

# Redbook

## LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

### Ohio History Connection

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Attachment:

Appropriation Spreadsheet

# LBO Redbook

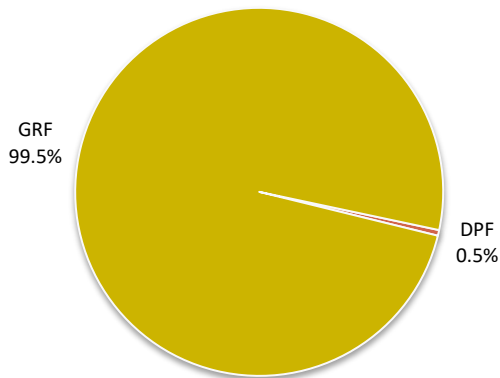
## Ohio History Connection

### Quick look...

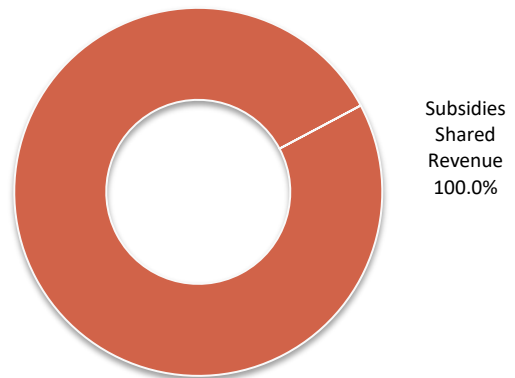
- The Ohio History Connection (OHC) is a state-chartered nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and study of Ohio’s history.
- OHC’s governing body is a board of trustees composed of 21 members and 12 ex officio members.
- The executive budget recommends GRF funding of \$34.8 million in FY 2026 and \$29.1 million in FY 2027.
- The FY 2026 GRF appropriation is an increase of 68.9% over the FY 2025 estimated spending level of \$20.6 million; this is primarily related to additional funding for the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial, Site and Museum Operations, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and Outreach and Partnerships.
- The appropriated funds are released to OHC in quarterly subsidy payments.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
General Revenue Fund	\$21,117,000	\$20,604,000	\$34,798,712	\$29,148,432
Dedicated Purpose Fund	\$159,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
Total	\$21,276,000	\$20,764,000	\$34,958,712	\$29,308,432
% change	--	-2.4%	68.4%	-16.2%
<i>GRF % change</i>	--	-2.4%	68.9%	-16.2%

**Chart 1: OHS Budget by Fund Group  
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



**Chart 2: OHS Budget by Expense Category  
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



Biennial total: \$64.3 million

## Agency overview

The Ohio History Connection (OHC) is a state-chartered nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and study of Ohio's history. OHC houses the State Historic Preservation Office, which is the state's lead entity for federal historic preservation programs delegated to the state through the National Preservation Act, the official state archives, and a local history office, and manages the 58 sites and museums across Ohio.

OHC is governed by a board of trustees consisting of 21 members, as well as 12 ex officio members that include members of state history groups, legislative leaders, and the Governor. OHC's projected employee count by FY 2025's end is estimated to be 162, with 134 full-time and 28 part-time staff positions. OHC plans to hire additional staff with support via the proposed funding increases in a number of line items.

OHC's collection comprises two million artifacts and specimens and 107,365 cubic feet of manuscripts, documents, photographs, and government archival records. Collections are from all 88 counties across Ohio, and the government records include all of the records of the state's agencies, boards, and commissions, as well as the records of all political subdivisions, including counties, townships, municipalities, school districts, and special taxing districts.

## Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

### Summary of executive recommendations

The executive budget recommends a total appropriation of \$64.3 million over the biennium for OHC. The increased funding supports the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial. The funding will support the 29-member Commission with preparing for the United States of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 4, 2026. Additionally, the recommended budget supports OHC's efforts to prepare for United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site designation.

As shown in the charts above, OHC derives 99.5% of its state funding from the GRF. The remaining funding comes from Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) Group line items that receive revenue from the Ohio history tax check off and the "Ohio History" license plate. In addition to state appropriations, OHC's revenue includes income derived from federal grants and contracts and private contributions, as well as operating revenues such as admissions and parking fees, program service charges, sales, memberships and subscriptions, and fees for special events and the use of facilities. Expenditures attributed to these funded line items are coded as Subsidies Shared Revenue in the state accounting system due to OHC's status as a state-chartered nonprofit corporation.

### Staffing increases

The executive budget also recommends increases in allocations for Ohio's only UNESCO World Heritage site, appropriation line item (ALI) 360402, Education and Collections, ALI 360501, Site and Museum Operations, ALI 360502, and Outreach and Partnership, ALI 360509. Specifically, regarding Ohio's UNESCO World Heritage site and Site and Museum Operations, these increases will be used to manage and maintain historic sites that OHC will gain direct oversight of in the biennium; namely, the Newark Octagon and the Adena Mansion and Gardens.

Due to the increased responsibility and scope of OHC, for these two properties OHC will add 11 full-time positions and six part-time positions to best manage and maintain these properties to make them available to the public. OHC will also add three full-time positions for educational curriculum, and five temporary employees to meet federal compliance standards.

**Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission (ALI 360400)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360400, Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission</b>					
\$200,000	\$200,000	\$985,000	\$840,000	\$985,000	\$985,000
% change	--	392.5%	-14.7%	17.3%	0.0%

This line item funds operating expenses of the Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission, which S.B. 310 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly created. Funding supports the operation of the Commission’s office, including programming, outreach, resource acquisition, and staffing. Future costs are expected to include grant support to partner organizations and projects that support the mission of the Commission by providing opportunities to promote awareness of and to implement Holocaust and genocide education in Ohio. Activities of the Commission are supported by one part-time and three full-time employees.

**Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial (ALI 360401)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360401, Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial</b>					
\$0	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$2,500,000
% change	--	300.0%	50.0%	150.0%	-66.7%

This line item funds operating expenses of the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial which H.B. 110 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly created for the purpose of planning the commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026 of the founding of the U.S., as well as Ohio’s role in U.S. history before and after receiving statehood. The Commission’s duties are scheduled to expire at the end of the upcoming biennium. Additional spending levels for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium are expected to support the Commission’s plan to coordinate and implement 20-plus programs to celebrate the history of Ohio and the contributions of Ohioans to the greater good of the United States which in turn are expected to increase tourism, promote youth engagement and life-long learning, and provide legacy-leaving opportunities for the state.

### UNESCO World Heritage Sites (ALI 360402)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360402, UNESCO World Heritage Sites</b>					
\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$3,260,020	\$2,602,020
% change	0.0%	--	-100.0%	--	-20.2%

This GRF line item supports preservation, education, maintenance, daily operations, and tourism marketing of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks UNESCO World Heritage Site. The eight 2,000 year old Native American earthworks that constitute the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks have achieved the highest designation in the world for cultural heritage, which brings significant cultural and economic development opportunities to Ohio. This line item supports all management functions/operations at Fort Ancient, the Great Circle, and the Octagon Earthworks. No funding for this line item was provided for in FY 2025. The FY 2026-FY 2027 funding levels are expected to support increased payroll costs and maintenance at the sites. OHC expects to bring on board 11 additional full-time positions and six part-time positions to best manage and maintain these properties to make them available to the public.

### Education and Collections (ALI 360501)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360501, Education and Collections</b>					
\$5,016,092	\$5,016,092	\$5,604,000	\$5,882,000	\$6,139,320	\$6,147,040
% change	0.0%	11.7%	5.0%	4.4%	0.1%

This line item supports the preservation of and access to the state’s collections of Ohio government records, historical documents, and artifacts. It supports educational programs, the OHC website, records digitization, and research services. Examples of some of the resources supported by this item include *Ohio as America*, an electronic textbook for fourth grade Ohio history classes; Ohio Memory, a collaboration with the State Library that includes an online collection of more than 180,000 images; and *Timeline*, a history magazine. The line item represents the principal funding that directly supports OHC’s functions and operation of research facilities.

This line item also provides for the hiring of five new temporary positions to fulfill federal requirements associated with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Efforts to ensure federal compliance with NAGPRA are time and labor intensive and must be completed under a federal timeline to ensure site compliance.

### Site and Museum Operations (ALI 360502)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360502, Site and Museum Operations</b>					
\$7,232,753	\$6,532,753	\$7,721,000	\$7,502,000	\$11,721,000	\$11,721,000
% change	-9.7%	18.2%	-2.8%	56.2%	0.0%

This line item provides services and support for the state’s system of historic sites and museums, including the Ohio History Center and the adjacent Ohio Village, and the facilities for storing and preserving library, archive, and artifact collections. Activities funded by this item include liaison services, curatorial and exhibit services, marketing and fundraising support, planning, capital improvements, and major maintenance. OHC provides staff to work with the 36 local organizations and other agencies that currently operate 58 of the state’s historical sites and museums. This line item will also support the costs associated with the new staff positions described above under GRF ALI 360402, UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

### Ohio Preservation Office (ALI 360504)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360504, Ohio Preservation Office</b>					
\$261,609	\$261,609	\$731,000	\$738,000	\$965,287	\$965,287
% change	0.0%	179.4%	1.0%	30.8%	0.0%

This line item supports the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a division of OHC that carries out historic preservation responsibilities under federal and state law. These functions include nominating properties for the National Register of Historic Places, maintaining inventories of historically and archaeologically significant properties, and administering historical reviews for federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit and state Historic Preservation Tax Credit programs. This line item provides a portion of the required 40% state match for the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Fund Program. According to OHC, in recent years, funding levels have not been sufficient to cover the required match. The proposed funding increase to the line item may assist in maintaining the match obligations.

### National Afro-American Museum (ALI 360505)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360505, National Afro-American Museum</b>					
\$536,050	\$536,050	\$728,000	\$811,000	\$811,000	\$811,000
% change	0.0%	35.8%	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (NAAMCC), located in Wilberforce, Greene County. Through collecting and preserving relevant materials and using them as the basis for a variety of programs, exhibitions, research, and publications, the NAAMCC educates the public about African-American history and culture, with an emphasis on Ohio history.

**Hayes Presidential Center (ALI 360506)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360506, Hayes Presidential Center</b>					
\$572,880	\$572,880	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
% change	0.0%	30.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item subsidizes the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Sandusky County. The Center includes the Hayes residence (Spiegel Grove), a library, a museum, and the tomb of President Hayes and his wife. The home and museum have a combined 40,000 visitors per year, including visits for research and special events.

**State Historical Grants (ALI 360508)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360508, State Historical Grants</b>					
\$1,675,000	\$1,635,000	\$1,250,000	\$930,000	\$700,000	\$700,000
% change	-2.4%	-23.5%	-25.6%	-24.7%	0.0%

This line item is used to provide funds for local historical projects and institutions through earmarks. OHC receives the appropriation from this ALI and redistributes cash to each entity accordingly. OHC retains no administrative fee for their services in the distribution of these funds. In FY 2026 and FY 2027, the executive budget proposes earmarks of \$350,000 in each fiscal year to the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Western Reserve Historical Society. Prior earmarks for the FY 2024-FY 2025 cycle can be seen later in this analysis in Table 3.

**Outreach and Partnership (ALI 360509)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 360509, Outreach and Partnership</b>					
\$144,692	\$144,692	\$148,000	\$151,000	\$1,967,085	\$1,967,085
% change	0.0%	2.3%	2.0%	1202.7%	0.0%

This line item funds a portion of the costs associated with the Ohio History Connection’s outreach activities, including partnering with schools and local history organizations around the

state. Activities include professional development support, coordinating volunteer programs, statewide conferences and workshops, as well as administering the Ohio Historical Markers and Ohio History Service Corps programs and the Ohio History Tax Check-off funded by ALI 360602.

The funding level proposed in the executive budget is due to added support to provide fourth grade public and nonpublic student access to the Ohio as America social studies curriculum. In this biennium, curriculum provided by OHC will be made accessible to all of Ohio’s 121,583 fourth graders at a cost of \$13.50 per student for a total cost of \$1,641,370. This increase in accessibility serves an audience six times larger than what is currently served statewide; for this increased capacity to be possible OHC will need to hire three additional staff. These additional staff are estimated to cost \$174,715 annually. OHC launched Ohio as America, an online curriculum for fourth grade students in 2011.

**Ohio History Tax Check-Off (ALI 360602)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>Fund 5KLO ALI 360602, Ohio History Tax Check-Off</b>					
\$102,500	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
% change	46.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item is funded by an income tax check off that allows taxpayers to direct a portion of their state tax refunds to OHC. The appropriated funds pay for competitive matching grants to local history organizations, nonprofits, and local governments for organizational development initiatives, brick-and-mortar projects, and program and collections activities. Since FY 2022, the average annual revenue to this fund from taxpayer donations through the check-off program was \$122,237. In 2010, the Legislative Commission on the Education and Preservation of State History recommended the creation of an income tax check off by which Ohio taxpayers could donate a portion of their refunds to OHC. The proceeds are used for a competitive grant program, which provides local history organizations, nonprofit organizations, and local governments with funding to engage in projects that support historic preservation and education through the Certified Local Government Grant Program. OHC is required to submit to the General Assembly a yearly written report detailing all aspects of the grant program from the immediately preceding calendar year.

**Ohio History License Plate (ALI 360603)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>Fund 5PD0 ALI 360603, Ohio History License Plate</b>					
\$7,500	\$7,000	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
% change	-6.7%	28.6%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item is funded by a contribution of \$20 for each purchase of the “Ohio History” license plate. The money is then used to pay for grants on a matching basis to local history-related



organizations. A portion may be used for administering the grants. Since FY 2022, the annual revenue credited to this fund averaged nearly \$7,000.

H.B. 59 of the 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly created the Ohio History License Plate Program, which is funded by a \$20 contribution from each person being issued a set of “Ohio History” license plates. The funds are used by OHC to pay for grants on a matching basis to local history-related organizations. In 2023, 304 “Ohio History” license plates were issued.

## Grant and subsidy programs

OHC funds Ohio Archive Grants with money received from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) through their State Board Programming Grants. Grants of \$500 to \$5,000 are available to archival institutions to fund projects to preserve and provide access to Ohio’s historical records. Table 1 summarizes the grant programs. Table 2 provides the number and dollar amount of grants awarded in FY 2024.

<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Funding/Matching Amount</b>
Certified Local Government Grant	Support local preservation boards and commissions and local historic preservation efforts.	\$5,000 minimum; grants awarded are typically between \$10,000 and \$25,000; recipients must contribute a minimum local match of 40% of the total project cost. Funding source: Department of the Interior/National Park Service/Historic Preservation Fund Grants-in-Aid (CFDA 15.904).
History Fund	Support preservation and sharing of Ohio’s heritage by funding local, regional, and statewide projects, programs, and events related to the broad sweep of the state’s history and pre-history.	\$1,000-\$20,000, based on project category; all grants require an 80/20 or 60/40 match based on project category. Funding sources: ALI 360602 funded by donations of Ohio taxpayers on their state tax returns; ALI 360603; other private donations.
Ohio Archives Grant	Enrich the culture and protect the rights of Ohioans by fostering activities that identify, preserve, and provide access to the state’s documentary heritage.	\$500-\$5,000; all grants require a minimum one-to-one in-kind and/or cash match. Funding source: National Archives and Record Administration/ National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

<b>Table 2. Ohio History Connection Grant Awards, FY 2024</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Awards</b>	
	<b>Grants Awarded</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Certified Local Government	6	\$144,793.00
History Fund	14	\$187,600.00
Ohio Archives	12	\$30,890.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$363,283.27</b>

Additionally, OHC fully distributes funds from ALI 360508, State Historical Grants. This line item typically serves as a means to “pass-through” grants earmarked for local historical projects and institutions. The earmarks for FY 2024 and FY 2025 are listed below.

<b>Table 3. State Historical Grants (H.B. 33 Earmarks from ALI 360508, State Historical Grants)</b>		
<b>Earmark</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
Western Reserve Historical Society	\$350,000	\$350,000
Cincinnati Museum Center	\$350,000	\$350,000
Little Brown Jug	\$250,000	\$0
Maltz Museum of Jewish History	\$200,000	\$200,000
Marlboro Volunteers	\$70,000	\$0
Rootstown Historical Society	\$30,000	\$30,000

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Appropriations - As Introduced  
All Fund Groups - Detail**

**Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	Estimate FY 2025	Introduced FY 2026	Introduced FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
<b>OHS Ohio History Connection</b>								
GRF	360400	Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission	\$985,000	\$840,000	\$985,000	\$985,000	17.26%	0.00%
GRF	360401	Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$2,500,000	150.00%	-66.67%
GRF	360402	UNESCO World Heritage Sites	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$3,260,020	\$2,602,020	N/A	-20.18%
GRF	360501	Education and Collections	\$5,604,000	\$5,882,000	\$6,139,320	\$6,147,040	4.37%	0.13%
GRF	360502	Site and Museum Operations	\$7,721,000	\$7,502,000	\$11,721,000	\$11,721,000	56.24%	0.00%
GRF	360504	Ohio Preservation Office	\$731,000	\$738,000	\$965,287	\$965,287	30.80%	0.00%
GRF	360505	National Afro-American Museum	\$728,000	\$811,000	\$811,000	\$811,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	360506	Hayes Presidential Center	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	360508	State Historical Grants	\$1,250,000	\$930,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	-24.73%	0.00%
GRF	360509	Outreach and Partnership	\$148,000	\$151,000	\$1,967,085	\$1,967,085	1,202.71%	0.00%
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$21,117,000</b>	<b>\$20,604,000</b>	<b>\$34,798,712</b>	<b>\$29,148,432</b>	<b>68.89%</b>	<b>-16.24%</b>
5KLO	360602	Ohio History Tax Check-off	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	0.00%	0.00%
5PDO	360603	Ohio History License Plate	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$159,000</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Ohio History Connection Total</b>			<b>\$21,276,000</b>	<b>\$20,764,000</b>	<b>\$34,958,712</b>	<b>\$29,308,432</b>	<b>68.36%</b>	<b>-16.16%</b>
<b>Main Operating Appropriations Bill Total</b>			<b>\$21,276,000</b>	<b>\$20,764,000</b>	<b>\$34,958,712</b>	<b>\$29,308,432</b>	<b>68.36%</b>	<b>-16.16%</b>