



**CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PLAN
FISCAL YEARS
2025-2030**



November 3, 2023

Kimberly Murnieks, Director
Office of Budget and Management
30 East Broad Street, 34th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: FY25-26 Capital Request and Plan

Director Murnieks,

On behalf of our 8,000 members, our staff and Board of Trustees, I'd like to express my thanks for the opportunity to present the Ohio History Connection's FY25-26 Capital Request. It comes at a critical moment for our organization—one that, oddly enough, became especially salient while I was recently some 7,000 miles away from our state.

As I sat with my colleagues in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia during the UNESCO World Heritage Conference, not knowing for certain if our nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks would be inscribed to the World Heritage List, one resounding point emerged into clear view—that our collective work of preserving our Ohio history *truly matters* toward building pride and understanding—whether to a class of school children visiting the Great Circle in Newark, a family visiting Fort Ancient, or a tour group from out of state at the Octagon Earthworks.

Closer to home, with successful inscription in the rear view mirror, we are now immersed in that critical moment, and the work really begins. As such, we are proposing a bold vision for how we can, through this \$103 million Capital Request, build, preserve and share our statewide treasures for generations to come, which would help us:

- Create and preserve meaningful experiences for all Ohioans
- Spark economic development in Ohio Communities
- Capitalize on the opportunity of Ohio's only UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Instill a greater sense of pride through telling Ohio stories

Within this request, you will see how each item also carries with it the necessary rationale, urgency, and return, such as:

- Outlining project scope, risk, and urgency
- Presenting clear timing for project starts and completion
- Pointing to a return on project investment

At a high level, the core areas of request largely fall into these categories:

- **World Heritage site improvements** will undertake improvements at the sites managed by the Ohio History Connection that are part of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Ohio. These sites include Fort Ancient, and the three

sites that comprise the Newark Earthworks: Great Circle, Octagon, and Wright Earthworks. **Key takeaway:** With investment, experts estimate that these sites can well exceed 100% increase in visitation and \$12.5 million in economic growth in the three counties (Licking, Ross, Warren) where the sites are located, and that the rest of the state can see significant World Heritage tourism growth as well. (2018, Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, Ohio University)

- **Ohio Village and Ohio History Center rehabilitation** will implement the recommendations of the master plan for Ohio Village, in coordination with the Expositions Center development and History Center campus plans. **Key takeaway:** These funds would help transform the Ohio Village into a cultural destination, as well as keep the Ohio History Center (a building just placed on the National Register of Historic Places) operational, modernized, and thriving (the Center is now over 50 years old).
- **Site system Infrastructure improvements** across some 58 sites will help maintain our current site system through improvements, expansions, and construction designed to enable safe, modernized experiences Ohioans can enjoy for years to come. **Key takeaway:** among the many sites included in this category is the Fort Laurens Historic Site, the only fort built by the American Continental Army during the Revolutionary War in what is now Ohio. The project will prepare the site for America 250 commemoration.
- **Site planning and exhibition development** will make technological upgrades at several sites and installing new exhibits a several others. A building is just a building unless there is care and thought given to creating a lasting visitor experience. History museum visitors have come to expect updated experiences, with new exhibitions on a constantly revolving basis. **Key takeaway:** Ohioans are curious about our stories, people, and places, and consistently rank high in curiosity. These funds would support development of inspiring exhibits, thought provoking programs, and action-packed discovery at our sites and museums (to drive visitation and repeat visitors).
- **Collections Care Center expansion** will add to the current facility to provide three times the existing capacity for storage of the state's most significant and relevant artifacts and objects in conditions that comply with conservation standards. **Key takeaway:** the necessity of this item is especially pressing, as many historical artifacts are in harm's way in the current facility, next to a railroad that frequently transports flammable materials.

Director Murnieks, thank you for your careful consideration of this Capital Request. We are certainly cognizant of the bold nature of our request. In our view, this is not time to be apprehensive—we would rather be abundantly clear about our needs and priorities, as we feel preserving and maintaining Ohio's history is that important. We'd go so far as to call this a *generational moment*—to capitalize upon the opportunity at hand.

We look forward to continuing to work with your team, the Gov. DeWine administration, and General Assembly to build and protect a future that benefits all Ohioans for years to come.

Sincerely,



Megan Wood
Executive Director & CEO
Ohio History Connection

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BEA-0021 Capital Improvement Plan- Summary Agency Bud

Agency	Fund Code	ALI	Actual	Appropriation	Request		
			FY 2021-22	FY 2023-24	FY 2025-26	FY 2027-28	FY 2029-30
OHS	7030	C23023 CENTER EXHIBIT REPLACEMENT	274,476	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
OHS	7030	C23024 STWD SITE EXHBT/RNV & CNSTRCT	125,499	475,000	7,500,000	750,000	750,000
OHS	7030	C23025 STATEWIDE SITE REPAIRS	1,918,895	1,600,000	2,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
OHS	7030	C23027 ZOAR VILLAGE BLDNG RESTORATION	0	0	0	446,500	2,451,800
OHS	7030	C23028 BASIC RENOVATIONS AND EMERGNCY	1,469,397	1,119,603	1,450,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
OHS	7030	C23029 BUFFINGTON ISLAND STATE MEMORL	0	0	0	0	114,000
OHS	7030	C23030 RANKIN HOUSE STATE MEMORIAL	2,628	0	0	0	154,000
OHS	7030	C23031 HARDING HOME STATE MEMORIAL	1,056,608	0	0	0	1,884,500
OHS	7030	C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB	820,955	3,000,000	36,000,000	24,000,000	11,000,000
OHS	7030	C23033 STOW HOUSE STATE MEMORIAL	1,033,518	1,500,000	0	0	1,040,000
OHS	7030	C23034 NAT'L AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM	30,556	900,000	1,500,000	700,000	1,583,000
OHS	7030	C23038 OHS-FORT AMANDA STATE MEMORIAL	0	0	0	0	327,000
OHS	7030	C23044 OHIO RIVER MUSEUM	0	0	0	0	224,000
OHS	7030	C23045 LOCKINGTON LOCKS STABLIZATION	52,806	0	0	0	3,815,200
OHS	7030	C23057 ON-LINE PORTL TO OHIO'S HERITG	504,813	400,000	5,000,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
OHS	7030	C230C8 SERPENT MOUND	50,449	750,000	1,000,000	808,500	687,000
OHS	7030	C230CA FORT RECOVERY HISTORICAL SCTY	0	0	0	0	667,000
OHS	7030	C230D2 GRANT BOYHOOD HOME	309,993	0	0	509,000	3,402,000

OHS	7030	C230D3 JOHNSTON FARM AND INDIAN AGENC	0	0	0	0	1,030,000
OHS	7030	C230D4 FORT LAURENS	0	0	3,200,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C230D6 FLINT RIDGE	0	0	0	0	496,000
OHS	7030	C230D7 OUR HOUSE MUSEUM	0	0	0	0	99,000
OHS	7030	C230D8 CEDAR BOG NATURE PRESERVE EDUC	0	0	0	0	301,000
OHS	7030	C230E6 OHS EXHIBITS NATIVE AMER SITES	205,604	250,000	400,000	500,000	0
OHS	7030	C230E7 OHS HAYES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER	0	0	0	0	1,478,800
OHS	7030	C230E8 OHS ARMSTRONG AIR SPACE MUSEUM	1,681	0	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
OHS	7030	C230E9 OHS MUSEUM OF CERAMICS	68,662	0	0	160,000	1,136,100
OHS	7030	C230EN OHS - Collection Storage Facilities Expansion.	575,489	5,155,490	23,286,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C230EO POINDEXTER VILLAGE MUSEUM	265,170	1,000,000	3,500,000	1,881,000	0
OHS	7030	C230EP FORT MEIGS	0	0	0	1,154,000	725,500
OHS	7030	C230EQ SCHOENBRUNN VILLAGE	0	0	0	504,000	427,300
OHS	7030	Youngstown Historical Center	0	0	0	890,500	340,500
OHS	7030	C230ES WAREHOUSE COLLECTIONS FACILITY	0	0	0	0	498,000
OHS	7030	C230ET JOHN AND ANNIE GLENN MUSEUM	0	0	0	0	155,000
OHS	7030	C230EU ADENA MANSION AND GARDENS	0	0	0	0	868,000
OHS	7030	C230EV COOKE-DORN HOUSE	0	0	0	0	377,000
OHS	7030	C230EW BUCKEYE FURNACE	0	0	0	0	590,500
OHS	7030	C230EX FORT HILL EARTHWORKS	0	0	0	0	718,000
OHS	7030	C230EY LOGAN ELM STATE MEMORIAL	0	0	0	0	478,500
OHS	7030	C230EZ QUAKER MEETING HOUSE	0	0	0	0	183,000
OHS	7030	C230F1 OHS CAMPUS MARTIUS MUSEUM	0	0	0	664,500	638,500
OHS	7030	C230FA STORY MOUND MEMORIAL PARK	0	0	0	0	30,200
OHS	7030	C230FB MIAMISBURG MOUND	0	0	0	0	214,000
OHS	7030	C230FC TALLMADGE CHURCH	0	0	0	0	407,000
OHS	7030	C230FD SHAKER HISTORICAL MUSEUM	0	0	0	0	208,500
OHS	7030	C230FE FORT JEFFERSON	0	0	0	0	141,000

OHS	7030	C230FF FALLEN TIMBERS BATTLEFIELD	0	0	0	0	111,000
OHS	7030	C230FG LEO PETROGLYPHS	0	0	0	0	96,300
OHS	7030	C230FH BIG BOTTOM MEMORIAL PARK	0	0	0	0	156,500
OHS	7030	C230FJ CAMPBELL PARK/SHRUM MOUND	0	0	0	0	154,000
OHS	7030	C230FK HANBY HOUSE	0	0	0	0	198,800
OHS	7030	C230FL CUSTER MONUMENT	0	0	0	0	200,000
OHS	7030	C230FR Wahkeena Nature Preserve	34,329	0	0	0	1,191,000
OHS	7030	C230FS Ohio River Museum	140,295	3,000,000	2,150,000	1,500,000	0
OHS	7030	C230FT Statewide Site Security System	249,094	400,000	400,000	500,000	500,000
OHS	7030	C230FU Indian Mill Building	0	0	0	0	376,500
OHS	7030	C230FV McCook House Building	0	0	0	0	817,000
OHS	7030	C230FW Dunbar Building	0	0	0	0	211,500
OHS	7030	C230FX Afro-American Carnegie Library	0	0	0	0	1,454,800
OHS	7030	C230FY National Road/Zane Grey Museum	0	500,000	0	0	3,147,000
OHS	7030	C230FZ Harding Tomb Improvements	0	0	0	0	239,000
OHS	7030	C230GA Harrison Cemetery Site Improvements	0	0	0	0	146,500
OHS	7030	C230GB Goodwin Baggott Pottery Building	0	0	0	982,500	379,000
OHS	7030	C230W7 OHS-LUNDY HOUSE RESTORATION	458,916	1,250,000	1,000,000	697,000	642,500
OHS	7030	C230X1 OHS-SITE ENG. CONSERVATION	105,546	300,000	400,000	300,000	300,000
OHS	7030	C230GJ Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks	0	0	13,500,000	0	0
Fund 7030 Total			9,755,379	21,600,093	103,286,000	43,047,500	56,062,300
OHS Total			9,755,379	21,600,093	103,286,000	43,047,500	56,062,300
Grand Total			9,755,379	21,600,093	103,286,000	43,047,500	56,062,300

BEA-0021 Capital Improvement Plan - Detail by Fund and Priority Agency Bud

Agency	Fund Code	ALI	Project Type	Priority	Service Location	Project Name	FY 2025-26	FY 2027-28	FY 2029-30
OHS	7030	C230GJ Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks	BASIC RENOVATION	001	C0089 STATEWIDE		13,500,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C23028 BASIC RENOVATIONS AND EMERGENCY	BASIC RENOVATION	002	C0089 STATEWIDE		1,450,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
OHS	7030	C23025 STATEWIDE SITE REPAIRS	BASIC RENOVATION	003	C0089 STATEWIDE		2,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
OHS	7030	C23057 ON-LINE PORTL TO OHIO'S HERITG	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	004	C0089 STATEWIDE		5,000,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
OHS	7030	C230C8 SERPENT MOUND	MAJOR RENOVATION	005	C0001 ADAMS COUNTY		1,000,000	808,500	687,000
OHS	7030	C230FS Ohio River Museum	NEW CONSTRUCTION	006	C0084 WASHINGTON COUNTY		2,150,000	1,500,000	0
OHS	7030	C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB	MAJOR RENOVATION	007	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY		15,000,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB	MAJOR RENOVATION	008	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY		21,000,000	24,000,000	11,000,000
OHS	7030	C230W7 OHS-LUNDY HOUSE RESTORATION	MAJOR RENOVATION	009	C0041 JEFFERSON COUNTY		1,000,000	697,000	642,500
OHS	7030	C230E6 OHS EXHIBITS NATIVE AMER SITES	Site Develop Land Acquisition	010	C0084 WASHINGTON COUNTY		400,000	500,000	0
OHS	7030	C23024 STWD SITE EXHBT/RNV & CNSTRCT	OTHER	011	C0084 WASHINGTON COUNTY		7,500,000	750,000	750,000
OHS	7030	C230X1 OHS-SITE ENG. CONSERVATION	OTHER	012	C0084 WASHINGTON COUNTY		400,000	300,000	300,000
OHS	7030	C230EO POINDEXTER VILLAGE MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	013	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY		3,500,000	1,881,000	0
OHS	7030	C23034 NAT'L AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	014	C0029 GREENE COUNTY		1,500,000	700,000	1,583,000
OHS	7030	C230E8 OHS ARMSTRONG AIR SPACE MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	015	C0006 AUGLAIZE COUNTY		1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
OHS	7030	C230D4 FORT LAURENS	MAJOR RENOVATION	016	C0079 TUSCARAWAS COUNTY		3,200,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C230FT Statewide Site Security System	MAJOR RENOVATION	017	C0089 STATEWIDE		400,000	500,000	500,000
OHS	7030	C230EN OHS - Collection Storage Facilities Expansion.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	018	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY		23,286,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C23023 CENTER EXHIBIT REPLACEMENT	OTHER	019	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY		0	1,000,000	1,000,000
OHS	7030	C230D2 GRANT BOYHOOD HOME	MAJOR RENOVATION	020	C0008 BROWN COUNTY		0	509,000	3,402,000
OHS	7030	C230E9 OHS MUSEUM OF CERAMICS	MAJOR RENOVATION	021	C0060 MUSKINGUM COUNTY		0	160,000	1,136,100
OHS	7030	C230EP FORT MEIGS	MAJOR RENOVATION	022	C0087 WOOD COUNTY		0	1,154,000	725,500
OHS	7030	C230EQ SCHOENBRUNN VILLAGE	MAJOR RENOVATION	023	C0079 TUSCARAWAS COUNTY		0	504,000	427,300
OHS	7030	C230ER SCHOENBRUNN VILLAGE	MAJOR RENOVATION	024	C0050 MAHONING COUNTY		0	890,500	340,500
OHS	7030	C230F1 OHS CAMPUS MARTIUS MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	025	C0084 WASHINGTON COUNTY		0	664,500	638,500
OHS	7030	C23027 ZOAR VILLAGE BLDNG RESTORATION	MAJOR RENOVATION	026	C0079 TUSCARAWAS COUNTY		0	446,500	2,451,800
OHS	7030	C230GB Goodwin Baggott Pottery Building	MAJOR RENOVATION	027	C0015 COLUMBIANA COUNTY		0	982,500	379,000
OHS	7030	C230D3 JOHNSTON FARM AND INDIAN AGENC	MAJOR RENOVATION	028	C0055 MIAMI COUNTY		0	0	1,030,000

BEA-0021 Capital Improvement Plan - Detail by Fund and Priority Agency Bud

Agency	Fund Code	ALI	Project Type	Priority	Service Location	Project Name	FY 2025-26	FY 2027-28	FY 2029-30
OHS	7030	C230FR Wahkeena Nature Preserve	MAJOR RENOVATION	029	C0055 MIAMI COUNTY	0	0	0	1,191,000
OHS	7030	C23033 STOW HOUSE STATE MEMORIAL	MAJOR RENOVATION	030	C0031 HAMILTON COUNTY	0	0	0	1,040,000
OHS	7030	C23045 LOCKINGTON LOCKS STABILIZATION	MAJOR RENOVATION	031	C0075 SHELBY COUNTY	0	0	0	3,815,200
OHS	7030	C230ET JOHN AND ANNIE GLENN MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	032	C0040 JACKSON COUNTY	0	0	0	155,000
OHS	7030	C23030 RANKIN HOUSE STATE MEMORIAL	MAJOR RENOVATION	033	C0008 BROWN COUNTY	0	0	0	154,000
OHS	7030	C23038 OHS-FORT AMANDA STATE MEMORIAL	MAJOR RENOVATION	034	C0006 AUGLAIZE COUNTY	0	0	0	327,000
OHS	7030	C230CA FORT RECOVERY HISTORICAL SCTY	MAJOR RENOVATION	035	C0054 MERCER COUNTY	0	0	0	667,000
OHS	7030	C230FU Indian Mill Building	MAJOR RENOVATION	036	C0088 WYANDOT COUNTY	0	0	0	376,500
OHS	7030	C230FV McCook House Building	MAJOR RENOVATION	037	C0010 CARROLL COUNTY	0	0	0	817,000
OHS	7030	C230FW Dunbar Building	MAJOR RENOVATION	038	C0057 MONTGOMERY COUNTY	0	0	0	211,500
OHS	7030	C230D7 OUR HOUSE MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	039	C0027 GALLIA COUNTY	0	0	0	99,000
OHS	7030	C230FX Afro-American Carnegie Library	MAJOR RENOVATION	040	C0029 GREENE COUNTY	0	0	0	1,454,800
OHS	7030	C230D8 CEDAR BOG NATURE PRESERVE EDUC	MAJOR RENOVATION	041	C0011 CHAMPAIGN COUNTY	0	0	0	301,000
OHS	7030	C230FY National Road/Zane Grey Museum	MAJOR RENOVATION	042	C0040 JACKSON COUNTY	0	0	0	3,147,000
OHS	7030	C23031 HARDING HOME STATE MEMORIAL	NEW CONSTRUCTION	043	C0051 MARION COUNTY	0	0	0	1,692,500
OHS	7030	C230D6 FLINT RIDGE	MAJOR RENOVATION	044	C0045 LICKING COUNTY	0	0	0	496,000
OHS	7030	C230FZ Harding Tomb Improvements	MAJOR RENOVATION	045	C0051 MARION COUNTY	0	0	0	239,000
OHS	7030	C230EU ADENA MANSION AND GARDENS	MAJOR RENOVATION	046	C0071 ROSS COUNTY	0	0	0	868,000
OHS	7030	C230EV COOKE-DORN HOUSE	MAJOR RENOVATION	047	C0022 ERIE COUNTY	0	0	0	377,000
OHS	7030	C230EX FORT HILL EARTHWORKS	MAJOR RENOVATION	048	C0036 HIGHLAND COUNTY	0	0	0	718,000
OHS	7030	C230EY LOGAN ELM STATE MEMORIAL	MAJOR RENOVATION	049	C0065 PICKAWAY COUNTY	0	0	0	478,500
OHS	7030	C230EZ QUAKER MEETING HOUSE	MAJOR RENOVATION	050	C0041 JEFFERSON COUNTY	0	0	0	183,000
OHS	7030	C230FB MIAMISBURG MOUND	MAJOR RENOVATION	051	C0057 MONTGOMERY COUNTY	0	0	0	214,000
OHS	7030	C230FC TALLMADGE CHURCH	MAJOR RENOVATION	052	C0077 SUMMIT COUNTY	0	0	0	407,000
OHS	7030	C230GA Harrison Cemetery Site Improvements	MAJOR RENOVATION	053	C0031 HAMILTON COUNTY	0	0	0	146,500
OHS	7030	C230E7 OHS HAYES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER	MAJOR RENOVATION	054	C0072 SANDUSKY COUNTY	0	0	0	1,478,800
OHS	7030	C23044 OHIO RIVER MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	055	C0084 WASHINGTON COUNTY	0	0	0	224,000
OHS	7030	C230FK HANBY HOUSE	MAJOR RENOVATION	056	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY	0	0	0	198,800
OHS	7030	C23031 HARDING HOME STATE MEMORIAL	MAJOR RENOVATION	057	C0051 MARION COUNTY	0	0	0	192,000
OHS	7030	C230FF FALLEN TIMBERS BATTLEFIELD	MAJOR RENOVATION	058	C0048 LUCAS COUNTY	0	0	0	111,000

BEA-0021 Capital Improvement Plan - Detail by Fund and Priority Agency Bud

Agency	Fund Code	ALI	Project Type	Priority	Service Location	Project Name	FY 2025-26	FY 2027-28	FY 2029-30
OHS	7030	C230FG LEO PETROGLYPHS	MAJOR RENOVATION	059	C0040 JACKSON COUNTY	0	0	0	96,300
OHS	7030	C230FH BIG BOTTOM MEMORIAL PARK	MAJOR RENOVATION	060	C0058 MORGAN COUNTY	0	0	0	156,500
OHS	7030	C230FD SHAKER HISTORICAL MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	061	C0018 CUYAHOGA COUNTY	0	0	0	208,500
OHS	7030	C230ES WAREHOUSE COLLECTIONS FACILITY	MAJOR RENOVATION	062	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY	0	0	0	498,000
OHS	7030	C230EW BUCKEYE FURNACE	MAJOR RENOVATION	063	C0041 JEFFERSON COUNTY	0	0	0	590,500
OHS	7030	C230FE FORT JEFFERSON	MAJOR RENOVATION	064	C0019 DARKE COUNTY	0	0	0	141,000
OHS	7030	C230FL CUSTER MONUMENT	MAJOR RENOVATION	065	C0034 HARRISON COUNTY	0	0	0	200,000
OHS	7030	C23029 BUFFINGTON ISLAND STATE MEMORL	MAJOR RENOVATION	066	C0053 MEIGS COUNTY	0	0	0	114,000
OHS	7030	C230FJ CAMPBELL PARK/SHRUM MOUND	MAJOR RENOVATION	067	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY	0	0	0	154,000
OHS	7030	C230FA STORY MOUND MEMORIAL PARK	MAJOR RENOVATION	068	C0071 ROSS COUNTY	0	0	0	30,200
Fund 7030 Total							103,286,000	43,047,500	56,062,300
OHS Total							103,286,000	43,047,500	56,062,300
Grand Total							103,286,000	43,047,500	56,062,300

New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection

Project Name: Hopewell Culture Earthworks / World Heritage Development

Project Priority Number: 1

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The project will provide baseline documentation of the World Heritage sites managed by the Ohio History Connection to record the status of the properties at the time of inscription and serve as the basis for site management planning. The project will also carry out necessary facility upgrades to serve visitors and install signage and interpretive exhibits to educate and inform visitors about the importance and immense value of the sites.

The project is divided into three separate scopes of work:

1. Baseline Documentation and Planning
2. Building and Site Improvements and Visitor Amenities
3. Coordinated Interpretation, Signage, and Exhibits

For over a decade, the Ohio History Connection and the National Park Service's Hopewell Culture National Historical Park have worked with Tribal nations and stakeholders from across Ohio and the U.S. to seek World Heritage Inscription for eight Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks sites. On September 19, 2023, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee voted to recognize the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks for inscription on the World Heritage list, underscoring the cultural significance of these sites and calling international attention to these treasures long known to Ohioans. The Newark Earthworks and Fort Ancient are National Historic Landmarks.

These sites include:

- Hopewell Culture National Historic Park, including the Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, Seip Earthworks, High Bank Earthworks and Hopeton Earthworks. These sites are managed by the National Park Service.
- Newark Earthworks State Memorial, including Octagon Earthworks, Great Circle Earthworks, and Wright Earthworks.
- Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve

The **Newark Earthworks** preserves three remaining sections of the enormous complex of geometric earthworks in Newark constructed by ancient American Indians, known to archaeologists as the Hopewell culture, between A.D. 100 and 400: the Great Circle, the Octagon Earthworks, and the Wright Earthworks.

- **Octagon Earthworks** is part of Newark Earthworks, remnants of a 2,000-year-old complex that is the largest set of geometric earthworks known. Enclosing 50 acres, the Octagon Earthworks has eight walls, each measuring about 550 feet long and from five to six feet in height. Address: 125 N. 33rd St., Newark.
- **Great Circle Earthworks** is nearly 1,200 feet in diameter and was likely used as a vast ceremonial center by its builders. The 8-foot-high walls surround a 5-foot-deep moat, except at the entrance where the dimensions are even greater and more impressive. Address: 455 Hebron Road, Heath.

- **Wright Earthworks** consists of a fragment of a geometrically near-perfect square enclosure and part of one wall that originally formed a set of parallel embankments, which led from the square to a large oval enclosure. Originally, the sides of the Newark square ranged from 940 to 950 feet in length, and they enclose a total area of about 20 acres. Address: 136-154 James St., Newark, north of Grant Street, parallel to Ohio 79 in Newark.

Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve is North America's largest ancient hilltop enclosure, built 2,000 years ago. Located along the Little Miami River southeast of Lebanon, the earthworks consist of a series of earthen embankments three and a half miles long. Inside the earthworks are a series of ditches and ponds, mounds, stone pavements, and ceremonial areas like the Moorehead Circle. Centuries later, the Fort Ancient culture (A.D. 1000-1650) built an agricultural settlement in the southern section of the earthworks known as the South Fort. Address: 6123 State Route 350, Oregonia, Ohio

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the first phase would include baseline surveying and documentation, with implementation of priority physical changes to provide for increased visitation, safety, and interpretation of the sites.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were based on detailed breakdown of the work, prior experience, and contractor estimates.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Operating costs at Wright, Great Circle, and Fort Ancient Earthworks will be approximately ten percent higher due to increased maintenance necessitated by increased visitation. At Octagon Earthworks, staff costs will increase due to between six and ten new staff for maintenance and visitor services, increased equipment and fuel costs, and increases in advertising and marketing.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

The new public toilet buildings, water service and distribution system are required to maintain public health and safety and to comply with local and state codes. The archaeological testing is necessary to maintain sensitivity to the archaeological significance of the site in areas where work is planned.

A new ticket booth is needed to accommodate the increased visitation to the site and to replace the existing worn-out booth. Site improvements are needed to enhance the security and appearance of the site. Serious erosion of the almost four mile long Fort walls is occurring in thirty locations. This situation requires both reconstruction and archaeological monitoring before further loss of the prehistoric earthworks occurs. Improvements to the site manager house and other outbuildings are needed to maintain a satisfactory living and working environment

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding): Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors.

Project Name: State Historic Sites and Museums / Basic Renovations and Emergency Improvements

Project Priority Number: 2

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

This project will provide basic renovations and emergency improvements to some of the more than 300 buildings and structures which are a part of the historic site system administered by the Ohio History Connection. These buildings include major museum facilities as well as archaeological and historic sites and buildings. The work will generally be directed to preserving the waterproof characteristics and structural integrity of the historic site system's infrastructure and to address emergency public safety and health improvements.

It is highly likely the basic renovation projects that will be addressed with these funds during FY25-26 will include projects that have been identified as high priority capital improvement projects that do not have any other source of funding. These include projects such as accessibility upgrades, waterproofing, roofing, and HVAC unit replacement.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the funds are designated for projects that occur during the biennium, so the phasing is by project.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Costs are estimated based on prior years' needs for emergency projects. Actual costs are dependent on contractor bids acquired per project at the time funding is requested.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Generally, these projects have minimal impact on operating costs, except in some instances exterior improvements reduce energy usage. More importantly, these projects delay or defer larger capital costs by addressing needs before they become larger and more expensive.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

The Ohio History Connection has many historic buildings, including those designated on the National Register of Historic Places. These require special stewardship and care to ensure they will be available for the enjoyment and education of future Ohioans. A number of our "modern" facilities were built during the late 1960's and early 1970's, and many of their systems and components have reached the end of their useful lives. These funds will allow the Ohio History Connection to address basic repairs on a priority basis and will provide for emergency improvements as they arise. The highest threats to buildings often arise from water infiltration and HVAC failure, among others. Photos on the next page provide examples of our sites that have utilized these funds.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors.

Project Name: State Historic Sites and Museums / Statewide Site Improvements

Project Priority Number: 3

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Many of our facilities were built during the late 1960's and early 1970's and many systems and components have reached the end of their useful lives. It is most probable that the majority of the sites managed by the Ohio History Connection will not be appropriated the full funding amount of the biennial request. These funds are required to address known priorities of the sites that will advance current projects, address immediate needs, or complete isolated projects that dramatically improve the needs of visitors at sites that do not receive the full funding amount.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, since many projects are included within this single request, if the funding level is reduced then lower-priority projects would not get completed with capital funds. Another method of funding would need to be identified.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were based on detailed breakdown of the work, prior experience, and contractor estimates.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Generally, these projects have minimal impact on operating costs, except in some instances exterior improvements reduce energy usage. More importantly, these projects delay or defer larger capital costs by addressing needs before they become larger and more expensive.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

The Ohio History Connection has many historic buildings, including those designated on the National Register of Historic Places. These require special stewardship and care to ensure they will be available for the enjoyment and education of future Ohioans. A number of our "modern" facilities were built during the late 1960's and early 1970's, and many of their systems and components have reached the end of their useful lives. These funds will allow the Ohio History Connection to address basic repairs on a priority basis and will provide for emergency improvements as they arise. The highest threats to buildings often arise from water infiltration and HVAC failure, among others. Photos on the next page provide examples of our sites that have utilized these funds.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors.

Project Name: State Historic Sites and Museums / Statewide Digital Infrastructure

Project Priority Number: 4

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Connection is implementing a comprehensive technology plan that meets the needs of our users and propels the growth of the organization through the effective use of technology. This project will implement critical technology infrastructure improvements at the Ohio History Center and statewide historic sites, including our recently designated World Heritage sites. Committed to minimizing its technical debt, the Ohio History Connection is working to ensure improved network performance, security, and user engagement with OHC resources.

Actions in this project include:

- Infrastructure improvements that enable OHC to replace outdated, unsecure, and/or unsupported hardware and software
- Implementation of critical cybersecurity improvements
- Planning and implementation of technology at historic sites, including World Heritage sites

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, since many projects are included within this single request, if the funding level is reduced then lower-priority projects would not get completed with capital funds. Another method of funding would need to be identified.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Generally, these projects have minimal impact on operating costs. However, these projects improve operational efficiency and prevent increases in current costs.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

The past decade has brought rapid advances in technology that have dramatically increased the rate at which users are consuming data and the expectations they have for the quality and usability of their experiences. This project will enable the Ohio History Connection to improve the technology and its supporting infrastructure; streamline workflows to preserve data according to best practices; and develop new ways of accessing and using data that hold the user experience and the resulting impact as priority.

The current environment for organizations when it comes to cyber security is treacherous. Ransomware attacks are on the rise. To protect the Ohio History Connection's data, as well as our extensive holdings of digital collections, it is imperative that we modernize our infrastructure to be prepared for such attacks, as well as be able to recover quickly if we are a victim.

Additionally, the Ohio History Connection has a critical need to plan and implement technology at our historic sites. With several of OHC's historic sites recently receiving World Heritage designation, we are anticipating a significant increase in visitation. Due to the sensitive nature of these sites, site

assessments will need to be completed to determine the safest way to implement technology to support the need to create a world-class experience for visitors all while maintaining the historical integrity of the site.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors.

Project Name: Serpent Mound Historic Site / Building and Site Improvements

Project Priority Number: 5

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Serpent Mound is the largest and finest serpent effigy in North America. The visitor registration for this state memorial reflects its status as a world-renowned archaeological site. Located near Locust Grove in Adams County, this site is designated as a National Historic Landmark and is on the World Heritage Tentative List. The mound is within an area known as the Serpent Mound crypto explosion structure, which is an unusual geological feature in Ohio.

This project includes building and site improvements and acquisition of land to advance the World Heritage listing of the site.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project is made up of several sub-projects that would be completed in phases based on priorities such as life safety, compliance with building code and laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, preservation of the historic resource, and visitor amenities.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were based on detailed breakdown of the work, prior experience, and contractor estimates.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Generally, these projects have minimal impact on operating costs, except in some instances building improvements to reduce energy usage. More importantly, these projects delay or defer larger capital costs by addressing needs before they become larger and more expensive.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

The work is needed to sustain a quality interpretive program for this unique archaeological site and to provide an appropriate appearance to tourists and scholars from around the world. Funds for site development and exhibits are needed to insure facilities and interpretation are appropriate for the visiting public. Archaeological investigations are a necessity prior to performing the works proposed. The renovation and repair work is required to maintain the waterproof and structural integrity of the

museum, shop and caretaker's residence. This work is also necessary to protect the State's previous investments.

Funds for land acquisition are being requested in order to protect the setting of this important site. Development pressures are beginning to impact land uses around the site.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Life and Safety to provide perimeter protection and interpretive signs that explain the site and create a respectful, safe environment.

Project Name: Ohio River Museum / Museum Construction

Project Priority Number: 6

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The project consists of constructing a replacement for the existing Ohio River Museum, in two phases, and installing new exhibits in Marietta, Ohio. Phase One will construct the shell and outfit half of the building for the Washington County Public Library to relocate and install its Local History and Genealogical Archives. Phase Two will outfit the second half of the building for the relocation of the Ohio River Museum. The Washington County Public Library will contribute funding for the project.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the structure and several interior spaces can be completed in the first phase, and the exhibit gallery and exhibit installation could be in a second phase, followed by sitework.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on detailed cost estimates, prepared by the construction manager.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

As part of the agreement with Washington County, operating costs will be shared. The new facility will be energy efficient and designed with a low-maintenance exterior and site.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

The Ohio History Connection in partnership with the Washington County Public Library and County Commissioners is proposing a new museum to replace the existing Ohio River Museum. Recent re-ratings of the Muskingum River flood plain put the floor level of the existing building under the 500-year level. The new museum will not only be constructed above the 500 year level, it will also be flood-proof and provide interior conditions suitable for archives and museum objects. Other partners in the project include the operating partner, the Friends of the Northwest Territory Museums, and the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, who have many of their collections on loan to the museum.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

The new building will incorporate several life safety and accessible features, including an elevator, accessible restrooms, and a fire suppression system. Prior funding allowed a feasibility study and preliminary architectural studies.

Project Name: Ohio History Center / Ohio Village Development

Project Priority Number: 7

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Ohio Village, located adjacent to the Ohio History Center in Columbus on an 8.5 acre parcel, opened in 1974 as a living history museum to recreate the appearance of a typical Ohio county-seat town during the pre-Civil War period. Currently, Ohio Village portrays life during the 1890s in eighteen major exhibit buildings through costumed interpreters and hands-on public programming, school group field trips, special event rentals, and popular seasonal events such as *Dickens of a Christmas* and *All Hallows' Eve*.

The project will implement the recommendations of the recently-completed master plan to transform Ohio Village from a living history museum to a destination for education, leisure activities, play, and entertainment in an attractive setting. Work includes creating multiple activity and event venues, modernizing utility infrastructure, expanding visitor amenities, and implementing accessibility improvements.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

This request as presented is the first phase of an estimated \$35 million dollar project. This phase addresses critical infrastructure needs throughout the site and allows future phases to be implemented incrementally.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Costs estimates are based on a combination of detailed third-party construction estimating and historical data.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Part of the redevelopment includes third-person interpretation, which eliminates the need for first-person interpreters, which will reduce operating expenses. Development of the site into an entertainment venue will increase maintenance costs, but also increase revenue through increased visitation.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

Due to unsustainable operating costs required by the living history model, Ohio Village ceased those operations in the late 1990s. In 2003, Ohio Village was closed for regular public access. While the site

has been used since then for public programming, school tours and special events, it is underutilized as a public venue with broad appeal.

In 2022, the Ohio History Connection commissioned a master plan to optimize the potential of Ohio Village by transforming it to a public engagement destination with the goals of increased visitation and revenue. Specific recommendations include:

- Change focus from living history to outdoor/indoor history attraction
- Broaden interpretive time period to allow flexibility in programming and more recent stories
- Increase investment in physical improvements to create attractive, safe, accessible environment
- Add fun and entertaining attractions that appeal to families

Investment in this important asset is necessary to appeal to wider audiences, offer increased programming and events, and provide a safe, accessible environment for engaging all visitors. As a contributing component of the Ohio History Center campus and the surrounding Ohio Expositions Center, Ohio Village is a resource that must be improved to ensure successful redevelopment of these signature state properties.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Site development will incorporate several life safety and accessible features, including new streetscape pavements, accessible restrooms, and security cameras to increase public safety.

Project Name: Ohio History Center / Center Rehabilitation

Project Priority Number: 8

Capital Request Questions

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Center was completed in 1970 to house the State's central museum facility, archives/library and the administrative staff for the Ohio History Connection. On May 5, 2023, the Ohio History Center was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, yet the condition of the building, site, and interior requires attention to restore the historic integrity of the structure, meet modern requirements of life safety and communications, and provide updated amenities that visitors expect.

Standards for life safety and security have evolved, requiring upgrading and expansion of these systems. Numerous mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems are at the end of their life expectancy, and building equipment is in need of replacement. Interior spaces require modernization to comply with the Americans with Disability Act and to prepare the galleries for new exhibits.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

This request as presented is the first phase of an estimated \$56 million dollar project. This phase addresses critical structural and enclosure needs and allows future phases to be implemented incrementally.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Costs estimates are based on a combination of detailed third-party construction estimating and historical data.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Mechanical and Electrical upgrades will contribute to energy efficiency. Other major equipment upgrades will reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

A study completed in 2023 by Wiss Janney Elstner Consulting Engineers summarized deterioration in the concrete structure with recommendations to protect the safety of staff and visitors. In the summer of 2023, the concrete bridge leading to the Plaza Level was closed and netting was installed to catch falling pieces of concrete from the deteriorated precast planks. Other areas however are higher priority since they allow active water infiltration and potentially accelerate damage through freeze-thaw damage. A comprehensive exterior restoration program is necessary.

Numerous infrastructure improvements to the building's aging and outmoded mechanical, electrical, and emergency systems must be addressed to meet current fire and safety codes for public buildings. Many of the systems are at the end of their life cycle and are failing. The control system for the HVAC system is outdated, and is not able to maintain appropriate temperature and humidity without regular monitoring and manual adjustment.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Mechanical upgrades will improve energy efficiency, new restrooms will comply with ADA standards as well as meet building code requirements, upgrades in the public address system and emergency backup power will improve life safety systems.

Project Name: Quaker Meeting House Historic Site / Benjamin Lundy House Restoration

Project Priority Number: 9

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Quaker Meeting House, built in 1814, was the first yearly Quaker meetinghouse west of the Alleghenies. For nearly a century the meetinghouse played a crucial role in the Quaker faith in eastern Ohio. The meeting house is a major contributing structure in the Mount Pleasant National Historic Landmark District, which recognizes the village's early and active role in the abolitionist and anti-slavery movements.

The Benjamin Lundy House is a National Historic Landmark in Mount Pleasant, Ohio. It was home in 1820 to abolitionist Benjamin Lundy, where he established the influential antislavery newspaper *The Genius of Universal Emancipation*, one of the first antislavery publications in the United States. The

attached small frame addition housed a Free Labor Store, a shop devoted to selling only goods made without slave labor. It is thought to be the only surviving Free Labor Store in the country. The Ohio History Connection's purchase of the structure saved it from demolition by neglect.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Funds are requested for a phased project.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were determined using detailed breakdown of the work.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

While the building is under restoration, there are no operating costs. Eventually, the building will serve as the visitor orientation center to historic Mount Pleasant and provide operating revenue with gift shop and tour ticket sales.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

Weatherproofing, structural stabilization, research, and planning for the restoration of this important National Historic Landmark were ongoing throughout 2021-2022. Previous projects in 2023 established structural integrity of the building and provided a restored exterior envelope. This request will allow the restoration of the interiors and the installation of modern building equipment and utilities. The final phase will complete sitework and the installation of interpretive exhibits.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Site development will incorporate several life safety and accessible features. Interior restoration includes energy efficient equipment.

Project Name: American Indian Historic Sites / Site Reinterpretation and Intertribal Reburial Grounds

Project Priority Number: 10

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the repatriation and disposition of certain Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Congress recognized that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with dignity and respect." Congress also acknowledged that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. With this law, Congress sought to encourage a continuing dialogue between museums and Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and to promote a greater understanding between the groups while at the same time recognizing the important function museums serve in society by preserving the past.

The Ohio History Connection is responding to requests from American Indian tribes to have suitable reburial areas for repatriated remains recovered under NAGPRA. The work continues the journey of better representing and understanding the long American Indian Ohio past.

This project will implement an intertribal reburial cemetery at Johnston Farm in Piqua.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project can be phased based on the extent of reburial that can be accomplished.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Costs are estimated based on experience at Schoenbrunn Village, where a trial project was completed.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

The only operating costs will be site maintenance which will be accomplished by existing staff at Johnston Farm.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

These projects will be implemented in collaboration with the American Indian tribes whose history these sites represent.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

This project is being accomplished to comply with Federal NAGPRA law.

Project Name: Statewide Historic Sites and Museums / Statewide Site Exhibit Renovation & Collections

Project Priority Number: 11

Question 1-Description: What are the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Connection maintains facilities at fifty-eight locations around the state and seeks to maintain current interpretive messages, uphold best practices in collections management and serve changing audience needs through exhibit renovations or replacements. Most sites have exhibits and signage that is decades old. The following are projects to upgrade existing exhibits, improve collections care and access, as well as update interpretive messages and presentation methods.

Museum visitors in the 21st century are looking for meaningful, emotional and transformational experiences. This project will support upgrades to exhibits that make them relevant for today's audiences. The goal of this project is to increase the family-friendliness of exhibits at sites across the state through the addition of interactive elements and upgrades to existing technological components and interpretive methods.

Activities in this project include:

1. Statewide sites interpretive plan
2. Collection management of objects on display (UV protection, casework, lighting)
3. Exhibit renovations at major sites to incorporate cultural awareness and diverse audiences
4. Visitor studies surveys and interviews
5. Exhibit planning
6. Fabrication and installation

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the projects can be accomplished in phases by executing upgrades incrementally as specific sites. However, the overall statewide interpretive plan must be accomplished as a single scope of work.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on past experience with similar projects.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Exhibit upgrades are difficult to quantify other than through visitor experience surveys show that visitation is negatively affected by exhibits that are not relevant and updated. Thus, it follows that revenue is impacted by out-of-date exhibits that do not reflect diverse viewpoints.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

These projects are intended to drive increased visitation and learning opportunities at sites with little associated increase in operational costs. These projects are representative of the range of historical themes that are interpreted at these sites from prehistory to the present, including stories of migration, settlement, industry, politics, and social interaction. Maintaining the exhibits in the form in which they are relevant to today's audiences is essential to fulfilling the Ohio History Connection's mission of education, but it is also imperative to making the sites attractive and interesting as tourist destinations.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Previous funding has been used to continually update exhibits statewide. However, funding levels have not allowed comprehensive analysis and implementation.

Project Name: State Historic Sites and Museums / Statewide Site Energy Conservation

Project Priority Number: 12

Question 1-Description: What are the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Connection administers facilities at more than fifty locations around the state. The following are priority projects to reduce energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels at some Ohio History Connection museum facilities. This project will extend over several biennia, servicing energy-conservation and environmentally responsible design and construction at our facilities.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project can be phased as each component of this request will be undertaken separately.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Estimates were based on previous experience and estimates from the energy conservation analyst.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

This project will reduce consumption of energy and fossil fuels, thus reducing the carbon footprint of our facilities. Our operating costs will decrease more and more over time as we can fund and implement energy-saving design and construction. The project follows the completion of energy audits at seventeen representative sites, which resulted in recommendations for energy savings across the range of properties managed for the State of Ohio by the Ohio History Connection including both historic buildings as well as modern museums. Funding through this project would implement these recommendations in stages at all 58 sites, beginning with the recommendations producing the greatest operational savings. Future recommendations will be identified through additional energy audits and planning for statewide energy efficiency improvements

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Energy Efficiency

Project Name: Poindexter Village Museum / Museum Construction

Project Priority Number: 13

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The project will rehabilitate the last two remaining buildings of Poindexter Village (located in Columbus' Near East Side neighborhood) for a museum and cultural center.

Poindexter Village opened in 1940 as the first public housing site in Columbus, Ohio and represents the "Great Migration" history of thousands of African Americans who traveled north from the open segregation in the South seeking employment opportunities in Northern cities. Housing developments funded by public dollars were created to accommodate population growth in northern urban areas, and today's African American families have memories of life in those developments. However, many of these structures have been demolished; only in Chicago has one been preserved to tell the history of public housing. We have not been able to identify a place where the history of the Great Migration is being told as a primary tale; Poindexter Village may be the first such museum and historic site preserved to tell these two stories in an early public housing setting.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project will be constructed in phases, with the last phase being the installation of exhibits.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were based on detailed breakdown of the work, prior experience, and contractor estimates.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

In addition to staffing, there will be significant energy and maintenance costs, which will be slightly offset by visitation and gift shop revenue.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

The preservation of the two remaining Poindexter Village buildings will be a site that tells an untold story in Ohio and possibly the U.S. The site provides the unique opportunity to combine the history of the great migration and the history of public housing as experienced by African American Ohioans. The original site, which comprised 35 buildings and associated landscape, was home to numerous significant historic figures, such as artist and MacArthur Fellow Aminah Robinson. It was eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing before demolition of all but the remaining two buildings, which will be preserved as a museum and historic site by this project.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors.

Project Name: National African American Museum and Cultural Center / Museum Improvements

Project Priority Number: 14

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

This project consists of completing necessary exterior improvements and mechanical system upgrades, as well as improvements to the building interior.

The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center is located adjacent to the Central State University campus in Wilberforce, Ohio. It is sited on the original Wilberforce University campus, the first black college in the United States that was created by black Americans. The museum, a 35,000 SF structure housing exhibit and public spaces, was opened in 1988. The museum maintains an ever-expanding collection of artifacts, art, manuscripts and library materials. Through study and exhibition, these collections reflect the diverse traditions, values, social customs and experiences of African Americans. It serves all Americans by promoting better understanding of and respect for African American heritage.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project as presented is in phases, but could be completed as a single project.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on past projects of similar scope and size.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Replacing inefficient mechanical equipment and updating the building controls will reduce energy consumption and save operating funds. Modernizing the exterior to resolve long-standing water infiltration will reduce maintenance and custodial costs.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

In August, 2022, the Governor's Task Force on the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center produced a report and recommendations to Governor DeWine in five areas including the facility's relationship with the Ohio History Connection. Specific recommendations included building improvements to provide sufficient office space, collections storage, and comprehensive facility upgrades.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Project Name: Armstrong Air and Space Museum / Museum and Site Improvements

Project Priority Number: 15

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

This project will begin implementing the recommendations of the recently-completed master plan, including modifying the entrance and gift shop, improving circulation and exhibits, and increasing visitor amenities.

This project will complete the planning and detailing of the building and site, coordinate the exhibit plan with the architectural plan, develop the experience and interactive components of the dome space, and complete bidding documents and cost estimates for construction.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, A schematic and conceptual design for the museum is in progress. The project could be phased to complete the structural and architectural work followed by a second phase to implement new exhibits.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on detailed breakdowns and past projects of similar scope and size.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The museum was completed in 1972, enlarged in the late 1990s to add a museum store, remodeled in 2012 to provide accessible restrooms, and enlarged again in 2018 to add classrooms. However, the existing exhibit galleries are small and inflexible and the exhibits have not been updated in over twenty years. The space under the dome, now used as an auditorium, was originally planned to be a planetarium.

In 2023, funding was appropriated that allowed a facility master plan to examine the future direction of the museum and determine ways to attract and engage visitors. Funding in this request will develop the concepts of the master plan and implement the recommendations of the master plan, including reconfigured galleries, expanded entrance, updated exhibits according to the new interpretive plan, and an engaging experience to deliver the promise of the unique space under the dome.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding): Prior Funding

Project Name: Fort Laurens Historic Site / Building and Site Improvements

Project Priority Number: 16

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Fort Laurens Historic Site is located near Bolivar and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site commemorates the only fort built by the American Continental Army during the Revolutionary War in what is now Ohio. The tomb of Ohio's Unknown Patriot, a memorial to the heroes of the American Revolution, is located here. In addition to the museum, the property includes shelter houses, picnic area, public restrooms, and a dwelling with a shop/garage facility.

This project consists of undertaking archaeological, topographic, and boundary research to assist in the planning and partial reconstruction of Fort Laurens to prepare the site for America 250 commemoration. Work to the museum includes reconfiguring the interior and installing new exhibits, making mechanical, electrical, and data upgrades, and installing energy-efficient storefront windows. The soldier buried in the tomb has been identified as Ensign Clark, whose remains will be interred in the crypt inside the museum, while another soldier whose identity is unknown will be moved to the tomb.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

This project could be phased, especially the partial reconstruction of the Fort, which relies on archaeological evidence for execution.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were based on detailed breakdown of the work, prior experience, and contractor estimates.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Interior remodeling in the Visitor Center will reduce electrical usage with the installation of high-efficiency lighting. Increased visitation due to the archaeology program could have an impact on increasing revenue.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

As a component of the 250th commemoration of United States independence in 2026, this project will plan and execute the partial reconstruction of Fort Laurens and prepare the museum and site to interpret the role of the fort in the American Revolution. Intensive archaeological investigation and artifact mitigation is necessary since the Ohio Canal builders cut away one side of the fort site and the existing museum partially covers the west side. Previous studies determined the best location to reconstruct the fort is its original location.

Installation of a new wood shake roofing in late 2008 with added thermal insulation was the first step towards increasing energy efficiency of the Museum and transitioning towards year round use. Window replacement, lighting, and HVAC system upgrades are necessary to improve the energy efficiency and climate control for collections. Site improvements are needed for proper appearance of the site and to resolve insufficient parking conditions

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors.

Project Name: State Historic Sites and Museums / Statewide Site Security System Improvements

Project Priority Number: 17

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Connection maintains facilities at fifty-eight locations around the state that include historic house museums, collections and archival storage, museums with exhibits and libraries, archaeological sites, and open-air historic villages. Museum visitors in the 21st century recognize that security is an essential part of life today and expect that organizations are making efforts to protect the safety of the public as well as the safety of staff and vendors. The historic sites within the statewide system have the added duty and responsibility of protecting the state's cultural assets.

This project will support upgrades to buildings and sites that will increase personal safety as well as provide for the protection of Ohio's historic resources from theft, vandalism, and damage from fire, flooding, or other disasters. The goal of the project is to implement a comprehensive security program at sites across the state through the installation of physical improvements to buildings and grounds as well as upgrades to existing technological components.

Activities in this project include:

- Review current conditions and make upgrades to display case alarms, motion sensors, and monitoring panels for protection of collections.

- Replace reporting panels that are at the end of useful life and install new monitoring devices for fire and security systems.
- Improve communications infrastructure from monitoring devices to central security control station and first responders.
- Conduct site assessment studies and prepare recommendations to improve monitoring equipment, lighting, reporting, and detection.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the funds are designated for projects that occur during the biennium, so the phasing could be by project.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Costs are estimated based on prior years' needs for security projects. Actual costs are dependent on contractor bids acquired per project at the time funding is requested.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Recently, utilities have increased phone line charges drastically. Many of the projects anticipated in this request will replace existing security panels with the type that can be fitted with cellular service to avoid a monthly phone line cost.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

These projects are intended to drive increased visitation and learning opportunities at sites with little associated increase in operational costs. These projects are representative of the range of historical themes that are interpreted at these sites from prehistory to the present, including stories of migration, settlement, industry, politics, and social interaction. Maintaining the exhibits in the form in which they are relevant to today's audiences is essential to fulfilling the Ohio History Connection's mission of education, but it is also imperative to making the sites attractive and interesting as tourist destinations.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors.

Project Name: Collections Storage Facility / Storage Facility Expansion

Project Priority Number: 18

Question 1-Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The project will construct an addition to the new Collections Care Facility for a storage facility that will significantly improve storage condition for museum artifacts held by the Ohio History Connection.

A total of \$2.48 million was appropriated for the FY 17-22 biennium “...for programming and design of the project; implementation of visible storage; and...used for preparation of construction documents for the new storage facility.”

.In the FY18/19 capital budget, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission had funds set aside for the expressed purpose of studying the needs of storage and access for the Ohio History Connection. OHC, under the guidance of OFCC, enlisted consultants to create such a plan. This plan determined current and projected space and programmatic needs, analyzed current structures, and determined facility footprint, placement, budget and phasing.

Question 2-Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the facility can be constructed in one phase and the equipment could be installed in a second phase.

Question 3-Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were developed from detailed unit prices and quantities, based on the design concept plans for each phase. Every cost associated with the project has been estimated including construction cost, owner soft costs, equipment and exhibits, contingency, and cost escalation over time.

Question 4-Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

The current facility is being constructed to achieve LEED Silver rating, which is extremely difficult to achieve with this project type. The addition will be constructed the same way, to reduce energy consumption while still maintaining museum-standard environmental conditions for objects.

Question 5-Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to be known about this project?

The Ohio History Connection, since its founding in 1885, has collected archives, library, and museum materials in a variety of formats. The State of Ohio has recognized the Ohio History Connection’s responsibility to document the State’s History through several sections of the Ohio Revised Code. Sections 149.30C and 149.31 delegates to the Ohio History Connection the public function to serve as the archives administration for the State of Ohio and its political subdivisions with responsibility for selection and storage of records of enduring historical value. Section 149.30D delegates to the Ohio History Connection the responsibility to administer on behalf of the state a “state historical museum” with one of its main functions being, as stated in Section 149.30H of the ORC, the “collecting, preserving, and making available...all manuscript, print, or near-print library collections and all historical objects, specimens, and artifacts, which pertain to the History of Ohio and its people...” The current museum, archives, and library collections storage facilities are located in five separate buildings—four, comprising a warehouse complex built in 1977-78 and purchased by the state in 1996. This warehouse complex severely limits public access and, through sub-standard conditions, presents a threat to the preservation of collections.

Question 6-Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be incorporated into the facility.