

# Greenbook

## LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

### Ohio History Connection

Keegan Kennedy, Budget Analyst  
August 2025

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look.....	1
Agency overview .....	1
Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget .....	1
Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission (ALI 360400) .....	2
Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial (ALI 360401) .....	2
UNESCO World Heritage Sites (ALI 360402) .....	3
Education and Collections (ALI 360501) .....	3
Site and Museum Operations (ALI 360502) .....	4
Ohio Preservation Office (ALI 360504) .....	4
National Afro-American Museum (ALI 360505).....	4
Hayes Presidential Center (ALI 360506).....	5
Ohio History Tax Check-Off (ALI 360602).....	5
Ohio History License Plate (ALI 360603) .....	6

Attachment:

Appropriation Spreadsheet

# LBO Greenbook

## Ohio History Connection

### Quick look...

- The Ohio History Connection (OHC) is a state-chartered nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and study of Ohio's history.
- OHC's governing body is a board of trustees composed of 21 members and 12 ex officio members.
- The budget provides funding of \$30.3 million in FY 2026 and \$23.9 million in FY 2027.
- Activities related to the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial to continue through FY 2027.
- The appropriated funds are released to OHC in quarterly subsidy payments.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
General Revenue Fund	\$21,117,000	\$20,604,000	\$30,127,807	\$23,735,527
Dedicated Purpose Fund	\$159,000	\$122,300	\$160,000	\$160,000
Total	\$21,276,000	\$20,726,300	\$30,287,807	\$23,895,527
% change	--	-2.6%	46.1%	-21.1%
GRF % change	--	-2.4%	46.2%	-21.2%

### Agency overview

The Ohio History Connection (OHC) is a state-chartered nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and study of Ohio's history. OHC houses the State Historic Preservation Office, which is the state's lead entity for federal historic preservation programs delegated to the state through the National Preservation Act, the official state archives, and a local history office, and manages the 58 sites and museums across Ohio. OHC is governed by a board of trustees consisting of 21 members, as well as 12 ex officio members that include members of state history groups, legislative leaders, and the Governor.

OHC's collection comprises two million artifacts and specimens and 107,365 cubic feet of manuscripts, documents, photographs, and government archival records. Collections are from all 88 counties across Ohio, and the government records include all of the records of the state's agencies, boards, and commissions, as well as the records of all political subdivisions, including counties, townships, municipalities, school districts, and special taxing districts.

### Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

The budget appropriates \$54.2 million over the biennium for the Ohio History Connection (OHC). Compared to the expenditures for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium, this level of funding represents an increase of \$12.2 million over the biennium. Notable line item appropriation increases were allocated to the Commission's efforts for the upcoming U.S. Semiquincentennial

celebration, continued support of Ohio's United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site designation and support of site and museum operations.

OHC derives 99.4% of its state-supported funding from the GRF. The remaining funding comes from Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) Group line items that receive revenue from the Ohio history tax check off and the "Ohio History" license plate. State funding is released on a quarterly basis as specified in accompanying temporary language in the bill. In addition to state appropriations, OHC's revenue generated as part of it being a state-chartered nonprofit corporation includes income derived from federal grants and contracts and private contributions, as well as operating revenues such as admissions and parking fees, program service charges, sales, memberships and subscriptions, and fees for special events and the use of facilities, which are held outside of the state treasury.

### **Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission (ALI 360400)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360400, Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission</b>					
\$200,000	\$200,000	\$985,000	\$840,000	\$1,110,000	\$1,110,000
% change	--	392.5%	-14.7%	32.1%	0.0%

This line item funds operating expenses of the Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission. Funding supports the operation of the Commission's office, including programming, outreach, resource acquisition, and staffing. Future costs are expected to include grant support to partner organizations and projects that support the mission of the Commission by providing opportunities to promote awareness of and to implement Holocaust and genocide education in Ohio.

Related temporary law earmarks \$125,000 in each fiscal year to be used for The Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center.

### **Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial (ALI 360401)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360401, Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial</b>					
\$0	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$8,750,000	\$2,000,000
% change	--	300.0%	50.0%	191.7%	-77.1%

This line item supports the activities of the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial which H.B. 110 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly created for the purpose of planning the commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026 of the founding of the U.S., as well

as Ohio's role in U.S. history before and after receiving statehood. The Commission's duties are scheduled to expire at the end of the upcoming biennium.

Related temporary law specifies that the line item be used for grants across the state in support of the U.S. Semiquincentennial. Additional temporary law further earmarks \$250,000 in FY 2026 to be used for marketing and event operations for the America's River Roots Festival.

### UNESCO World Heritage Sites (ALI 360402)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360402, UNESCO World Heritage Sites</b>					
\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000
% change	0.0%	--	-100.0%	--	25.0%

This GRF line item supports preservation, education, maintenance, daily operations, and tourism marketing of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks UNESCO World Heritage Site. The eight 2,000 year old Native American earthworks that constitute the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks have achieved the highest designation in the world for cultural heritage. This line item supports all management functions/operations at Fort Ancient, the Great Circle, and the Octagon Earthworks. The FY 2026-FY 2027 funding levels are expected to support increased payroll costs and maintenance at the sites.

### Education and Collections (ALI 360501)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360501, Education and Collections</b>					
\$5,016,092	\$5,016,092	\$5,604,000	\$5,882,000	\$6,139,320	\$6,147,040
% change	0.0%	11.7%	5.0%	4.4%	0.1%

This line item supports the preservation of and access to the state's collections of Ohio government records, historical documents, and artifacts. It supports educational programs, the OHC website, records digitization, and research services. The line item represents the principal funding that directly supports OHC's functions and operation of research facilities.

The appropriation level is expected to support the hiring of new temporary positions to fulfill federal requirements associated with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Efforts to ensure federal compliance with NAGPRA are time and labor intensive and must be completed under a federal timeline to ensure site compliance.

### Site and Museum Operations (ALI 360502)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360502, Site and Museum Operations</b>					
\$7,232,753	\$6,532,753	\$7,721,000	\$7,502,000	\$8,752,200	\$8,752,200
% change	-9.7%	18.2%	-2.8%	16.7%	0.0%

This line item provides services and support for the state's system of historic sites and museums, including the Ohio History Center and the adjacent Ohio Village, and the facilities for storing and preserving library, archive, and artifact collections. Activities funded by this item include liaison services, curatorial and exhibit services, marketing and fundraising support, planning, capital improvements, and major maintenance. OHC provides staff to work with the 36 local organizations and other agencies that currently operate 58 of the state's historical sites and museums.

### Ohio Preservation Office (ALI 360504)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360504, Ohio Preservation Office</b>					
\$261,609	\$261,609	\$731,000	\$738,000	\$965,287	\$965,287
% change	0.0%	179.4%	1.0%	30.8%	0.0%

This line item supports the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a division of OHC that carries out historic preservation responsibilities under federal and state law. These functions include nominating properties for the National Register of Historic Places, maintaining inventories of historically and archaeologically significant properties, and administering historical reviews for federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit and state Historic Preservation Tax Credit programs. This line item provides a portion of the required 40% state match for the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund Program.

### National Afro-American Museum (ALI 360505)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360505, National Afro-American Museum</b>					
\$536,050	\$536,050	\$728,000	\$811,000	\$811,000	\$811,000
% change	0.0%	35.8%	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (NAAMCC), located in Wilberforce, Greene County. Through collecting and preserving relevant materials and using them as the basis for a variety of programs, exhibitions, research, and publications, the NAAMCC educates the public about African-American history and culture, with an emphasis on Ohio history.

### Hayes Presidential Center (ALI 360506)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360506, Hayes Presidential Center</b>					
\$572,880	\$572,880	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
% change	0.0%	30.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item subsidizes the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Sandusky County. The Center includes the Hayes residence (Spiegel Grove), a library, a museum, and the tomb of President Hayes and his wife. The home and museum have a combined 40,000 visitors per year, including visits for research and special events.

### State Historical Grants (ALI 360508)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 360508, State Historical Grants</b>					
\$1,675,000	\$1,635,000	\$1,250,000	\$930,000	\$850,000	\$700,000
% change	-2.4%	-23.5%	-25.6%	-8.6%	-17.6%

The entirety of the line item's appropriation in FY 2026 and FY 2027 is earmarked as summarized below.

State Historical Grants (H.B. 96 Earmarks from ALI 360508, State Historical Grants)		
Earmark	FY 2026	FY 2027
Western Reserve Historical Society	\$350,000	\$350,000
Cincinnati Museum Center	\$350,000	\$350,000
Wadsworth Area Historical Society (preservation of St. Mark's Episcopal Church)	\$150,000	\$0

### Ohio History Tax Check-Off (ALI 360602)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>Fund 5KL0 ALI 360602, Ohio History Tax Check-Off</b>					
\$102,500	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$115,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
% change	46.3%	0.0%	-23.3%	30.4%	0.0%

This line item is funded by an income tax check off that allows taxpayers to direct a portion of their state tax refunds to OHC. The appropriated funds pay for competitive matching grants to

local history organizations, nonprofits, and local governments for organizational development initiatives, brick-and-mortar projects, and program and collections activities. Since FY 2022, the annual revenue to this fund from taxpayer donations through the check-off program has ranged from approximately \$98,700 to \$123,300.

### Ohio History License Plate (ALI 360603)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>Fund 5PD0 ALI 360603, Ohio History License Plate</b>					
\$7,500	\$7,000	\$9,000	\$7,300	\$10,000	\$10,000
% change	-6.7%	28.6%	-18.9%	37.0%	0.0%

This line item is funded by a contribution of \$20 for each purchase of the “Ohio History” license plate. The money is then used to pay for grants on a matching basis to local history-related organizations. A portion may be used for administering the grants. Since FY 2022, the annual revenue credited to this fund averaged around \$7,400.

H.B. 59 of the 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly created the Ohio History License Plate Program, which is funded by a \$20 contribution from each person being issued a set of “Ohio History” license plates. The funds are used by OHC to pay for grants on a matching basis to local history-related organizations. In 2023, 304 “Ohio History” license plates were issued.

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations  
All Fund Groups - Detail**

**H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
<b>OHS Ohio History Connection</b>								
GRF	360400	Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission	\$985,000	\$840,000	\$1,110,000	\$1,110,000	32.14%	0.00%
GRF	360401	Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$8,750,000	\$2,000,000	191.67%	-77.14%
GRF	360402	UNESCO World Heritage Sites	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000	N/A	25.00%
GRF	360501	Education and Collections	\$5,604,000	\$5,882,000	\$6,139,320	\$6,147,040	4.37%	0.13%
GRF	360502	Site and Museum Operations	\$7,721,000	\$7,502,000	\$8,752,200	\$8,752,200	16.66%	0.00%
GRF	360504	Ohio Preservation Office	\$731,000	\$738,000	\$965,287	\$965,287	30.80%	0.00%
GRF	360505	National Afro-American Museum	\$728,000	\$811,000	\$811,000	\$811,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	360506	Hayes Presidential Center	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	360508	State Historical Grants	\$1,250,000	\$930,000	\$850,000	\$700,000	-8.60%	-17.65%
GRF	360509	Outreach and Partnership	\$148,000	\$151,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$21,117,000</b>	<b>\$20,604,000</b>	<b>\$30,127,807</b>	<b>\$23,735,527</b>	<b>46.22%</b>	<b>-21.22%</b>
5KLO	360602	Ohio History Tax Check-off	\$150,000	\$115,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	30.43%	0.00%
5PDO	360603	Ohio History License Plate	\$9,000	\$7,300	\$10,000	\$10,000	36.99%	0.00%
<b>Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$159,000</b>	<b>\$122,300</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>30.83%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Ohio History Connection Total</b>			<b>\$21,276,000</b>	<b>\$20,726,300</b>	<b>\$30,287,807</b>	<b>\$23,895,527</b>	<b>46.13%</b>	<b>-21.11%</b>