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Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Strategic Plan, January 1, 2021– December 31, 2023

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Goal 1: Increase citizen engagement with Ohio's historical records.

   Objective: Strengthen statewide awareness and support of Ohio's historical records and archival collections, including records documenting diverse and under-represented communities.

   Action 1: Use OHRAB's website and social media to publicize institutions, grant recipients and projects undertaken to further access and preservation of historical records.

   Action 2: Support and publicize Ohio's History Day by creating an electronic resource for Ohio's teachers and students. To encourage the use of primary sources in Ohio's classrooms, present an award for the best use of Ohio's historical records in a History Day project.

   Action 3: Collaborate with institutions to create projects such as crowd-sourced transcription, indexing and preservation projects as well as training on how to read and use primary sources. Continue to promote and recognize the achievements of archival volunteers with the Ohio Citizen Archivist award program.

   Action 4: Present OHRAB Achievement Awards recognizing archival programs that have made significant achievements in the management, preservation, access, advocacy and use of Ohio historical records. Encourage Achievement Award recipients to capitalize on their award through the promotion of their archives.

   Action 5: Sponsor and provide training to increase citizen's awareness and use of historical record collections and institutions. Collaborate with groups such as the Ohio History Connection (OHC) and the Ohio County Archivists and Records Manager Association (CARMA) to create outreach training for records custodians.

   Action 6: Promote and encourage the awareness and use of materials documenting under-represented Ohioans by sponsoring a fellowship to locate overlooked resources, such as manumission records.

Goal 2: Promote reliable and sustainable investment in Ohio's records in all formats.

   Objective 1: Advocate for long-term management, preservation and access to Ohio's records.

   Action 1: Provide recommendations to the State Archives on emerging best practices for digital preservation.

   Action 2: Educate state and local officials and the public about the benefits of well-funded electronic records management and preservation programs.

   Action 3: Use opportunities, such as Statehood Day, to directly advocate for records issues with state legislators.

   Objective 2: Educate citizens, lawmakers, public officials and other stakeholders about the dangers of ignoring the long-term problem of electronic records preservation.

Action 1: Use OHRAB's website and social media to publicize electronic records that are at risk of being lost as a result of poor electronic records preservation practices.

Action 2: Develop short presentations and handouts to be given by board members at conferences and meetings to make citizens, lawmakers, public officials and other stakeholders aware of the threats to their electronic records.

Action 3: Collaborate with the Ohio Electronic Records Committee (OhioERC), CARMA, the Ohio Digitization Interest Group and other subject matter experts to publicize the challenges of electronic records management and preservation.

Goal 3: Foster the advancement of historical records preservation and access in Ohio's repositories.

Objective 1: Increase the number and quality of grant applications to the NHPRC from Ohio's repositories.

Action 1: Promote and share information about NHPRC grant opportunities through archival and records management listservs, regional archival association meetings and other methods of advocacy.

Action 2: Encourage prospective grant applicants to contact OHRAB for advice and recommendations prior to submitting applications to the NHPRC.

Action 3: Provide grant guidance through mentoring and web-based grant writing workshops.

Objective 2: Seek funding for historical records preservation and access in Ohio repositories.

Action 1: Promote and administer a re-grant program for projects that improve the preservation of and access to Ohio historical records.

Action 2: Provide scholarships to records professionals for educational and networking opportunities.