during her studies, immersing herself in South and Central America, working in public administration in New Delhi, India and in British Columbia, Canada. Yet her heart remained in Covington, and she returned here in 2010.

When she returned, she embraced a mission to improve our city that she would never let go. Her dedication to that mission was profoundly evident in her work as Executive Director of Renaissance Covington from 2010 to 2019. Katie was a driving force behind the revitalization of downtown Covington. She championed economic growth, supported small businesses, and helped to cultivate Covingtons vibrant sense of place that so many continue to love today.

2015, she became a published author when she co-wrote *Walking Cincinnati*, a guide that highlighted the history and culture of many Cincinnati and NKY neighborhoods. In 2017, the national organization Main Street America awarded Renaissance Covington the Great American Main Street Award in recognition of Katie's accomplishments.

In March 2012, Katie's drive to build community led her and her wife, Bonnie, to open Pike Street Lounge, a vibrant gathering place built around creativity and hospitality. It stood as a reflection of Katie's gift for bringing people together and creating spaces where others felt welcome - all while she was continuing her important placemaking work in a variety of other roles.

In August of 2023, Katie became the CEO of the Downtown Dayton Partnership, where she championed economic development, supported small businesses, and helped create a more vibrant, connected, and inclusive community. While in Dayton, she served on the Board of Directors of Heritage Ohio, YWCA Dayton (OH), Boys and Girls Club of Dayton (OH). The Boys and Girls club of Dayton described Katie as a remarkable leader, a courageous voice for equity, and a radical champion for young people.

Katie's sense of leadership and civic duty was also evident through her roles in numerous organizations, yet there was perhaps no endeavor that illustrated Katie's fiercely inclusive spirit better than her work with Northern Kentucky Pride and the NKY Pride Center. Katie was the incredibly tenacious and deeply organized driving force behind so much of the Northern Kentucky Pride Centers work. She didn't just believe in making Northern Kentucky a safer, more inclusive, and vibrant place for the LGBTQ+ community, she actively made it happen.

Above all, Katie's greatest love was her wife, Dr. Bonnie Meyer, who was the center of her world and her trusted partner. She is also survived by her loving parents: Joe and Dale Meyer; children: Alyssa Nickles and Kyle (Jade) Nickles; brothers: Chris (Megan) Meyer, David (Marisa McNeer) Meyer and Jon (Maranda) Meyer; grandchild: Dax Nickles; niece: Lydia Meyer and nephews: Lucas Meyer and Ryan Meyer.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that contributions be made in Katie's memory to the NKY Pride Center, an organization close to her heart.

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

By Rob Naylor, Preservation Action

Historic Preservation Month Congressional Briefing

In celebration of May as National Historic Preservation Month, Preservation Action and the Historic Preservation Caucus (co-chaired by Rep. Mike Turner, R-OH), hosted the annual Preservation Month Congressional Briefing to educate congressional staff on historic preservation programs and policies. The briefing featured a panel of experts to discuss how historic preservation can be a powerful tool for addressing affordable housing, driving economic development, and improving permitting efficiency.

Historic Preservation Fund

The appropriations process for fiscal year 2027 is in full swing. This includes funding for key historic preservation priorities, like the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF supports the critical work of State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and important grant programs. The Administration's budget request proposed nearly eliminating the HPF, a staggering 94% cut. If enacted, this would have an absolutely devastating impact on historic resources. Luckily, thanks to the consistent advocacy of the historic preservation community, historic preservation continues to be a bipartisan issue. The recently released FY27 House Interior, Environment, and related agencies draft bill largely rejected those extreme cuts and funds the HPF at \$163.65 million.

As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the 50th anniversaries of the HPF and Historic Tax Credit (HTC) in 2026, we should be investing in preserving the places that tell the story of our nation. Preservation Action and our historic preservation partners, like Heritage Ohio, are urging Congress to reject those cuts and instead support a historic, \$250 million for the HPF. We are also urging Congress to support long-term authorization of the HPF by co-sponsoring the HPF Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3418), which would reauthorize the HPF for 10 years and increase the program's annual authorization from \$150 million to \$250 million.

Historic Tax Credit

Efforts to modernize and enhance the federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) continue to gain support. Thirteen new members of Congress have signed on to the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R. 2941, S. 1459) over the last couple of months. The HTC is a highly successful incentive for rehabilitating historic buildings, but ongoing challenges have limited its effectiveness. The HTC-GO Act would make updates to strengthen the credit, expand access, and increase investment in smaller projects.

We need your voice to take on these challenges!

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 at \$250 million as we commemorate America's 250th anniversary.
2. Urge your Representative to co-sponsor the Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3418). The HPF's authorization is set to expire in September and this bill would provide much needed certainty to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices that rely on this vital funding.
3. 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.
4. Congress is back in-district/state for the entire months of August and October 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 www.preservationaction.org.

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The National Historic Preservation Act turns 60

By early 1966, the national historic preservation movement was reeling. As postwar settlement moved new residential construction further and further from the city center, the Housing Act of 1949 appropriated an initial \$1.5 billion in grants and loans to eliminate slum and blighted buildings, resulting in the demolition of hundreds of thousands of housing units from New York City to Los Angeles. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 authorized the construction of the interstate highways across our country, demolishing hundreds of thousands MORE housing units, splitting apart (or destroying) whole neighborhoods. Add the demolition of iconic landmarks such as Penn Station in New York City (1963) and the future of historic preservation was looking bleak.

Good transportation, good housing, clean cities; “progress” necessitated clearing some of our shared heritage, and for the sake of progress we were losing that shared heritage at an alarming rate.

Thankfully, historic preservation stakeholders began pushing back. Support coalesced into advocacy for new federal legislation, and in 1966 the pivotal book, *With Heritage So Rich*, was published. Featuring a foreword from Lady Bird Johnson, the ideas resonated with legislative champions at the federal level, resulting in passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in late 1966.

Importantly, NHPA set in motion practical preservation for the next 60 years. But what exactly did it usher in?

While NHPA actions created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and stipulated that federal agencies consider their actions in a preservation context, perhaps the 3 most important components of the act for us today in Ohio, included: 1) the establishment of State Historic Preservation Offices, 2) the creation of the National Register of Historic Places, and 3) the creation of the Section 106 process.

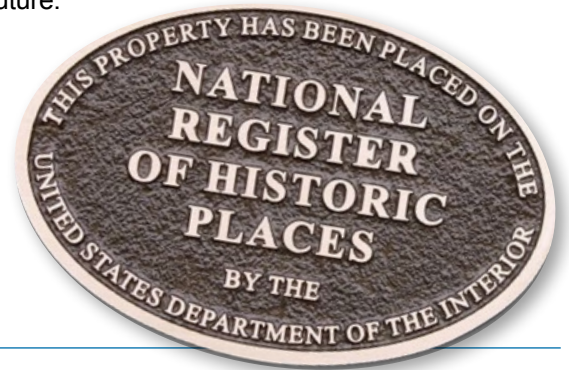
For the majority of preservationists today in Ohio, our State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) forms an integral part of our preservation existence. Thankfully, the federal government had the wisdom to establish state offices to promulgate provisions of the NHPA. From administering the National Register of Historic Places program, to reviewing thousands of Section 106 undertakings, to reviewing

applicants for both the state and federal tax credit incentive programs, the Ohio SHPO is an indispensable part of so much that happens in our state.

The creation of the National Register of Historic Places finally gave our country an official, countrywide listing of the places worthy of preservation. Furthermore, the National Register serves as an eligibility benchmark for various grants and tax incentives. However, and this point is often confused, listing in the National Register does not place any official restrictions against private property owner actions. Indeed, a building can be placed on the National Register one day, and the property owner can tear it down the next day. Fortunately, National Register listing can slow down an overzealous push to demolish a historic property when federal funding or permitting is involved, otherwise known as Section 106.

Named after the 106th section of the NHPA, Section 106 stipulates that federal funding or federal permitting that would result in the destruction of historic resources requires the involved federal agency to consider those effects, and work to avoid or minimize those effects, when possible. The Ohio SHPO reviews thousands of Section 106 undertakings each year, and while many undertakings do not involve historic resources, some do, and Consulting Parties (such as Heritage Ohio) have the opportunity to help mediate solutions to either save those historic resources, or to otherwise strengthen the preservation movement when those historic resources are lost.

As NHPA approaches its 60th birthday this October, we have reason to celebrate. The foresight of preservationists from long ago continues to assist and inform our efforts today, and will into the future.



Preservation Across Ohio

Historic District Expansion Update

COLUMBUS: Columbus Landmarks welcomed Chris Hune as their new President and CEO. She has a background in historic preservation through her work with the German Village Society and Capital Square Review and Advisory Board, and years of preservation experience.

TROY: Troy Historic Preservation Alliance is leading an initiative to expand their downtown Public Square Historic District. THPA is working collaboratively with Main Street

and the City of Troy, and the State Historic Preservation Alliance. The nomination process is scheduled to begin around July 1st, with a typical timeline of nine months to get on the March agenda for OSHPD review.

OHIO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE: It was announced that the Historic Preservation Fund grant application has been opened for Federal Fiscal Year 26 and

Saved, Threatened, Demolished

SAVED?

Northside Fire Station, Findlay

The 1934 Northside Fire Station in Findlay will soon have a new owner as it heads to auction this summer. The city administration is looking to find a buyer that will preserve the historic structure.

The fire station was one of the focus buildings for the preservation assessment workshop conducted in Findlay.

THREATENED

Middletown landmarks including the former Manchester Inn

Although numerous successful conversions of former hotel spaces to apartment spaces have happened in the state over the past few years, Middletown appears set on a path to demolish the historic former Manchester Inn, constructing new apartments on the site. Entities that clearly care about the health of the community, including the Middletown Community Foundation, have fronted millions of dollars invest in downtown revitalization. The decision to demolish the Manchester may be a shortsighted mistake.



Hotel Lorraine, Toledo

Earlier in May, the brick façade of Hotel Lorraine in downtown Toledo began to bow outward, causing the street and sidewalk in front of the historic hotel to be closed for safety concerns. The city also announced it was proceeding with a

foreclosure against the LLC that owns the building due to unpaid taxes owed to the city.

The historic Roche De Boeuf Bridge, Waterville



Originally constructed in the early 1900s to carry interurban traffic over the Maumee River, the Roche de Boeuf Bridge has suffered decades of neglect since its abandonment after only about

30 years of service. Although the bridge had the notoriety of being one of the longest concrete reinforced bridges in the world, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, redevelopment plans have failed to gain traction, and ODOT has appropriated funds for its demolition. Local preservation stakeholders continue to advocate for its preservation, requesting additional time to study reuse options.

DEMOLISHED

Fridrich Bicycle Shop, Cleveland

The former oldest bike shop in Cleveland, which closed in 2024, has been partially demolished after an emergency demolition permit was issued in early May. The demolition permit was issued due to a bowing façade that was deemed an imminent safety threat.

“DISCOVERED”

Rare building technology, Lisbon

Sometimes forgotten building technology is uncovered over the course of a building renovation, and we were alerted to this recently with an ongoing building rehabilitation happening in Lisbon. As the owners were peeling drywall off interior walls, a combination of post & beam construction and masonry emerged. What you see in the images is brick nogging. While brick is usually a structural, load-bearing component, in these walls the wood timbers are likely the load-bearing components, and the interstitial brick is serving an insulation or sound-deadening purpose. When labor was cheap and plentiful (as was clay and sand to mold and fire brick) laying up brick in interior walls was not unheard of, and other materials commonly served the same purpose in both timber-framed and stud-framed walls.



CAMP Comes to Newark

Heritage Ohio and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions recently partnered to present Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP), a training focused on strengthening local preservation leadership and decision-making.

Designed for members of historic preservation commissions, design review boards, planning commissions, and municipal staff, the workshop brought together both volunteers and professionals responsible for guiding preservation efforts in their communities. The training created a warm environment for participants to learn practical skills and exchange ideas.

The CAMP training was led by an experienced team of preservation professionals, including Sharon Bradley, Kate Singleton, and Chris Wand, each of whom shared a tremendous amount of practical knowledge and real-world expertise throughout the day. Sessions focused on topics critical to effective preservation programs, including Why Preserve, Legal Basics, Standards and Guidelines for Design Review, Design Review Exercises, Meeting Procedures, and Enforcement and Violations. Through presentations and robust discussions, attendees gained tools and strategies they can immediately apply in their own communities.

Heritage Ohio was proud to partner with NAPC (National Association of Preservation Commissions) to bring this nationally recognized program to Ohio and appreciates the strong participation and engagement from communities across the state. The workshop was made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Historic Preservation Fund administered by the Ohio History Connection, Historic Preservation Office.

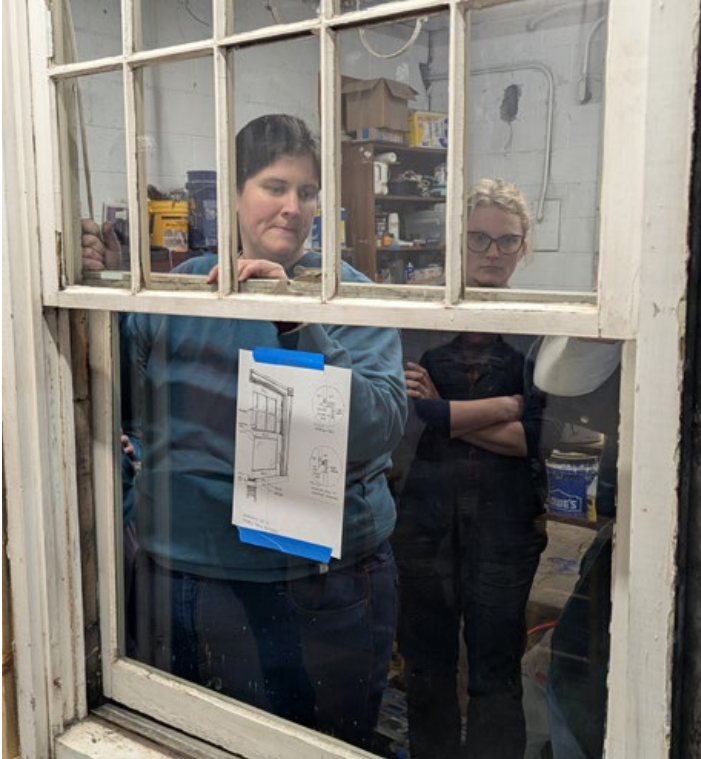


Young Ohio Preservationists Update

Springtime of 2026 has been busy for Young Ohio Preservationists. In March, the group kicked off their series of historic wood window workshops in partnership with Lindsay Jones and Blind Eye Restoration. The first session held was as an in-depth discussion about historic wood windows, how to properly maintain them, and how to correct common issues that occur with them. Additionally, the second session was held at the Blind Eye workshop in May, where attendees were able to learn how to remove and re-install historic wood windows, how to re-rope the weights that operate the windows, and how to create a lead safe environment when working on historic wood windows. Two more sessions will be held during the summer and fall that focuses on repairing wood rot, re-glazing, removing paint, and more. In addition, the group, along with Blind Eye Restoration and Heritage Ohio, kicked off their Virtual Shop Class where Lindsay Jones educates historic homeowners how to maintain and repair their historic homes. The first webinar explored appropriate weather stripping for historic door and window openings. Throughout the year, additional webinars will be available to register for through the Heritage Ohio website.

In April, Young Ohio Preservationists partnered with German Village Walking Tours to take a stroll around historic German Village in Columbus, Ohio. Platted in 1814 and settled largely by German Immigrants, today German Village stands as a historic preservation masterpiece. Characterized by brick and limestone construction, the neighborhood features its historic brick sidewalks, limestone curbs and carriage steps, and nineteenth century brick houses. On the tour, attendees learned about the history and development of the neighborhood, the construction of the residences and parks, and about the significant residents that lived in German Village.

Following the success of the YOP Toledo Takeover from 2025, the group will be heading to Cleveland in late June. Partnering with GBX Group, Sandvick Architects, NaylorWellman LLC, and the Take-a-Hike organization – attendees will get to tour Cleveland's historic gemstones and active historic rehabilitation tax credit projects including the Wellman-Seaver Building, West Side Market, and the Superior Avenue Corridor. Additionally, Ohio State Historic Preservation Office employee Dani Cohen will provide a



guided tour of the historic and culturally significant Erie Street Cemetery. Networking opportunities through events at local businesses and a happy hour sponsored by GBX Group will allow for attendees to connect and discuss topics surrounding the historic preservation field today.

YOP has many other events and workshops planned for 2026 including a tour of historic Bruckmann Brewery in Cincinnati, a cemetery preservation workshop at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, and a plaster workshop in Toledo. To stay connected, follow Young Ohio Preservations on Instagram, @youngohiopreservationsists. For other young professionals in the field interested in being involved with this organization, contact Abby Marshall at amarshall@ohiohistory.org.

UPCOMING YOP EVENTS

June 26-28

Young Ohio Preservationists: Cleveland Takeover
Cleveland

July 11

Young Ohio Preservationists: Wood Window Maintenance & Restoration Workshop
Columbus

August 15

Young Ohio Preservationists: Wood Window Maintenance & Restoration Workshop
Columbus

2026 Preservation Month Photo Contest: And the winner is...

This year it was up to our entrants to tell us what historic preservation meant, and we received more than 20 entries showcasing great communities and people. However, there can only be one winner, and this year's winner is Ahmed Aly for his image *Preserving Memory: The Cemetery Blitz*.

Ahmed's statement about his entry provides the background about the preservation work in action:

Students from the Andrew Jackson Davison (AJD) Club participate in a "Cemetery Blitz" at the historic West State Street Cemetery in Athens, Ohio. Guided by preservation techniques similar to those used at Arlington National Cemetery, the students carefully clean and restore historic headstones belonging to early Black residents and veterans of the community. The image captures youth actively engaging in historic preservation, cultural education, and community remembrance, demonstrating how preservation keeps local history alive for future generations.

Congratulations to Ahmed for capturing the essence of historic preservation in a way that resonated with the voters, and thanks to everyone who entered this year.



PRESERVATION ACROSS OHIO

Continued from page 9

shared information about additional historic preservation grants available through the National Park Service. They also provided updates on the Ohio Open Doors program, which aims for 250 events across 88 counties from September 10-20, with early registration ending in mid-July and a \$150 stipend available for eligible organizations.

PRESERVATION OHIO: Preservation Ohio is working to expand their board by two to three members and is developing online resources for smaller restoration groups.

ARCANUM: The Opera House team is using some fun and unique fundraising tools, including sports in Arcanum, Brick Street Block Party, and various other activities like poker tournaments and Rocky Horror Picture Show. The team shared details about a fundraising game called "Shit a Brick" involving a duck and numbered bricks.

DAYTON: Preservation Dayton's is working to fight the demolition of an 1853 brick home through the BZA hearing process, noting this is only the third time in 40 years such a decision has been appealed. She also reported progress on a CDC project receiving a \$19,000 Ohio History Grant, with structural work 90% complete and HVAC

arrangements being finalized through Sinclair Community College.

CINCINNATI: Cincinnati Preservation held their Preservation Awards event, and upcoming activities including a summer lecture series and bike rides. They are also working on two new local historic district designations in North Avondale and Westwood.

COLUMBUS: Heritage Ohio launched its "250 buildings, 250 stories" initiative as part of America 250 celebrations, with three categories including legacy buildings, opportunity buildings, and recently rehabilitated buildings. Anyone can nominate any building in Ohio. The group hopes to submit all stories by the end of September for their conference.

TIFFIN: The Tiffin Historic Trust discussed changes to their annual meeting format by integrating the business meeting with their regular board meeting to increase engagement. He also explained plans to convert their historic property into event space to raise funds and mentioned their work on implementing a citywide facade grant program for historic structures.

Meet a Main Street Director



Hailey Helter Executive Director of Our Town Coshocton

Downtown Coshocton is gaining momentum, and at the center of that energy is a leader who is both new to the role and deeply connected to the community.

Hailey Helter has served as Executive Director of Coshocton's Main Street program for nine months.

She is driven by the visible impact of revitalization including new businesses openings, buildings being restored, and investment returning to downtown. Our Town Coshocton is helping to create a renewed sense of pride across the community.

That connection is what she finds most rewarding. From strong event participation to helping residents better understand the role of the Main Street program, her work is rooted in engagement and awareness.

In addition to her role as Executive Director, Hailey works as a Realtor with Howard Hanna Real Estate and brings experience in marketing, sales, retail, and customer service. This background gives her a practical

understanding of both business development and community needs.

Her leadership style is hands-on and grounded in leading by example, an approach that has helped her build credibility with volunteers, partners, and stakeholders.

At just 21, she brings a strong work ethic and a clear commitment to the community she has called home her entire life.

As Coshocton continues to evolve, her leadership reflects a balance of energy, practicality, and forward momentum.



Photos by Jeff Goldberg, Esto Photographics



ARCHITECTURE. INSPIRED.

The beautiful, enduring structures we create for government, education, cultural and other public and private clients are inspired by the people that interact with them where they live, learn, work and play.

Pictured: the Carlisle Building in Chillicothe, OH



www.schooleyaldwell.com



Celebrating America 250 in Ohio's Main Streets

Across Ohio, Main Street programs are planning a wide range of creative and community-focused events to celebrate **America 250**, the nation's 250th anniversary. From patriotic concerts and festivals to historic reenactments, family activities, and special downtown promotions, these celebrations highlight the unique ways Ohio communities are honoring our shared history while bringing people together in their historic downtowns. The events below represent just a sampling of how Main Street organizations across the state are marking this milestone and inviting residents and visitors alike to take part in the celebration.

July 10–11, 2026
Marysville — America 250 Celebration
marysvilleohio.org

A two-day festival featuring live music, food and local vendors, carnival rides, and family games, creating a patriotic celebration for the whole community.

Marysville is an Aspiring Ohio Main Street Program.

July 11, 2026 – 10:00 AM
Marietta - History in the Park
cwrtmov.org

This event is being put on by the Civil War Round Table of the Mid Ohio Valley – a Marietta based organization whose mission is to educate, commemorate, and encourage public interest in the American Civil War.

Marietta is a an Affiliate Ohio Main Street Program.

July 11, 2026
Ravenna - America's 250th Anniversary
Community Picnic

This community celebration is being organized by the City of Ravenna and will include family-friendly activities and a celebration of America's 250th Anniversary.

Ravenna is an Affiliate Ohio Main Street Program.

July 18, 2026 – 9:00 AM
Lorain – America 250 Clean-Up
downtownlorain.com

As a part of their monthly mini sweep clean-up's Main Street Lorain is aiming to get 250 hours of service for this clean-up event to help in beautifying the downtown neighborhood.

Lorain is an Affiliate Ohio Main Street Program.

AUGUST

August 1, 2026 — 6:30 PM (Movie begins shortly after dusk)

Van Wert — Ohio Goes to the Movies:
Downtown Movie Night

www.facebook.com/events/1328413072364751

Join the community in downtown Van Wert for a magical outdoor screening of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone as part of the statewide Ohio Goes to the Movies celebration. The evening will include pre-event activities such as snow cones, bounce houses, a costume contest, snacks, and games before the movie begins. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for this free, family-friendly event held at Fountain Park. The event is presented in partnership with Ohio Goes to the Movies and sponsored by Van Wert Manor.

Main Street Van Wert is an Affiliate Ohio Main Street Program.

August 15–16, 2026
Portsmouth — Revolutionary War Encampment
explorescioto.com/america250-ohio-scioto-county

Earl Thomas Conley Riverside Park will transform into a Revolutionary War-era camp. Reenactors from the 8th Pennsylvania Fort Laurens Detachment will demonstrate soldiers' daily life, including food preparation, musket fire, cannon demonstrations, and storytelling. Main Street Portsmouth will also host a tour of the Scioto County Infirmary Mound.

Main Street Portsmouth In Bloom is an Aspiring Ohio Main Street Program.

SEPTEMBER

September 26, 2026
Wellington – America 250 Signature Places Tour
mainstreetwellington.org

The Wellington community will be hosting a "hybrid" community tour that will include four historical homes, three churches and one farm. In addition, there will be a virtual tour of up to 25 homes and businesses (a QR code for each location) which will travel through time featuring different decades.

Main Street Wellington is an Affiliate Ohio Main Street Program.

OTHER AMERICA 250 HAPPENINGS

Vermilion

Vermilion Lighthouse has been named an official stop on the *America 250-Ohio Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail*, part of the statewide *Trails & Tales* program commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail highlights over 150 sites across Ohio, telling the story of how the state's waterways have shaped communities, commerce, and culture for more than two centuries. As one of the featured **Lake Erie Lighthouses**, the Vermilion Lighthouse stands as a beacon of the city's maritime heritage.

To learn more about the America 250-Ohio Trails & Tales Program, visit america250-ohio.org/lake-erie-to-ohio-river/.

Main Street Vermilion is an Affiliate Ohio Main Street Program.

Kent

Kent will be participating in the **Murals Across Ohio program as a part of Ohio 250 celebration**. Through this initiative, Ohio aims to honor the artists, the stories, and the places that make Ohio unique. To learn more about the America 250 Murals Across Ohio visit <https://america250-ohio.org/murals-across-ohio/>

Main Street Kent is an Affiliate Ohio Main Street Program.

Main Street in Motion: How Ohio Communities Are Revitalizing Their Downtowns

Across Ohio, downtowns are coming back to life.

Historic storefronts are reopening. Vacant upper floors are becoming apartments and offices. Murals, festivals, and public gathering spaces are drawing residents and visitors back to community centers that once struggled with disinvestment and decline. Behind many of these success stories is the Ohio Main Street Program, administered by Heritage Ohio.

The Ohio Main Street Program is more than a beautification effort. It is a community-driven economic development strategy focused on preserving historic character while building vibrant, sustainable downtown districts. Based on the nationally recognized Main Street America framework, the program helps communities strengthen local businesses, encourage investment, preserve historic architecture, and create places where people want to come and stay for a while.

Today, Ohio communities of every size — from rural villages to mid-sized cities — are proving that revitalization is not just possible, but already happening.

A Grassroots Approach to Revitalization

Unlike large-scale redevelopment projects imposed from outside a community, the Main Street approach begins locally. Residents, business owners, property owners, nonprofits, and local governments work together to identify what makes their downtown unique and how to build on those strengths.

The Ohio Main Street Program uses a “Four-Point Approach” centered on:

- Organization
- Design
- Economic Vitality
- Promotion

Together, these strategies help communities create a long-term vision for downtown growth while preserving local identity and historic character.

This collaborative model has helped communities across Ohio tackle issues ranging from vacant buildings and declining foot traffic to housing shortages and small business recruitment.

The Economic Impact Is Real

The results across Ohio have been substantial.

Ohio Main Street communities have generated:

- More than **\$1.86 billion in private investment**
- Over **\$390 million in public investment**
- More than **1,650 net new businesses**
- More than **12,000 new jobs**
- Over **1 million volunteer hours** contributed statewide

Those numbers represent more than statistics. They reflect restored buildings, expanded local entrepreneurship, stronger tourism economies, and renewed civic pride. Business owners in local Main Street communities have exhibited higher rates of success and have renewed confidence in their communities.

MAIN STREET IN MOTION

Continued from page 15

Downtown revitalization also creates ripple effects beyond retail. Research on Main Street programs has shown that revitalized downtown districts can increase property values, encourage reinvestment, and strengthen long-term community stability.

Preserving History While Building the Future

One of the defining features of the Main Street movement is its emphasis on historic preservation as an economic asset.

Historic buildings give communities authenticity and a sense of place that cannot be replicated through new construction alone. Rather than demolishing older structures, Main Street programs often focus on adaptive reuse — transforming upper floors into housing, converting vacant storefronts into small businesses, and restoring architectural details that reconnect communities to their history.

This preservation-based development strategy has become increasingly important as communities compete for residents, entrepreneurs, remote workers, and tourism dollars.

In many Ohio communities, downtown is once again becoming the heart of civic life.

Communities Leading the Way

Communities participating in the Ohio Main Street Program are seeing measurable progress through strategic planning, local partnerships, and sustained volunteer engagement.

For example, Downtown Tiffin was recognized as a nationally certified Main Street community after demonstrating success in downtown revitalization, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship support, and historic preservation efforts.

Other communities across the state are focusing on streetscape improvements, façade restoration programs, housing development, arts programming, small business incubation, and destination events that bring people back downtown.

What makes these efforts successful is not a one-size-fits-all formula. Each community builds on its own assets, culture, and priorities.

A rural downtown may focus on tourism and historic character. A larger city may prioritize housing and mixed-use redevelopment. Another community may emphasize arts, festivals, or entrepreneurial growth. The flexibility of the Main Street model allows communities to shape revitalization around local needs.

Revitalization Is About People

At its core, Main Street revitalization is not simply about buildings or infrastructure. It is about strengthening connections between people and place.

When downtowns thrive, communities gain more than economic activity. They gain gathering spaces, cultural identity, walkable neighborhoods, and

opportunities for small businesses and local leadership to flourish.

Volunteers organize events. Residents attend festivals and farmers markets. Entrepreneurs open businesses in spaces that had sat vacant for years. Young professionals and retirees alike rediscover the appeal of living near an active downtown district.

That sense of momentum can transform how a community sees itself.

Looking Ahead

Ohio's downtown revitalization story is still unfolding.

As communities continue adapting to changing economies, workforce trends, and housing needs, Main Street programs are helping local leaders think creatively about the future of their downtowns. From upper-story housing and outdoor public spaces to small business support and heritage tourism, Ohio communities are finding new ways to reinvest in the places that define them.

The Ohio Main Street Program demonstrates that revitalization is not reserved for major metropolitan areas. With collaboration, vision, and local commitment, communities of all sizes can create vibrant downtowns that honor the past while preparing for the future.

And across Ohio, that work is already in action.

In Delaware, Main Street Delaware has transformed downtown into a more vibrant community gathering space through creative event programming and pedestrian-friendly initiatives. The organization's downtown farmers market has become a major attraction, drawing residents directly into the heart of the city while supporting local growers, artisans, and downtown businesses. Recent efforts to expand the market into the street itself have strengthened the sense of walkability and reinforced downtown Delaware as a community destination.

Main Street Kent has embraced creative placemaking and public art as central tools for downtown revitalization. One of its most visible projects is the iconic rotating "KENT" sign located near the Fairchild Avenue bridge, which was designed as an interactive public art installation showcasing changing artwork from local and regional artists. Since its installation in 2021, the sign has become both a community landmark and a social media destination that encourages residents and visitors to engage with downtown Kent. In addition to the sign program, Main Street Kent supports beautification initiatives, public art murals, seasonal events, downtown festivals, and the city's DORA programming, all of

MAIN STREET

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MAIN STREET

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which help increase foot traffic and strengthen Kent's identity as a vibrant and creative downtown destination.

The City of Troy is investing in a major downtown streetscape project designed to improve safety, accessibility, and the overall experience of Main Street and the Public Square. Planned upgrades include wider sidewalks, improved crosswalks, new lighting, landscaping, utility improvements, outdoor gathering spaces, and pedestrian-focused design features that will strengthen downtown as a destination for residents and visitors alike. Troy Main Street is playing an important role in supporting these efforts by promoting downtown businesses, encouraging historic preservation, assisting with façade and redevelopment programs, and helping create a vibrant, walkable district that continues to attract investment and community activity. Together, the streetscape improvements and Main Street initiatives are helping ensure downtown Troy remains a thriving economic and cultural center for the region.

Downtown Tipp City recently welcomed a new public mural that adds color, creativity, and community pride to the historic district while creating another reason for residents and visitors to explore downtown. The mural reflects Tipp City's local character and heritage, transforming a prominent downtown wall into a vibrant public art feature that enhances the pedestrian experience and encourages social

media engagement, tourism, and foot traffic for nearby businesses. Supported through community partnerships and local investment, the project highlights how public art can strengthen downtown identity, celebrate local culture, and contribute to ongoing revitalization efforts in Tipp City's historic core.

Downtown Ravenna is entering an exciting new chapter as community leaders and stakeholders continue the search for a new Main Street manager to help guide revitalization efforts and strengthen the downtown district. The position will play a key role in coordinating economic development, supporting local businesses, organizing community events, and promoting downtown Ravenna as a vibrant destination for residents and visitors. As the program looks toward the future, the search reflects Ravenna's ongoing commitment to preserving its historic character while building momentum for new investment, partnerships, and long-term community growth through the Main Street approach.

Main Street Vermilion continues to strengthen downtown through a combination of beautification projects, public art, business support, and community events. From colorful flower displays and historic streetscape improvements to innovative public art installations and year-round festivals, the organization has helped create a vibrant waterfront district that attracts residents and

visitors alike. Recent investments in Main Street Beach and Park further demonstrate Vermilion's commitment to enhancing public spaces while supporting local businesses and preserving the community's unique small-town character.

Historic preservation and public safety are coming together in Uptown Westerville through an innovative Fire Suppression Initiative. The project includes new water infrastructure, upgraded utilities, and incentives for property owners to install fire suppression systems in historic buildings. By helping prevent fires from spreading throughout the district, the initiative protects Uptown's historic character while encouraging continued private investment and long-term downtown revitalization.



WHAT TO SEE AND DO AT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE!

Cincinnati Architecture

Contemporary Arts Center

The Contemporary Arts Center is a pioneering contemporary art museum and was one of the first contemporary art institutions in the United States. Today, the downtown structure is famous for its Zaha Hadid-design and offering free exhibitions of some of the best contemporary art in the world.

Music Hall

After an extensive renovation, Music Hall is - perhaps now more than ever in the building's 139-year history - a welcoming beacon for the community and a pantheon of the arts for generations to come. As a result of its recent \$135 million renovation completed in 2017, Music Hall has been enhanced and is even more viable as an active performance and event venue, featuring Cincinnati's Symphony Orchestra, Opera and Ballet.

Over-the-Rhine

Italianate architecture dominated the urban Cincinnati housing boom between 1860 and 1880. Over-the-Rhine [OTR], Cincinnati's oldest and most historic neighborhood, is home to the country's largest collection [9433 buildings] of 19th-century Italianate architecture. Those buildings earned the entire 360-acre OTR neighborhood a 1983 distinction as an historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Cincinnati's neighboring cities of Newport and Covington, Kentucky, also contain an impressive collection of Italianate architecture.

Union Terminal

The iconic Union Terminal is home to an abundance of history and information, both in its exhibits and in its structure. One of the last great train stations built, Union Terminal is a Cincinnati staple and one of the most widely regarded examples of Art Deco style. [It's even the inspiration for the famed Hall of Justice from the now-classic cartoon, *Super Friends*.] From welcoming soldiers home from World War II to becoming the home of three museums, an OMNIMAX Theater and the Cincinnati History Library and Archives, Union Terminal has a rich, abundant history. Its story is still evolving, too, as Union Terminal recently underwent a massive \$228 million renovation, which was completed in fall 2018. The extensive restoration preserved the historic structure and make the building more energy efficient and sustainable.

Findlay Market

Findlay Market is Ohio's oldest surviving municipal market house. It was designed under the direction of City Civil Engineer Alfred West Gilbert (1816-1900) using a durable but unconventional cast and wrought iron frame, a construction technology that had been little used in the United States. Findlay Market was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The structure was

among the first markets in the United States to use iron frame construction technology and is one of very few that have survived.

Breweries

Over-the-Rhine possesses the largest collection of pre-Prohibition brewing architecture anywhere in North America. Take a walk back through Cincinnati's brewing history via pre-Prohibition architecture. Cincinnati's historic Brewery District is home to unique brewery architecture, including underground lager cellars and tunnels 30 - 40 feet below ground.

Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel

The Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza hotel opened in 1931 and is a National Historic Landmark and charter member of Historic Hotels of America. This Cincinnati hotel features breathtaking French Art Deco that has been restored to its 1930's grandeur. With rare Brazilian rosewood paneling, indirect German silver-nickel light fixtures and soaring ceiling murals, this historic Cincinnati hotel is one of the world's finest examples of French Art Deco architecture.

University of Cincinnati

Recognized by Forbes magazine as one of "the most beautiful college campuses in the world," many of the world's top "signature" architects have added the University of Cincinnati to their portfolio. The *New York Times* called UC's architectural efforts "the most ambitious campus design program in the country."

Krohn Conservatory

Krohn Conservatory was built in 1933 at the height of the Art Deco era, but it's what's inside those aluminum and glass walls that make Krohn Conservatory truly special. The Gothic Revival and Art Deco Style public conservatory currently contains more than 3,500 plant species from all over the world.

Carew Tower

Carew Tower is the second tallest building in Cincinnati, however, it is still the highest elevated building in the city. Visit the top floor Observation Deck for panoramic views of the region. The 9-story building, designed by the architectural firm W.W. Ahlschlager & Associates with Delano & Aldrich, was used as the model for New York City's Empire State Building.

Queen City Club

Cincinnati's oldest and most prestigious private business club, the Queen City Club is located just a few blocks north of Great American Ball Park, home of the Cincinnati Reds. Established in 1874 and relocated in 1927, the four-story limestone structure represents the English Renaissance-style and its exterior features Art Deco medallions

symbolizing the four segments of society: industry, commerce, art and agriculture.

Roehling Bridge

The John A. Roebing Suspension Bridge named for the civil engineer who designed it has been an iconic Cincinnati suspension bridge along the city skyline for nearly a century and a half. When the Roebing Suspension Bridge opened to traffic on January 1, 1867, its 1,057-foot span made it the longest suspension bridge in the world, a record it retained until 1883 when Roebing's most famous project the Brooklyn Bridge opened.

The Ascent at Roebing Bridge

More than a luxury condominium, The Ascent is at once an aesthetic statement and a towering architectural achievement. Its signature arcing profile invites a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: to be part of an exclusive community

that literally lives in an original work of art. The architect, Daniel Libeskind, is among the world's leading architects and considered one of the industry's most influential thinkers. His prominence in the U.S. was firmly established in 2003 with his selection as the master planner commissioned to rebuild the World Trade Center site in New York City.

Daniel Burnham Architecture

Daniel Burnham, the famed Chicago architect also known for his work as the designer of the Flatiron Building in NYC and Union Station in Washington D.C., designed four skyscrapers in Cincinnati between 1901 and 1905. All four are located in the vicinity of Fourth and Walnut Streets. One building, the Bartlett Building, was Cincinnati's first skyscraper and is now the Renaissance Hotel, which features D. Burnham's, a restaurant named after the building's designer.

TOP 10 "UNIQUELY CINCINNATI" STORY STARTERS

#1 CINCINNATI-STYLE CHILI

Cincinnati's eat more than 2 million pounds of chili each year, topped by 850,000 pounds of shredded cheese. Chili is done differently here. In place of chunks of meat and sizeable beans, you'll get savory soupiness and creative accoutrements like spaghetti, hot dogs and mustard. In place of an overtly tomato-y base, you'll taste hints of cinnamon, cloves, allspice and maybe even chocolate. Cincinnati has more chili restaurants per capita than any other city in the world – more than 180 parlors in the region with loyal followings enjoying their 3, 4, or 5-Ways.

#2 PORKOPOLIS

In the 1800s, Cincinnati's easy access to river transport and farmland made it the largest pork-producing city in the world. Cincinnati opened the first modern-day pork packing plant in 1818, introducing salt pork — it quickly became a staple across the nation. By 1833, more than 85,000 pigs were processed in Cincinnati and the availability of byproducts paved the way for small companies producing candles and soap. Procter and Gamble got its start this way in 1837. While pork production has left town, powerhouses like Procter and Gamble have made Cincinnati home, and Cincinnati's top chefs and restaurants recreate delicious pork creations every day.

#3 FIRST PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL TEAM

In 1869, the nine-player Cincinnati Red Stockings became the country's first professional baseball team (all paid players, no amateurs) and finished with a perfect 57-0 record. Total salary outlay for the season? A cool \$11,000 dollars. Today, the Cincinnati Reds are an integral part of the region's culture, and the history of the team is celebrated throughout the area, including the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame & Museum near Great American Ball Park.

#4 GRAETER'S ICE CREAM

This renowned ice cream company all began when a German immigrant to Cincinnati in the mid-1800s started

making high-quality ice cream out of his home. Today, the family-run company continues to use the original French Pot process to make the products that Graeter's is famous for. A favorite of Oprah's, the signature flavor and must-try experience at Graeter's is the Black Raspberry Chip.

#5 REVIVAL OF AN ORIGINAL AMERICAN BEER CITY

By 1890, Cincinnati was the third largest beer producing city in the country. At that time, the city had 36 breweries, largely due to the high percentage of German immigrants, with hundreds of drinking establishments throughout the streets of Over-the-Rhine, the predominant brewing neighborhood. Prohibition was a death sentence for most of the city's brew scene, but today's newfound interest in the historic lagering tunnels under city streets and rich brewing history of the area has brought a resurgence in craft breweries. Popular breweries include Christian Moerlein, Rhinegeist, MadTree and Listermann, among more than 80 craft breweries, brewpubs and taprooms across the Cincinnati region, serving locally-made brews, spirits, cocktails and more.

#6 ARCHITECTURE

As one of America's oldest cities and an early haven for immigrants, Cincinnati's architecture is stunning, ranging from skyscraping Art Deco towers to the largest preserved historic district in the country, Over-the-Rhine. Some of the most notable architectural landmarks in Cincinnati include the Art Deco masterpiece of Carew Tower and the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel, as well as Union Terminal, a historic train station that now serves as the home to the Cincinnati Museum Center.

#7 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HISTORY

At the crossroads between the South and North during the Civil War, Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky are home to a rich Underground Railroad history. The National

TOP 10

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TOP 10

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Underground Railroad Freedom Center, built on the banks of the Ohio River, commemorates the region's important role in the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. Rotating exhibits, available to view Tuesday through Saturday, tell stories from the past and honor modern abolitionists and freedom heroes.

#8 PUBLIC ART & MURALS

Cincinnati is home to a thriving arts scene, made up of an incredible diversity of both performing arts and museums. In fact, Cincinnati is one of only 13 U.S. cities with professional companies in all five arts: ballet, opera, fine art museums, symphony and theater. One way that visitors can enjoy Cincinnati's rich arts scene for free is through the public art throughout the region. The nonprofit organization ArtWorks has created more than 100 public murals in 36 neighborhoods throughout the region, many of which can be enjoyed in the heart of downtown Cincinnati on guided or self-guided walking tours.

#9 CITY OF SEVEN HILLS

With 52 unique neighborhoods and a multitude of hills making up the Cincinnati region, the city is known as both "The City

of Seven Hills" and the "Queen City." Many of Cincinnati's neighborhoods were once small villages, and many have still retained their original names, distinct personalities, and recognizable city centers. Although there are more than seven hills in Cincinnati, here's a list of the seven most notable: Mount Adams, Mount Auburn, Walnut Hills, Fairmount, Fairview Heights, Clifton Heights and Price Hill.

#10 CITY OF INNOVATION

From being the first American city to establish a weather bureau, have a municipal fire department, and own a major railroad, to being home to the development of the first polio vaccine, Cincinnati has a history of being an innovative region. Many Cincinnati innovators are household names, including Neil Armstrong, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and President William Howard Taft. Today, the innovative reputation continues, with Triple Pundit recently calling Cincinnati one of the most innovative cities in the country, and TechInsurance naming the city as a top city for tech entrepreneurs.

**PRESERVING OHIO'S PAST.
CULTIVATING OHIO'S FUTURE.**

**HERITAGE
OHIO**

**2026 HERITAGE OHIO
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2026
Renaissance Hotel - Downtown Cincinnati
heritageohioconference.com

Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Heritage Ohio Annual Awards

Revitalization & Main Street Awards

- Best Downtown Placemaking
- Best Main Street Event*
- Best Main Street Committee Project*
- Main Street Business of the Year*
- Main Street Executive Director of the Year*
- Main Street Volunteer of the Year*
- Spirit of Main Street*

Individual Awards

- Joyce Barrett Preservation Hero Award
- Young Preservationist of the Year

Preservation Project Awards

- Best Commercial Building Rehabilitation
- Best Residential Restoration
- Best Historic Theater Restoration



\$50 nomination fee per nomination. Details on required materials and nomination forms can be found on our website, www.heritageohio.org. **All nominations must be received by June 30, 2026.**

If you have questions about submitting a nomination, please contact Frank Quinn at fquinn@heritageohio.org.

**Accredited, Affiliate, & Aspiring Ohio Main Street Program Communities Only*

Ohio Open Doors 2026 – Show & Tell for Your Historic Buildings & Sites!

By Andy Verhoff, Program Manager, Ohio History Fund & Outreach, State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection

Ohio Open Doors is a biennial celebration of your efforts to revitalize historic buildings and your downtown. This year's event will be held September 10-20, 2026 and we invite you to be a part of it.



The early bird deadline to register for Ohio Open Doors is July 13 and the final deadline is August 3.

The Ohio History Connection and its State Historic Preservation Office started Ohio Open Doors in 2016 to celebrate the

50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. The point was to give ordinary Ohioans the chance to appreciate the effects of this landmark legislation in their communities.

Ohio Open Doors is also a special opportunity to promote your work. Tours of buildings that you have redeveloped and put to new uses (while preserving their historic character, of course) are perfect Ohio Open Doors events. Tours of spaces with potential or that you are actively rehabbing are good candidates, too – as long as they are safe and accessible (see the requirements below).

Here are some other event ideas – the beginning of a list limited only by your imagination:

- Tours of upper stories in historic downtown commercial blocks

OPEN DOOR
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OPEN DOOR

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- Behind-the-scenes tour of workshops, where pieces and part of buildings are rehabbed
- Walking tours of historic downtowns
- Self-guided driving tours

To create a consistent Ohio Open Doors experience, we have a few requirements. To participate in Ohio Open Doors, you must:

- Host one or more 2-hour event(s) between Sept. 10 – 20, 2026
- Event(s) must focus on aspects of historic preservation and/or local history.
 - Sites featured do not have to be on the National Register (but if they are, that's great!)
- Event(s) must be free, open to the public, and abide by laws and local ordinances concerning safety and access
- Events must be unique to Ohio Open Doors. Providing access to buildings not yet open or giving a behind-the-scenes tour certainly qualifies! Or add a special one-of-a-kind twist to something you already do – or create something new. Be creative; have fun with it!

To help you make your event even more successful, the Ohio History Connection is

- Hosting a calendar of events on the Ohio Open Doors website: www.ohiohistory.org/opendoors
- Sharing templates of press releases and social media posts you can use to promote your events locally (see website)
- Providing yard signs to participating organizations, as long as supplies last
- As Ohio Open Doors approaches, we'll also publish press releases and social media posts promoting the event
- On a first-come, first-served basis, we're providing marketing stipends of \$150, for nonprofit organizations with budgets under \$50,000 or less than 3 staff members

Our goals for Ohio Open Doors are short and sweet – and we'll only achieve them with your help:

- In celebration of America 250-Ohio, we want to register a minimum of 250 events around Ohio
- We also want each of Ohio's 88 counties to host at least one event - ideally two or three!

Want to join the fun? Next steps:

- Plan your event and register at: www.ohiohistory.org/opendoors
 - Events are posted to website within approximately two weeks of approval (but incomplete registrations will cause delays)
 - Need event ideas? See the Ohio Open Doors website
 - Earlybird registration deadline, July 13. Final deadline, August 3.

• Need more information?

- See our webinar on Heritage Ohio's YouTube channel: <https://heritageohio.org/webinars/>
- Visit to Ohio Open Door website: www.ohiohistory.org/opendoors
- Contact us: shpoprograms@ohiohistory.org, 614-298-2000, or 614-297-2341 (Andy Verhoff)

Since 2016, Ohio Open Doors has grown in popularity. In 2024, more than half of participating organizations reported that their attendance during their Ohio Open Doors event was "greater than on a typical day." Most added that they were "very willing" or "willing" to host an event in the future. The future's here - host an event in September!

Ohio Open Doors is a cooperative effort. In addition to Heritage Ohio, our partners are America 2025-Ohio, the Ohio Local History Alliance, the Ohio Museums Association, the Ohio Travel Association and Tourism Ohio.



Glamorgan Castle
Photo credit: Alliance City Schools

Two historic places in Alliance are participating in Ohio Open Doors 2026: the Mabel Hartzell House of the Alliance Historical Society on September 13 and Glamorgan Castle on September 14. Alliance is an Aspiring Main Street Community.

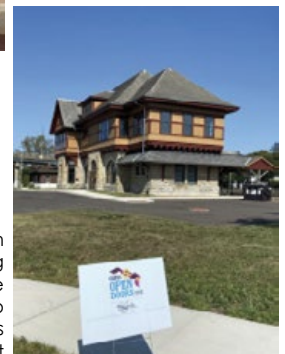


Marbel Hartzell House
Photo credit: touristsecrets.com



Rufus Putnam House/Campus Martius Museum
Photo credit: mariettaohio.org

In Aspiring Main Street Community Marietta, the Campus Martius Museum will host an Ohio Open Doors event on September 12. The 1788 Rufus Putnam House is inside the museum.



Galion's Big Four railroad depot, built in 1900 and closed in 1969, was open during Ohio Open Doors in 2024. Notice the Ohio Open Door sign. We'll send signs to participating organizations that register as long as supplies last

Big Four Depot
Photo credit: Ohio Open Doors



In tandem with nationwide celebration of America's 250th anniversary, the Ohio History Center is organizing a sprawling months-long film festival that accentuates the Buckeye State's crucial role in film history. Beginning back in February, the team organized roughly 250 days of film screenings across the state with a sole connection: they must have ties to Ohio. The organizers behind the event, being the film-fanatics that they are, understand that films are crafted by more than just famous actors. "Ohio Goes to the Movies" celebrates this understanding by honoring the diverse roles required in making a film; actors, writers, directors, composers, and other key cogs in the moviemaking machine. Every single film in the program has a creative tie to Ohio. Who knew the Buckeye State had such talent?

Ohio's standing in film history is deeper than you realize. At the very least, it was deeper than I realized, as a native myself. The famed inventor Thomas Edison—born in Milan, Ohio in 1847—played a key role in film history, as his trusted hand guided the kinoscope into creation. The kinoscope wasn't the first moving-image device, but it was one that offered a "cost-effective" turning point for the future of camera technology.

The kinoscope was modest to the eye. A four-foot high wooden box with a peep hole carved in the top, it allowed viewers to look into the peep hole, and through the wondrously complex efforts of Edison's team, be witness to a series of images so quick in succession that they appeared to take on a continual form. First demonstrated at the Brooklyn institution of Arts and Sciences in 1893, the exhibition would soon travel to Paris in 1894, and would be viewed by Antoine Lumiere. Upon seeing the demonstration, Antoine would challenge his two sons, Auguste and Louis, to build something better. Two years later, the Lumiere brothers would open their own cinemas to display their films; and 132 years later, the Lumiere brothers are still considered the originators of cinema. What does this mean, you ask? Ohio is unmistakably woven into the ornate tapestry of film history. That's a special honor, and the folks at the Ohio History Connection know that.

I was lucky enough to interview Program Director Molly Kreuzman, who provided insights into the history and aspirations of the program.

Kreuzman cites Stephen George as the originator of the "Ohio Goes to the Movies" campaign. George, still a chief strategist and senior advisor to the CEO of the Ohio History Connection, was a creative engine for Ohio's bicentennial celebration back in 2003. "He really wanted to

do something about film, but they didn't have the bandwidth to do it," Kreuzman said. "When America 250 came along, he knew that was the place where it could happen."

The "Ohio Goes to the Movies" team built a website that contains details of the entire program. Among other things, the website is filled with important programmatic information, origins of the event, and digital magazines. Like the 250 days of screenings, the webpage is a magnetic rabbit hole in its own right for movie lovers.

Once clicking around the "Ohio Goes to the Movies" website, you'll stumble on the hidden gem: The Ohio Movie Database. In fastidious detail, the database is a comprehensive archive of Ohioans who have stamped their name in the film industry. While Steven Spielberg, Paul Newman, the Warner brothers—yes, *those* Warner brothers—are the most ubiquitously known Ohioans, the database unlocks connections of seemingly endless pages of industry professionals who have surprising ties to Ohio.

This begs the question: what is considered a "tie" to Ohio? Birthplace alone cannot denote the honor of being an Ohioan; it's too random a circumstance. So here's what the team came up with: to be considered an Ohioan, the entrants must have either been born in Ohio or lived here for a notable period of time (it lists college students as an example of this caveat). Steven Spielberg was born in

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Cincinnati, Ohio, and Paul Newman was born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, so of course both qualify as Ohioans. But this broadened definition of Ohioan allows for someone like Oscar-winning screenwriter Mark Boal, who, while born in New York, attended Oberlin college for four years. Oscar-winning actress Allison Janney, too, went to school in Ohio—Kenyon college—as did modern comedy icon Steve Carell, who went to Denison University.

The team researched potential qualifying Ohioans extensively, but asked for help from Ohio's filmgoing community. The first version of the database came attached to a form where viewers could submit industry professionals for admission into the database. "What was incredible was when we put the first one out, November before last, we put it with a form, and we had over 1,000 people return that form with people we did not know about. So it's really been in this statewide effort to create that database," Kreuzman said.

While Kreuzman was paramount in organizing the film screenings, she also touted the local filmgoing communities across the state for organizing pre-screening events. Some communities set up red carpets and host trivia contests, for example. Kreuzman says the theaters also deserve credit for allowing these events to be run for free and for stepping up when it came to bespoke local events. "It's their clientele. It's their hometown. They know what type of person comes to the movies."

Kreuzman has a thorough history in the film industry. "I've been in the film world for about 26 years now. I've

started film festivals, programmed film festivals, restored historic theaters, I've sold popcorn. I've kind of done it all," Kreuzman said. This dedication to the film world, and her breadth of experiences within it, showed up in the fabric of the "Ohio Goes to the Movies" program. Kreuzman originally signed on to help curate 30-to-40 film screenings across the state.

She hit that number easily, but found that the initiative could have bigger ambitions. She reached out to libraries; she reached out to museums; she reached out to swimming pools. If there was a place with room for a projector and a screen, Kreuzman wanted to show a movie there. After years of work, Kreuzman and her team managed to secure more than 250 venues, and 316 screenings across the state of Ohio.

If there's one thing Kreuzman wants people to take away from "Ohio Goes to the Movies," it's to remind people that filmmaking is a communal artform. "It's everybody from a high school dropout to a Ph.D, and it doesn't matter. What matters is how you do your job," Kreuzman said. And hopefully, when the movie is made, a community will show up to a theater to support it. She concluded our interview with a powerful call for the filmgoing experience. "You're in an audience with a bunch of people you don't know, and yet everybody's laughing at the same thing or crying at the same thing. There's something so infectious about that particular way of viewing a movie as opposed to sitting in your house by yourself watching, right?"

Cultural Preservation: The National Film Registry

Griffin Gilliom, OSU Creative Writing Intern

Picture this: The year is 1980, the month is January, and the cinema trailer for Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* manifests on your 20-inch television. The images, surreal and haunting, catch your breath and attention. The grim Stephen King source material seems like the right fit for Kubrick, a meticulous director who, while yet to make a horror movie, had plenty of experience infusing his science fiction, war, and comedy films with horrifying images nonetheless. The anticipation for the film knows no bounds.

Then *The Shining* comes out—to disappointingly mixed reviews. The Washington Post's Gary Arnold stated, "I couldn't recall a more elaborately ineffective scare movie." Derek Malcolm, writing for The Guardian, wrote, "If *The Shining* isn't trivial, it certainly encourages one to think that it is." The New Yorker's toughest critic Pauline Kael disliked it, and Gene Siskel, a ubiquitous 1980s film critic, hated it. Finally, Stephen King, the author of the novel, decries the film on "The David Letterman Show" some five months after

the film's premiere.

Yet the movie, against all odds, grew in critical and cultural estimation in the decade following its release. This shift in the movie's perception could be owed to a few factors, but mainly the fact that the 1980s, while an abundant period for horror movies, was a bottomless pit of trite teen-aimed slasher movies. *The Shining* was different from these cheap thrill machines, instead mixing said slasher elements with the psychological horror within a nuclear family.

The movie also grew in popularity through television channels like HBO, ABC and Cinemax, and its various home video releases. But regardless of how it ballooned from cult favorite to ubiquitous classic, the sheer otherworldliness of *The Shining*—thanks in part to its surreal labyrinthine hotel setting and the top-notch performances from Jack Nicholson and Shelly Duvall—managed to cast a darker, more ominous shadow than any other horror movie in the 80s. Eventually, liking the movie became cool. Four decades after its release, the movie is

practically as large a part of the film cultural-canon as Star Wars. The lesson? Some films are eternal, but we don't always know which.

Brought to life in the National Film Preservation Act of 1988, the National Film Registry is a living, ever-expanding treasure trove of American films dating back to 1891. Each year, The National Film Preservation Board is trusted with choosing 25 "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant films." The 25 annual picks don't just go on a list on the Library of Congress website, either; by admission into the National Film Registry, the films are promised a lifespan beyond their run at the box office, with their "survival, conservation and public availability," to remain intact.

The National Film Preservation Board serves as an advisory body to the Library of Congress. Think of them as a sort of elevated syllabus-maker for the Librarian—a group who counsels on the annual selection of films and helps organize film preservation policy. The rules for which films are eligible are stated on the website: "films must be at least ten years old, though they need not be feature-length or have had a theatrical release in order to be considered." The very next sentence reads, "the legislation's intent is that the broadest possible range of films be eligible for consideration," which, when put in context of what types of films the Board and Librarian select and for what purpose, serves as quite the thematic synopsis of the entire mission.

Movies prevail throughout American culture because they're indiscriminate of audience tastes; in other words, there's a movie for everyone. That your local multiplex on any given night screens the newest \$200 million blockbuster to the obscure, hermetic arthouse director just two screens down speaks to cinema's widely cast net. The National Film Registry, in tandem with the "movies are for everyone" philosophy, offers film fans the opportunity to submit their own ballots via their website—or mail, if you'd like to send an official letter to the Library of Congress. A single voter can nominate up to 50 films per year for consideration, playing a "key role" in the narrowing process, according to the registry. It makes sense that the board would invite movie fans to participate in this exercise—after all, it's audiences who determine what movies get made, and more specifically, which movies pierce the zeitgeist into our cultural vernacular.

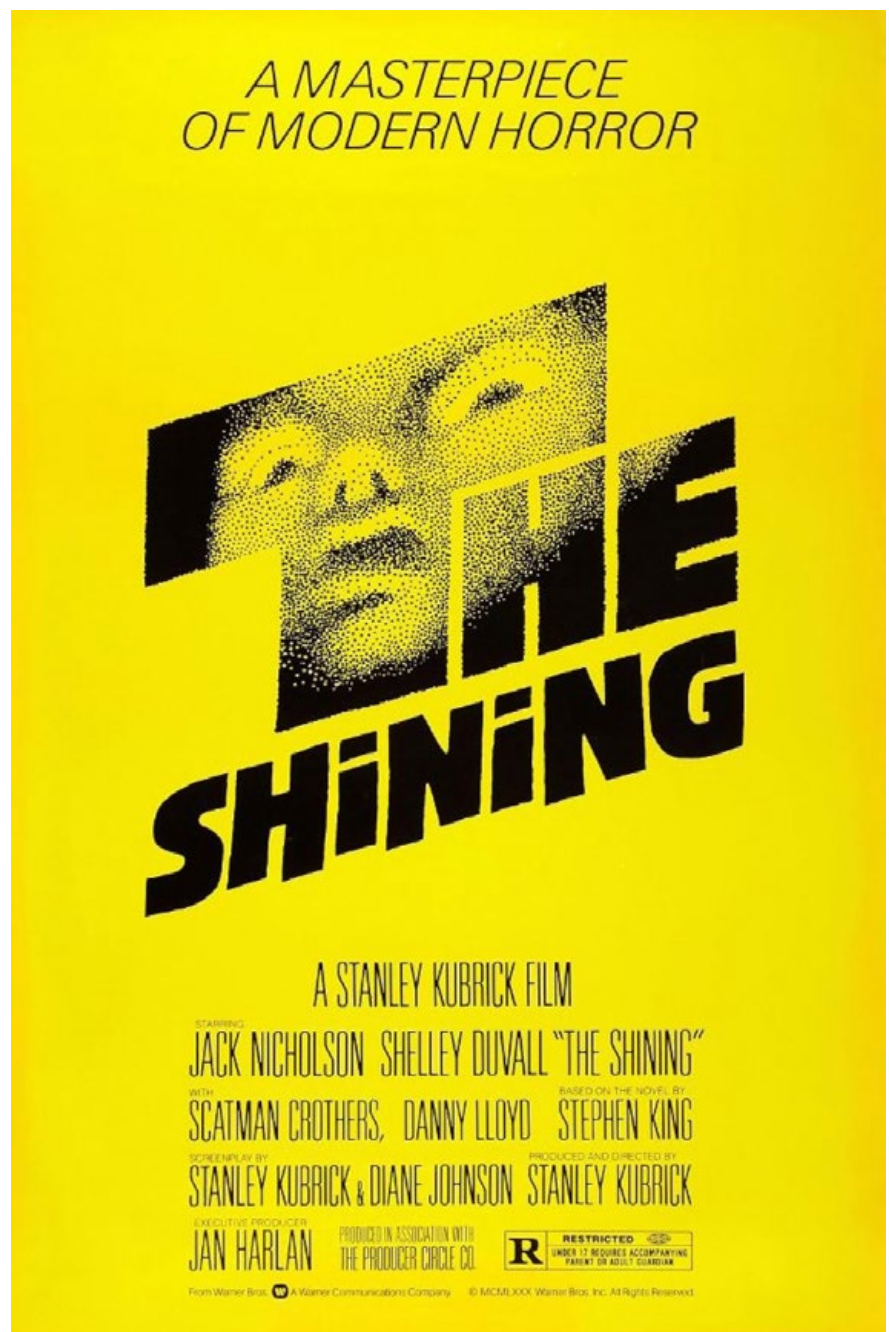
The need to advocate for a film's survival may seem farfetched in our digital age where movies last forever. The previous generations of filmmakers weren't so lucky. The startling truth is that half of American films made

before 1950 no longer exist. To reiterate: **half of American films made before 1950 no longer exist.** Until the early 1950s, most American movies were shot with the highly caustic nitrate film stock, a material extremely susceptible to combustion and decay—and if stored improperly, could catch fire without impetus. This unfortunate fact (film's material precarity) conjoined with the financial boon of home video still being decades away left studios no incentive to preserve their movies. The films that faced such circumstances were permanently lost.

Additionally, more than 70% of all American-made silent films have been lost. While the National Film Registry does wonders to preserve film history, there are swaths of silent films American archivists and preservationists were

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FILM REGISTRY

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and are unable to account for. This is where The National Film Registry owes a debt of gratitude to international archivists who preserved silent-era films that Americans did not. These invaluable groups, for example, preserved 26% of 3,300 American films, recovered in any quality, from 1912-1929. The international groups preserved films from American legends that had yet to get their big break. The Czech film archive donated the only copy of John Ford's film *North of Hudson Bay* (1923) to the Library of Congress in 1963; Denmark's archive donated Frank Capra's *The Way of the Strong* (1928); Russia's archive donated Victor

Fleming's *The Call of the Canyon* (1923). The global effort to recover and restore films is a win for the film fans of the world, but there's a tragic element when reminded of how many movies haven't had the same fortune. These findings illustrate the importance of film preservation and the necessity of archivists.

Find out more and view the registry at <https://www.loc.gov/programs/national-film-preservation-board/about-this-program/>

Ohio Designs: Howard Dwight Smith

Griffin Gilliom, OSU Creative Writing Intern

Located on the bank of the Olentangy River in the heart of Columbus, the world-famous Ohio Stadium looms. Most people know it as "The Horseshoe." It's Columbus's signature landmark—a tourist draw and talisman of sorts that locals hold as a sign of pride and reverence. You'll even hear it referred to on national sports broadcasts as "the shoe." But do Columbus residents even know who built it? I grew up in Columbus, am enrolled in the signature Columbus school, Ohio State University, and yet, the designer of the horseshoe eluded me. His name is Howard Dwight Smith, and his fingerprints are all over the city.

Born in Dayton, Ohio on February 21, 1886, Smith came from small but fertile beginnings. He grew up on a modest farm, but his father, Andrew, a Dayton Board of Education Member and former Civil War Hundred Days man, left an imprint on every community he touched. This striving nature was passed down to Howard, who, up until 1903, had known nothing outside of Dayton. That was until he chose to attend The Ohio State University in Columbus and study committedly to earn a degree in Civil Engineering.

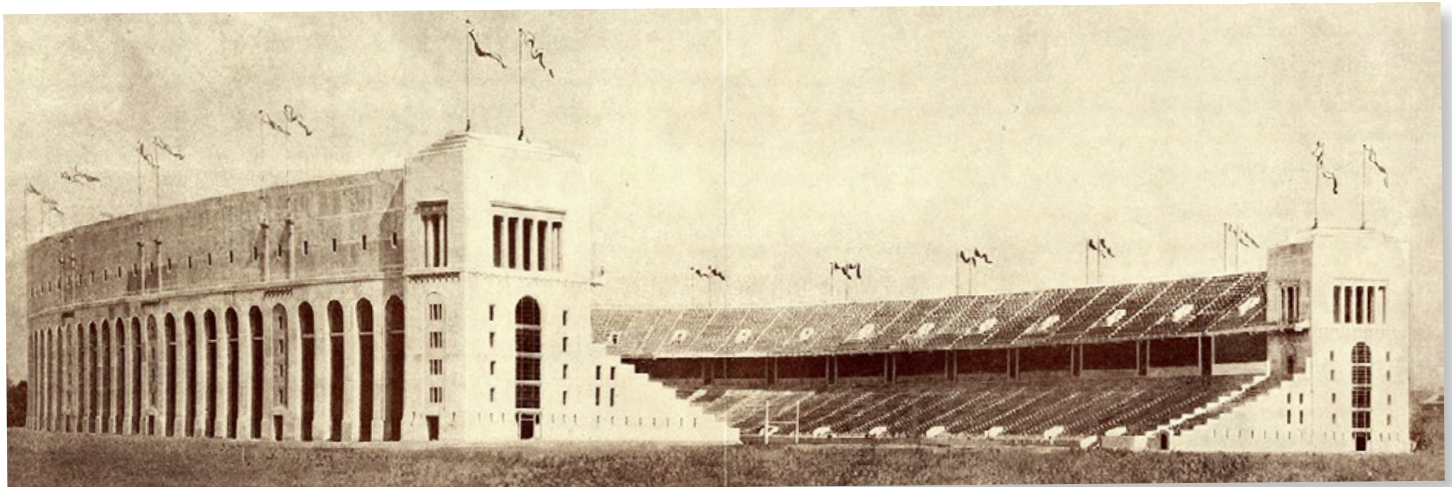
After graduating in 1907, Smith made his way to New York City to attend Columbia University, parlaying his civil

engineering degree into a bachelor's degree in architecture at one of the nation's top schools. By 1911, Smith worked in renowned architect John Russell Pope's firm. There, he contributed to the design of high-profile buildings like the Vanderbilt family mansion on Long Island, and Henry Clay Frick's Fifth Avenue Mansion. At just 25 years old Howard Dwight Smith was a veritable wunderkind.

After spending six more years in Pope's firm, Smith took a position in The Ohio State University's office of architecture. His directive? Design the school's new football stadium.

The proposed stadium was not without controversy, its detractors criticizing the plans by saying that the costs were too expensive, the location was too far away from campus, and the stadium wouldn't find a way to fill the seats. Had any regular architect built a conventional, middling stadium, the anxieties of the critics could have rang true. Smith chose to aim high, silencing all doubts by the stadium's excellence.

Smith, in a stroke of genius, took what he liked about the horseshoe-shaped Harvard stadium at the time, and he combined it with the flat, wide structure of the Yale stadium. By fusing these ideas, the world famous Ohio Stadium was born. Finished in 1922, the "shoe," as it's known



around Columbus, was America's first horseshoe-shaped, double-decker stadium. Smith was influenced by both the aesthetic of classical architecture of ancient Roman and Greek buildings and also their durability; the Roman and Greek buildings were built to last, and so would Ohio Stadium. It's the largest stadium of its horseshoe-shaped, double-decker kind to be built with reinforced concrete, and, after renovations increasing seat capacity from 1999-2001, stands today as the largest stadium of any kind west of the Appalachians. For his brilliance, the American



If Architects awarded Smith with a gold medal in 1921. To put that award in context, iconic American architect Frank Lloyd Wright didn't win one until 1949.

Smith made other notable, and in some cases, essential, contributions to the university's architecture: he designed more than 30 campus buildings during his 27-year tenure as University Architect. An addition to Thompson Library was Smith's major addition to the campus cornerstone; St. John Arena, still standing today as on north campus, was the home to the basketball team until the 2000's; Pomerene and Baker hall are staples of south campus; and the Faculty Club, nestled in between mirror lake and the oval, has served students and staff for over 100 years. Walk through campus in any direction, and, if there's a building with an impressive architectural flair, it was probably designed by Smith.

Contributions to Ohio State's picturesque campus aside, Smith was also paramount in the construction of elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Columbus: Smith served as a lead designer or architectural consultant on more than ten schools in the greater Columbus area. One of these was the Indianola Junior High School, built in 1929. Smith designed the school with a fusion of art-deco and gothic styles, and the school stayed open for more than 80 years. In 1980, it was selected into the National Register of Historic Places.

Smith also designed the Open Air School in 1928, the purpose of which was to build a structure that would minimize the spread of tuberculosis among potentially susceptible children. The school's features included countless windows opened year-round, large rooms for napping, a kitchen and cafeteria, and outdoor play areas. Smith was influenced by the Italian Renaissance here, and the design is timeless. The property was purchased by the Kelley Company in 2018, and would undergo slight renovations in order to reopen the building for commercial use. One year later in 2019, the structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Smith's buildings are nothing if not stout, and the structural integrity and beauty remain intact.

Smith was a modest man who supported his community. If he wasn't too busy designing a city, in his free time he volunteered at the First Community Church and served on the boards of the local Upper Arlington, Ohio, board of building standards and city planning commission, and nationally at the American Institute of Architects. Upper Arlington is also where he settled down—right in central Ohio—and where he died in 1958. Smith's prolific career changed Columbus for the better.



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