



HERITAGE  
OHIO

Vital Places. Vibrant Communities.

## Save Ohio's Treasures – Case Statement

Nearly half the states in the U.S. benefit from some form of dedicated fund that aims to ensure the preservation of threatened or neglected historic properties. However, the state of Ohio currently lacks a dedicated fund providing brick & mortar dollars to help preserve significant historic properties. **Through its new “Save Ohio’s Treasures” fund, Heritage Ohio seeks to intervene before these resources are lost.**

Ohio is a state rich with heritage. With tens of thousands of buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places, our built heritage is evident in every corner of the state. Yet, even with designations recognizing the historic significance of these resources, too many of these buildings fight a losing battle against time, deterioration, neglect, apathy, and lack of resources.

In urban centers, the departure of manufacturing jobs has led to deteriorating neighborhoods and abandoned industrial properties. Sprawling development at the edges of cities and towns erodes open space and farmland, threatening cultural resources and rural landscapes alike. Some public policies, while effective at eliminating the worst blight in the state, lack a preservation partnership component to help guide a sound and prudent decision-making process.

### **A successful Save Ohio’s Treasures fund will rescue historic resources by:**

- Providing loan funding to help underwrite the cost of preservation projects (the board may exercise the option of including a grant component once the Save Ohio’s Treasures fund is capitalized with at least \$1,000,000).
- Putting loan funds to work repeatedly as money paid back to the fund is then loaned out again.

### **Our Five-Year Plan to build the Save Ohio’s Treasures fund:**

- \$100,000 Initial Planning Phase (now-2015) – this phase will provide funding to study the feasibility of launching and marketing the fund, and seeking initial dollars to invest in one or two small but visually impactful preservation projects.
- \$1,000,000 Brick & Mortar Capitalization Phase (2015-2017) – we’ll use our case projects to encourage giving to capitalize the fund at one million dollars. We’ll work with foundations, individuals, and corporate sponsors to build the fund, encouraging donations large and small.
- \$5,000,000 Continued Growth Phase (2017- ) – Once the initial funding goal is met, we’ll promote and encourage further investment in Save Ohio’s Treasures through planned gifts, foundation funding, and special events, building the fund to a total of 5 million dollars.

**How you can help:**

- Designate a contribution to Heritage Ohio toward the “**Save Ohio’s Treasures**” fund
- Help us spread the word among the preservation community about Heritage Ohio’s fund to encourage its use and funding

**Model revolving funds saving at-risk historic buildings:**

- The **Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy** created its Lewis-Haines Revolving Fund after receiving a large donation of \$500,000 from a single donor. The fund dollars are used to acquire or protect threatened Wright Buildings. The organization first used the fund to acquire the Westcott House in Springfield, saving the home from demolition. A local entity took control of the house, overseeing the restoration and ongoing operations. The acquisition cost incurred by the conservancy is paid back over time.
- **Indiana Landmarks** (IL) has used its Fund for Landmark Indianapolis Properties for 30 years to save buildings at risk for demolition. The organization has taken a broad approach to the use of the fund, often to acquire threatened buildings. It has also used its funds to loan dollars to affiliated nonprofits engaged in building preservation (typically when an organization is rehabbing a historic home for continued residential use). IL holds an annual summer fundraiser to replenish and build its fund.

**About Heritage Ohio:**

Incorporated as Downtown Ohio, Inc, in 1989, Heritage Ohio fosters economic development through preservation of historic buildings, revitalization of rural downtowns and urban neighborhood commercial districts, and promotion of our civic tourism industry. Heritage Ohio accomplishes its mission to help people to save the places that matter, build community, and live better, through its flagship Ohio Main Street Program, Annual Revitalization & Preservation Conference, and trainings and networkings. Heritage Ohio served as the prime advocacy voice to encourage passage of the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit, and continues to work with legislators now to insure its continued use. Finally, Heritage Ohio serves as a resource to Ohioans in their pursuit to preserve their community’s heritage and vibrancy.