



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 1, 2014

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## Panelists Named to History Fund Review Committee Panel to Recommend Recipients of Grant Funds for Local & State Projects

COLUMBUS—The Ohio Historical Society is pleased to announce the Ohioans who will serve on the panel to evaluate History Fund grant applications and make recommendations to award over \$100,000 in funding for local and state history projects.

The [History Fund](#) is a competitive matching grants program that is one of four "tax check-off" funds found on Ohio's income tax forms. Grant funds are available thanks to the nearly 16,000 Ohioans who voluntarily contributed an average of \$8 per person to the History Fund in 2013 (tax year 2012), the second year of operation for this new program.

"There is real demand for this program. The History Fund has received 64 applications for \$788,000 in grant requests," said Andy Verhoff, History Fund Grant Manager for the Ohio Historical Society. "Our panelists' experience and recommendations will help the Society support outstanding projects. We hope great projects plus high demand for grants will inspire more "tax check-off" and History Fund support in 2014," he continued. (The Ohio Historical Society is launching a campaign to encourage donations to the History Fund. For details, go to: [ohiohistory.org/makehistorycampaign](http://ohiohistory.org/makehistorycampaign)).

Of the panelists, Burt Logan, Executive Director and CEO of the Ohio Historical Society said, "We are pleased that these individuals from across Ohio agreed to serve on this important panel. They are leaders in the field of history in the state" The panel consists of professionals who represent the grant program's constituencies: local historians, historic preservationists, museum professionals, archeologists, and archivists, among others.

- **Chika Aizu**, Senior Vice President, The Chesler Group, Materials Park
- **Laurie Gemmill Arp**, Digitization Collaborative Program Manager, Lyrasis, Dublin
- **Aaron Askew**, Architect, Moody-Nolan Architects, Columbus and former member of the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board
- **Dina Bailey**, Director of Museum Experiences, Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati
- **Ruth Brindle**, Curator, Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington College, Wilmington and Secretary, Ohio Local History Alliance, Columbus
- **Jarrold Burks**, Ph.D., Director of Geophysical Surveys, Ohio Valley Archeology, Inc., Columbus
- **Janet Carleton**, Digital Initiative Coordinator, Ohio University, Athens, and Member, Ohio Historical Record Advisory Board, Columbus
- **Leigh Duncan**, Systems Librarian, Wright State University, Dayton
- **Martha Pallante**, Ph.D, Department Chair and Professor of History, Youngstown State University, Youngstown
- **Yolita Rausche**, Historic Preservation Specialist, Rausche Historic Preservation, LLC, Chagrin Falls
- **Kevin Schwarz**, Ph.D, Director of Transportation Archeology, ASC Group, Inc., Columbus
- **Kelly Selby**, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of History, Walsh University, North Canton
- **Al Tonetti**, Cultural Resource Specialist, ASC Group, Inc. Columbus
- **Shirley Wadja**, Ph.D, Historian, Vienna Historical Society, Vienna
- **Beth Weinhardt**, Local History Coordinator, Westerville Public Library

The panel will hold its meeting at the Ohio History Center in Columbus January 15- 16 at which it will make funding recommendations. The meeting is open to the public. The Ohio Historical Society serves as the administrator of the History Fund and cannot apply for grant funds. Recipients of History Fund grants will be announced on Statehood Day, February 27, 2014. Project may begin as early as May 2014 (allowable project duration is 12-24 months).

### **ABOUT THE HISTORY FUND**

Also known as the “tax check-off,” the History Fund was developed to support the preservation and sharing of Ohio’s heritage by funding local, regional, and statewide projects, programs, and events related to the state’s history. It was created in the state’s two-year budget that was signed into law by Gov. John R. Kasich on June 30, 2011. The legislation allowing for the change in state tax forms was initially brought to the General Assembly by former State Rep. Kathleen Chandler (D-Kent) in 2005. State Rep. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) re-introduced in 2011 before it was enacted in the state budget. On previous year’s state IT-1040 tax return forms, Ohio residents have had the option of donating to causes such as wildlife conservation, nature preserves, scenic rivers, and the protection of endangered species. The History Fund joined these programs on the 2011 Ohio tax form and will be on future tax forms, providing Ohioans with a simple way to help preserve their state’s history. To learn more about the history fund, visit [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund).

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**About the Ohio Historical Society:** Founded in 1885, the non-profit Ohio Historical Society ([ohiohistory.org](http://ohiohistory.org)) provides a wide array of statewide services and programs related to collecting, preserving and interpreting Ohio’s history, archaeology and natural history through its 58 sites and museums across Ohio, including its flagship museum, the Ohio History Center in Columbus. For information regarding OHS, contact Shannon Thomas, Communications Dept., Ohio Historical Society: 614.297.2317, [stthomas@ohiohistory.org](mailto:stthomas@ohiohistory.org).