

2023 Annual Impact Report



Program Highlights

21 CERTIFIED MAIN STREET COMMUNITIES

Using the Main Street Approach[™], these communities have utilized their downtown's unique assets: historic buildings, small businesses, and the hard work of hundreds of citizens to revitalize their downtowns into thriving regional destinations. To become a Certified Main Street community, each of these communities met criteria centered on the Four Point Approach through Main Street America, as well as passed a rigorous annual evaluation to ensure standards of the Ohio Main Street Program are being upheld for our ambassadors around the state.

In 2023, the Ohio Main Street family welcomed new community: Westerville.



Historic Uptown Westerville

2023 OHIO MAIN STREET PROGRAM REVITALIZATION STATISTICS

Total Jobs Created (Net)	434
Full-Time Jobs Created (Net)	212
Part-Time Jobs Created (Net)	222
New Businesses Created (Net)	61
Total Public & Private Investment in Downtown	\$43,275,509
Total Private Investment	\$25,686,995
Total Public Investment	\$17,588,514
Total Value of Donations & Volunteer Hours Leveraged	\$1,459,722



DOWNTOWN AFFILIATES

33 DOWNTOWN AFFILIATE COMMUNITIES

Downtown Affiliate communities are using the Main Street Approach™ to revitalize their historic downtowns. Many of these communities join the Downtown Affiliate program after completing their DART assessments and are working toward becoming Certified Main Street communities.

In 2023, we welcomed \bigcirc new communities as Downtown Affiliates: Alliance, Canton, Cortland, Galion, and Kenton.

OHIO MAIN STREET AND AFFILIATE COMMUNITIES



OHIO MAIN STREET PROGRAM COMMUNITIES

Cambridge Coshocton Delaware Kent Lorain Marietta Medina Middletown Millersburg Painesville Piqua Ravenna Tiffin Tipp City Troy Van Wert Vermilion Wadsworth Wellington Westerville Wooster

DOWNTOWN AFFILIATE COMMUNITIES

Alliance Ashland Barberton Bedford Caldwell Camden Canton Chillicothe Circleville Cortland Cuyahoga Falls Defiance Eaton Franklin Fremont Galion Grafton

Greenfield Kenton Lima Marblehead Marion Martins Ferry Marvsville Newark Newcomerstown Peninsula Portsmouth Sidney Svlvania Urbana Worthington Xenia

DOWNTOWN ASSESSMENT RESOURCE TEAM

IN 2023, WE COMPLETED **3** DOWNTOWN ASSESSMENT RESOURCE TEAM (DART) REPORTS IN ALLIANCE, CORTLAND, AND GALION.

Resource team visits and their reports give communities a clear direction on how to start undertaking and developing a sustainable downtown revitalization plan. Using the Main Street Approach[™] as a guiding principle, the plans are custom tailored to every community's needs. Once the report is presented to the community, they can start day one to implement the strategy outlined in the report. All DART participating communities start off as Downtown Affiliate members to provide them with the support they need to become successful in their downtown revitalization missions.

PRESERVATION EASEMENTS

2023 marked the 19th anniversary of the launch of Heritage Ohio's easement program, which begin with accepting an easement on the Rawson Block in downtown Findlay in late 2004. This year marked a strategic pivot in the organization's program as the board recognized the importance of providing easement protection to cultural resources such as archaeological sites and historic farmsteads, and accepting easements on those varied property types when feasible.

HERITAGE OHIO CONDUCTS ANNUAL MONITORING ON EACH OF ITS ¹6 HISTORIC PRESERVATION EASEMENTS LOCATED IN ⁵ COMMUNITIES ACROSS OHIO. HERITAGE OHIO CONTINUES TO PROVIDE EDUCATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PRESERVATION TOOL, AND INCLUDED AN INTRODUCTION TO EASEMENTS SESSION AT THE 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DAYTON.



The historic Municipal Light Plant on the western edge of downtown Columbus



PAUL BRUHN HISTORIC REVITALIZATION GRANTS

Heritage Ohio and the State Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio History Connection continue to work with grantees from two rounds of Paul Bruhn grant funding, made available through the National Park Service. We worked with SHPO to create a re-grant program, providing critical funding resources for building owners in our Main Street business districts, making it possible for us to directly invest in brick and mortar investments in historic properties in Ohio. 2021 funding went toward building improvements in the Ohio Appalachian communities of Cambridge, Coshocton, Marietta, and Millersburg. 2020 funding has been re-granted for projects in the Main Street communities of Painesville, Ravenna, and Van Wert. We look forward to ribbon-cuttings celebrating these rehabbed spaces in 2024.

SAVE OHIO'S TREASURES

Heritage Ohio made its initial Save Ohio's Treasures (SOT) loan in 2022 and it's been a valuable learning experience. Progress continues on the Riddle Block 9 building in downtown Ravenna, and the owners envision a completion date in 2024. Heritage Ohio will then seek out new opportunities to put its loan fund to work.

To further build its loan fund, Heritage Ohio applied to The 1772 Foundation at the end of 2023 for additional funding, to increase our loan capital and expand the program.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AROUND OHIO

Heritage Ohio engages regularly with communities across Ohio to support preservation and revitalization efforts, from offering suggestions for local funding to doing site visits to offer suggestions on adaptive reuse, historic resources, funding programs, and advocacy. In 2023, through in-person meetings, email, phone, workshops, conference, and site visits, Heritage Ohio staff worked with 156 Ohio communities on historic preservation and downtown revitalization.

GLENDALE STEPS AKRON



Photo courtesy of William Fischer, Jr.

In 1928, Gertrude Seiberling, wife of Goodyear's founder and matriarch of Stan Hywet, was president of the Akron Garden Club. She set in motion the idea of creating a "beauty spot" in the center of the city. The proposed stairs would connect the West Hill neighborhood to the soon-to-be-developed Glendale Park to create a gateway to downtown. This vision of an urban park was commissioned to one of the nation's foremost landscape architects, Warren Manning, who was also responsible for designing the landscapes at Stan Hywet, Goodyear Heights, and Fairlawn Heights. The

park was never fully developed, but during the New Deal, the Glendale Steps were realized as a Works Progress Administration project. Built between 1936-1937 and stretching across a 200-foot incline, 242 sandstone steps were intricately carved and hand laid by WPA workers. For several years, the steps have been neglected and allowed to become overgrown and the object of vandalism. Recently, Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron has worked to save and restore the historic Glendale Steps in Akron, and was successful in nominating them to the National Register of Historic Places. Heritage Ohio has supported the initiative by providing preservation insights, funding leads, and advocacy.



DOWNTOWN FINDLAY

Findlay has one of the most beautiful downtown districts in Ohio, with rich architectural assets, but little in way of formal review and protection of the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. Hancock Historical Museum asked Heritage Ohio and the State Historic Preservation Office to visit Findlay and have a discussion with the mayor and planning staff to talk about the logistics of creating a formal historic preservation design review board, creating a new residential historic district on the south end of the downtown, as well as expanding the existing downtown historic district, and to share the economics of historic preservation. We also presented that evening at a public forum, and had great conversations with local residents on both sides of the value of historic preservation. We look forward to working with Findlay in the future, to help protect and preserve their historic downtown.

TOLEDO



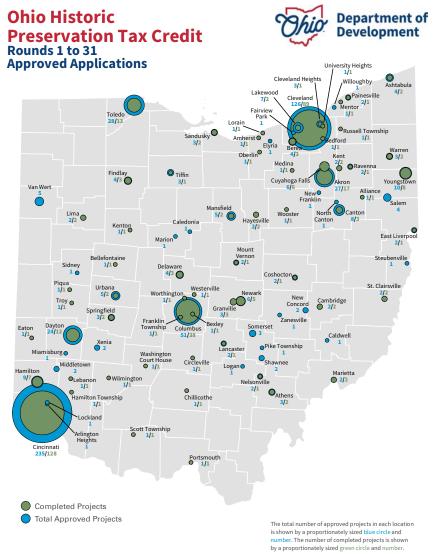


The Old West End in Toledo is one of the largest neighborhoods of historic homes east of the Mississippi River, with the majority designed by notable Toledo architects, and built largely between 1885-1930. The neighborhood is a showcase of architectural styles, ranging from large mansions built for Toledo industrialists, to smaller, worker homes. It is anchored by the renowned Toledo Museum of Art. Heritage Ohio helped the Old West End Association secure a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant to help pay for design guidelines for the district, in particular to support and strengthen the Historic District Commission.

This past year, the Old West End Association has organized neighborhood volunteers to save a humble, yet important, early 20th century Spanishinspired, shingle-style home, the last of its kind in the district. The 624 Delaware Revitalization Project is moving forward with renovations currently underway, with plumbing and electrical work completed this winter.

Government Relations

Several times a year, board members and staff from Heritage Ohio visit the Ohio Statehouse and the US Capitol to advocate for financial incentives and increased funding to help save historic spaces and places. Heritage Ohio is the lead organization advocating for the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit (OHPTC). The standard state credit provides a tax credit up to 25% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures (QREs), up to \$5 million. In 2022, a temporary, but significant change was signed into law by the Governor, as SB225 was approved. The increase offers greater financial incentives for projects in smaller communities, such as an increase from a 25% to 35% credit in communities with under 300,000 in population, an increased project cap from \$5m to \$10m, and a total appropriation increase from \$60m to \$120m.



December 2023

2023 OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

	Tax Credits Awarded	Number of Buildings	Number of Communities	Expected Leverage
Round 30	\$50,560,036	59	16	\$523,000,000
Round 31	\$67,517,474	54	16	\$732,000,000



ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Director Mihalik

In October, we welcomed over 325 of our friends in downtown Dayton for the 2023 Heritage Ohio Annual Conference, presented by Coon Restoration and Sandvick Architects. We were fortunate to be one of the first to hold our conference at the recently renovated historic Dayton Arcade, and it was great to see this icon of Dayton filled with historic preservationists and downtown revitalizationists.

On the first day of the conference, we went to CAMP with the instructors from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) and explored the ins and outs of historic preservation commissions. Later in the afternoon, we hosted two sessions on the site selection process with JobsOhio, the Dayton Development Coalition, and the City of Trotwood.

The next morning, we officially kicked off the conference with a welcome keynote address by Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik. Director Mihalik shared the attendees all of the work the state is undertaking to help communities around Ohio succeed in job creation, business attraction, and tourism and thanked everyone for their hard work in the revitalization of Ohio.

During the conference, we held over 40 educational sessions and offered over 30 continuing education credits for professionals.

We were happy to partner with the State Historic Preservation Office to help create many of our educational sessions for the conference, as well many professionals who were willing to share their expertise with conference goers. Here's a small sampling of topics covered at the conference: office to residential conversions, an exploration of Dayton's Funk history, the delicate process of reinterring the burials discovered in the North Market parking lot in Columbus, crowdfunding public projects, mapping ghost neighborhoods using Sanborn maps, and how to celebrate America's 250th birthday in Ohio.

We also hosted 6 tours during the conference, with trips around downtown Dayton, the historic Oregon District, the new Dayton Aviation Heritage Area, a bus tour of the Dayton VA Medical Center campus, and in-depth tours of the Dayton Arcade.

FILM FESTIVAL



Heritage Ohio, in partnership with Envision Medina Productions, produced our second series of film shorts as part of our annual awards ceremony for our annual conference. The film festival featured five episodes, highlighting the work that Heritage Ohio does across the state. Each short focused on a component of how Heritage Ohio is helping preserve and promote historic assets and vibrant communities across Ohio.

The historic Toledo Club, in Toledo, Ohio, was the featured location to highlight the value and importance

Lower Price Hill



of Conservation Easements, which protect historic properties in perpetuity through a legal agreement and annual inspections. The former Brunswick Club in Newark, Ohio, renovated by Liz Argyle, was the subject of Historic Tax Credits, and how these valuable incentives help developers small and large restore historic buildings and return them to active use. Main Street Wooster and Downtown Wooster were featured in an overview of the importance of Downtown Revitalization, and how a long-term, sustainable Main Street program can guide the redevelopment and vitality of downtown districts. St. Michael the Archangel Church, in the Lower Price Hill neighborhood of Cincinnati, was restored by Community Matters, and is a stunning example that shows how the best practices in Historic Preservation can transform and lift up an entire community. Finally, Downtown Tiffin was showcased as an outstanding example of an Ohio Main Street Program community using local development, partnerships, and targeted investments to revitalize a rich downtown historic district.

WEBINARS

9 webinars were presented in 2023 with topics ranging from JobsOhio's Vibrant Communities Program, Preparing for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse in Ohio, An Introduction to the Historic American Buildings Survey, and Preparing a Successful Bid for State Capital Budget Dollars. Over 1,000 people attended our webinars in 2023, and another 1,500 viewed the recordings on YouTube.

REVITALIZE OHIO MAGAZINE

4 issues of *Revitalize Ohio* magazine were published in 2023, and featured 80 pages of useful and entertaining information. We saw many amazing stories from around the state in 2023, including a new quarterly look at The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, keeping you up to date on saving the Selby Building in downtown Coshocton, and introducing you to our newest Main Street community in Uptown Westerville. We cannot wait to share more projects and stories with you in 2024!

REVITALIZATION SERIES WORKSHOPS

4 Revitalization Series workshops were held in 2023.

In 2023, Heritage Ohio organized four revitalization workshops. The trainings are specific to supporting local Main Street districts and businesses. The February session highlighted Marietta's robust public arts programming and Kent hosted the April training, it focused on the essential role of Main Street organizations in local economic vitality. The June workshop in Painesville discussed using the arts for economic development, featuring insights on Playhouse Square's impact on downtown Cleveland. The workshop also covered the importance of having a strong working relationship with local health departments when coordinating community events.

The September training in Millersburg focused on bed taxes, and attendees also got updates on the Ohio Commission for the US Semiquincentennial and learned about the benefits of being a Certified Local Government (CLG) community. Wrapping up the year, the last three workshops introduced Grow with Google sessions for participants.

In 2023, nearly 200 individuals attended Revitalization series workshops.

OUR 2023 REVITALIZATION WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE

February: Utilizing Public Art & Tax Credits to Create a Vibrant Community in Marietta April: Maximize Your Main Street and Turn Google Into Your Small Business Ally in Kent June: Tools to Benefit Your Local Businesses in Painesville September: How to Get Funding & Develop Housing in Your Community in Millersburg

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT WORKSHOP



A large component of the work we do at Heritage Ohio is presenting educational programs, workshops, and technical assistance in communities across Ohio. In 2023, we expanded our daylong Historic Tax Credit and Revitalization workshop program, produced in partnership with the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The workshop provides a full day, holistic look at historic preservation and financial incentives. The typical agenda opens with an overview

of why historic preservation is important, and what it means to the identity of a community. Then SHPO staff provide an introduction to the National Register of Historic Places, the benefits of being a Certified Local Government (CLG), and the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit. ODOD staff gives an overview of the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit, followed by an open question and answer session. The workshops are an excellent opportunity for developers, property owners, municipalities, and citizens to get information and insights directly from the department and staff member with which and with whom they would be working. In 2023, we held workshops in Athens County, Medina County, Miami County, and Washington County/Buckeye Hills Regional Council. A total of 211 guests attended the workshops.

PRESERVATION MONTH



In celebration of Preservation Month, Heritage Ohio annually hosts a photo contest to capture preservation projects or needs across Ohio. The winner of the contest is featured on the cover of Revitalize Ohio, our quarterly membership publication, and noted at our annual conference. Our 2023 theme focused on "The Story of Historic Preservation" with great stories to go with great images. The winning image was taken by Brian Hiles and featured the gorgeous façade and front entry to Elder High School in Cincinnati.

As we continue to advocate for historic schools in Ohio, either to maintain an education use or to reimagine a creative new use, we're heartened to see those buildings that remain community anchors and points of pride, even when 100+ years old!

Elder High School® - Brian Hiles



ANNUAL AWARDS

In October, 16 Awards were presented to hardworking, creative Individuals and organizations, as well as spectacular rehabilitation projects from around the state, for their achievements in preservation and revitalization.



The Delaware Welcome Center in the historic Sheets Building in downtown Delaware won the Best Commercial Rehabilitation in a Small Community award.

12TH ANNUAL APPALACHIA HERITAGE LUNCHEON

The 12th Annual Appalachia Luncheon was held in early December at the Ohio Statehouse. This annual event, held in partnership with Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area, and sponsored in 2023 by AEP Ohio and Patricia Henahan, is a wonderful celebration at which we honor organizations and individuals for their contributions to the culture of Ohio Appalachia.

This year, 8 organizations and individuals were honored for their work in Ohio's Appalachia Region: The Great Stone Viaduct (Belmont County), The Downtown Exchange (Muskingum County), Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Restoration Project (Lawrence County), Scioto Historical Project (Scioto County), Gay Fad Studios (Fairfield County), The Willis James Bed & Breakfast (Ross County), Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center Capital Expansion Project (Scioto County), and the Ohio Environmental Council, Southeastern Ohio Region. Kimberly Jackson, founder of The Hive (Athens County) was recognized with the Sam Jones Model Citizenship Award.



The 2023 honorees at the Appalachia Heritage Luncheon.

SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUAL

Lisa Adkins Janna Amole Matt Armstrong Rachel Bach Daniel Balogh **Cressey Belden** Julia Biasella Nicholas Blantern **Richard Braley** William Brugnone Karl Brunies Daniel Budish **Robert Bueralener** Christopher Carver Phil Clyburn Ashlev Combs David Crowell Daniel Davis Jan Devereaux Craig Dillon Chris Dobroszi Linda Donaldson Andi Erbskorn Maria Fiorella Steven Frazier Friends of Music Hall Alaina Foster Arne Goldman Ruth Griffing Chandler Grooms Stevie Halverstadt Pat Henahan Luke Henry Patricia Higgins David Hipp Jess Holler lan Jones Harmanjit Kaur Susan Keeny Jennifer Kime David King John King Todd Kleismit Paul Lacey Ben Levenger Mary Lewis Stephen Matheny Margaret Mattinson Dana Matz **Daniel Mayer** Martha McClaugherty Nora McNamara

Steven McQuillin Julie Miller Crystal Montgomery Andrew Morris Pat Morrisson Taylor Mullinax Jacqueline Pasternack Greg Patt Margaret Piatt **Guy Philips** Carole Pollard Yolita Rausche Julie Rohl Brandon Ross Daniel Schneider Elizabeth Schultz David Schwartz Rati Sinah **Eddie Steiner Devon Stinson** Lyndsey Stough David Taylor Ann Thompson David Thompson Amanda Townsend Martta Tuomala Kurt Updegraff Andrew Verhoff Kyle Von Kamp Ann Webster Madeline Williams Elizabeth Wilson Jane Zachman Judith Zimomra

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CONTRIBUTOR

Julie Apt William & Janet Bird Troy Blubaugh Bill Brown Eric Claussen Kirby Date C. Joseph Diamond Shawn Donegan John Fernvak **Douglas Fuller** Donald Gillie John Grossmann Donald Hange Jr. Marsha Heinke Thomas Jorgensen Graham Kalbli Rory Krupp Patrick Maculaitis Thomas & Kate Matheny **Jeffery Meyers** David Mitzel Chris Mowen W. Kevin Pape Peach's Grill **Progress Through Preservation Kyle Ressler** Michael Rose Nancy Rubenstein Monica Snow Joel & Meg Teaford Michael Tomko Duane Van Dyke Eric & Jane Van Renterghem Paul Vincent Amy Walbridge Isabella Weik Diana Wellina Matt Wiederhold Scott & Carolynn Ziance

SUSTAINING

Allied Window Chad Arfons Richard & Yvonne Burry Mark Campbell Steve Coon

John & Martha Doss Downtown Dayton Partnership Patricia Eldredge Lois Fisher Donald Foster **Glenn Harper** Tim & Deb Koehl Robert Loversidae David Martin David & Roberta Mertz Wendy Naylor Lisa Patt-McDaniel Zach Price Michael Shields Eric Stachler Danielle Steinhauser Diana Wellman

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AMBASSADOR

Jonathan Sandvick John Sieber Kathryn Shahani Nanci & Dave Westrick

BENEFACTOR

The Wilson Family

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Alpha Phi Alpha Homes Inc. Ashtabula Downtown Development Association Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau Athens County Land Bank Better Kenmore Community Development Corporation Cincinnati Preservation Association Cleveland Restoration Society Clinton County Port Authority Decorative Arts Center of Ohio Destination Downtown Lancaster **Destination Hudson** Downtown Mantua Revitalization Corp. Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership Dresden Community Association Finance Fund German Village Society Grand Theater Restoration Project Henry County CIC Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corp. Historic Hamilton Historic Warehouse District Ironton-Lawrence County CAO Lisbon Landmark Foundation Lucas County Land Bank Mantua Restoration Society Ohio CDC Association Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association Peoples Bank Theatre Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council Tiffin Historic Trust **Ursuline** College Warren Redevelopment & Planning Corp. Youngstown CityScape

CITY/VILLAGE

City of Alliance City of Bowling Green City of Cambridge City of Circleville City of Cortland City of Coshocton City of Defiance City of Delaware City of Hamilton City of Hubbard City of Kent City of Lebanon Village of Lewisburg City of Lima City of Marietta City of Medina City of Middletown Village of Milan

Village of Millersburg City of Mount Vernon City of Newark City of Oberlin City of Oxford City of Painesville City of Piaua City of Portsmouth City of Ravenna City of Tiffin City of Tipp City City of Troy City of Van Wert City of Vermilion City of Wadsworth City of Waterville Village of Wellington City of Westerville City of Wooster City of Zanesville

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AEP Ohio CASTO GBX Group Heritage Architectural Associates Impact Credit Partners Kleinfelder Perspectus Plante Moran RAM Construction Services Schooley Caldwell Ulmer & Berne LLP

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SPONSORS

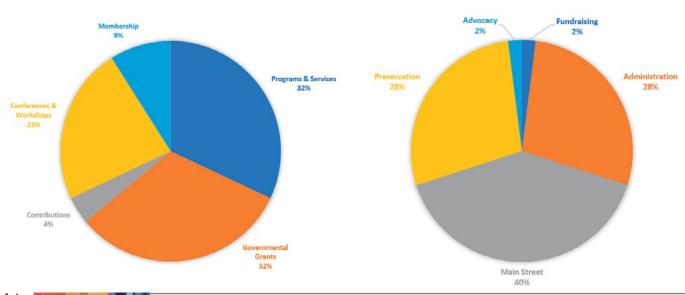
AEP Ohio AFS Ohio altafiber America in Bloom Apex Commercial Group Arcade Innovation Hub Athens County Economic Development Council Athens County Land Bank **BakerHostetler** Blackberry Systems Buckeye Hills Regional Council CareSource CenterPoint Energy Century Hotel Group City of Dayton CityWide Development Coon Restoration **Cross Street Partners CT** Consultants Dana L. Wiley Gallery featuring Mike Elsass Davton Area Chamber of Commerce **Dayton Convention Center** Davton Convention & Visitors Bureau **Dayton Development Coalition** Dayton Regional Transit Authority

Dayton VA Medical Center Downtown Dayton Partnership Downtown Redevelopment Services Downtown Tipp City Partnership The Economic & Community **Development Institute** Mike Elsass Friends of the Dayton Arcade Gather by Ghostlight **GBX** Group Gossman Group Grow Piqua Now Patricia Henahan iHeart Radio JobsOhio Main Street Wadsworth Mainstreet Piaua Miami County Economic Development Miami County Momentum Mira Development Company MODA4 Design + Architecture Montgomery County Montgomery County **Convention Facilities Authority** Mosaic Engineering & Consulting National Park Service Naylor-Wellman New Republic Architecture

Nord Family Foundation Ohio Arts Council Ohio Department of Development **OHM** Advisors **PNC** Foundation Preservation Dayton **RAM Construction Services** Sandvick Architects Schooley Caldwell Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council State Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio History Connection Thomas Porter Architects Troy Community Works Trov Historic Preservation Alliance Troy Main Street **US** Department of Veterans Affairs Nathan Ware Westfield Insurance WPTD WYSO

*** If we inadvertently left you off this list, please let us know so we can correct the error.

EXPENSES



FINANCIALS

REVENUE

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Kathy La Plante of Main Street America guides Heritage Ohio staff and Main Street Delaware through the new progress visit process and standards.

EX-OFFICIO, VOTING

Bob Breneman, Wooster, Mayor of Wooster Abby Marshall, Columbus, Young Ohio Preservationists Lorna Swisher, Piqua, Ohio Main Street Advisory Committee

EX OFFICIO, NON-VOTING

Luke Stedke, Westerville, Ohio Department of Development Diana Welling, Westerville, State Historic Preservation Office

STAFF

Matthew Wiederhold, Medina, Executive Director Devin Miles, Columbus, Director of Operations Frances Jo Hamilton, Delaware, Director of Revitalization Frank Quinn, Circleville, Director of Preservation Lorna Swisher, Piqua, Assistant Director of Revitalization

MISSION: As Ohio's official historic preservation and Main Street organization, Heritage Ohio fosters economic development and sustainability through preservation of historic buildings, revitalization of downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts, and promotion of cultural tourism.

ABOUT HERITAGE OHIO: Heritage Ohio began as Downtown Ohio, Inc., organized in 1989 as a statewide nonprofit corporation that encouraged the development, redevelopment, and improvement of downtowns and neighborhood commercial district areas throughout Ohio. Heritage Ohio works as a catalyst for downtown and neighborhood district development by gathering together revitalization organizations, conducting statewide seminars and conferences, and providing a network of members to share knowledge, common experiences and challenges concerning downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. Heritage Ohio is dedicated to assisting self-motivated communities through technical assistance, training, and networking in all facets of downtown and commercial district development. Heritage Ohio advocates for revitalization and historic preservation issues at the state and federal levels.



