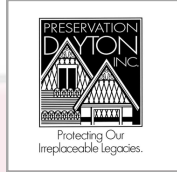


Ohio's preservation nonprofit organizations stand in support of the Ohio History Connection

Ohio's historic preservation nonprofit organizations stand in strong support of our colleagues at the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office — the Ohio History Connection — who were laid off last week due to delays in federal funding disbursements from the Historic Preservation Fund. These professionals have been respected and valued contributors to the stewardship of Ohio's cultural heritage, supporting critical infrastructure reviews, uplifting our local governments, and advancing economic development statewide. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and service to the people of Ohio, and we will keenly feel their absence across the preservation community.



Cuts to Preservation Funding Put Local Jobs, Construction Industry, and Communities at Risk

The layoffs at the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office are not an isolated incident—they are a direct consequence of funding delays and proposed cuts at the federal level that threaten our capacity to preserve historic places, provide jobs and strengthen communities and downtowns across Ohio.

Despite Congress appropriating funds for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the FY2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) has yet to be released. Meanwhile, the proposed FY2026 federal budget would virtually eliminate funding for the HPF, along with the national preservation programs within the National Park Service (NPS), including the National Register of Historic Places.

These cuts are already taking a toll: Ohio's SHPO laid off one-third of its staff, with additional staffing reductions anticipated at the NPS. The consequences will be immediate and severe. In FY2024, Ohio received \$1.45 million in HPF funding to administer essential programs, including the Federal and State Historic Tax Credits—key drivers of economic development in our state.

Just last December, Ohio awarded \$56.1 million in state tax credits to 37 projects, projected to leverage \$715 million in private investment—these projects are frequently paired with the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit, relying on both State and Federal staffing and expertise. In FY2022, Ohio was third in the nation in total rehabilitation costs because of Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Investment, generating over 50,000 jobs. **Without these resources, essential preservation work will stall – construction will be delayed, financing jeopardized, and projects may be canceled altogether.**

Without action, more communities will face disrupted revitalization efforts, lose economic opportunity, and reduced access to the tools that help us preserve and celebrate Ohio's rich history.

We urge all advocates for Ohio's historic places to contact your Congressional representatives and request the following:

- Uphold the authority of the legislative branch to appropriate funds by facilitating the prompt release of the FY2025 Historic Preservation Fund Notice of Funding Opportunity, and subsequent swift review and approval of applications by the Department of the Interior;
- Demonstrate continued, bipartisan commitment to our nation's history, ahead of the 250th anniversary of the United States – by proposing adequate FY26 appropriations, including full funding of the Historic Preservation Fund and the NPS National Recreation and Preservation Programs at or above current levels; and
- Contact Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum to halt further staffing cuts to the National Park Service, particularly those essential preservation programs such as the National Register of Historic Places and Technical Preservation Services.

Ohio's preservation and economic future depends on your voice.

We can add co-signers to this statement. Please reach out if your organization would like to be added.