



THE HUMANITIES...

create and sustain
VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



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SHARING THE HUMAN STORY

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sharing the human story means so much more than retelling the events of history. The human story is really about the impact of those events on people. From how the past influenced our communities in lasting ways to what is happening around us today, those events help shape who we are. We cannot separate ourselves from the stories of others, nor would we want to do so. Our recent programmatic themes, such as Journey Stories and Standing Together, have facilitated efforts across Ohio to share the stories of individuals and communities spanning all of Ohio's history.

As we begin a new program year at Ohio Humanities, we are introducing a new theme to guide our conversations, *Toward a Beautiful Ohio: Humanities Perspectives on the Environment*. Nothing ties us together more than the land upon which we live. The story of our interaction with the natural world is a continuous stream of lives from prehistoric indigenous persons to European immigrants, industrial giants, farmers, laborers, and the innovators of the 21st century. To early inhabitants, the Ohio country presented bounty and opportunity, wealth and security. Yet the same promises offered by land, water, and natural resources led to exploitation, blight, and hazard, as well.

Toward a Beautiful Ohio seeks to capture stories that illustrate how the land shaped our state – and our state of mind. What are our responsibilities for the resources of our state? What responsibility do we have to those who live downstream, both literally and figuratively? *Toward a Beautiful Ohio* will reflect on these questions and many more. We hope you will join us by developing a project, attending an event, and contemplating the stories we discover along the way.

Patricia N. Williamsen

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Ohio Humanities announced a three-year initiative this summer focusing on the environment, *Toward a Beautiful Ohio: Humanities Perspectives on the Environment*. As part of this initiative, we seek to strategically invest in the public conversations that address environmental issues from a humanities perspective.

For much of Ohio's history, the good times were signified by belching smokestacks. Pulling down forests, draining the swamps, and extracting fossil fuels helped Ohioans build a new state. While Ohioans prospered, all this activity degraded the environment. The first Industrial Revolution of coal and steam, and second of oil, steel, and chemicals left behind poisonous waste. As these first waves of industry passed into history, the sprawling growth of the cities buried the best farmland under suburban housing developments. Modern agriculture turned large swathes of the state toward the horizontal industrial production of corn, soybeans, hogs, and poultry. Finding a resilient and sustainable relationship with the environment in a place so firmly shaped by human activity is a significant and on-going challenge.

The human story in Ohio is inextricably tied to the natural world. The experiences of Ohio communities, families, and individuals are grounded in the state's vibrant landscapes and cities, and shaped by its natural resources. Ohioans are deeply tied to the environments they inhabit. Place names reflect those ties. The name Ohio originated from the Iroquois (Haudenosuane) word for "Good River". This name was later translated by the French as *La Belle Rivière*, "the Beautiful River". *Toward a Beautiful Ohio* supports public humanities projects that explore the interdependence between the people and places of Ohio. Ohio Humanities seeks to uncover the stories that reveal human interactions with the environment, to better understand our past and present, and imagine our shared future.

Toward a Beautiful Ohio grants will be available for all Ohio Humanities grant lines, and all guidelines apply. Examples of projects that we could support include Documentary Media (television, radio, photography, digital), Exhibits, Community Conversations (lecture series, facilitated discussions), and Educator Enrichment workshops.



Annette Jefferson George Kalbous

Speakers Bureau Emeritus

Supporting over 50 programs each year, Ohio Humanities Speakers Bureau is one of our most far reaching and popular programs. Beginning in 2016, we are excited to announce the addition of an Emeritus Speakers Bureau. Emeritus scholars are speakers who have served with Ohio Humanities for at least ten years, presenting hundreds of talks throughout the state. Ohio Humanities is proud to have supported these speakers over the decades, and looks forward to recognizing their hard work and service to Ohio audiences this December at the Ohio State House.

While no longer part of our acting Speakers Bureau, Emeritus Speakers are highlighted as resources for potential grant applicants and anyone seeking public humanities expertise. We hope that many will continue to take advantage these scholars in the future.

Bringing the humanities to your town is easy with the Ohio Humanities Speakers Bureau. Scholars in the fields of history, literature, philosophy, law, and archaeology have been traveling the state for 20 years speaking at libraries, historical societies, civic organizations and museums .

Schedule a speaker by visiting www.ohiohumanities.org

Ohio Chautauqua

Every summer Ohio Chautauqua brings history to life for Ohioans. This popular program takes a troupe of scholar/actors to four towns across the state to share the compelling stories of historical figures in the form of first person interpretation. Ohio Chautauqua's signature under-the-tent evening performances have been drawing crowds of enthusiastic audience members for 17 years. Smaller daytime events led by the scholar/actors allow youth and adult participants to explore related themes more deeply.

Journey Stories Troupe



Ohio Chautauqua 2014-2015: Journey Stories presented the stories of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 19th-century Indian captive Olive Ann Oatman, "forty-niner" and explorer J. Goldsborough Bruff, Titanic survivor Edith Russell, and American philosopher and naturalist Henry David Thoreau. These individuals' literal and metaphorical journeys conveyed compelling messages that inspired audience members. "The program excited me and made me want to read and learn more," stated Ohio Chautauqua 2015 audience member Mary Mersereau-Kempt, of Coshocton. "[The] passion of the presenter drew me into Thoreau. I was transported back to 1850-62."

More than 15,000 people experienced "Journey Stories" across the state. Tour stops included Akron, Chillicothe, Clifton, Coshocton, Gallipolis, New Richmond, Warren, and Worthington. Some participants commented on being profoundly inspired by their chautauqua experience. Glory Southwind, for example, visited the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, after hearing Marvin Jefferson's portrayal of Dr. King in 2014. She traveled 300 miles to Clifton to experience the performance again in 2015. Alanna Reisinger of Chillicothe stated that her entire family had been moved by the week-long experience, saying that she, her husband, and their 7-year-old daughter had shared several thought-provoking discussions and had "learned so much through this series."

As an extension of Ohio Humanities' "Toward a Beautiful Ohio" initiative, Ohio Chautauqua 2016: The Natural World will share the stories of five historic figures whose life work helps frame the stories of Ohioans and their relationship to the natural world: Shawnee leader Chief Cornstalk, Frankenstein author Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, pioneering physicist and chemist Marie Skłodowska Curie, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, and American primatologist and anthropologist Dian Fossey.

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Henry David Thoreau, as portrayed by Kevin Radaker, argued that walking in nature is the most transformative journey of all.

Building on the 19th century tradition, Ohio Chautauqua is a five-day residential program combining living history, music, education, and audience interaction in an exciting cultural event the entire community can enjoy. All workshops and performances are FREE.



Audience members appreciate the opportunity to interact with the scholars. Long after the performance ended, folks gathered to examine 49er artifacts and chat with scholar Hank Fincken.



Hundreds of young people across the state enjoy participating in a variety of activities during hands-on workshops led by Ohio Chautauqua scholars.

2016 HOST COMMUNITIES

Brimfield: June 7-11

Hamilton: June 14-18

Gallipolis: June 21-25

Rossford: June 28 – July 2



Debra Conner leads a youth workshop in 2014.



Ohio Chautauqua scholar Marvin Jefferson introduced audiences to Martin Luther King, Jr., by sharing little-known stories from his youth and discussing his plans for the Poor People's Campaign.



Exiting State Route 16 at Coshocton and turning on to Whitewoman Street is a step back in time. The buildings along the two block stretch of Roscoe Village date to the mid-nineteenth century when the town was a center for canal trade. Shaded by old trees that arc over brick sidewalks and cool the interiors of homes, the street is quiet and bespeaks a romantic, less hurried pace of life. A few cars are parked in front of the historic shops and a handful of visitors linger in the restaurants or point out the interpretive buildings.

Roscoe Village is idyllic, with little traffic. Which may not be ideal attributes for a heritage tourism destination designed to depict a canal-era village that once hummed with commerce and industry. A heritage tourism planning grant helped the Roscoe Village Foundation explore what might be needed to once again turn Roscoe Village into a bustling center of activity.

Platted in 1811 as Caldersburg, the town was renamed Roscoe in 1831. According to historian Lorle Porter, by 1843, Roscoe was considered "one of the most important towns on the Grand Canal." Along its streets, merchants set up businesses to serve canal boats and the growing town – warehouses, tanneries, harness shops, distilleries and taverns. Its position at the confluence of three rivers, midway between Lake Erie and the Ohio River, with canals heading east and west, insured that Roscoe would thrive. With the demise of the canals, Roscoe eventually was incorporated with Coshocton and civic leaders dubbed the area around Whitewoman Street "that slum."

Like many historic sites, Roscoe Village was preserved through the efforts of a few Coshocton residents who shared a concern that local history was being lost. Preservation commenced in 1967 when Ed and Frances Montgomery purchased the Toll Collectors House. Others bought properties to restore as private homes. Raymond Hay, a local jeweler, sought to protect canal locks from scavengers and vandals. Using Williamsburg and Greenfield Village as inspiration, the Montgomery Foundation eventually purchased most of the buildings. A few were rented to local businesses; most were restored and staffed by costumed interpreters who demonstrated pottery, blacksmithing, quilting, and broom making. A restaurant opened in a historic warehouse and a hotel was built on the western edge of Whitewoman Street. Roscoe Village became a destination.

But over time and generations, much of the original vision for preserving Roscoe Village as a heritage

Roscoe Village Explores Future with Planning Grant

High above the Triple Locks in Lake District Park, Roscoe Village Foundation Chair Ann Simpson with OH staff David Merkowitz and Mark Holbrook.

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destination was lost. The founders had passed on. Economic recessions at the end of the 20th century damaged the Village's ability to invest in its historic infrastructure. Buildings were sold to ease financial pressures. The tourism market became more competitive. Without steady sources of revenue, exhibits could not be refurbished, interpreters had to be let go, and the brick sidewalks -- heaved uneven by the roots of the stately trees -- became hazardous for pedestrians. Coshocton leaders had more pressing problems to address. Roscoe Village languished, still a tourist destination, but desperately in need of repair and re-interpretation.

"Having witnessed the resurrection of Roscoe Village from a dilapidated canal town into a pristine historic site, recent years of retrenchment have been unsettling," remarked David Baker, project director for the Roscoe Village Foundation. "Our efforts to return Roscoe Village to prominence as a treasured local asset and historic destination required expert guidance and strategic collaborations."

The Roscoe Village Foundation reached out to Ohio Humanities for a heritage tourism planning grant of \$2,000 to explore the "Rebirth of Roscoe Village." Humanities scholars and preservation specialists worked with the foundation board to review best practices for historic interpretation and heritage tourism. Focus groups with the board, other cultural organizations, and business owners were held to develop a vision to revitalize the Village.

The project developed comprehensive plans with short and long term goals for preservation, interpretation, and access. According Mr. Baker, "The series of presentations and focus groups provided the first high-level community dialogue regarding Roscoe Village in decades. These efforts created a platform for implementing the Rebirth of Roscoe initiative that will drive village renewal, preservation, funding and operations."



Recently, Ohio Humanities staff visited Roscoe Village to learn the outcomes of the project. One of the goals developed is to connect several heritage sites with interpretive tours, signage, and pedestrian thruways. Guided by Mr. Baker and foundation board chair Ann Simpson, we started at the visitor center at the east end of Whitewoman Street, hiking on the towpath through the Lake District Park to view the restored canal locks, and strolling through the old village district. We ended our visit at Clary Gardens, an educational facility just north of the village. "Even though we have visited Roscoe Village several times," said Pat Williamsen, "we had no idea there was more to see besides the village and the Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum. Combined, these heritage sites tell a richer story about early Ohio and the canals that criss-crossed the state."

Many challenges remain for Roscoe Village, but a new energy pervades the street. As we parted company with David Baker and Ann Simpson, parking spaces under the shade trees were filling up. Shoppers were eagerly examining the crafts at Made in Ohio and the lunch crowd was starting to queue up at the taverns. "This town is an Ohio gem," said Ms. Williamsen. "We're looking forward to learning what the future holds for Roscoe Village and its rebirth."

Privately owned businesses occupy several buildings. By increasing heritage tourism, Coshocton will ensure that entrepreneurial efforts prosper.



The first building purchased and restored by the Montgomeries, the Toll Collector's House serves as an interpretive focal point on Whitewoman Street.



2015 GRANT AWARDS

Egyptian Sands

\$10,000

Children's Museum of Cleveland

Why the Humanities: Answers from the Cognitive and Neuro-Sciences

\$10,000

Kent State University

Interdisciplinary Symposium on Improvisation

\$10,000

Bowling Green State University

The Legacy of Ferdinand Brader: 19th Century Drawings of the Rural Ohio and Pennsylvania Landscape

\$17,000

Canton Museum of Art

Books @ Work with Maple Heights School District Non-Teaching Staff

\$3250

That Can Be Me, Inc., Shaker Heights

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the British Children's Arrival in North Canton During the Blitz

\$8625

Walsh University Hoover Historical Center, North Canton

Both Sides Now: Views of Vietnam from the WYSO Public Radio Archives

\$17,000

WYSO FM, Yellow Springs

Ohio Poetry Day

\$453.20

Ohio Poetry Day Association, Mechanicsburg

Sustaining Ohio's Arts and Culture Ecosystem

\$1,000

Heritage Ohio, Columbus

AmeriCorps Member NAI Scholarships

\$1,500

Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area, Shawnee

Columbus Museum of Art presents Fabric of Survival: The Art of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz

\$5,000

Columbus Museum of Art

The Electric Guitar in Popular Culture

\$2,000

Bowling Green State University Center For Popular Culture Studies

2015 Ohioana Book Festival

\$20,000

Ohioana Library Association, Columbus

Latinos in Rural America

\$17,000

Kenyon College, Gambier

Trees in Trouble: Saving America's Urban Forests

\$17,000

Media Working Group, Cincinnati

New American Voices

\$10,000

WOSU Public Media, Columbus

Migration in Global Context: History, Narrative and Project-Based Learning

\$20,000

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, Valley View

The Best of Ohio's Regionalists: 1919-1950

\$15,466

Springfield Museum of Art

Veterans Voices Project

\$20,000

Wright State University Veteran and Military Center, Dayton

Ten Years of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize: A Literary Conference

\$3,000

Collaborative Education, Leadership, and Innovation in the Arts: An Ohio Center of Excellence, Dayton

Suburbanscapes: Art Beyond the Metropolis

\$4,550

City of Kettering Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts

Roscoe Village Foundation Heritage Tourism Strategic Planning Process

\$2,000

Roscoe Village Foundation, Coshocton

Heritage Tourism in Auglaize County Planning Project

\$986

Auglaize County Historical Society, Wapakoneta

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May, 2015 - Civil War Mustering Out event at Ohio Statehouse

July, 2015 - Ohio Arts Council Creative Economy Grant to Ohio Humanities

September, 2015 - National Endowment for the Humanities 50th Anniversary

November, 2015 - "Trees in Trouble" program premiers

Ashland Chautauqua 2015: 200 Years of Progress

\$5,000

Ashland Chautauqua, Loudonville

To Intervene or Not to Intervene: American Involvement in World Affairs from Spanish Civil War to the President

\$2,000

Oberlin College

Books by the Banks 2015

\$20,000

Books by the Banks, Cincinnati

The Peace Labyrinth: Quilting the Golden Rule

\$2,000

Interfaith Association of Central Ohio, Columbus

Exit Interviews Film Pre-Production Planning

\$1,785

Famicos Foundation, Cleveland

Cut from the Same Cloth: Textiles of the World

\$5,000

Dayton Society of Natural History, Dayton

1865: Beyond Appomattox - Civil War's Legacy

\$2,834

Lorain County Community College, Elyria

Train: The Hidden Narratives of the Holocaust

\$3,000

Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education, Cincinnati

Making Archaeology Public

\$7,000

Ohio History Connection, Columbus

Austen in Autumn

\$930

Mentor Public Library, Mentor on The Lake

BLIMP! Sports, Broadcasting & the Goodyear Airship

\$16,188.70

University of Akron

Justice and Peace: A Call to Local and Global Community

\$2,000

Peace Resource Center Wilmington College

Stewart's Corners Schoolhouse Interpretive Panels

\$976.62

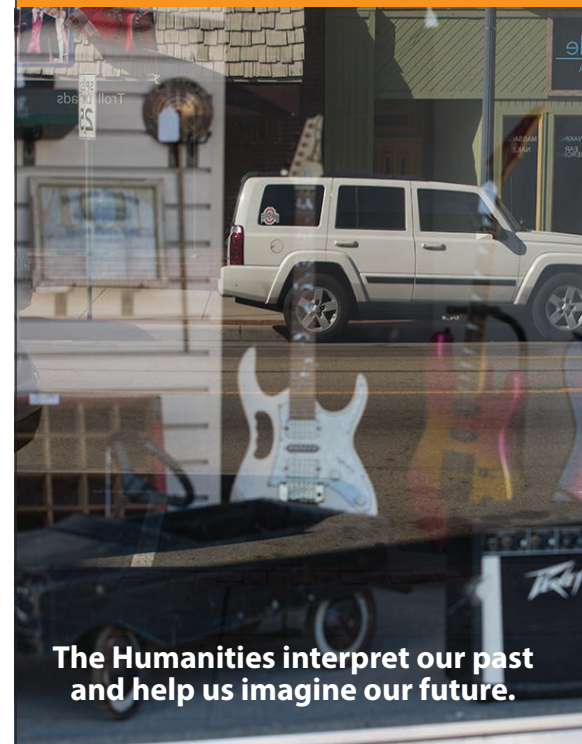
Stow Historical Society

Greenways or Highways Film Planning Project

\$2,000

Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, Cleveland

Ohio Humanities is the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through grants and public humanities programs we help Ohioans interpret the past, imagine the future, and define individual values. We're committed to creating vibrant communities throughout our state.



The Humanities interpret our past and help us imagine our future.



2015 Ohio Humanities DONOR LIST

Ensuring that the public humanities are available to all Ohioans is a passion shared by our many donors. Financial gifts to Ohio Humanities support public programs throughout the state. THANK YOU to all of our donors for your generous support!

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American cities are highly dynamic. They are also places where residents seek to flourish and where community memory can offer important added value to quality of life. Yet, American cities have become shallow soil for community stories: much heritage is lost amid the perpetual flux of urban development. Ohio Humanities seeks to address this critical need by funding dynamic, strategic, cultural programs that create and disseminate local history, support intercultural development, and create a shared future.

Ohio Humanities encourages all Ohioans to explore the human story. Providing financial support through grants for community projects, exhibits, and activities, Ohio Humanities partners with cultural organizations to present book festivals and public activities, and to promote heritage tourism in Ohio. We present Ohio Chautauqua each summer – a multi-city tour of performing scholars bringing history to life. Local organizations throughout Ohio use the Speakers Bureau to bring scholars and experts to their communities. We are always looking for new and innovative ways to share the human story.

VISION AND VALUES

Central to creating and sustaining vibrant communities. The humanities guide us in defining our individual beliefs, values, and aspirations. They help us to understand and engage diverse cultures. They support us in envisioning and building innovative economic opportunities and relationships. The humanities allow us to interpret our past and imagine our future.

MISSION

The Ohio Humanities serves as an advocate for the public 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.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

The humanities are the stories, the ideas, and the words that help us make sense of our lives and our world, introducing us to people we have never met, places we have never visited, and ideas that may have never crossed our minds. By showing how others have lived and thought about life, the humanities help us decide what is important in our own lives and what we can do to make them better. By connecting us with other people, the humanities help us address the challenges we face together in our families, our communities, and as a nation.

Scholarly pursuits of the humanities include

- **History, Anthropology, and Archaeology** study human social, political, and cultural development.
- **Literature, Languages, and Linguistics** explore how we communicate with each other, and how our ideas and thoughts on the human experience are expressed and interpreted.
- **Philosophy, Ethics, and Comparative Religion** consider ideas about the meaning of life and the reasons for our thoughts and actions.
- **Jurisprudence** examines the values and principles which inform our laws.
- **Historical, Critical, and Theoretical Approaches to the Arts** reflect upon and analyze the creative process.

Ohio Humanities, established in 1972, is a nonprofit organization. Ohio Humanities is the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Ohio Humanities aims “to increase Ohioans’ appreciation and understanding of the humanities” through the organization’s grant-making capacity and through programs developed by Ohio Humanities itself. Based in Columbus but operating statewide, the Ohio Humanities provides assistance to grant applicants, oversees organization-developed programs, and promotes the humanities in Ohio through collaborations with cultural and educational institutions. Ohio Humanities is governed by a volunteer board which makes decisions on grant awards and sets policy.



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