



For Immediate Release

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Ohio Humanities Wins Grant from Arts Council To Produce Quilt Barn Tours



Route 52, Adams County Quilt Barn

(Columbus, Ohio) - October 25, 2014 – Ohio Humanities has secured a \$20,000 grant from the Ohio Arts Council to produce audio driving tours of Quilt Barns in Ohio. The first tour will travel roads in Adams County where the Quilt Barn Trail begins.

“The Ohio Quilt Barn Trail is part of a national community art project that began in 2001 to honor our Appalachian quilt-making traditions,” said Pat Williamsen, Executive Director of Ohio Humanities. “Not very many people understand that this national trail movement started in Ohio, guided by folklorist Donna Sue Groves, an Adams County resident. We want to capture the stories that inspired the Quilt Barn Trail and help heritage

tourists understand what they are looking at when they see a quilt square painted on a barn.”

According to recent surveys, Quilt Barn Trails can be found in 33 Ohio counties. Across the nation, more than 40 states include Quilt Barn Trails as options for travel itineraries. “Donna Sue has called this phenomenon a nationwide ‘clothesline of quilts’ – and indeed it is, with that clothesline firmly attached to a tobacco barn in Adams County,” Ms. Williamsen added.

The Ohio Arts Council grant will cover the costs of scripting and producing the first of two driving tours. The tours will include commentary by Ms. Groves and other scholars who will explore the history of the region, material culture, and architecture across the landscape.

With production beginning immediately, the first Quilt Barn driving tour will be available in May 2015 as a free download on SeeOhioFirst.org, a cultural heritage tourism website managed by Ohio Humanities.

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Ohio Humanities serves as a public advocate for the humanities in Ohio. We promote the humanities through public programs, grants, and community projects with the goal of helping individuals and communities explore, share, and be inspired by the human experience. Ohio Humanities is an independent, nonprofit organization funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and private contributions. Since 1972, we have provided services and grants to Ohio's cultural organizations.