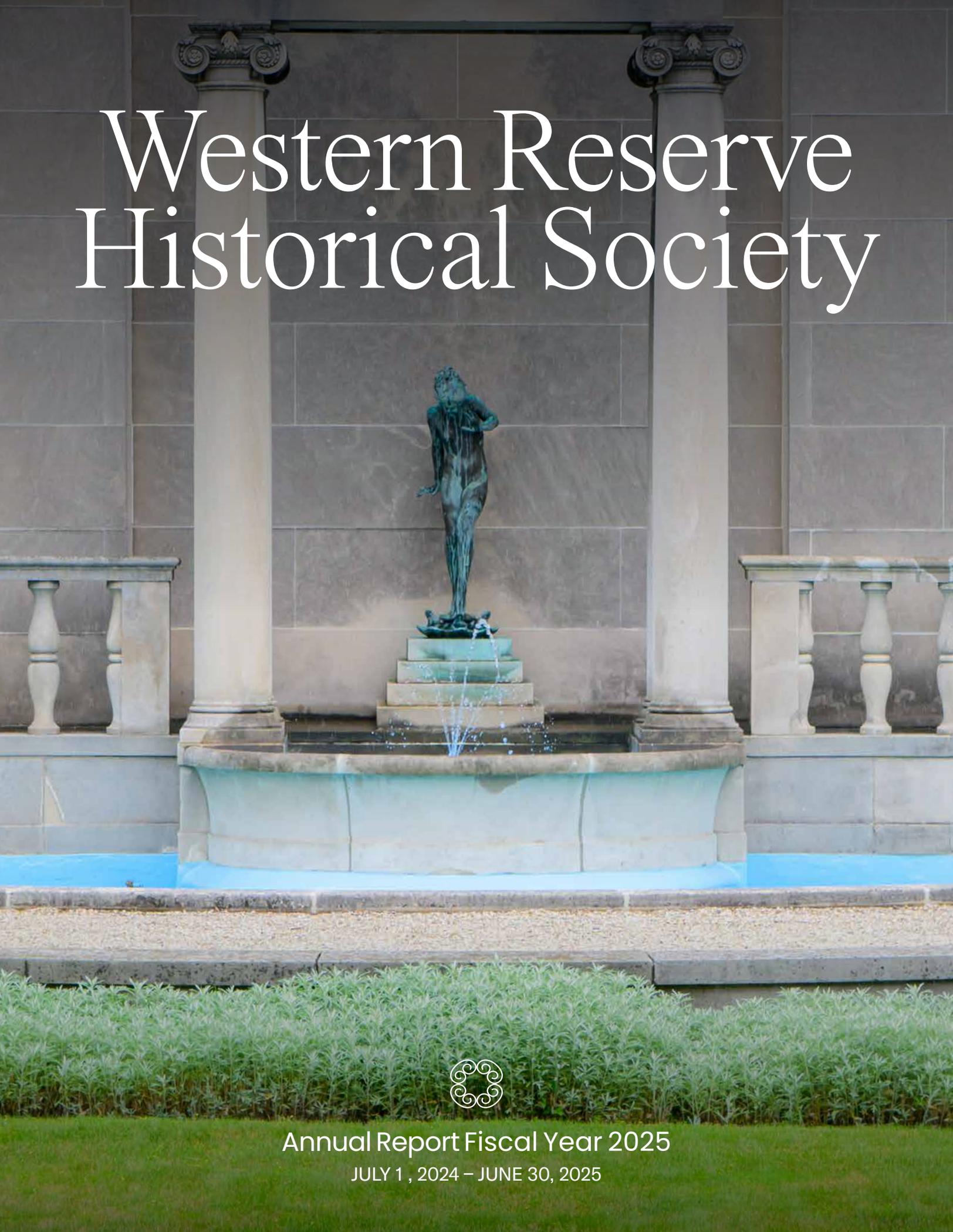


Western Reserve Historical Society



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2025

JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear WRHS Friends,
Supporters, and Stakeholders,

At the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), we place you in the heart of the story! Here you will find opportunities for audiences of all ages to explore, commemorate, experience, and preserve Northeast Ohio and American history.

As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with significant momentum built over the past year. In March 2025, WRHS was awarded full accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (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.

Last year, WRHS continued to invest in its people, places, collections and experiences. Thanks to generous philanthropic support from our donors, 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. I am pleased to report that WRHS continued to invest in priority capital projects during fiscal year 2025:

- The project to fully restore the WRHS Library building and collections as a result of the 2023 fire was completed and the library reopened in April 2025.
- The first phase of the Hanna Garden restoration project has been completed at the Cleveland History Center. The work included preservation of windows, architectural details, and the original fountain.
- The restoration of the Edward Cranz Farm is complete, thanks to significant support from the State of Ohio and private donors. In the coming months, WRHS looks forward to opening the historic Cranz Farm Inn for overnight stays, events and meetings!

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

- “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.
- “Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People’s Campaign”, a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution.
- In the Chisholm Halle Costume Wing, WRHS presented the charming “All Dolled Up” exhibit featuring 200 years of dolls and miniatures. The previous exhibit “Fashion After Dark” received the Costume Society of America’s 2025 small-budget exhibition award, an honor and testament to WRHS’s high-quality and engaging exhibitions.

Plans to create a permanent International Heritage Gallery at the CHC are well underway.

Provided exceptional educational experiences to lifelong learners in addition to 150 local school districts and institutes of higher learning.

In the Crawford, we presented “Wild Horses: 60 Years of Ford’s Mustang” and “Mini Mania! Big Fun on Little Bikes”.

Plans to mark the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026 continued.

WRHS is pleased to have shared an incredible FY25 with the community through our many initiatives, programs, and exhibits, and we thank you for your engagement and support. We look forward to commemorating America’s 250th anniversary in 2026 along with you.

Sincerely,

Kelly Falcone-Hall
WRHS President & CEO

 **MISSION**

To inspire people to discover the American experience in all its diversity by exploring the tangible history of Northeast Ohio.

 **VISION**

To be the first stop for the exploration of Cleveland and American history in Northeast Ohio.

 **VALUES**

STEWARDSHIP

We are committed to the custody, care, and honoring of the history of Northeast Ohio.

INTEGRITY

We are honest, accurate, and transparent in every aspect of our operation.

INNOVATION

We empower and support an entrepreneurial mindset.

EXCELLENCE

Underscores all that we do.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESS, INCLUSION

Our commitment to DEAI is unwavering and central to our mission.

 **ORGANIZATION**

WRHS owns and operates 7 sites across a 4-county area of Northeast Ohio

CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER

Cleveland, University Circle (Cuyahoga County)

HALE FARM & VILLAGE

Bath, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit County)

CRANZ FARM INN

Bath, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit County)

SHANDY HALL

Geneva (Ashtabula County)

LOGHURST

Canfield (Mahoning County)

RESTORATION & STORAGE FACILITY

Macedonia (Summit County)

HOLSEY GATES HOUSE

Bedford (Cuyahoga County)

 OUR PROMISE

WRHS prioritizes and elevates People, Place and Purpose. For our **People** – the WRHS community, our partners, and the communities we serve - WRHS strives for a culture of excellence, diversity, equity, access and inclusion (DEAI). We apply best practices to the stewardship of our many **Places**, collections, land, and digital resources. It is our **Purpose** to empower an entrepreneurial spirit to create, promote and sustain a relevant, experience driven organization for the benefit and enrichment of our communities and future generations. We approach our work through an equity lens to ensure that our collections, experiences, and people reflect the rich diversity of Northeast Ohio.

 AAM PLEDGE OF EXCELLENCE

WRHS demonstrates its commitment to the museum field by taking the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Pledge of Excellence: WRHS pledges that, in fulfillment of its educational mission, it will strive to operate according to national standards and best practices to the best of its abilities and in accordance with its resources.

 CODE OF CONDUCT

Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is dedicated to making all staff and guests feel welcome, safe and engaged. At WRHS, we prioritize people – the WRHS community and the communities we serve. WRHS strives for a culture of excellence, diversity, equity, access and inclusion. We apply best practices to the stewardship of our places, collections and digital resources. It is our purpose to empower an entrepreneurial spirit to create, promote, and sustain a relevant, experience driven organization. We approach our work through an equity lens to ensure that collections, experiences, staff and board reflect the rich diversity of Northeast Ohio.

WRHS is dedicated to providing a safe and harassment-free experience for everyone, including ALL guests, vendors and independent contractors, volunteers, interns, stakeholders, community partners and employees. Accordingly, WRHS prohibits harassment or discrimination based on race, national origin, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, ability, veteran or military status, or other dimensions of diversity. Harassment and/or offensive behavior (which may include slurs, epithets, sexual advances, discrimination, demeaning comments, exclusion from participation, comments on appearance or ability, threats, etc.) is not tolerated. If you find yourself in a situation where you feel your safety is at risk, or if you bear witness to behavior that you feel is unacceptable, please immediately visit one of the admissions desks or reach out to a WRHS staff member. WRHS will investigate all reported incidents with discretion, and urgency. As a consequence, WRHS reserves the right to revoke, without refund, access to the museum sites and/or WRHS membership.

Since 1867, WRHS is committed to preserving and providing access to the history, culture and development of Cleveland and northeast Ohio. We pledge to provide a safe, welcoming, accessible and enriching experience to all, with integrity and adhering to the highest level of standards for personal and professional conduct.



25,728

Visitors experienced the Cleveland History Center

28,516

Riders on the historic Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel

CHC has 8 permanent exhibits. We had 14 temporary exhibits that opened or closed or both over the fiscal year. They were:

1. Wild Horses: 60 Years of Ford's Mustang
2. Service & Sacrifice: Clevelanders in WWII
3. Fashion After Dark
4. All Dolled Up: 100 Years of Dolls & Miniatures
5. AMCNO: 200 Years of Medicine in Cleveland
6. Corvair: The American Porsche?
7. Mini Mania! Big Fun on Little Bikes
8. Race for the Presidency: An Historical Look
9. History in Their Hands: Black Photographers in Cleveland Ohio, 1968-present
10. Robert P. Madison: A Lifetime of Design
11. Sounds of Religion (a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit)
12. Faith Through Light & Color: The Stained Glass Art of Dr. Rudolph Sandon
13. Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign (a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit)
14. Winter Toyland

CHC EVENTS

75 programs attended by **1,360** attendees, including Grant 101: An Evening with Ulysses S. Grant, Murder in the Limelight: A Show Stopping Mystery, and The Gentleman From Ohio Book Discussion

9,895 guests attending **55** rental events

120 Speaking of Cleveland presentations

CHC EDUCATION

8,592 schools and youth served, including:

366 classes

1,703 CMSD students made up of **70** classes

1,546 Students participating in YEE continuum programs at CHC.

YEE, WRHS's entrepreneurship continuum for grades 4-7, is hosted at both Cleveland History Center and Hale Farm & Village, and served 2,663 students overall from CMSD and inner-ring suburbs.

486 students from **18** schools registered **297** projects at Region 3 Ohio History Day 2025 on the theme of **Rights and Responsibilities in History**.

21 projects from our Region 3 contest qualified for National History Day, held at the **University of Maryland, College Park**.

20 program options offered



Over 735 new photos, video, documents, and more added to Digital Cleveland Starts Here® in FY25

Over 66,000 photos, video, documents, and more accessible online on Digital Cleveland Starts Here®

Over **640** in-person researchers used over **765** Library and Archival Collections on site during FY25. A Temporary Research Room was set up in the CHC allowing donor and researchers with time sensitive projects access to collections during the Library Restoration Project. The Library Reading Room re-opened for onsite research on Thursday April 3rd. WRHS also responded to nearly **1,000** remote requests for information.

200 museum objects in 26 collections accessioned into WRHS's museum collections, including a bust of Nikola Tesla by Matthew Louis Rebrovic, the speedometer and a scrapbook from the Around the World Hupmobile, Kat Kizer's award winning MG race car, a collection of nearly 70 works of art by William Scheele, a collection of African American dolls, and a collection related to Emily Allen Severance.

35 objects from the WRHS collection on loan to **11** entities, including pieces to the Cleveland Museum of Art, St. Louis Art Museum, and the IX Center.

52 Library and Archives collections accessioned totaling **362** linear feet into WRHS's Library collections.

13 Library Archives collections fully processed and made accessible for public display and research.



Photo by: Nancy Balluck Photography

34 Historic structures

62,108

General admission
visitors experienced
Hale Farm & Village

6,835

guests attending 61 rental
events

14 Signature events over the course of 41 days including:

1. Music in the Valley Folk & Wine Festival
2. FUEL Cleveland
3. Civil War Weekend
4. Made in Ohio Art & Craft Festival
5. La Macchina Molto Bella Car Show
6. Harvest Festival
7. All Hale's Eve
8. Thanksgiving Dinner with Abraham Lincoln
9. Holiday Lantern Tours
10. Pathways to Freedom: Stories of Strength and Legacy
11. Maple Sugar Festival & Pancake Breakfast
12. Citizens of Hale Farm & Village Plant Sale
13. Sow & Grow Festival
14. Juneteenth Celebration

EDUCATION

15,392

Students from 282 schools experienced
history through Hale Farm & Village through
School & Youth programming

AGRICULTURE

3 Heritage breeds
including:

- ▶ Tunis Sheep
- ▶ Milking Short Horn Cattle
- ▶ Heritage Chicken Breeds
(7 different breeds)

Non-heritage
wool sheep:

- ▶ Merino Sheep
-



Photo by: Nancy Balluck Photography

51 Historic structures

**PRESERVATION
PROJECTS INCLUDE**

- › **CRANZ FARM INN** Approvals, sitework, exterior preservation and interior construction initiated

 - › **HALE FARM & VILLAGE** Land Office – window sash, door and architectural detail restoration; Law Office – sash restoration, exterior door restoration; Schoolhouse – roof structural framing

 - › **LOGHURST** Porch restoration

 - › **HAY-MCKINNEY MANSION** Roof repair, wall plaster restoration began

 - › **BINGHAM-HANNA MANSION** Fountain mechanical replacement and commissioning

 - › **SHANDY HALL** Interior plaster restoration (ongoing)
-



\$6,411,422

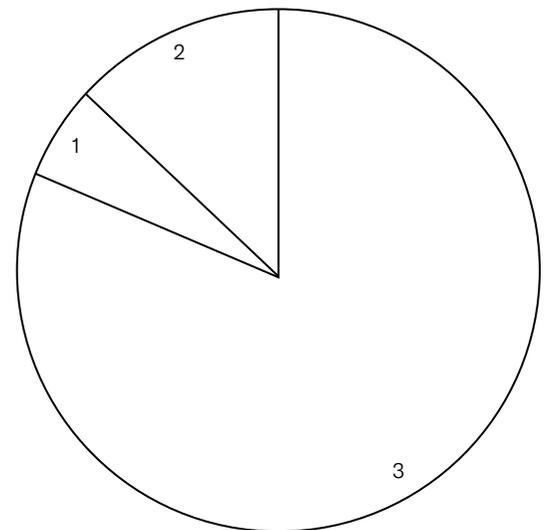
Annual operating budget

\$5,152,480

In capital projects including Library fire restoration, CHC Hay-McKinney Mansion exterior wall restoration, and Cranz Farm Inn restoration.

OPERATING EXPENSES for FYE June 30, 2025

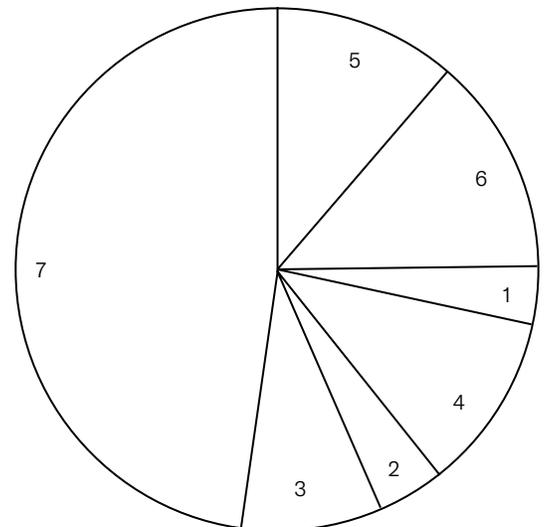
\$7,451,085



- 1 **\$424,373** Fundraising Expenses (6%)
- 2 **\$981,730** Management & General Expenses (13%)
- 3 **\$6,252,224** Program Service Expenses (82%)

OPERATING REVENUES for FYE June 30, 2025

\$7,451,085



- 1 **\$267,643** Other Income (4%)
- 2 **\$299,540** Support from Perpetual Trusts (4%)
- 3 **\$655,092** Capital Grants (9%)
- 4 **\$836,316** Endowment Support (11%)
- 5 **\$831,086** Admissions (11%)
- 6 **\$1,009,484** Earned Income (13%)
- 7 **\$3,551,924** Gifts, Grants and Project Support (48%)

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Distinguished Scholar of African
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THANK YOU

Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) deeply appreciates our donors' commitment to our mission: To inspire people to discover the American experience by exploring the tangible history of Northeast Ohio.

The following gifts were made to WRHS between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this donor list. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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