

A FOLLOW-UP TO THE MAY 8, 2020 WEBINAR

# Lessons Learned from Re-Opening

THREE CASE STUDIES IN PLANNING TO REOPEN YOUR MUSEUM



Even William McKinley wears a mask at the McKinley Memorial Museum!

**Kim Kenney**, Executive Director, McKinley Presidential Library and Museum; **Alexandra Nicholis Coon**, Executive Director, Massillon Museum; **Christie Weinger**, Executive Director, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums

## McKinley Presidential Library & Museum

Our re-opening went very well. What surprised us the most was that we have not been anywhere near our reduced capacity limit, until recently. Saturdays are starting to pick up, so we have had to revise some of our social distancing protocols. For example, there are areas in our science center that can easily become bottlenecked, so staff has had to start monitoring more closely how many people are in those spaces at one time. We have also had to bring in additional staff for the Museum Shoppe on Saturdays to make sure we don't have more than 5 people browsing at a time. Although we have plenty of signage about reduced capacity, it was difficult for one person to be behind the register and manage the crowd at the same time.

We made the somewhat radical decision to close each day from 12 to 1 PM for deep cleaning, but also to maximize admissions for limited capacity, which turned out to be unnecessary. It still is, even as things pick up. Originally we were not allowing people to come back at 1:00 if they had paid admission in the morning, but we have found that we don't have to do that with such low admission numbers. As far as deep cleaning, it is easier for us to go through our entire building to sanitize high

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## President's Message:



I hope everyone had an opportunity to attend one or more of the Ohio Local History Alliance Regional Meetings this past March and April. It was exciting to see everyone from different regions as we paired regions for the meetings this year. We've had some great sessions this year on a variety of topics. The benefit of attending virtually is the ability to attend a region outside your own, from the comfort of your home.

Our field is fortunate in that we are surrounded by colleagues who are always willing to share information and mentor those entering the field. This has been proven time and again in the past year and a half as all of us have leaned on each other for advice, collaborations or suggestions. Even though we aren't meeting in person this year, the annual meeting, which will be held September 30th-October 2nd, is a fantastic opportunity to network and connect with fellow museum professionals from across our state. Our Education Committee has been hard at work developing a strong lineup of incredible speakers and sessions for this year and with a variety of focus tracks, there is sure to be something for everyone. It's always inspiring to learn how organizations tackled challenges and turned them into a wonderful new programming or exhibit opportunity.

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touch areas without visitors around. We set up a schedule for staff to volunteer for one cleaning shift per week. In addition to cleaning in the middle of the day, we clean at the end or beginning of each day (some staff would rather stay late to clean instead of cleaning in the morning, or vice versa, so the schedule reflects that choice, making sure that the building is cleaned before we open for visitors each day).

We closed exhibits that were hard to

clean, such as the fire pole in the Street of Shops and the Timken roller bearing interactive in The Stark County Story. We did find that we could re-open some areas that we initially closed, such as the Shadow Catcher and the Hoover vacuum chair. Some exhibits will remain closed until the pandemic is under control.

We have had a few people who are upset that “everything is closed,” even though very little is actually closed. We have a sign on the door that lists all of our safety precautions, which is also repeated in the Tour Map. We are not specific about WHAT is closed, but we do say that “some interactives are closed.”



There is a sign at each closed interactive, with a detailed explanation of WHY it is closed. We wanted people to understand that we have certain things closed for their protection. We have given disgruntled visitors free tickets to come back, and we have tried to reply to erroneous online reviews where possible.

We have recently added limited capacity Planetarium Shows. Our Planetarium Director is very active in the planetarium community and was able to learn about best practices to re-open, which included finding a quick drying disinfectant spray to use on the upholstered seating. She was very ambitious about

re-opening, and most of her presenters were not yet comfortable returning, which put the burden of presenting shows mostly on her. Most of the planetarium presenters are older, and some have underlying health conditions, but now that they are vaccinated they are eager to return. It is good timing, since tourist season is right around the corner.

When we re-opened, we decided to stay closed on Sundays and Mondays. Previously we were open seven days a week. We have started to talk about the possibility of opening on Sundays again, but we are not quite to the point where the expense of opening is worth it.

## Massillon Museum

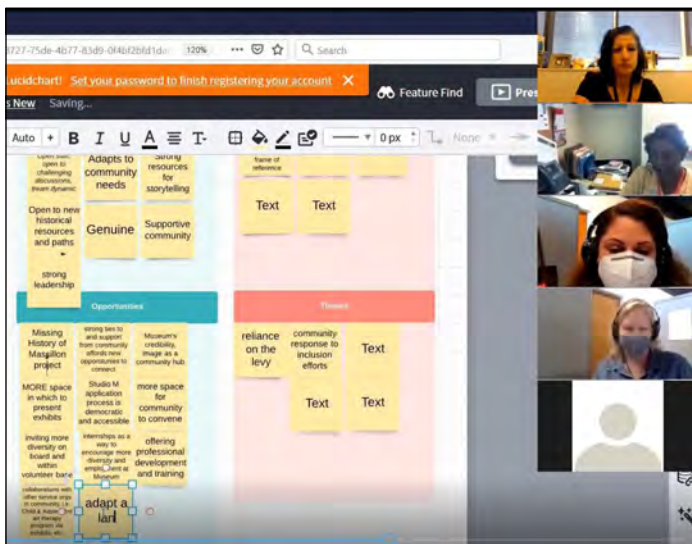
Communication has always been paramount at MassMu, not only when disseminating information to our community and stakeholders, but internally. Weekly staff meetings did not cease during the pandemic; in fact, they became more important than ever, particularly when we made the decision to stagger our schedules and divide into Teams A and B as a means of maintaining building operations in the event someone was ill or forced to quarantine. If our first major hurdle and testament to the strength of our team after adjusting to remote operations was establishing and implementing our re-entry plan last summer, the second hurdle was splitting our staff on November 16. Anticipating our county's move toward a purple designation in the color-coded health advisory alert system, and having experienced a few brushes with COVID among staff members, the decision to divide our team of sixteen in half was done strategically, and proactively.

All staff members but the Facilities Manager worked remotely on Mondays, a day we are closed to the public. Team B worked onsite Tuesdays and Thursdays and Team A on Wednesdays and Fridays. We rotated weekend staffing. Having suspended the volunteer program during COVID meant staff members have also rotated shifts at the reception desk, facilitated bulk mailings, and worked more weekend shifts since having reopened on June 26, 2020. Our focus now is merging the teams once again to operate at full staff capacity starting the week of May 24. Though 94% of our staff will have been fully vaccinated by that time, mask-wearing, capacity limits, sanitization, and all other protocols established for the re-entry plan last summer will remain intact. We are carefully strategizing how to co-exist once again this summer, which will mark nearly a year from the time we prepared to reopen our doors to the public, and working to get our “building legs” back, as it were.

Our motto during this time of adjustment is “Slow and steady wins the race.” We have learned to be patient. We have learned the meaning of time, and allowing ourselves the grace, and also the space—physical and psychological—to bring projects, programs, and policies to fruition. We realized that while there were expectations of our community, of our patrons and stakeholders, of our board, and of our peers, *we* were ultimately responsible for ensuring MassMu's team could meet them in a realistic way. And how we did this was by communicating effectively, and frequently.

We maintained our weekly staff meetings, though they had shifted to Zoom where they will most likely remain for the

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*Massillon Museum Staff at DEAI Planning Meeting, Aug. 20, 2021.*

pandemic’s duration, along with our board meetings. We built extra time into our exhibit planning schedules, our production of virtual content, our preparation of mailings, and processing of donations. In addition, we learned what we could live without: one-two less printed materials, or greater frequency between posting virtual content. Every little bit of clarity gained was refocused toward improving our operations, programs, and communication methods. Among the proudest achievements since reentry was the Museum’s development of a Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Statement of Intention, easily located on our website. Having worked as a team for seven months, led by past board chair Heather Pennington, the Museum staff devoted the time, the energy, and facilitated dialogue in a safe space to articulate our values as they relate to engaging diverse audiences, maintaining a culture of equitable practices, and fostering an inclusive and accessible environment in which to carry out our mission.

## Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums

I will never forget that day last March when Governor DeWine announced that museums, among many other businesses, would be closing to the public in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. Everything seemed scary then – even a trip to the grocery store



*Costumed serving maids still serve the Christmas dinners.*

seemed fraught with peril. Once we were allowed to reopen in June, something I had been very much in favor of, and had actively advocated to our elected officials, the magnitude of reopening during a pandemic hit me hard. What an incredible responsibility!

Our main focus in reopening was to keep staff and visitors safe, but also to keep as much of the visitor experience the same. In other words, we still wanted to feel like “us” even though we had all these new safety procedures in place. As we planned each event and thought about each guest’s visit, we talked about what “feeling” or element of each event we thought was most important to keep, even if it had to be done differently. Here are a few examples of how we did that:

We needed lots of new signage about safety protocols. We discussed and decided to intentionally use the term ‘physical distance’ rather than social distance. It is important to us that people always feel they can be social at our site and at our events, whether in person or online.

We talked about closing off some of our small exhibit rooms and spaces, but in the end decided not to. All of the spaces normally open to the public were kept open; we just reduced the number of people who were allowed into each space at a time. We worked with our local fire department to determine capacity numbers that also took into account Governor DeWine’s restrictions (which, when we reopened, were 50% of normal capacity). We did this by asking visitors to register or purchase timed admission tickets in advance, something we had never done before. This way we knew exactly how many people were going to be at our site at any given time. For some events where we decided not to do timed tickets, we had staff and/or volunteers stationed around who kept track of visitors in various spaces. We were concerned people might get grouchy if they had to wait to get into some rooms and spaces, however we often received compliments. They appreciated what we were doing to keep them healthy.

We did encounter an unexpected issue with requiring registrations, for the first time ever, for some of our free events. We had a really high number of no-shows. In future planning, we are considering adding a nominal fee for a traditionally free event; low enough that it’s not a barrier for people to attend, but high enough that they will actually attend the event, or call ahead to cancel their registration.

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*Boxed dinners, beautifully presented.*



For one of our signature events, “Christmas Dinners at Spiegel Grove,” we sadly realized there was no way to hold this event in person. We talked about outright cancelling it, but that was depressing to all of us! We wanted to find a way to forge on. So, we changed the title of the event to “Christmas Dinners *From* Spiegel Grove” and worked with a local caterer to ensure meals were beautifully presented, even though they had to be boxed. We also kept another iconic feature of the event - costumed maids still served the dinners, just to people picking them up in the driveway rather than in the Hayes home.

For another signature event, the Easter Egg Roll, traditionally offered at one block time during the day, we offered three sessions throughout the day and limited the number of people

at each session. We also set up stations of different activities around the grounds. This helped disperse the number of people throughout a larger area. This actually worked so well, that our visitors requested we continue to set up the event in this way, even beyond COVID.

Looking back, I am proud beyond measure of the way the staff found creative ways to carry on. It hasn't been easy and at times we were all, and I think still are in some ways, stressed about the future. But we have much to celebrate, too. We were able to successfully reopen to the public by doing our research, asking for help and advice, and thinking outside the box. Or, if we did have to think inside the box, doing so in a fun way!



*Top row: Physically distanced tours. We are still very social at Spiegel Grove!*

*Bottom rows: Easter Egg Roll. Offering activity stations helped disperse people throughout the event space. Spacing activities approximately 10 feet apart or more kept too many people from gathering in one spot.*



# It CAN Happen to You!

## Horror Stories, Lessons Learned & Tips For Surviving a Water Disaster in a Museum/Archive

**Natalie Fritz,**

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Representative)*

**T**he Clark County Historical Society has been in existence since 1897, but over the course of our first one hundred years, we had a number of different homes. For the past twenty years, we've been fortunate to be in our forever home, a restored 1890 block long building, which has space for museum galleries, offices, collections and archives storage, and a research library. Being in our new home finally allowed us to gain control of our collections. Following a nearly six-year collections inventory project of the artifact collections, by March 2019 about eighty-five percent of the object collections in the second floor storage area were well organized, documented in Past Perfect, and easily accessible. In our years in the building, we were also able to really fine-tune our archives spaces.

In the spring of 2019, we had the dubious honor of becoming a “worst-case scenario” example to scare other museum and archive folks. The organizational system that we had worked so hard to build was practically undone on the evening of April 25, 2019. On the third floor in the archives, a water pipe behind an access wall fell from the ceiling, pumping thousands of gallons along the archives floor down through the east end of the building. The water flowed mostly unchecked for nearly an hour. While we had dealt with water-related emergencies before, all previous experiences, while annoying, seemed small and laughable compared to what we faced that evening and the months following.

We have a comprehensive disaster plan with a detailed resource section listing local businesses to help deal with various parts of a disaster. In the end, on that evening we were surrounded by water, we called one single number, a local emergency management company that dealt with all needed recovery work and contractors

throughout the months of recovery. In those early frantic days, we jumped into action, moving boxes and items from the water deluged storage areas to a large room just beyond the space. We laid out as many tables as we could there and around the building and removed items from damaged boxes to dry. Following the tumultuous first evening, we took time to prioritize what needed to be moved first. Rooms that had the heaviest water damage were marked as critical because not only were we dealing with saturated storage boxes that needed to be emptied and dried, but we also had structural ceiling issues.

For my part, the full scope of the damage wasn't immediately apparent. It was obvious that the water damage had been worse in some storage rooms. My thoughts were that we'd only have to move items out of the heavily damaged rooms, tidy up the others, restore a few rooms and put things back in place. Easy Peasy. The reality was that we had to empty EVERY shelf, every room, and every inch of the second floor storage to allow for the replacement of floors, ceilings, painting and more. By the middle of the first week, we knew we were going to move absolutely everything and had to either find space within the building or at a storage facility to accommodate. By the end of that week, we learned that the floor in the archives would need to be replaced, meaning we'd have to empty the entire archives as well.

We spent several months between April and October in a state of constant movement between emptying spaces, condensing artifacts and temporarily repacking artifact boxes, dismantling and rebuilding shelves, and eventually moving artifacts and archival materials back into restored areas. The archives were put back together by the end of July, but as our full attention was turned to the second floor rebuilding,



*Damaged boxes*

the research library didn't reopen until late October.

One of the things that got us through a lot of days was looking at each other and joking, “At least someday this experience would make for a good conference session!” That mindset made us really take stock of what we did right, what we did wrong, and what we could do better. We wanted to be able to share our experience and help others learn how to prepare for their own disasters and protect their collections better using our insight.

We wish we had better documented our storage spaces not only beforehand, but on the night of the disaster. After having to completely dismantle and rebuild both the collections and archives, we wish we had better documented collection locations before taking things apart. Faced with rebuilding storage space, we took the opportunity to reconfigure and make better use of our space in collections rather than trying to make things look the same. In both areas, we also made sure to make our rebuilt shelving uniform and ALL six inches from the floor, something that would have saved some problems in the first place.

In the archives, we wanted to be able to put back collections as close to the same as possible. With photos only showing parts of the archives and my memory to

*(continued on page 8)*

guide us, it was not easy to rebuild! One of the first things we did once we finally got things into place was to photograph the shelves and create a more comprehensive map and spreadsheet of collections. A benefit to having to rebuild was that I finally got to set up the archives based on user experience. Not only could I move things lower that historically were more difficult for my vertically-challenged self to access, I could also move less-accessed collections UP higher and create additional space to grow the archives.

We learned it was best to be transparent about our experience as much as possible, sharing the journey, our progress and more with our volunteers, members, the general public, and our online followers. Sharing our plight led to additional help from the community, including donated boxes from local friends and fellow archivists like the Kettering Foundation and Dayton Metro Library.

We couldn't have accomplished all we did without amazing staff, volunteers, and board members. The most important thing was to keep everyone happy, healthy, hydrated, and rested. This is an important thing to remember, especially when dealing with a major stressful disaster like this. We tried to keep stocked on bottled water, make people take breaks, and encourage staff to take vacations to get away and recharge.

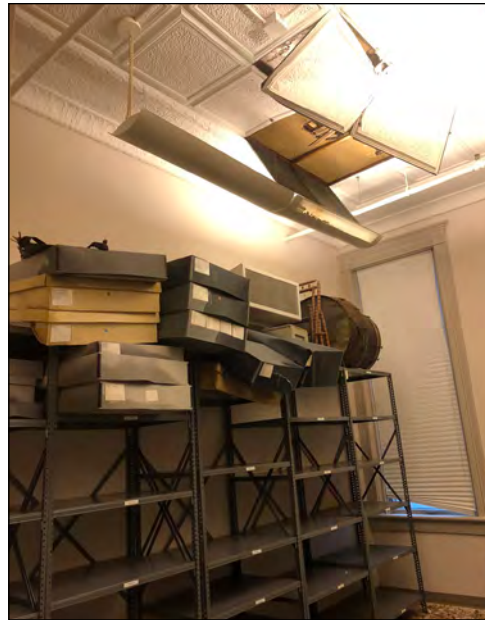
Going into 2020, our plans were to continue to re-inventory and reorganize the second floor and to focus on tidying up areas in the library. However, like everything else in 2020, our plans were adversely affected by COVID-19 shutdowns, so our light at the end of the tunnel in some cases is still far away, but we'll get there eventually!

Looking back on the experience, I still remember the horrible stressful feeling accompanying those first weeks, but I try to find the silver linings in the form of the help and support we received and the things we were able to do BETTER with the chance to start essentially from scratch. We went through something that no one wants to experience, but we know that we whipped our collections into shape once...we can do it again!

For those who like to drive slowly past accidents, you can go here to hear us share more about the experience: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzuiA8Z5j6A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzuiA8Z5j6A).



*Large room beyond storage area used for temporary storage as areas were repaired.*



*Military collections room, nearly empty, showing ceiling damage and water damaged boxes.*



*Museum lobby*



*Research library, where much of the archives boxes were stored, carts ready to move more to the first and second floors.*



*First floor room used for collections and archives storage*



*Nearly empty archives*



# The Complicated Chadwick Affair

**Amanda Wachowiak,**

*AmeriCorps member with the Ohio History Service Corps, hosted by Shawnee State University*

**M**y first run-in with Cassie L. Chadwick occurred when I was doing preliminary research on Millionaire's Row in Cleveland Ohio. In a long list of wealthy men was Dr. Leroy S. Chadwick, who had nothing of substance in his personal biography except that his wife, Cassie L. Chadwick, was a notorious con artist. My interest in the lives of the ridiculously wealthy took an immediate U-turn to this one woman and her single sentence mention among all of the mentionable men of Millionaire's Row.

Cassie Chadwick's wild rise to fame and fortune read like a modern bank heist movie script. In the late 1890's and early 1900's, Chadwick borrowed thousands of dollars from Cleveland area banks by claiming that she had promissory notes signed by her illegitimate father, Andrew Carnegie. She spent lavishly and appeared to be one of the wealthiest women in Cleveland. But when she didn't pay back her loans, her creditors filed lawsuits and her entire scheme unraveled. The promissory notes were forgeries and her identity was brought into question. Cassie Chadwick was actually Lydia De Vere, a clairvoyant who had been caught asking clients to pass bad checks. Lydia De Vere wasn't Chadwick's real name either, and it was possible that she had many other aliases and schemes before the infamous Carnegie con. Chadwick was charged with conspiracy to defraud a bank, fined, and sentenced to jail where she died several years later. These are the basics of the story, but there are many details in between that are varied and confusing.

The "Chadwick Affair" hit the newspapers across the country in 1904, and those involved were the subject of discussion and speculation. Charles Beckwith, president of the Citizen's National Bank in Oberlin, Ohio was also accused of conspiracy to defraud a national bank. He lent Chadwick so much money that he

bankrupted the Oberlin bank, destroying the savings of community members and local Oberlin College students. Ira Reynolds, a banker with Wade Park Banking Company also received scrutiny as he was the one who put Chadwick's promissory notes in a safety deposit box and supposedly never bothered to check their authenticity. Individuals who were familiar with Lydia De Vere were called upon to confirm that Chadwick and De Vere were one and the same. Andrew Carnegie was also briefly involved, if only to make statements that he did not know her, had not signed any promissory notes, and would not testify or press charges. Even Chadwick's husband was reportedly under investigation and subsequently cleared of wrongdoing.

One name that I did not see in the newspapers was Mr. Dillon. Mr. Dillon (whose first name might be Joseph or James) was either a friend or acquaintance of Chadwick's husband, possibly a banker or attorney, and supposedly the reason why Chadwick was able to pull off her Carnegie con. Dillon accompanied Chadwick on a visit to Andrew Carnegie's New York mansion and waited outside while she "met" with Carnegie and saw that she had received promissory notes signed by Carnegie. Chadwick told him she was Andrew Carnegie's illegitimate daughter and heiress to his fortune. It was Dillon who supposedly convinced her to get a safety deposit box for the promissory notes and promised to keep her secret. He was also credited with starting gossip in Cleveland as to Chadwick's wealthy connections.

In the modern retellings that I have read, Mr. Dillon was presented as a key player in the "Chadwick Affair." But in the newspaper articles, Mr. Dillon was conspicuously absent from the conversation. If Beckwith, Carnegie, Dr. Chadwick, and other bankers were all receiving scrutiny in the case, it would make sense for Mr. Dillon to receive the same. So, where was he? Perhaps he steered clear of the trial and media and conveniently "disappeared" when Chadwick was exposed, perhaps he had an untimely death, or

perhaps Mr. Dillon never actually existed at all.

Saying that Mr. Dillon never existed is a bit dramatic. It's entirely possible that Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick had a friend by that name. However, I have yet to find sources that conclusively convince me that he was involved. Both Beckwith and Reynolds are reported as saying that it was Chadwick herself who told them about her relationship to Andrew Carnegie. That they might have spread the rumor seems far more likely. So where did Mr. Dillon come from?

When I browsed the lists of sources cited by the modern articles I read, there was a rather obvious similarity: they were all citing the same secondary sources. On of those sources turned out to be a book that was a fictionalized version of Cassie Chadwick's life. That doesn't mean there is no truth in that retelling, but it makes me hesitate when I see it on a list of sources for an article that claims to be an accurate version of her story. Period newspaper articles are tricky on their own. It's difficult to know if they reported the exact truth or if they embellished the story for the delight of their readers. Either way, primary sources provides valuable information not just on the current event of the time, but insight on the thoughts, feelings, and values of the people. There are so many question marks in Cassie Chadwick's story that I think it will be difficult to ever know all of the facts of her story. It does not take away from the drama and uniqueness of Chadwick's story to admit that many of the facts are hazy. It does not take away the severity of her actions. It does, however, encourage myself and others to dig deeper, ask more questions, and perhaps lead us all a bit closer to untangling her web.

*Read more about Cassie Chadwick at [theclio.com/entry/121833](https://theclio.com/entry/121833).*

## Congratulations, 2020 OMA Award Winners!

The Ohio Museums Association has announced the winners of the 2020 OMA Awards of Achievement and 2020 Visual Communication Awards. These winners were recognized during the Annual OMA Awards Program Ceremony, which took place Sunday, April 11 at 7 p.m., as the kick-off event for the 2021 Ohio Museums Association Virtual Conference.

The OMA Awards program is an annual celebration of the outstanding achievement of Ohio museums in visual communications, individual and institutional achievement, and the tireless work museum professionals undertake to help advance Ohio's museum community both locally, and on a national level.

The Awards of Achievement are divided into two categories: Institutional Achievement Awards and Individual Achievement Awards.

Nominations for these awards are incredibly detailed. This in-depth process helps to illustrate how these institutions and individuals have gone "above and beyond" the normal call of duty to support their institution, serve their public and advance the cause of the museum community. \*indicates an OLHA member organization

### The 2020 Award of Achievement winners are:

#### BEST EXHIBITION (UNDER \$500,000)

##### **Bradford Ohio Railroad Museum**

"BF Interlocking Tower Exhibit"

#### BEST EXHIBITION (OVER \$500,000)

##### **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**

"It's Been Said All Along: Voices of Rage, Hope & Empowerment"

#### BEST EXHIBITION CATALOG (OVER \$500,000)

##### **Columbus Museum of Art**

"Raggin' On: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson's House and Journals"

#### BEST COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (OVER \$500,000)

##### **COSI – Center of Science and Industry**

"COSI 2020 Learning Lunchbox Distance Learning Initiative"

#### BEST EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (UNDER \$500,000)

##### **\*Trumbull County Historical Society**

"Voices Oral History Project"

#### EMERGING PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

##### **Hadley Drodge**

\*National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center

#### BETTY BRYAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

##### **Jeanne Griffin**

\*Cleo Redd Fisher Museum/Mohican Historical Society

#### MUSEUM ADVOCATE

##### **Stephen White**

COSI

#### PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

##### **Michael D. Aaron**

Rickenbacker Woods Foundation – National Landmark & Learning Center

The OMA Visual Communication awards recognize creative excellence in printed and digital materials produced and distributed by Ohio museums. This year's awards are based on materials produced or distributed during the 2020 calendar year.

### The 2020 Visual Communication winners are:

#### BUDGET LEVEL 1

##### Gold Award:

##### **\*Vermilion History Museum**

"The Making of a Museum"

#### BUDGET LEVEL 2

##### Gold Award:

##### **\*Wood County Museum**

"Utopia: A Visual Storytelling of Our Home"

##### Silver Award:

##### **EclipseCorp**

"Harding Presidential Museum"

##### Honorable Mention:

##### **\*Shelby County Historical Society**

"The Churches of Shelby County: Past and Present"

#### BUDGET LEVEL 3

##### Gold Award:

##### **Canton Museum of Art**

"Dancing in the Light: Masterwork from the Age of American Impressionism"

##### Silver Award:

##### **University of Akron Archival Services**

"The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company: A Photographic History, 1898-1951"

#### BUDGET LEVEL 4

##### Gold Award:

##### **American Sign Museum**

"A Campaign for the American Sign Museum"

#### BUDGET LEVEL 5

##### Gold Award:

##### **Gund Gallery at Kenyon College**

"Near + Far Activation Guides"

##### Silver Award:

##### **Akron Art Museum**

"Love Art Safely"

##### Honorable Mention:

##### **Dayton Art Institute**

"New Dayton Art Institute Website"

#### BUDGET LEVEL 6

##### Gold Award:

##### **Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University**

"Pages 2019-2020 Anthology: An Arts, Literacy, and Writing Program for High School Students"

##### Silver Award:

##### **Toledo Museum of Art**

"Judith Schaechter Exhibition Interview Video"

##### BEST IN SHOW:

##### **Gund Gallery at Kenyon College**

"Near + Far Activation Guides"



## Ohio Humanities Recovery Grant Program

Ohio Humanities announced the Public Humanities Recovery Grant Program, a special one-time funding opportunity to provide support to public humanities organizations across the state seeking to serve public audiences in 2021. Eligible projects include public humanities events, digital projects, efforts to provide social distancing measures at cultural sites, and more.

"The cultural sector continues to be challenged by the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis," said Ohio Humanities Executive Director Pat Williamsen. "Ohio Humanities is dedicated to helping mitigate the effects of the pandemic on public humanities organizations by continuing to support our partners as they bring humanities programming to Ohioans."

Application deadlines for the Public Humanities Recovery Grant program align with Ohio Humanities' regular quarterly grant cycle for the spring and summer of 2021. Second-round applications are due on June 7, with optional drafts due by May 10, for projects with start dates after August 15.

To learn more about Ohio Humanities grant opportunities, and for more information about Recovery Grants, please visit [ohiohumanities.org/public-humanities-recovery-grant](https://ohiohumanities.org/public-humanities-recovery-grant). For assistance navigating the Recovery Grant application process, please contact Ohio Humanities at [ohiohumanities.formstack.com/forms/phrg\\_interest\\_contact\\_copy](https://ohiohumanities.formstack.com/forms/phrg_interest_contact_copy).



## Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting

The Society of Ohio Archivists will be meeting virtually on June 7th and 8th thanks to technical support from the Ohio History Connection. This year we will explore the theme, "Archives in an Era of Change." SOA has asked for proposal submissions that address the way that archives have adapted to the changes that archivists have experienced in the last year. How did you assess your practices? What did you start, stop, create, or change over the last year? What was a success? As archives continue to adapt and react to social justice reforms, attacks on democracy, what are the takeaways?

More meeting details will appear as they develop on the conference page of the [SOA website](https://www.soa.org).

### FREE WEBINAR:

## Methods for Engaging New & Familiar Museum Audiences

Recruiting new audiences and maintaining engagement with current members is a difficult task even without a pandemic changing the rules of the game. In this webinar, Ohio History Service Corps member Marissa Hamm will share recommendations for strengthening your museum's communication with a variety of audiences. Learn how to increase your social media engagement, connect with your local tourism organizations, and improve your museum's newsletter. Come prepared to discuss your favorite newsletters and ask questions.

This webinar is a free, online event open to anyone with an interest. The program will run from **10:00AM to 11:00AM on Wednesday May 19, 2021**. Register in advance to receive the Zoom link by clicking here: [us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArduurjMrEtYof8sTci6q76puVbCnJ8N6](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85428222222?pwd=ZARduurjMrEtYof8sTci6q76puVbCnJ8N6)

Marissa Hamm is currently serving her first year as an AmeriCorps member in the Ohio History Service Corps at the Oberlin Heritage Center. She is a Northeast Ohio native and holds a Bachelors' Degree in history from the College of Wooster. Marissa has previously worked with other local historical societies in the area and at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, NY.



## 2021 OLHA Digitization Grantees

### AUGLAIZE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Digitizing the 150th Anniversary—in time for the 175th!

The Auglaize County Historical Society will initiate the process of digitizing cassette tapes that document oral histories first collected in the late 1990s, for Auglaize County's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Volunteers met with 157 Auglaize County residents and conducted comprehensive interviews about their lives here in the early 20th century. Those interviewed represented a broad cross section of the county in terms of geography, gender, occupation, socio-economic status, etc. Questions covered the gamut of 20th century American history, from life on the farm/in the small town to rise of the Ku Klux Klan, role of women, assimilation of immigrants (including Roma), changing transportation methods, industrialization of the work force, the Great Depression, World War II, etc.

The interviews were recorded on cassette tapes and subsequently transcribed via floppy disks and paper documents. Many of the stories gleaned from the interviews were used in the sesquicentennial book, *A Celebration in Story: Auglaize County since 1900 in the Words of Its People*, of which 650 copies were printed and sold. The stories were also used in what became the legacy project of the county sesquicentennial, an oral history-based play entitled *Seven Layers of Wallpaper*. The production was so successful that interviews continued into 2001, with plays presented each year. In total, 300+ Auglaize County residents were interviewed (with recordings on approximately 400 cassette tapes).

The Historical Society's plan is to use these interviews again for Auglaize County's upcoming 175th anniversary, in a traveling exhibit, and in another publication or medium, such as a staged reading.

### CLEVELAND POLICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

#### Cleveland Police Museum Photograph Project

The Cleveland Police Museum Photograph project will digitize a portion of the CPHSM's historic photograph collection, which encompasses photographs related to the Cleveland Police dating from the late 1800s through the present. The project will utilize an existing partnership with The Cleveland Memory Project of the Special Collections of the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University (CSU). The Cleveland Memory Project was formed in 2002 as a means of providing wider access to the historic resources about northeast Ohio, held in Special Collections of the Michael Schwartz Library, Cleveland State University. Selected scanned items and metadata will be uploaded to Cleveland Memory (in addition to Ohio Memory), which will greatly expand the accessibility of the collection.

The photographs document the history of the Cleveland Police, as well as the history of our community. The subjects include but are not limited to: individuals; groups; interiors and exteriors of police and municipal buildings; interiors and exteriors of private and commercial buildings; local and national celebrities and politicians; street scenes; special events; crime scenes; and community events both mundane and significant. The majority of the photographs do not exist elsewhere.

### DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Digitizing the *Delaware Daily Journal Herald*, October 1, 1908 – October 15, 1912

The project will digitize an estimated 12,570 pages from October 1, 1908 through October 15, 1912 of the *Delaware Daily Journal Herald* newspaper and make these years available on Ohio Memory. The digitizing of these newspapers will be done from a copy of the master microfilm which is owned by Ohio History Connection.

The Delaware Daily Journal Herald is the only daily newspaper from Delaware County that has been preserved for the period 1902 through 1929. Like many newspapers of the time, the Journal-Herald published local, state and national news, covering topics from sports to culture to politics, as well as items of a more general interest such as agriculture, religion, architecture and other topics. The newspaper is a very complete source when doing research on Delaware County and Central Ohio. The Delaware County Historical Society owns the only print copy of this newspaper, which has been re-housed into acid neutral boxes to attempt the deterioration of the original paper. The originals of this paper are very fragile and flake away with each handling.

Instead of purchasing the newspaper on microfilm for the Cryder Research Library for use by visitors and individuals who visit our library to research the history of Delaware County, we have a goal to make this source of information broadly available to anyone who uses the internet.

### SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### Digitizing Sinclair's Archival Collection

This project will preserve, digitize, and describe 1,532 pages of photographs, publications, and administrative ledgers which document the history of the college and the Dayton area. This minimally processed collection chronicles the college's beginnings at the Dayton Y.M.C.A, assisting unemployed adults with training for in-demand, meaningful work. Materials selected highlight the early years of the school, from its opening in 1887 through 1950 shortly after the college was renamed for its founder, David A. Sinclair.

Photographs from ca. 1887 through 1947 provide a detailed

*(continued on page 13)*



look into early classes, events, and the work of students and staff. Many images selected were captured by Dayton area photographers, and include hand-written notes, names, and photographer information on the back. Publications selected consist of early commencement programs and college catalogs that provide an inside look into the early history of the college and events in Dayton. Overall, the collection provides a

unique look at Dayton history through the community college experience. It contains interesting elements of local history that would be valuable not only to Sinclair students and staff, but also researchers interested in Dayton, Ohio, and community college history.

## Small Museums Scholarships for AASLH Online Conference

The American Association for State and Local History will again hold an online conference this fall, October 12-15, following the in-person conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 22-25.

AASLH's Small Museums Committee is offering several scholarships to AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. Each scholarship will cover one

Full Access registration for the online conference. Acceptance of the scholarship is contingent upon recipients submitting a post to the AASLH blog about their online conference experience

**Please note: Small Museums Scholarships are only being awarded for the online conference.**

To qualify, the applicant must work for a museum with a budget of \$250,000 or less. They also must either be an individual AASLH member or work for an institutional member.

**The deadline for applications is August 1, 2021.**

The committee will email award winners by September 1. For questions, please contact Bruce Teeple, Small Museums Scholarship Subcommittee Chair, at [mongopawn44@hotmail.com](mailto:mongopawn44@hotmail.com), or Alex Collins, AASLH Professional Development Manager, at [collins@aslh.org](mailto:collins@aslh.org) or 615-320-3203.

To apply for this scholarship, please go to: [aaslh.submittable.com/submit/188266/2021-smallmuseums-scholarship](https://aaslh.submittable.com/submit/188266/2021-smallmuseums-scholarship)

## 2021 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

### Call for Nominations

The Ohio Local History Alliance is calling for nominations for projects or people who demonstrate outstanding achievement in the field of local history.

Nominations may be submitted for History Outreach awards in the categories of Public Programming; Media and Publications; and Exhibits/Displays. The awards committee is pleased to consider online/virtual projects for any category of the History Outreach Awards.

We're also seeking nominations for the Individual Achievement Award and the Ohio Local History Alliance Champion Award. The Individual Achievement Award recognizes the lifetime achievements of an outstanding local historian; the OLHA Champion Award recognizes individuals or groups who are not local historians or local history organizations for outstanding efforts in the support of and/or contributions to local history in Ohio.

**The submission deadline is August 1, 2021.** Nominators must be members of the Ohio Local History Alliance.

**Please note that all materials will need to be submitted online this year**, either via the online submission form or by email. No physical binders will be accepted.

Look for full details in the flyer mailed to all members in late April, or on our website at [ohiolha.org/what-we-do/outstanding-achievement-awards/](https://ohiolha.org/what-we-do/outstanding-achievement-awards/)

Questions? Contact Executive Secretary Betsy Hedler at [ohiolha@ohiohistory.org](mailto:ohiolha@ohiohistory.org) or 614-398-3491.

## Region 1

Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties

## Region 2

Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties

## Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society** was an instrumental partner in providing content and images for a 7-stop History Trail in Cuyahoga Falls. This is a project of the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership with the support of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association and Ohio Humanities, with additional donations and in-kind support from the City of Cuyahoga Falls, the Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and TRI-AD Advertising & Marketing. See more information here: [www.downtowncf.com/news/downtown-history-trail-complete](http://www.downtowncf.com/news/downtown-history-trail-complete)

**Lake Erie College** in Painesville is dedicating a Women's Suffrage Memorial on Thursday, August 26th. We are dedicating a Pomeroy Historical Marker for former President, Mary Evans, and additional wayfare signs. Mary Evans spoke at the 1885 Ohio Women's Suffrage Convention held at the Painesville Methodist Church. This event is free, and other interactive activities will be available at the celebration. Address 391 W. Washington St, Painesville OH 44077.

*In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization? Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of The Local Historian. Contact information for the representatives in your region is on page 2 of this issue. Of course, you are welcome to forward your news directly to the editor of The Local Historian at [ohiolha@ohiohistory.org](mailto:ohiolha@ohiohistory.org). Rather than serving as a calendar of events, items for "News from the Regions" are chosen to inspire, connect, and educate the Alliance's members all over Ohio and celebrate notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.*

## Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Sutliff Museum** presents their digital exhibit, "A Million Ways to Die in the 19th Century". The exhibit features videos created by the Sutliff Museum staff and artifact photographs from the Melnick Medical Museum at Youngstown State University. Dive into the 19th century and learn about the various questionable habits and product usage during the Victorian era, miasma versus contagion theories, and some diseases that were raging the population in those years. To view the exhibit, visit [www.sutliffmuseum.org/digital-exhibit](http://www.sutliffmuseum.org/digital-exhibit)

The **Youngstown State University History Program** and **Ohio History Service Corps** have partnered with **Congregation Rodef Sholom** in Youngstown to assist in the development of an institutional archive. OHSC Local History Member, Kayla Metzger, began meeting with Rodef Sholom Executive Director, Sarah Wilschek, in late 2019 to discuss records found in a utility closet in the lower level of the temple. Kayla arranged for YSU's Practicum in Applied History students to assist in the organizing and describing of the collection's contents, with the ultimate goal of creating a finding aid and research center for congregants, students, and visiting scholars.

## Region 5

Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties

The **Alliance Historical Society** got into the March Madness swing by taking the top 16 videos from their Marking Time in Alliance Series and putting them into brackets for members and Facebook fans to vote for their favorites. The entries were seeded based on the number of views on YouTube. The contest lasted for four rounds from Sweet 16 to the Championship and garnered 771 votes during the month. The Championship round came down to a difference of just 10 votes! The series began airing in January 2020 and received a 2020 Outstanding Achievement Award from OLHA. Links to all the videos and the brackets can be found at [alliance-history.org/marking-time-in-alliance](http://alliance-history.org/marking-time-in-alliance)

## Region 6

Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties

The **Dawes Arboretum** is premiering the exhibit **Ohio Artist Sala Bosworth: The Dawes Family Collection** on May 1st. Sala Bosworth was one of Ohio's first portrait painters and spent the majority of life in Marietta and Cincinnati. Less known is the Dawes family connection and his paintings of southern Ohio landscapes. Nine oil and two watercolor paintings will be on display in the History Center till October 31st. Go to [dawesarb.org/](http://dawesarb.org/) for more information.

## Region 7

Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties

## Region 8

Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren Counties

The **Trenton Historical Society** will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in June with a festival in our parking lot and in our museum. Several area historical societies will be participating with exhibits as we celebrate local history. Walking tours of downtown historical homes and an adjacent 1907 church will also be available.

## Region 9

Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties

## Region 10

Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Washington Counties

The **Noble County Historical Society** has a special display on John Gray at the Historic Jail Museum in downtown Caldwell. We received a tin type picture of John Gray recently that was taken on his 100th birthday. He lived to be 104 year and 2 months old and 28 days old. John Gray was born in Virginia near Mt. Vernon and worked for George Washington when young. He entered the Revolutionary War when he was 16 after his father was killed in the war. He later came to Noble County and lived North of Hiramburg the remaining years of his life. He was the last surviving veteran of the Revolutionary War.



Joined or renewed between February 19, 2021 and April 16, 2021.

## Welcome New Members

### INDIVIDUALS

William C. Barrow, *Cleveland Heights* Katharine Delavan, *Concord*

### ORGANIZATIONS

Lucy Depp Park Civic Association, *Gahanna* National Aviation Heritage Alliance, *Dayton*

## Thank You, Renewing Members

### INDIVIDUALS

Leslie A. Blankenship, *Hilliard* Jennie L. Self, *Massillon*  
Christy Connelly, *Cleves*

### ORGANIZATIONS

Applied Anthropology Laboratories, <i>Muncie IN</i>	Metamora Area Historical Society, <i>Metamora</i>
Canfield Heritage Foundation, <i>Canfield</i>	Mount Calvary Baptist Church, <i>Columbus</i>
Carlisle Area Historical Society, <i>Carlisle</i>	North Canton Heritage Society, <i>North Canton</i>
Clermont County Historical Society, <i>Batavia</i>	Perry History Club, Inc., <i>Canton</i>
Cleveland Masonic Library & Museum, <i>Cleveland</i>	Pickaway County Historical Society, <i>Circleville</i>
Crosby Township Historical Society, <i>Harrison</i>	Putnam County Historical Society, <i>Kalida</i>
Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, <i>Cleveland</i>	Rendville Historic Preservation Society, <i>Athens</i>
Friends of Freedom Society Inc, <i>Columbus</i>	Riverside Historical Society, <i>Dayton</i>
Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County, <i>Waverly</i>	Salem Historical Society, <i>Salem</i>
Glendale Heritage Preservation, <i>Cincinnati</i>	Shanes Crossing Historical Society, <i>Rockford</i>
Huron Historical Society, <i>Huron</i>	Spring Hill Historic Home, Inc., <i>Massillon</i>
Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum, <i>Coshocton</i>	Swiss Community Historical Society, <i>Bluffton</i>
Kinsman Historical Society, <i>Kinsman</i>	Tippecanoe Historical Society, <i>Tipp City</i>
Lakeside Heritage Society Inc, <i>Lakeside</i>	Wadsworth Area Historical Society, <i>Wadsworth</i>
Lorain County Historical Society, <i>Elyria</i>	Westwood Historical Society, <i>Cincinnati</i>
Lynchburg Historical Society, <i>Lynchburg</i>	Willoughby Hills Historical Society, <i>Willoughby Hills</i>
Magnolia Area Historical Society, <i>Magnolia</i>	Wood County Historical Center & Museum, <i>Bowling Green</i>
Maritime Museum of Sandusky, <i>Sandusky</i>	

### MAY 19:

Free Webinar: Methods for Engaging New and Familiar Museum Audiences. For more information, see page 11.

### JUNE 7:

Ohio Humanities Public Humanities Recovery Grant Applications due. For more information, see page 11.

### JUNE 7-8:

Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting. For more information, see page 11.

### AUGUST 1:

OLHA Outstanding Achievement Award Nominations due. For more information, see page 13.

AASLH Small Museum Scholarship Applications Due. For more information, see page 13.

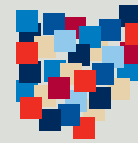
## On the Web

# Museum Learning Hub

[museum-hub.org/](https://museum-hub.org/)

Free, self-paced training resources for small museums. The Museum Learning Hub is a nationwide initiative organized by the six U.S. regional museum associations and dedicated to providing free, self-paced training resources for small museums. This inaugural series of online trainings and resource toolkits are focused on digital media and technology topics and were made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant for Museums

# Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...



**OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE**  
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

...or connect a sister organization to the Alliance and ask its leaders to join in one of the following categories:

## Organizational Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates, and save on Ohio Historical Society services for organization, including speakers and customized training workshops. **Best of all, when you join the Alliance as an Organizational Member, your membership benefits all of your organization's staff and members**—they will all qualify for discounts on registration for the Alliance's regional and statewide meetings and when buying Alliance publications.

## Operating budget:

Over \$200,000 a year:	\$100	(\$190 for 2)
\$100,000-\$200,000 a year:	\$75	(\$140 for 2)
\$25,000-\$100,000 a year:	\$60	(\$110 for 2)
Under \$25,000 a year:	\$35	(\$65 for 2)

## Individual Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates.

Affiliate:	\$35	(\$65 for 2)
Individual:	\$50	(\$90 for 2)
Student:	\$20	

## Business Member:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

## Join at:

[www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx](http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx)

The Ohio Local History Alliance, organized in 1960 under sponsorship of the Ohio History Connection, is composed of local historical societies, historic preservation groups, history museums, archives, libraries, and genealogical societies throughout the state involved in collecting, preserving, and interpreting Ohio's history.

*The Local Historian* (ISSN 9893-3340) is published bimonthly by the Ohio History Connection, 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211-2497, as a benefit to Ohio Local History Alliance members.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Columbus, OH.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

*The Local Historian*,  
Local History Services,  
Ohio History Connection,  
800 E. 17th Avenue,  
Columbus, OH 43211-2497.

Editor: Betsy Hedler

Graphic Design: Kim Koloski

Please direct materials or phone inquiries to:

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