

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The humanities guide us in defining our individual beliefs, values, aspirations, and are central to creating vibrant communities and building innovative economic opportunities. Humanities study helps us understand and engage diverse cultures. The humanities allow us to interpret our past, understand the present, and imagine our future.



By Helping Ohioans explore the past and imagine the future, Ohio Humanities strives to support exemplary programs across the state. Last year, more than 4,000,000 individuals experienced opportunities to engage in real conversations about real issues that effect us in many ways.

Now, more than ever, civil society depends on our ability to transcend small differences, identify the values we hold in common, and find creative solutions to the challenges we face as individuals and as communities. The humanities are the catalyst for invoking both continuity and change. By examining history, we can gauge what works; reading literature creates empathy for the experiences of others; philosophy challenges us to examine our beliefs and values.

As an advocate for the public humanities, Ohio Humanities is ever mindful of its role as a steward of civil society and the common good. The 2016 annual report departs from the usual presentation of income and expenditures. Instead, we want to share the impact created by our financial stewardship of the organization. The Ohio Humanities balance sheet is modest, but the impact of our service to the state/programs is immeasurable.



GRANTS

49 grants, \$285,236
awarded, leveraged
approximately \$1.2 million
in additional funds

Lee-Harvard Grant

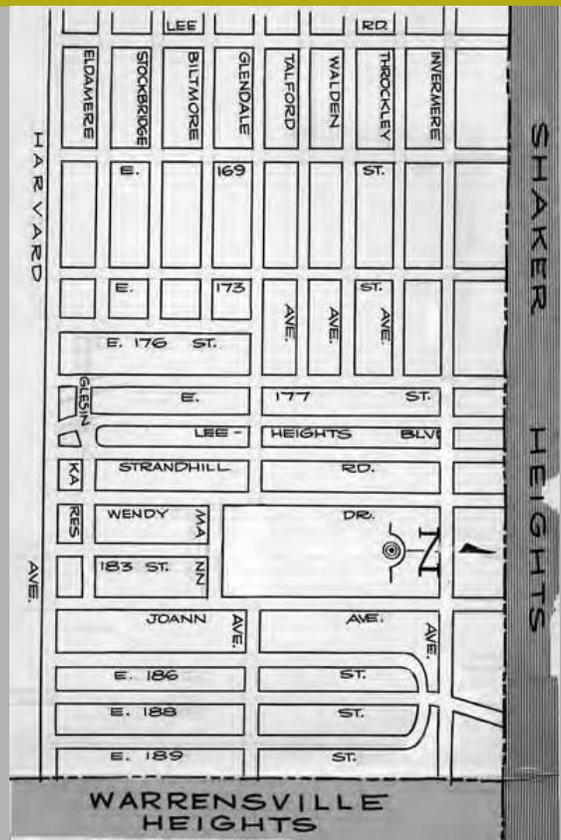
Telling important community stories takes time and effort. It also requires financial resources. Finding funding for public humanities projects can be a challenge. Many organizations have discovered that a grant from Ohio Humanities can help leverage additional dollars from organizations and foundations.

The Cleveland Restoration Society's African-American Heritage in Cleveland's Lee-Harvard neighborhood project is a perfect example of the power of an Ohio Humanities grant to open doors, and checkbooks.

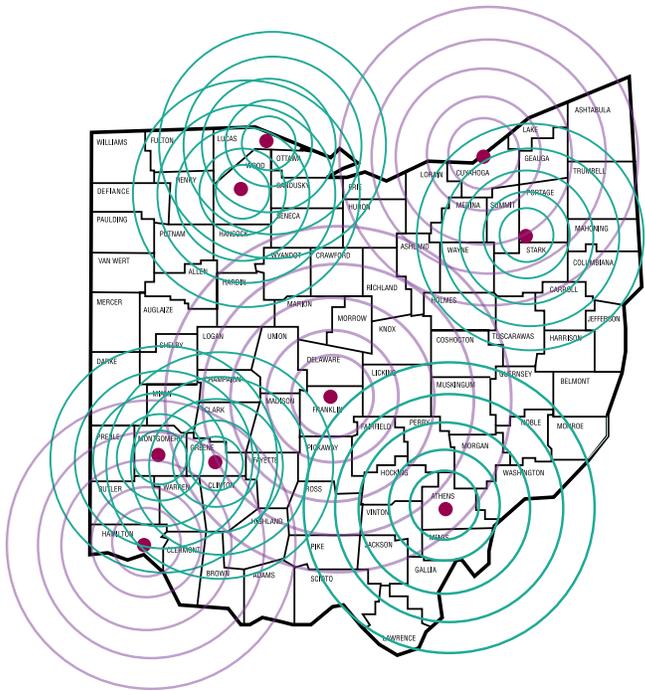
The Lee-Harvard neighborhood was an important part of the African-American community in Cleveland, and the CRS believed that its history needed to be shared with the public. One of the first places that CRS turned to for funding was Ohio Humanities. This was a strategic decision. Not only did Ohio Humanities provide critical dollars to get the Lee-Harvard program started, the Ohio Humanities grant also signaled to other funders that this was a project worth supporting. CRS was able to use their Ohio Humanities grant to leverage other funding, including a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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Public TV and Radio Coverage Area



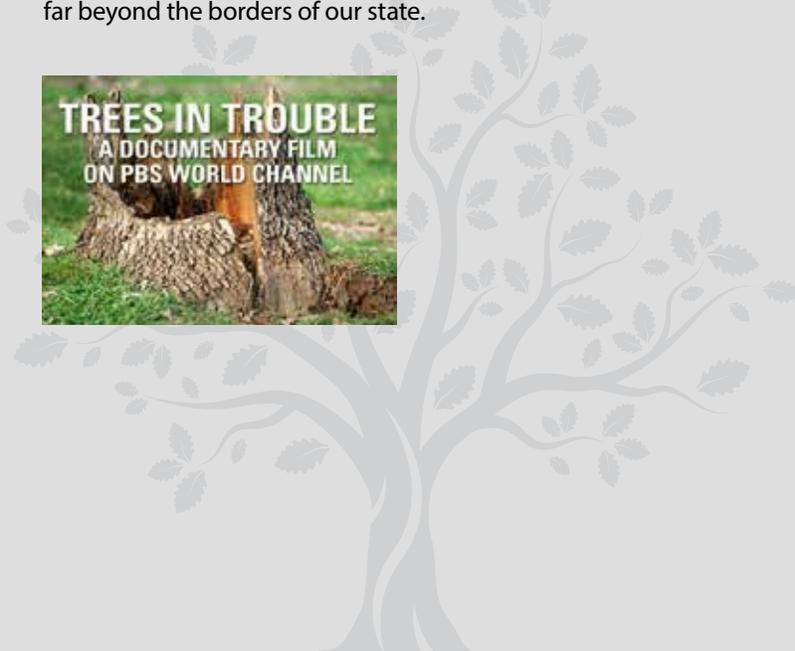
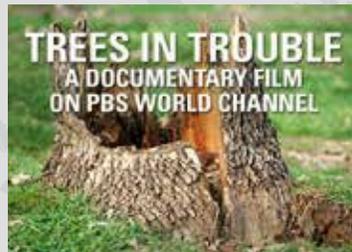
30 showings of
4 projects reached
3.86 million viewers

Trees in Trouble

In 2013, award-winning documentary filmmaker Andrea Torrice began working on a new project about the threats facing urban trees and community forests. With a planning grant from Ohio Humanities, Andrea was able to conduct in-depth research and work with environmental historian David Stradling. A media grant from Ohio Humanities helped turn that research into *Trees in Trouble*, a half-hour public television documentary.

The focus of the film is on Southwest Ohio, the emerald ash borer and the impact that this invasive species is having on conservation efforts in the area. Yet, the film has a much broader scope as communities across the country are dealing with similar environmental challenges. It is no surprise, then, that ***Trees in Trouble* was shown on over 95% of PBS stations across the United States in 2016.**

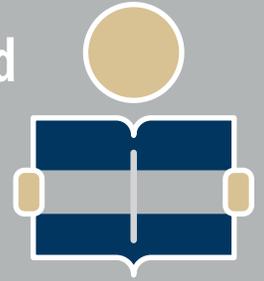
Trees in Trouble is the latest example of timely, high quality media productions funded by Ohio Humanities. Through public radio and television broadcasts, Ohio Humanities media projects reach almost every Ohioan, and audiences sometimes far beyond the borders of our state.



PROGRAMS/EVENTS



451 events attended
by approximately
112,000 people



Book Festivals

One of the things that makes the public humanities such a transformative force is face-to-face interaction. There is nothing like being able to engage an author, historian or other humanist in thought-provoking dialogue. Programs that are directly conducted by Ohio Humanities or funded from an Ohio Humanities grant make these important conversations possible.

Columbus and Cincinnati are home to Ohioana Book Festival and Books by the Banks, two major book festivals that attract thousands of participants each year. Both book festivals provide unique opportunities for Ohioans to meet authors from a number of literary genres. Through panel discussions, presentations at local libraries, and book signings, festival participants are able to engage authors in conversation and share their thoughts on a wide variety of topics.

Ohio Humanities has been supporting both the Ohioana Book Festival and Books by the Banks since 2007.

"I'm still basking in the afterglow of a great day at Cincinnati's annual Books by the Banks book fair . . . *Queen City Corpse*, the latest Sebastian McCabe-Jeff Cody adventure, is off to a great start!"

– Dan Andriacco, author



DIGITAL PROJECTS

21,399 unique visitors
to the site. **14** tours
that averaged over
100 downloads each.



Connecting Technology with Place

Digital technology can help connect us with places near and far. Whether through words, images or sound, digital technology adds important humanities content and context to the places people want to visit. Ohio Humanities is committed to integrating digital technology with Ohio places so that heritage travelers have meaningful experiences.

SeeOhioFirst.org is home to a number of digital tours that are available for free to the public. In 2016 over 21,000 unique users visited the site. Once there, visitors could choose to download any one of 12 driving tours that were created as part of the *New Ohio Guide*, an updated version of the Depression-Era guides that led drivers to important historical and cultural sites around the state.

These tours provide users with a curated experience that they will not find anywhere else. They are part of Ohio Humanities' commitment to using digital technology to support heritage tourism and connect people with the important places in Ohio.

**SeeOhioFirst.org is home to a number
of digital tours that are available
for free to the public.**

SeeOhioFirst.org



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS!

Your support for Ohio Humanities makes it possible for Ohioans to have Real Conversation about Real Issues.

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Celebration
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*All those who made cash
contributions under the tent
during Ohio Chautauqua*

This list includes donations made between January 1st and December 31st 2016.

ohiohumanities.org