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## **Hale Farm and Village Capital Improvement Project Announced**

***For Immediate Release, Bath, Ohio*** --- Hale Farm & Village (HFV) Northeast Ohio's premiere living history museum is pleased to announce the addition of community engagement and interpretive space to the Gatehouse Welcome Center. The project is being generously supported by the State of Ohio, Mary Jane Hartwell estate, Lehner Family Foundation, Ohio & Erie Canalway Association and Sisler McFawn Foundation. Local architectural firm Braun & Steidl have been selected to design the project with an expected completion date of summer 2019. This is the fourth phase of a capital improvement project that began in 2007.

"Since commencement of this project HFV has experienced continued annual attendance growth. To support this momentum HFV is creating a community engagement space to promote strategic initiatives focusing on adult workshops, professional development, youth education and community connection," explains Kelly Falcone-Hall, CEO of the Western Reserve Historical Society. The new space will expand existing Gatehouse Welcome Center amenities and provide a multi-functional space. The expansion will increase HFV's capacity for interpreting the Hale's family farm, and integrating the story of the Cuyahoga Valley, the Canalway and the importance that crafts, trades and entrepreneurs have played in the history of Northeast Ohio.

The Gatehouse Welcome Center is the "gateway" to the Hale experience and hub of educational and public activities, servicing over 75,000 youth and general audience visitors annually. Capital improvements to the Gatehouse Welcome Center keep this hub of educational program activities and visitor amenities attractive, functional, safe, and accessible. The design of the structure will be consistent with the existing Gatehouse Welcome Center. It will consist of 2,500 sq. feet of conditioned space that will be flexible enough to accommodate multiple programs simultaneously or one large group. It will be connected to the current space using natural materials and through an open design bringing the historic landscape into the building.

Hale Farm & Village | 2686 Oak Hill Rd· Peninsula, Ohio 44264 | P.O. Box 296 Bath, Ohio 44210  
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Highlights include:

- Four season space for HFV crafts & trades demonstrations and workshops
- Space for community and corporate engagements
- Increased capacity for school and youth programming and interpretation
- Space for professional development of local teachers, artists and preservationists

Previous phases of this Capital Improvement Project have consisted of preservation needs for 32 historic structures and infrastructure upgrades throughout the property. The project enhances Hale Farm & Village's mission to preserve and share the story of the Western Reserve through an experiential learning community that creates a lifetime of social value. Our educational and social impact is built around our core interpretative themes: early American crafts & trades, historic preservation, agriculture & horticulture, and local & American history.

For more information on how you can support this initiative please contact Jason Klein, Director Hale Farm & Village [jklein@wrhs.org](mailto:jklein@wrhs.org) or 330-666-3711 x 1713.

*Caption: Artist concept for the expansion of Hale Farm & Village's Gatehouse Welcome Center, supported in part by the State of Ohio.*

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*Hale Farm & Village, a living history museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society, is located on 90 acres in Bath, Ohio with 32 historic structures, farm animals, heritage gardens, farming and early American craft and trade demonstrations. The location is open for a summer season June – August,*

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*Wednesday – Sunday; weekends only September and October; and signature events or educational programming during other times. Visit [www.halefarm.org](http://www.halefarm.org) or call (330) 666-3711 for seasonal hours, program listings, rental information, and to become a member. This year marks Hale Farm & Village's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society.*

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*Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is Northeast Ohio's premier storyteller based on its vast collection of the tangible history of Northeast Ohio. It is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit regional historical societies in the nation. It presents the lives and activities of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century settlers through historic Hale Farm & Village in Bath, Ohio. WRHS offers a wealth of resources to research your family heritage at the Cleveland History Center in University Circle, Cleveland.*

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