

WRHS WESTERN RESERVE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL FUND & DONOR RECOGNITION
FY 2023-2024





November 1, 2024

Dear Donor,

At the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), history happens every day, and you are part of the story! Here you will find opportunities for audiences of all ages to explore, commemorate, experience, and preserve Northeast Ohio and American history.

Last year, WRHS continued to invest in its people, places, collections and experiences. Thanks to generous philanthropic support from donors like you, WRHS has the capacity to safeguard its collections, buildings and grounds and expand programming for the benefit and enrichment of our community, through increased outreach and collaboration. Your support for annual operations, endowment, and priority projects are vital to WRHS's long-term institutional sustainability. I am pleased to report that thanks to your continuing support and engagement, WHS continued to invest in priority capital projects during fiscal year 2024:

- The project to fully restore the WRHS Library building and collections as a result of the 2023 fire progressed throughout FY24 and we expect to reopen in the spring of 2025.
- With capital support from the State of Ohio, WRHS continued to restore the historic Edward Cranz Farm as a one-of-a-kind venue for overnight accommodations.
- A bequest from the Estate of Mary Cannon funded significant investments in Cleveland History Center gardens, including critical restoration work on the Hay McKinney Mansion garden wall.

WRHS created experiences that are relevant and representative of the communities we serve, including:

- Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign, a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution and History in their Hands: Black Photographers in Cleveland, 1968 to Present, the inaugural exhibit presented in WRHS's new permanent gallery dedicated to African American history, opened in September 2024.
- In the Chisholm Halle Costume Wing and Hay-McKinney Mansion, WRHS presented the stunning Fashion After Dark exhibit featuring the costume and textile collection.
- Exceptional education experiences for schoolchildren, including Youth Entrepreneurship Education programs, funded by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation and Hale Farm & Village Essential Experiences funded by the GAR Foundation, continued.
- WRHS added La Macchina Molto Bella Car Show to its robust calendar of events at Hale Farm & Village.
- In the Crawford, we presented Ferrari: The Essence of Italian Design, and Corvair: The American Porsche, and our work to the restore the Street of Shops continued.
- WRHS unveiled its African American Art/History Walk, a public art installation on East 108th St. featuring murals of prominent African American Clevelanders.
- Plans to mark the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026 continued.

Last year, WRHS was formally accepted into the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Accreditation Program. WRHS completed the roughly two-year process this fall with site visits from AAM peer reviewers. When successful, WRHS will be fully accredited by the AAM, the highest mark of distinction for museums in the U. S., a recognition of our commitment to industry professional standards for organizational health, education, public service and collections stewardship.

Your tax-deductible contribution makes these experiences and improvements possible! For further information, please call Glenn Anderson Jr., Senior Vice President of Advancement at 216-721-5722 x1401 or Christie Gound, Advancement Manager at 216-721-5722 x1501. Please know that you may contribute online at www.wrhs.org/product/donation or by wire transfer.

Thank you for your important and meaningful support, engagement and time.

Kelly Falcon How Men I ander I.

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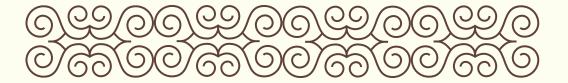


EXPERIENCE



WRHS CLEVELAND
HISTORY CENTER

Explore the tangible history of Northeast Ohio at the Cleveland History Center. Discover our vast archives in the WRHS Library, create memories with a ride on the historic Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel, and step into our city's prosperous past at the Hay-McKinney Mansion. Each gallery at the Cleveland History Center is filled with stories of real people doing extraordinary things including these exhibits: All Dolled Up: 200 Years of Dolls and Miniatures; Carl & Louis Stokes: Making History; Cleveland Starts Here® sponsored by Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation; History in their Hands: Black Photographers in Cleveland, Ohio, 1968-Present; Robert P. Madison: A Lifetime of Design; Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign; Women and Politics | Empowered to Vote, Empowered to Lead presented by PNC. Additionally, the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum will showcase a new exhibit, Wild Horses: Sixty Years of Ford's Mustang. These exhibits and full calendar of complementary programs and events including our popular History on Tap, Murder Mystery, and By the Book series are sure to make your next trip to the Cleveland History Center a memorable one.



EXPERIENCE



WRHS & HALE FARM & VILLAGE

Discover Hale Farm & Village, an outdoor living history museum that brings 19th-century life to the present by preserving and showcasing the seasonal rhythms, regional history, and period arts and trades of the time. Step into the mid-1800s and explore dozens of historic buildings, engage with farm animals, wander through heritage gardens, and watch live demonstrations of traditional cooking, crafts, and trades from Early America. Beyond daily activities, Hale Farm & Village offers a dynamic calendar of special events throughout the year. Celebrate spring with the Maple Sugar Festival and Pancake Breakfast, explore the farming traditions of both past and present at the Sow and Grow Festival, featuring oxen-powered plowing and draft horse demonstrations, experience living history at Civil War Weekend, and enjoy unique shopping at the Made in Ohio Arts & Crafts Festival. Nestled within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Hale Farm & Village, under the care of WRHS, preserves nearly 100 acres of land and 34 historic structures.



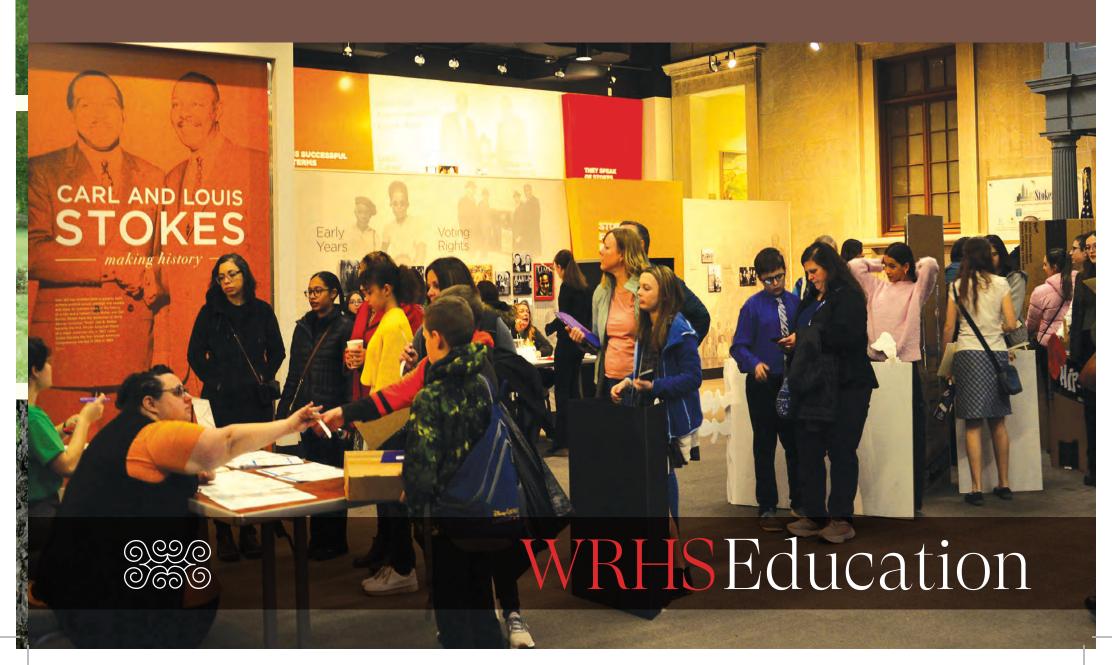
Thanks to the generosity of the GAR Foundation and the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, select programs are offered at no cost, including free transportation and classroom materials for students from Akron Public Schools, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and Cleveland Charter Schools. Students immerse themselves in 19th-century rural life, engaging with farm animals, craft demonstrations, science explorations, and literature connections in a way that only place-based, experiential learning can offer.







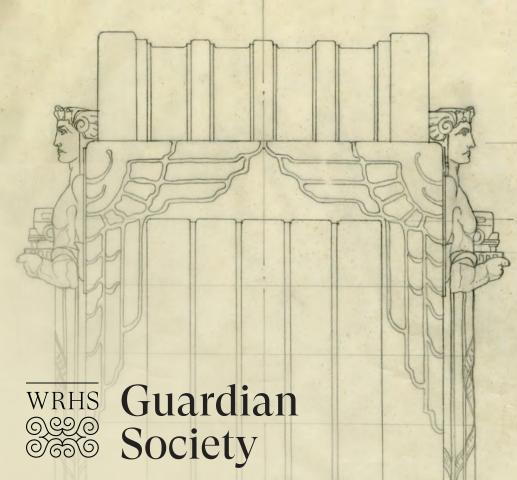
Thanks to fundraising benefits like the Hundred Year Club, the Cleveland History Center and Hale Farm & Village nurture innovation and the entrepreneurial mindset in Northeast Ohio students. The Youth Entrepreneurship Education (YEE) continuum was created in partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) and is designed to inspire students at a young age to pursue entrepreneurial ventures. Now in its second decade, YEE continues to expand service to districts around Cuyahoga County with a similar economic profile to CMSD. Last year, YEE served 4,000 students in CMSD and inner-ring districts. In 2024-2025, we continue to add eligible schools within Cleveland and its inner-ring districts, and we continue the process of transforming our curriculum materials to reflect new program content and changing teacher needs.





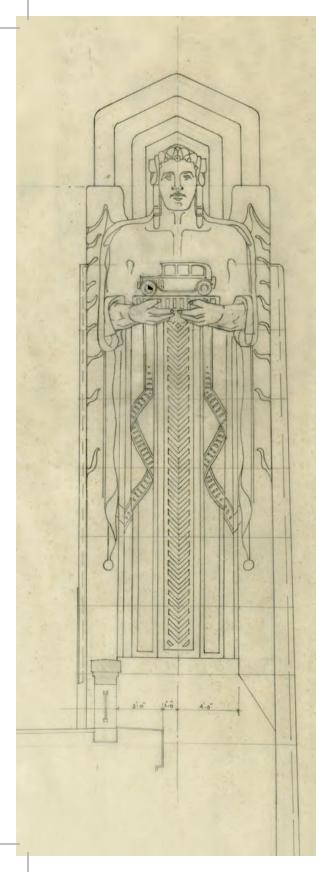
Peter Kelley

The strength of a city like Cleveland is defined in part by the quality of its cultural institutions and the community support of those organizations. I believe that WRHS plays an important role in preserving and protecting this history of Northeast Ohio and in creating memorable experiences. WRHS has so much to offer through the Library, Crawford, Cleveland History Center, Archives, and Hale Farm & Village. There is something to experience and learn for every generation of our community and the many visitors who get a view of the past and present state of Northeast Ohio by visiting one of the WRHS locations. I am proud to support the mission and purpose of WRHS both through annual giving and planned giving and I encourage others to consider doing the same in order to maintain the strength and quality of this great organization.



For over 150 years, we have guarded our collective history with the immeasurable help of esteemed benefactors like you. Through a planned giving legacy gift, you can join other passionate supporters to ensure access to our collections, exhibitions, and educational programs for generations to come. It is our greatest hope that after you provide for your loved ones, you consider continuing your lifetime donations with a legacy gift to WRHS. Everyone who shares their intention to make a gift in will to WRHS is invited to join the Guardian Society which honors the benefactors who support the future of WRHS. Members receive recognition in the annual report and are invited to special events.

Please contact Glenn Anderson, Jr. at <u>gandersonjr@wrhs.org</u> or 216-721-5722 ext. 1401 or Christie Gound at <u>cgound@wrhs.org</u> or 216-721-5722 ext. 1501 to discuss the lasting impact of your philanthropy.



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WRHS appreciates its longstanding partnership with the Howland Memorial Fund. An important donor for over two decades, the foundation has been instrumental in preserving the physical structures at Hale Farm & Village and funding the enhancement of the grounds. We are particularly grateful for the support renovating The Mary Ann Sears Swetland Memorial Meetinghouse (1852). In addition to significant gifts for the physical restoration of the building, they also provided accessibility funding to ensure all of our guests access to this historical site. We would like to recognize the Howland Memorial Fund and thank them for their generosity and support of Hale Farm & Village.



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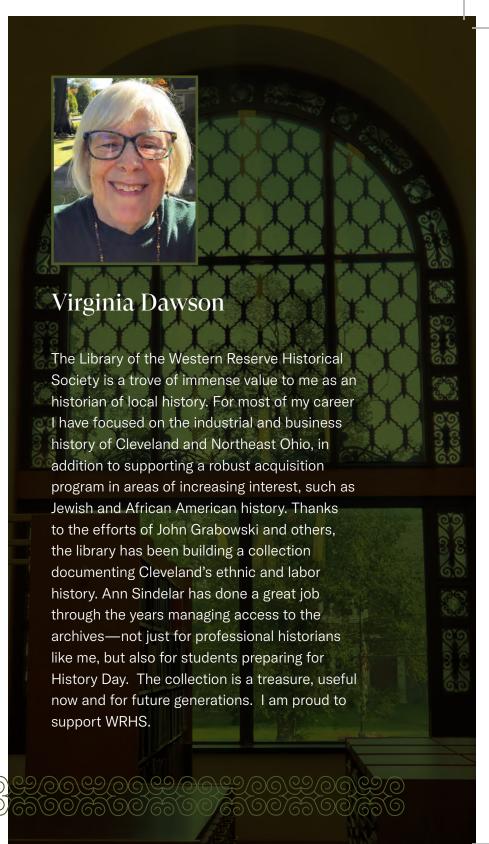
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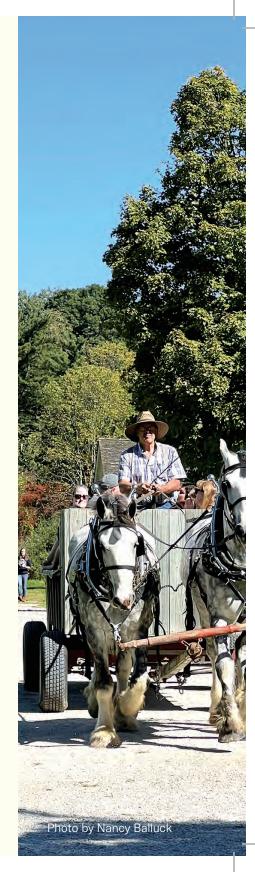
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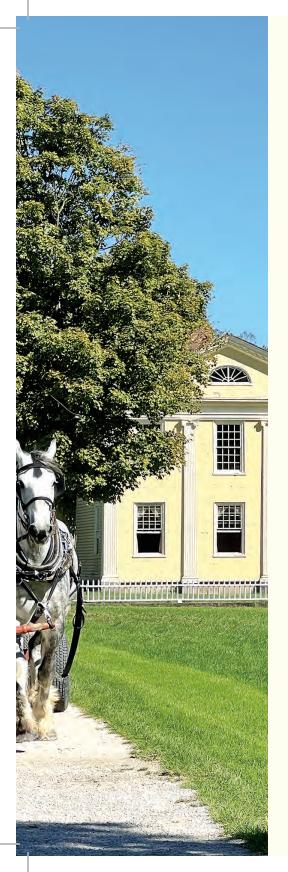
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WRHS is grateful to work with over 130 talented and enthusiastic volunteers and interns. In FY2024 our volunteers donated over 8,700 hours to WRHS, and interns contributed over 950 hours to WRHS! From tending to our gardens at Hale Farm & Village to assisting with collections and archives at the Library, they are a vital part of our organization and help further our mission of inspiring people to discover the American experience by exploring the tangible history of Northeast Ohio. Thank you to our invaluable volunteers and interns.

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John Frato

"Forever a child at heart with a passion for smiles and laughter."

This is how the WRHS staff and volunteers will fondly remember John Frato (October 11, 1952 – September 3, 2024).

WRHS first met John Frato as he worked with WRHS, the Cleveland Carousel Society, and Euclid Beach Park Now (EBPN) to find the new home for the Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel. As EBPN President and Executive Board Secretary for the Cleveland Carousel Society, John was instrumental in moving a collaboration forward to raise funds, establish a location, complete restoration, and develop the operating plan for the Grand Carousel.

Following the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Carousel Pavilion, April 17, 2012, John regularly visited the Cleveland History Center to monitor the progress. By the Grand Opening Ceremony for the fully restored Grand Carousel on November 22, 2014, John had formally joined the WRHS staff as Carousel Volunteer Coordinator and eventually became Carousel Manager. John volunteered countless additional hours of time supporting special events, weekly and annual Carousel maintenance, and decorating for the holidays. Over the past ten years that the Carousel has been open, John donated well over 5,000 hours of his time.

John lovingly and painstakingly led the Carousel operation since it opened. He had a strong attention to detail and a passion for creating memories for everyone who came to visit.

John's involvement with the Carousel transformed WRHS forever, and as we mark the 10th anniversary of the Carousel's grand opening this November, it is bittersweet. We will always be inspired by John's passion, knowledge and unwavering commitment to the Carousel.

In one interview about the Carousel, John said "It's all about providing for the future of the Carousel while making it accessible to the public. WRHS protects its history and provenance, and makes it accessible to people of all ages and abilities."

And that is exactly what John Frato did.





WRHS Western Reserve Historical Society























Your generosity allows WRHS to present engaging experiences for the benefit and enjoyment of the community. We need your contribution to continue this important work.



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