Grants for Local History
from Ohio Historical Society

The History Fund
What’s the History Fund?

- Newer grant program of the Ohio Historical Society
- Supports local and state history projects, programs, and events

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
The History Fund

• A Statehood Day legislative priority since 2006

• Also called “tax check off” or “competitive matching grant” program

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
Goals of the History Fund:
To support projects that…
✓ Are objective and fair
✓ Strengthen Ohio history
✓ Demonstrate community support
✓ Benefit the public
✓ Demonstrate a measurable impact
✓ Foster sustainability
✓ Meet professional standards

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
Who funds the *History Fund*?

- You—your donation of your tax refund or your gift to OHS funds the grant program

Your tax refund donations / gift to OHS + *Ohio Historical Society* = *History Fund grant program*
The History Fund – the Details

- Who is eligible to apply; who isn’t?
- What activities will the History Fund, fund?
- Grant program timeline
- Contact information
Who is eligible to apply?

- Ohio-based, nonprofit organizations in good standing
- Public entities in Ohio, eg. units of local government, public libraries, and educational institutions
- Organizations operating OHS sites under site management agreements.
- Functions / fiscal responsibilities assigned to OHS under site management agreements are not eligible for History Fund grants.
Who’s ineligible to apply?

- For-profit businesses
- Private individuals
- Ohio Historical Society
- Any of these may provide services to a grantee, but no grants will be awarded directly to these applicants.

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
What activities will the **History Fund**, fund?

Projects in 3 categories:

1. Organizational Development
2. Programs & Collections
3. Bricks & Mortar

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
What activities will the *History Fund*, fund?

**ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Projects that build capacity: provide training and materials to help historical organizations help themselves

[www.ohiohistory/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory/historyfund)
ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

• Grant minimum: $1,000
• Grant maximum: $4,000
• Project length: 1 year
• Match requirement: 80/20. The grant will pay 80% of the total cost of a project; applicant will be responsible for a 20% match.
• Funds distribution: 50% of the grant amount at the beginning of the project; remainder paid after project final report accepted.

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
What activities will the *History Fund*, fund?

**PROGRAMS & COLLECTIONS**

- Projects that further the *study*, *interpretation*, *publication and dissemination of historical information*, engagement of communities in history, or *preservation of historical collections and archives*.

[www.ohiohistory/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory/historyfund)
PROGRAMS & COLLECTIONS

- Grant minimum: $2,000
- Grant maximum: $20,000
- Project length: 2 years
- Match requirement: 60/40. The grant will pay 60% of the total cost of a project; applicant will be responsible for a 40% match.
- Funds distribution: 50% of the grant amount at the beginning of the project; remainder paid after project final report accepted.

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
What activities will the *History Fund*, fund?

**BRICKS & MORTAR**

- Work on properties on National Register of Historic Places
- Work on a building used for the preservation of historical or archival collections regardless of the building’s historic status.
- New construction dedicated to the preservation of historical or archival collections.

[www.ohiohistory/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory/historyfund)
BRICKS & MORTAR

- Grant minimum: $2,000
- Grant maximum: $20,000
- Project length: 2 years
- Match requirement: 60/40. The grant will pay 60% of total cost of a project; applicant will be responsible for a 40% match.
- Funds distribution: 20% of grant paid at the beginning of the project. Remainder paid over life the grant on a reimbursement basis.

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
BRICKS & MORTAR – continued

• Bricks and Mortar projects require a maintenance agreement

• Property owner agrees to maintain the historic features of the property (for historic properties), or retain the building for its intended use (for non-historic) for five years.

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
Ineligible Projects – History Fund

• Acquisition of historical materials for an institution’s collection.

• Buildings – moving or reconstructing

• Buildings – remodeling: projects to remodel or modernize building interiors unrelated to the guidelines above.

• Copyright: projects that would convert to a digital format materials that the applicant intuition does not hold the copyright to.

• Costs of operation, such as utilities, security system maintenance fees, grounds keeping hosting services for website, digital image storage, etc.

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
Ineligible projects – History Fund

- Public works of art that do not address Ohio history and the goals of the History Fund (see above section).
- Equipment: Purchase of equipment not related to accomplishing a specific project goal.
- Historical markers: Grants to erect or repair Ohio Historical Markers. For grants for markers, see www.remarkableohio.org
- Honoraria when the primary intent is to confer distinction.
- Insurance costs, unless shown as match for an event or program.
- Interest and debt payments.

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
Ineligible projects – History Fund

- Interest and debt payments.
- Direct lobbying or fundraising.
- Mitigation costs (under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act).
- Oral history that does not focus on a particular subject or theme.
- Other activities: the list above is not comprehensive. Contact the Ohio Historical Society if you have a question about whether an activity is eligible for funding.

www.ohiohistory/historyfund
History Fund timeline

- July 1, 2013: Application available at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund
- September 1: Applications due
- February 2014: Funding decisions announced
- May 2014: Project periods start (12 to 24 months)
The **History Fund**

Questions, comments?

*Contact:*

Local History Office / Ohio Historical Society  
800-858-6878 or 614-297-2340  
localhistory@ohiohistory.org  
www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund
How do we apply?

Go to:
www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund
(after July 1)

• Applications accepted online only
• But, can download and print all materials!
• Can prepare application “offline” and cut and paste items into online application