



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
FISCAL YEARS
2027-2032**



November 3, 2025

Director Kimberly Murnieks

Office of Budget and Management
30 E. Broad Street, 34th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: FY 2027–2028 Budget Request Summary – Ohio History Connection

Dear Director Murnieks,

On behalf of the Ohio History Connection (OHC), I am pleased to submit our Fiscal Years 2027–2028 capital budget request totaling **\$131 million**. This request builds upon the strong partnership between OHC and the State of Ohio in preserving and sharing our state’s rich history, while advancing economic development, education, and community vitality across all 88 counties.

Overview and Alignment with State Priorities

Our proposed budget directly supports the State’s strategic priorities of **economic growth, community development, and historic preservation**. Ohio’s historic sites and museums drive tourism, sustain local economies, and strengthen civic pride. Every dollar invested in OHC projects generates measurable returns for local communities through job creation, heritage tourism, and educational engagement.

The FY27–28 request focuses on **preserving critical historic assets, enhancing visitor access and experience, and completing transformational capital projects** across the state, all serving as anchors for regional development.

Major Funding Priorities

1. **Campus 2.0 (Columbus)** – Continued investment in the transformation of the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village, including transformed public spaces, upgraded infrastructure, and new interpretive environments that ensure long-term sustainability of our collections and programs.
2. **Fort Laurens (Bolivar)** – Across three main components, including improvements to the Tomb of the Unknown Patriot, fort reconstruction, and museum improvements, this project would build on the site's preparations for America 250 commemoration in 2026 and look toward the fort’s 250th anniversary in 2028.
3. **Campus Martius and Ohio River Museum (Marietta)** – Completion of the reimagined Ohio River Museum and ongoing site improvements at Campus Martius, building on momentum that has already spurred local economic activity.
4. **Poindexter Village African American Museum (Columbus)** – Development of a new museum honoring the legacy of one of Ohio’s first federally funded public housing projects and its role in African American

community history.

5. **Ohio Expo Center and Ohio History Center Joint Signage (Columbus)** - Also included in our request is a collaborative project supporting both organizations, which would replace the OHC highway sign and the OEC 17th Ave. sign with two jointly branded signs to provide better welcoming and wayfinding to all of our collective visitors.
6. **Statewide Site and Infrastructure Investments –**
 - **Basic Renovations and Emergency Improvements:** Addressing critical needs to ensure the safety, accessibility, and integrity of more than 50 state-affiliated historic sites.
 - **Online Portal and Information Systems:** Modernizing digital platforms and systems that securely store and share essential operational and historical information among our staff and with the public.
 - **Statewide Security:** Continuing to update security systems that protect Ohio’s irreplaceable sites and collections so they can continue to build Ohio pride for generations to come.

Recent Achievements and Ongoing Momentum

In just the past budget cycle, the Ohio History Connection successfully **opened a new Collections Care Center, a renovated Harriet Beecher Stowe House** and broke ground on both **the re-envisioned Ohio River Museum and Ohio Village (Campus 2.0)**. These accomplishments demonstrate our capacity to deliver complex, high-impact projects on time and within scope. Continued state investment will ensure we complete these critical initiatives and maintain stewardship of the state’s historical assets for future generations.

Director Murnieks, as both you and Governor DeWine are fully aware, Ohio’s history is one of innovation, resilience, and shared purpose. With this budget request, the Ohio History Connection seeks to build upon that legacy—preserving the places that tell our story and creating new opportunities for education and economic development across the state.

We appreciate the Office of Budget and Management’s continued partnership and support, and we look forward to discussing this request in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Megan Wood
Executive Director and CEO
Ohio History Connection

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

800 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, OH 43211-2474 • 614.297.2300 • ohiohistory.org

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Cover Page.....	1
Introductory Narrative / Director’s Letter	2
Table of Contents	4
BEA-0021 Capital Improvement Plan - Summary	5
BEA-0021 Capital Improvement Plan - Detail by Fund and Priority.....	7
Project Narratives.....	8
Cultural and Sports Facilities Building Fund - Fund 7030	8
State Historic Sites and Museums, Priority 1.....	8
Statewide Site Improvements, Priority 2.....	9
Ohio River Museum Construction, Priority 3.....	10
Fort Laurens Site Improvements	11
Poindexter Village Museum Construction, Priority 5	13
History Connection IT Infrastructure Upgrades, Priority 6	14
Statewide Site Security Upgrades, Priority 7	16
Ohio History Center Rehabilitation, Priority 8.....	18
Ohio History Center & Ohio Expo Center Campus Signage, Priority 9.....	20
Campus Martius Museum Renovation, Priority 10.....	21
Serpent Mound Site Improvements, Priority 11.....	23
Grant Boyhood Home and Tannery Improvements, Priority 12.....	24
Visitor Experience & Exhibit Planning, Priority 13	25
National African American Museum Improvements, Priority 14	26
Zoar Village Building Improvements, Priority 15	27
Adena Mansion & Gardens Site Renovation, Priority 16.....	28
Ohio Village Construction, Priority 17	30
Site Energy Conservation Projects, Priority 18	32
Johnston Farm Interpretive Plan & Exhibit Planning, Priority 19	33
Fort Meigs Site Improvements, Priority 20.....	34
Cedar Bog Renovation and Improvement, Priority 21.....	35

BEA-0021 Capital Improvement Plan - Summary Agency Bud

Agency	Fund Code	ALI	Actual	Appropriation	Request		
			FY 2023-24	FY 2025-26	FY 2027-28	FY 2029-30	FY 2031-32
OHS	7030	C23023 CENTER EXHIBIT REPLACEMENT	104,067	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C23024 STWD SITE EXHBT/RNV & CNSTRCT	355,608	5,250,000	0	1,260,000	1,260,000
OHS	7030	C23025 STATEWIDE SITE REPAIRS	1,510,431	2,035,325	1,250,000	2,300,000	2,500,000
OHS	7030	C23027 ZOAR VILLAGE BLDNG RESTORATION	0	0	982,000	2,451,800	2,300,000
OHS	7030	C23028 BASIC RENOVATIONS AND EMERGENCY	1,119,736	1,450,000	2,814,500	1,500,000	1,700,000
OHS	7030	C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB	1,443,721	22,000,000	88,370,342	12,700,000	0
OHS	7030	C23033 STOW HOUSE STATE MEMORIAL	1,891,451	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C23034 NAT'L AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM	27,615	1,500,000	1,260,000	1,700,000	0
OHS	7030	C23045 LOCKINGTON LOCKS STABLIZATION	485	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C23057 ON-LINE PORTL TO OHIO'S HERITG	668,420	5,000,000	5,300,000	5,300,000	5,300,000
OHS	7030	C230C6 HISTORIC SITE SIGNAGE	7,159	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C230C8 SERPENT MOUND	33,552	1,000,000	1,341,642	0	0
OHS	7030	C230D2 GRANT BOYHOOD HOME	6,163	0	814,730	312,000	0
OHS	7030	C230D3 JOHNSTON FARM AND INDIAN AGENC	0	0	206,000	566,500	0
OHS	7030	C230D4 FORT LAURENS	0	3,200,000	2,441,127	0	0
OHS	7030	C230D6 FLINT RIDGE	0	0	0	163,000	496,000
OHS	7030	C230E6 OHS EXHIBITS NATIVE AMER SITES	42,241	400,000	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C230E8 OHS ARMSTRONG AIR SPACE MUSEUM	0	1,000,000	0	8,240,000	0
OHS	7030	C230E9 OHS MUSEUM OF CERAMICS	263,838	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C230ED HISTORICAL CENTER/OHIO VILLAGE	144,178	0	11,300,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C230EN OHS - Collection Storage Facilities Expansion.	19,181,717	27,654	0	0	25,000,000
OHS	7030	C230EO POINDEXTER VILLAGE MUSEUM	240,484	3,500,000	5,930,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C230EP FORT MEIGS	0	0	1,154,000	725,500	0

OHS	7030	C230EU ADENA MANSION AND GARDENS	0	0	1,740,000	2,360,000	0
OHS	7030	C230EX FORT HILL EARTHWORKS	0	0	0	718,000	0
OHS	7030	C230F1 OHS CAMPUS MARTIUS MUSEUM	0	0	2,884,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C230FR WAHKEENA NATURE PRESERVE	236,199	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C230FS Ohio River Museum	739,773	2,150,000	1,825,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C230FT Statewide Site Security System	431,119	400,000	772,500	770,000	810,000
OHS	7030	C230FY NATIONAL ROAD/ZANE GREY MUSEUM	167	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C230W8 OHS-CEDAR BOG IMPROVEMENTS	0	0	824,000	0	0
OHS	7030	C230X1 OHS-SITE ENG. CONSERVATION	318,520	400,000	120,000	155,000	1,800,000
OHS	7030	C230X5 OHS- STATE ARCHIVES SHELVING	1,545	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C230X6 OHS- FORT ANCIENT EARTHWORKS	170,000	0	0	0	0
OHS	7030	C230GJ Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks	0	13,500,000	0	0	1,600,000
Fund 7030 Total			28,938,189	62,812,979	131,329,841	41,221,800	42,766,000
OHS Total			28,938,189	62,812,979	131,329,841	41,221,800	42,766,000
Grand Total			28,938,189	62,812,979	131,329,841	41,221,800	42,766,000

BEA-0021 Capital Improvement Plan - Detail by Fund and Priority Agency Bud

Agency	Fund Code	ALI	Project Type	Service Location	Project Name	Project Priority	FY 2027-28	FY 2029-30	FY 2031-32
OHS	7030	C23028 BASIC RENOVATIONS AND EMERGENCY	BASIC RENOVATION	C0089 STATEWIDE	State Historic Sites and Museums	1	2,814,500	1,500,000	1,700,000
OHS	7030	C23025 STATEWIDE SITE REPAIRS	BASIC RENOVATION	C0089 STATEWIDE	Historic Sites and Museums Improvements	2	1,250,000	2,300,000	2,500,000
OHS	7030	C230FS Ohio River Museum	NEW CONSTRUCTION	C0084 WASHINGTON COUNTY	Ohio River Museum Construction Phase 2	3	1,825,000		
OHS	7030	C230D4 FORT LAURENS	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0079 TUSCARAWAS COUNTY	Fort Laurens Phase 2 Renovation	4	2,441,127		
OHS	7030	C230EO POINDEXTER VILLAGE MUSEUM	NEW CONSTRUCTION	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY	Poindexter Village Museum Construction Phase 2	5	5,930,000		
OHS	7030	C23057 ON-LINE PORTL TO OHIO'S HERITG	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	C0089 STATEWIDE	History Connection IT Infrastructure Upgrades	6	5,300,000	5,300,000	5,300,000
OHS	7030	C230FT Statewide Site Security System	BASIC RENOVATION	C0089 STATEWIDE	Statewide Site Security Upgrades	7	772,500	770,000	810,000
OHS	7030	C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY	Ohio History Center Rehabilitation Phase 2	8	83,770,000	12,700,000	
OHS	7030	C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB	NEW CONSTRUCTION	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY	Ohio History Center and Ohio Expo Center Campus Signage	9	670,342		
OHS	7030	C230F1 OHS CAMPUS MARTIUS MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0084 WASHINGTON COUNTY	Campus Martius Museum Renovation	10	2,884,000		
OHS	7030	C230C8 SERPENT MOUND	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0001 ADAMS COUNTY	Serpent Mound Site Improvements	11	1,341,642		
OHS	7030	C230D2 GRANT BOYHOOD HOME	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0008 BROWN COUNTY	Grant Boyhood Home and Tannery Improvements	12	814,730	312,000	
OHS	7030	C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB	PLANNING	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY	Visitor Experience & Exhibit Planning	13	3,930,000		
OHS	7030	C23034 NAT'L AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM	BASIC RENOVATION	C0029 GREENE COUNTY	National African American Museum Improvements Phase 2	14	1,260,000	1,700,000	
OHS	7030	C23027 ZOAR VILLAGE BLDNG RESTORATION	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0079 TUSCARAWAS COUNTY	Zoar Village Building Improvements	15	982,000	2,451,800	2,300,000
OHS	7030	C230EU ADENA MANSION AND GARDENS	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0071 ROSS COUNTY	Adena Mansion & Gardens Site Renovation	16	1,740,000	2,360,000	
OHS	7030	C230ED HISTORICAL CENTER/OHIO VILLAGE	NEW CONSTRUCTION	C0025 FRANKLIN COUNTY	Ohio Village Redevelopment Phase 2	17	11,300,000		
OHS	7030	C230X1 OHS-SITE ENG. CONSERVATION	BASIC RENOVATION	C0089 STATEWIDE	Site Energy Conservation Projects	18	120,000	155,000	1,800,000
OHS	7030	C230D3 JOHNSTON FARM AND INDIAN AGENC	BASIC RENOVATION	C0055 MIAMI COUNTY	Johnston Farm Interpretive Plan & Exhibit Planning	19	206,000	566,500	
OHS	7030	C230EP FORT MEIGS	BASIC RENOVATION	C0087 WOOD COUNTY	Fort Meigs Site Improvements	20	1,154,000	725,500	
OHS	7030	C230W8 OHS-CEDAR BOG IMPROVEMENTS	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0011 CHAMPAIGN COUNTY	Cedar Bog Renovation & Improvement	21	824,000		
OHS	7030	C23024 STWD SITE EXHBT/RNV & CNSTRCT	BASIC RENOVATION	C0089 STATEWIDE	Statewide Site Exhibit Renovation and Construction	22		1,260,000	1,260,000
OHS	7030	C230D6 FLINT RIDGE	BASIC RENOVATION	C0045 LICKING COUNTY	Flint Ridge Building and Exhibit Improvements	23		163,000	496,000
OHS	7030	C230E8 OHS ARMSTRONG AIR SPACE MUSEUM	MAJOR RENOVATION	C0006 AUGLAIZE COUNTY	Armstrong Air & Space Museum Building and Exhibit Renovation	24		8,240,000	
OHS	7030	C230EX FORT HILL EARTHWORKS	BASIC RENOVATION	C0036 HIGHLAND COUNTY	Fort Hill Building and Exhibit Renovation	25		718,000	
OHS	7030	C230EN OHS - Collection Storage Facilities Expansion.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	C0089 STATEWIDE	Collections Care Center Construction - Phase 2	26			25,000,000
OHS	7030	C230GJ Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks	BASIC RENOVATION	C0089 STATEWIDE	Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks Exhibit Renovation	27			1,600,000
Fund 7030 Total							131,329,841	41,221,800	42,766,000
OHS Total							131,329,841	41,221,800	42,766,000
Grand Total							131,329,841	41,221,800	42,766,000

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23028 BASIC RENOVATIONS AND EMERGENCY, Capital Project 001**

1. List the project name and priority.

State Historic Sites and Museums
Priority 1

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

This project will provide basic renovations and emergency improvements to some of the more than 300 buildings and structures which are a part of the historic site system administered by the Ohio History Connection. These buildings include major museum facilities as well as archaeological and historic sites and buildings. The work will generally be directed to preserving the waterproof characteristics and structural integrity of the historic site system's infrastructure, replacing HVAC systems to provide appropriate climate control to protect historic buildings and collection items, and addressing emergency public safety and health improvements.

The basic renovation projects that will be addressed with these funds during FY27-28 will include projects that reach the level of high priority capital improvement projects that do not have any other source of funding, as well as urgent projects that arise during the biennium.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the funds are designated for projects that occur during the biennium, so the phasing is by project.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Costs are estimated based on prior years' needs for emergency projects and historical cost estimating for similar projects. Actual costs are dependent on contractor bids acquired per project at the time funding is requested for release.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Generally, these projects have minimal impact on operating costs, except in some instances exterior improvements and HVAC replacements reduce energy usage. More importantly, these projects delay or defer larger capital costs by addressing needs before they become larger and more expensive.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The Ohio History Connection has many historic buildings, including those designated on the National Register of Historic Places. These require special stewardship and care to ensure they will be available for the enjoyment and education of future Ohioans. A number of our "modern" facilities were built during the late 1960's and early 1970's, and many of their systems and components have reached the end of their useful lives. These funds will allow the Ohio History Connection to address basic renovations on a priority basis and will provide for emergency improvements as they arise. The highest threats to buildings and collections often arise from water infiltration and HVAC failure.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide for the health and safety of visitors, including improved air filtration and reduced dampness and mold inside historic structures.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23025 STATEWIDE SITE REPAIRS, Capital Project 002**

1. List the project name and priority.

Statewide Site Improvements
Priority 2

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Many of our facilities were built during the late 1960's and early 1970's and many systems and components have reached the end of their useful lives. The majority of the 58 historic sites managed by the Ohio History Connection will not be appropriated funds under individual site ALIs. Therefore, the funds requested here are required to address known priorities of the sites that will advance current projects, address immediate needs, or complete isolated projects that dramatically improve visitors' safety and experience at the sites. These encompass a wide variety of projects.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, since many projects are included within this single request, if the funding level is reduced then lower-priority projects would not be completed with capital funds. Another method of funding would need to be identified.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were based on detailed breakdown of the work, prior experience/historical cost estimating, and contractor estimates.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Generally, these projects have minimal impact on operating costs, except in some instances exterior improvements reduce energy usage. More importantly, these projects delay or defer larger capital costs by addressing needs before they become larger and more expensive.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The Ohio History Connection has many historic buildings, including those designated on the National Register of Historic Places. These require special stewardship and care to ensure they will be available for the enjoyment and education of future Ohioans. A number of our "modern" facilities were built during the late 1960's and early 1970's, and many of their systems and components have reached the end of their useful lives. These funds will allow the Ohio History Connection to address previously identified basic improvements on a priority basis. The highest threats to buildings and the collections they contain often arise from water infiltration and outdated HVAC systems.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide for the health and safety of visitors, including improved air filtration and decreased dampness and mold inside historic structures.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230FS Ohio River Museum, Capital Project 003**

1. List the project name and priority.

Ohio River Museum Construction Phase 2
Priority 3

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The project consists of the second phase of constructing a replacement building for the Ohio River Museum in Marietta, Ohio, and installing new exhibits. Phase One, already underway, includes constructing the shell and outfitting part of the building for the Washington County Public Library to relocate and install its Local History and Genealogical Archives. Phase Two, requested here, will complete outfitting of the building for the relocation of the Ohio River Museum, including the design and installation of exhibits. The Washington County Public Library and the US Department of Agriculture are also contributing funding to the project.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, it is already a phased project. The structure and several interior spaces are being completed in the first phase, currently underway. The remaining interior spaces, including the exhibit gallery and exhibit installation, would be in this second phase, followed by sitework.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on detailed cost estimates, prepared by the construction manager.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

As part of the agreement with Washington County, operating costs will be shared. The new facility will be energy efficient and designed with a low-maintenance exterior and site.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The Ohio History Connection in partnership with the Washington County Public Library and County Commissioners is building a new museum to replace the existing Ohio River Museum. Recent re-ratings of the Muskingum River flood plain put the floor level of the existing building under the 500-year level. The new museum will not only be constructed above the 500-year level, it will also be flood-proof and provide interior conditions suitable for archives and museum objects. Other partners in the project include the operating partner, the Northwest Territory Museum Society, and the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, who have many of their collections on loan to the museum.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

The new building incorporates several life safety and accessible features, including an elevator, accessible restrooms, and a fire suppression system. The building is designed to withstand flooding as well.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230D4 FORT LAURENS, Capital Project 004**

1. List the project name and priority.

Fort Laurens Phase 2 Renovation Priority 4

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Fort Laurens Historic Site is located near Bolivar and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site commemorates the only fort built by the American Continental Army during the Revolutionary War in what is now Ohio. The tomb of Ohio's Unknown Patriot, a memorial to the heroes of the American Revolution, is located here. In addition to the museum, the property includes shelter houses, picnic area, public restrooms, and a dwelling with a shop/garage facility.

This project consists of Phase 2 of a larger project to prepare the site for America 250 commemoration in 2026 and the fort's 250th anniversary in 2028. The three main project components are: 1) Tomb of the Unknown improvements prior to tomb rededication for July 4, 2026; 2) reconfiguring the interior of the museum and installing new exhibits, making mechanical, electrical, and data upgrades, and installing energy-efficient storefront windows; and 3) the partial reconstruction of the fort, which requires extensive archaeological research in order to inform the most authentic possible materials, techniques, and form for the reconstruction. Components 2 and 3, the museum upgrades and the fort reconstruction, will be complete by the fort's 250th anniversary in 2028.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

The project is already phased. Phase 1 of the project is currently underway with FY25-26 capital funds. The Tomb of the Unknown work will be completed within Phase 1. Site engineering and survey and schematic design for the museum and fort are also in Phase 1. Museum building renovation is also beginning in Phase 1, with museum exhibit replacement in Phase 2 (FY27-28). Phase 2 will include additional archaeological research to inform the partial reconstruction of the fort, as well as the fort reconstruction itself.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates were based on detailed breakdown of the work, prior experience, and contractor estimates.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Interior remodeling in the Visitor Center will reduce electrical usage with the installation of high-efficiency lighting. Increased visitation due to the archaeology program, the rehabilitated tomb, the renovated museum, and the partially reconstructed fort will likely increase revenue.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230D4 FORT LAURENS, Capital Project 004**

As a component of the 250th commemoration of United States independence in 2026, this project will plan and execute the partial reconstruction of Fort Laurens and prepare the museum and site to interpret the role of the fort in the American Revolution. Intensive archaeological investigation and artifact mitigation is necessary since the Ohio Canal builders cut away one side of the fort site and the existing museum partially covers the west side of the fort's footprint. Previous studies determined the best location to reconstruct the fort is its original location.

Installation of a new wood shake roofing in late 2008 with added thermal insulation was the first step towards increasing energy efficiency of the Museum and transitioning towards year round use. Window replacement, lighting, and HVAC system upgrades are necessary to improve the energy efficiency and climate control for collections. Improvements are needed for proper appearance of the site and to resolve outdated visitor amenities (including non-ADA toilets).

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors. The restrooms will be ADA compliant.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230EO POINDEXTER VILLAGE MUSEUM, Capital Project 005**

1. List the project name and priority.

Poindexter Village Museum Construction Phase 2 Priority 5

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The project will rehabilitate the last two remaining buildings of Poindexter Village (located in Columbus' Near East Side neighborhood) and build a connector addition between them to create the new Poindexter Village Museum. This request is for Phase 2 of the project. The project is currently in design development under Phase 1 and is expected to break ground on May 6, 2026. The Phase 2 funds are essential to finishing the project. Private funds, funds from the City of Columbus, and funds from the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority are also contributing significantly to the project.

Poindexter Village opened in 1940 as the first public housing site in Columbus, Ohio and represents the "Great Migration" history of thousands of African Americans who traveled north from the open segregation in the South seeking employment opportunities in Northern cities. Housing developments funded by public dollars were created to accommodate population growth in northern urban areas, and today's African American families have memories of life in those developments. However, many of these structures have been demolished; only in Chicago has one been preserved to tell the history of public housing. We have not been able to identify a place where the history of the Great Migration is being told as a primary tale; Poindexter Village may be the first such museum and historic site preserved to tell these two stories in an early public housing setting. This museum will serve as a cultural hub for the neighborhood. Many partner entities are already involved and eager to partner on programming.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project is being constructed in phases. The current request is for Phase 2, completing the project.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are contractor estimates generated in the current design development phase.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

This is a new museum that will require new staff. In addition to staffing, there will be utility and maintenance costs, which will be somewhat offset by visitation and gift shop revenue.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The preservation of the two remaining Poindexter Village buildings will be a site that tells an untold story in Ohio and possibly the U.S. The site provides the unique opportunity to combine the history of the great migration and the history of public housing as experienced by African American Ohioans. The original site, which comprised 35 buildings and associated landscape, was home to numerous significant historic figures, such as artist and MacArthur Fellow Aminah Robinson. It was eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing before demolition of all but the remaining two buildings, which will be preserved as a museum and historic site by this project.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life safety measures will be taken to provide safety of visitors, per building code and current best practices in security.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23057 ON-LINE PORTL TO OHIO'S HERITG, Capital Project 006**

1. List the project name and priority.

History Connection IT Infrastructure Upgrades Priority 6

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Connection (OHC) is undertaking comprehensive technology updates to ensure our digital infrastructure remains robust, secure, and capable of supporting organizational growth. This project focuses on implementing critical infrastructure improvements at the Ohio History Center and statewide historic sites, including newly designated World Heritage sites. The upgrades are designed to add significant new functionality—such as enhanced network performance, advanced cybersecurity protections, and improved user engagement with OHC resources—while also postponing obsolescence by replacing outdated, unsupported, or unsecure hardware and software. Importantly, these upgrades go beyond routine maintenance; they represent substantial enhancements and re-platforming efforts that extend the useful life of our systems and enable new capabilities for staff and visitors.

Actions in this project include:

- Infrastructure improvements that enable OHC to replace outdated, unsecure, and/or unsupported hardware and software
- Implementation of critical cybersecurity improvements
- Application development, configuration and deployment for non-compliant systems

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, since many projects are included within this single request, if the funding level is reduced then lower-priority projects would not get completed with capital funds. Another method of funding would need to be identified.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on historical data from previous upgrade projects and on projections based on current needs.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Generally, these projects have minimal impact on operating costs. However, these projects improve operational efficiency and prevent increases in current costs.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23057 ON-LINE PORTL TO OHIO'S HERITG, Capital Project 006**

Advancing technology and evolving user expectations require OHC to continually improve its digital infrastructure, ensuring systems remain relevant, secure, and capable of supporting organizational growth. The planned updates will deliver technical improvements, security enhancements, and new features that are essential for meeting the needs of our users and supporting increased visitation at World Heritage sites. These enhancements represent substantial upgrades that add significant new functionality and extend the useful life of our systems.

By prioritizing the replacement of legacy systems and undertaking re-platforming efforts, OHC directly addresses the risk of obsolescence. Such actions postpone the need for more frequent replacements and ensure that our technology environment remains robust and adaptable to future demands. The addition of advanced cybersecurity measures and improvements to user experience will provide tangible, long-term benefits, including reduced vulnerability to cyber threats and greater operational efficiency.

Routine maintenance and minor upgrades, which do not add significant functionality or postpone obsolescence, will continue to be funded through operating budgets, in accordance with state policy. This approach ensures that capital funds are reserved for projects that meet the criteria for capital expenditures, as outlined in state guidelines. All activities associated with this project will comply with the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and OHC's technology policies, ensuring regulatory compliance and robust protection of our digital assets.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Several life and safety measures that depend on IT infrastructure will be improved, enhancing the safety of visitors and the security of collections.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230FT Statewide Site Security System, Capital Project 007**

1. List the project name and priority.

Statewide Site Security Upgrades Priority 7

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Connection maintains facilities at 58 locations around the state that include historic house museums, collections and archival storage, museums with exhibits and libraries, archaeological sites, and open-air historic villages. Museum visitors in the 21st century recognize that security is an essential part of life today and expect that organizations are making efforts to protect the safety of the public as well as the safety of staff and vendors. The historic sites within the statewide system have the added duty and responsibility of protecting the state's irreplaceable cultural assets including buildings, archaeological sites, and collection items.

To ensure the safety and security of Ohio History Connection's historic sites—especially in light of increased visitation following recent World Heritage designations—it is essential to update Knox boxes and alarm systems. Modernizing these systems will help protect irreplaceable collections, facilities, and visitors by enabling rapid emergency access and improving response times for first responders. Upgraded alarm systems will also enhance compliance with current safety codes and best practices, reduce risk of loss or damage, and support the organization's commitment to safeguarding Ohio's cultural heritage. These improvements align with state priorities for life safety, asset protection, and operational efficiency, as outlined in the FY 2027-2028 Capital and Reappropriations Guidance

Activities in this project include:

- Review current conditions and make upgrades to display case alarms, motion sensors, and monitoring panels for protection of collections.
- Replace reporting panels that are at the end of useful life and install new monitoring devices for fire and security systems.
- Improve communications infrastructure from monitoring devices to central security control station and first responders.
- Conduct site assessment studies and prepare recommendations to improve monitoring equipment, lighting, reporting, and detection.

Sites where alarm systems will be updated include: Serpent Mound (Adams County), Johnston Farm (Miami County), Armstrong Air & Space Museum (Auglaize County), the Great Circle (Licking County), Flint Ridge (Licking County), and the Harding Home (Marion County), U.S. Grant Boyhood Home & Schoolhouse (Clermont County), and the Museum of Ceramics (Columbiana County).

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the funds are designated for projects that occur during the biennium, so the phasing is by project.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Costs are estimated based on prior years' needs for security projects. Actual costs are dependent on contractor bids acquired per project at the time funding is requested for release.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230FT Statewide Site Security System, Capital Project 007**

Recently, utilities have increased phone line charges drastically. Many of the projects anticipated in this request will replace existing security panels with the type that can be fitted with cellular service to avoid a monthly phone line cost.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

Some of OHC's sites are in remote areas of the state with very light law enforcement coverage and long response times. Upgrading systems so that security systems can feed directly back into the 24-hour security office at the Ohio History Center is a goal of system upgrades.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

By its very nature, this project will significantly improve life safety at OHC sites.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB, Capital Project 008**

1. List the project name and priority.

Ohio History Center Rehabilitation Phase 2 Priority 8

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Center was completed in 1970 to house the state's central museum facility, archives/library and the administrative staff for the Ohio History Connection. On May 5, 2023, the Ohio History Center was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, yet the condition of the building, site, and interior require urgent attention to restore the historic integrity of the structure, meet modern requirements of life safety and communications, and provide updated amenities that visitors expect. Among the most ambitious aspects of this project is returning the main entrance of the building to its original location under the building's iconic cantilever so that visitors can experience the museum as originally intended. Restoration of the entrance to the plaza will significantly enhance the layout and experience of this world-renowned Brutalist building.

The original entry sequence for the Ohio History Center took visitors up around the mound in front of the building, across a cast concrete bridge and then under the large, cantilevered building before entering the glass-filled first floor. They were then greeted by an admissions desk, gift shop and exhibits before they could choose to descend the stairs into the history exhibits or head up to the light filled reading room and the archives. Since the original entry sequence did not consider visitors with disabilities, strollers, etc., the main entry was moved to the south end of the ground floor so that everyone would be able to come in the main door. Unfortunately, that has left the first floor mostly unused and makes wayfinding difficult for visitors as they enter at the corner of a triangular floor plate that looks like it should be a square from the outside. The proposed project would create a new courtyard with an elevator that would allow all visitors to once again enter through / around the mound and into the first floor reinstating the original entry sequence. This would also reactivate the first floor and greatly improve the visitor experience and fix the inherent wayfinding challenges visitors currently experience.

Standards for life safety and security have also evolved significantly in the past 50 years, requiring upgrading and expansion of these systems. Numerous mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems are past the end of their life expectancy, and building equipment needs replacement. Interior spaces require modernization to comply with the Americans with Disability Act and to prepare reconfigured galleries for new exhibits.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes. Phase 1 was funded in the FY25-26 capital request and is underway. Phase 1 includes museum planning and addressing a few of the most critical structural and safety needs. Phase 2 comprises the major building renovation, including all major building systems, reconfiguring interior and exterior spaces to restore the original entrance and significantly enhance visitor experience.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Costs estimates are based on a combination of third-party construction estimating and historical data.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Mechanical and Electrical upgrades will contribute to energy efficiency. Other major equipment upgrades will reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB, Capital Project 008**

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

A study completed in 2023 by Wiss Janney Elstner Consulting Engineers summarized deterioration in the concrete structure with recommendations to protect the safety of staff and visitors. In the summer of 2023, the concrete bridge leading to the Plaza Level was closed and netting was installed to catch falling pieces of concrete from the deteriorated precast planks. Other areas, however, are higher priority since they allow active water infiltration and potentially accelerate damage through freeze-thaw damage. A comprehensive exterior restoration program has begun in Phase 1 but significantly additional needs remain.

Numerous infrastructure improvements to the building's aging and outmoded mechanical, electrical, and emergency systems must be addressed to meet current fire and safety codes for public buildings. Many of the systems are at the end of their life cycle and are failing.

The Ohio History Center functions as the state's history museum. With this major renovation, the state's history will once again have a home worthy of its importance, drawing Ohioans and others from near and far. We expect this renovation to significantly increase attendance and draw visitors from afar to bring their tourism dollars to Columbus. It will also complement the improvements at the Expo, as the Ohio History Center is adjacent to the Expo and is part of the Ohio State Fair ticket.

Finally, in the current FY25-26 biennium a project comprehensive of the Ohio Village and Ohio History Center was funded, which is supporting Phase 1 of the Center renovations. For FY27-28, we are making separate requests for the Center and Village because we wish to prioritize them differently rather than together.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Mechanical upgrades will improve energy efficiency, new restrooms will comply with ADA standards as well as meet building code requirements, upgrades in the public address system and emergency backup power will improve life safety systems.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB, Capital Project 009**

1. List the project name and priority.

Ohio History Center & Ohio Expo Center Campus Signage Priority 9

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

This project will upgrade two existing exterior signs to increase awareness of Ohio History Center and Expo Center sites from adjoining freeway and 17th Ave., and improve vehicular wayfinding on the sites. Both signs will include information about both organizations and will receive new LED displays for messaging that can be updated for specific events and site information. This project is a joint effort between Ohio History Center and Ohio Expo Center. One sign is located on the east side of the Ohio History Center parking lot adjacent to 1-71. The second sign is located at the intersection of 17th Ave. and State Highway Patrol Drive.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

The project can be completed in one phase. We believe that pricing will be more competitive if all signs and LED displays are procured and installed at the same time so that a contractor only has to mobilize one time, instead of on two separate instances.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Pricing proposals from the sign manufacturer and cost estimates based on historical cost estimating by in-house architectural staff.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

We believe that the signage should be cost neutral from an operating cost perspective. There are already existing electrified signs at the proposed locations.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The new signage will help to increase awareness of Expo and OHC sites from surrounding areas. The signage is part of the effort to improve wayfinding and the appearance of the main access road to the renovated Expo site and to the Ohio History Center campus.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

The LED signs will be energy efficient.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230F1 OHS CAMPUS MARTIUS MUSEUM, Capital Project 010**

1. List the project name and priority.

Campus Martius Museum Renovation Priority 10

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Campus Martius Museum in Marietta tells the story of the Northwest Territory in the place where that history happened. In 1788, the Ohio Company, led by Brigadier General Rufus Putnam, established the first permanent European-American settlement in the Northwest Territory, creating Marietta. In 1928, the Campus Martius Museum was built around Putnam's house. The Ohio Company Land Office, where land deeds were allotted for the original Ohio Company Purchase and where Putnam made some of the earliest maps of the Northwest Territory, remains standing outside on the site. Also featured in addition to the original structures are exhibits on the settlement, people, and cultures of the Northwest Territory.

The main building at Campus Martius was last renovated over two decades ago. Several items have reached end of life and need to be replaced, including the roof over the Putnam House and HVAC system components (air handler, boilers) in the main museum. A full renovation of the room where the Putnam House is located is a priority, including the removal of lead paint and installation of a proper dehumidification system to protect this immense wooden artifact. Foundation work to help prevent water intrusion in the basement is also needed to help protect collections and exhibits in the lower level. A historic structure report (HSR) for the museum will be completed. Outdated exhibits in the main part of the museum will be replaced.

Campus Martius Museum shares Ohio's nationally significant Northwest Territory past. The museum draws visitors from around the state, the nation, and the world and, with renovation, will increase its draw with fresh exhibits. The project is critical to protect the Putnam House, an irreplaceable artifact that is significant to the entire nation.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

The items listed in this project description above are known issues and need to be addressed together in a single phase. A future Phase 2 will address additional capital needs that are identified in the historic structure report (HSR).

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on historical cost estimating by in-house architectural, maintenance, engineering and historic site management staff.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

This project is expected to reduce operating costs because ongoing roof repairs and water infiltration cleanup are costly maintenance/operating items.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

Campus Martius looks forward to the 300th anniversary of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. As we approach that date in the next decade, we expect interest in the site—and especially in the Land Office and the Putnam House—to grow significantly. Also, David McCullough's recent book *Pioneers* has already raised interest in Campus Martius as the most tangible historic site of the founding of the Northwest Territory.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230F1 OHS CAMPUS MARTIUS MUSEUM, Capital Project 010**

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

This project will improve life safety by removing hazards (lead paint, moisture that can be a source for mold) from the building. It will also improve energy efficiency with lighting and HVAC upgrades.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230C8 SERPENT MOUND, Capital Project 011**

1. List the project name and priority.

Serpent Mound Site Improvements Priority 11

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Serpent Mound is the largest and finest effigy mound in North America, and the largest serpent effigy in the world. The visitor registration for this state memorial reflects its status as a world-renowned archaeological site. Located near Locust Grove in Adams County, this site is designated as a National Historic Landmark and is on the World Heritage Tentative List. The mound is within an area known as the Serpent Mound meteorite impact crater, which is an unusual geological feature in Ohio.

This project includes the renovation of the Civilian Conservation Corps era caretaker's house to provide suitable staff housing and a security office on site. It also includes completing critical restroom upgrades and septic system replacement that are essential to providing functional restroom facilities for visitors and staff.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project is already structured as several sub-projects that would be completed in phases based on priorities such as life safety and health, compliance with building code and laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, preservation of the historic resource, and visitor and staff amenities.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on detailed breakdown of the work, prior experience, and contractor estimates.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Generally, these projects have minimal impact on operating costs, except in some instances building improvements to reduce energy and water usage. More importantly, these projects address critical health, security, and code compliance issues.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The work is needed to sustain operational and staff facilities that are critical to the functioning of this world-renowned site. Archaeological investigations are a necessity prior to performing the work proposed. The renovation and repair work is required to maintain the waterproof and structural integrity of the caretaker's residence and will provide a space for additional security for the site. Serpent Mound attracts visitors from near and far, and many people attempt to access the site after hours and for unapproved uses. Improving facilities to increase staff presence—especially security staff—on site, will help protect this world-famous site. This work is also necessary to protect the State's previous investments.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Life and safety will be enhanced by providing an upgraded septic system that complies with current requirements, and renovation of the CCC era house will facilitate increased staff/security presence at this remote site.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230D2 GRANT BOYHOOD HOME, Capital Project 012**

1. List the project name and priority.

Grant Boyhood Home and Tannery Improvements Priority 12

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Ulysses S. Grant spent his formative years in Georgetown, Ohio, in a modest two-story brick home across from his father's tannery business. Here, the Grant family's values of hard work, determination, education, and perseverance were formed. These qualities allowed Ulysses S. Grant to become the general that turned the tide of the Civil War and then become the 18th president of the United States.

This project seeks to complete work that was outside the scope of the Appalachian Community Grant Projects (ACGP) funding for the Grant Boyhood Home & Tannery. The ACGP work has improved the home and completed the structural and exterior rehabilitation of the Tannery building. The funds requested herein will facilitate the interior renovation of the Tannery into an interpretive center with publicly accessible ADA restrooms, which are not available in the home across the street. The Tannery will tell a fuller story of Grant's life and, in particular, his affinity for and skill with horses that led to his successful use of the cavalry in the Civil War. The addition of this story and the availability of accessible restrooms will significantly improve visitor experience.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes. If needed, the exhibits could be phased separately from the interior buildout.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimating is a combination of contractor estimates and historical experience with similar projects.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Staffing the Tannery in addition to the Boyhood Home will add some operating costs, which are expected to be somewhat offset by increased visitation.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

Interest in Ulysses S. Grant has increased greatly in the past few years with the publication of Ron Chernow's bestselling biography of the 18th president. In conjunction with the ACGP work at the Boyhood Home and Tannery, and with the construction of the new ACGP-funded Grant Visitor Center on the town square in Georgetown, the improvements presented herein will round out an entirely upgraded visitor experience for those seeking to better understand the roots of this remarkable Ohioan who changed American history.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Restrooms in the Tannery will be ADA accessible.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23032 OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER REHAB, Capital Project 013**

1. List the project name and priority.

Visitor Experience & Exhibit Planning Priority 13

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

In tandem with the Ohio History Center Rehabilitation Project, which focuses primarily on building and system renovation, the Visitor Experience and Exhibit Planning project will focus on creating the new experiences and exhibits that will inhabit the renovated space. Led by in-house Ohio History Connection experts with support from consultants, this work will include creating a comprehensive interpretive plan for the museum and, by extension, the state. This interpretive plan will guide planning for specific experiences and exhibits that interpret Ohio's most important history to guests.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes. This initial planning phase will lead to future phases implementing the plan.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on prior experience and historic cost estimates.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

No additional operating costs are anticipated within this phase of the project. After implementation, exhibit maintenance costs may increase slightly but the new exhibits and experiences are expected to increase visitation and revenue, offsetting those costs.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The Ohio History Center functions as the state's history museum. At present, our visitor surveys reveal that visitors' main complaint about the museum is its outdated exhibits. With this major renovation and the improvement of exhibits and experiences, the state's history will once again have a home worthy of its importance, drawing Ohioans and others from near and far to experience this great state's most important history. We expect this renovation to significantly increase attendance and draw visitors from afar to bring their tourism dollars to Columbus. Ensuring that the visitor experience is robust and appropriate for the newly renovated space is essential and will increase the museum's draw and appeal to families.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Exhibits will be planned to increase accessibility through Universal Design principles.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23034 NAT'L AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM, Capital Project 014**

1. List the project name and priority.

National African American Museum Improvements Priority 14

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

This project consists of completing necessary exterior improvements and mechanical system upgrades, as well as improvements to the building interior.

The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center is located adjacent to the Central State University campus in Wilberforce, Ohio. It is sited on the original Wilberforce University campus, the first black college in the United States that was created by black Americans. The museum, a 35,000 SF structure housing exhibit and public spaces, was opened in 1988. The museum maintains a nationally significant collection of artifacts, art, manuscripts and library materials. Through study and exhibition, these collections reflect the diverse traditions, values, social customs and experiences of African Americans. It serves all Americans by promoting better understanding of and respect for African American heritage.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, this is the second phase of a project begun with the FY25-26 capital budget. Additional building envelope and building system work are needed.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on prior experience and contractor estimates.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Replacing inefficient mechanical equipment will reduce energy consumption and save operating funds. Modernizing the exterior to resolve long-standing water and air infiltration will reduce maintenance and custodial costs.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

In August, 2022, the Governor's Task Force on the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center produced a report and recommendations to Governor DeWine in five areas including the facility's relationship with the Ohio History Connection. Specific recommendations included building improvements to provide sufficient office space, collections storage, and comprehensive facility upgrades.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Building envelope and HVAC upgrades will significantly enhance energy efficiency.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C23027 ZOAR VILLAGE BLDNG RESTORATION, Capital Project 015**

1. List the project name and priority.

Zoar Village Building Improvements Priority 15

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

German religious separatists founded Zoar Village, located in Tuscarawas County, in 1817. They owned the property communally until they disbanded in 1898. A National Historic Landmark District, the village of Zoar today is a combination of public and private buildings. Among the publicly owned buildings are the Sewing House and the Zoar Hotel. This project includes significant structural improvements, including bracing and shoring, for both buildings. It also includes structural engineering services and planning/design for the future of the Zoar Hotel's anticipated full rehabilitation through the next two (FY29-30, FY31-32) biennial capital budgets in advance of its 200th anniversary in 2033.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the overall project is already phased. The Sewing House and Zoar Hotel projects could be phased separately if needed.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on prior experience and in-house estimating by architectural staff.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

No operating costs implications are expected for this phase.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The Zoar Hotel was famous in its time and is an iconic Ohio building. Its 40+ rooms housed everyone from paupers to presidents—President McKinley is reported to have stayed there on multiple occasions. As the Village's centerpiece, its restoration will reinvigorate Zoar as a whole and bring visitors from across the state and beyond. This phase, which includes structural engineering and design/planning for the hotel project, is timely so the hotel can be fully renovated prior to its 200th anniversary in 2033.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Renovations to both the Sewing House and the Zoar Hotel will improve life safety for visitors by keeping the structures from becoming safety hazards.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230EU ADENA MANSION AND GARDENS, Capital Project 016**

1. List the project name and priority.

Adena Mansions & Gardens Site Renovation Priority 16

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The home of Ohio's sixth governor, Thomas Worthington, Adena Mansion & Gardens is a National Historic Landmark in Ross County that features the beautifully restored 1807 mansion, designed by America's first professional architect, Benjamin Latrobe. This Ohio icon also includes a museum and education center, heirloom gardens and original outbuildings. These outbuildings and gardens are essential to the operation and visitor experience of this 294-acre property.

The project consists of major site-wide renovation of Adena Mansion & Gardens, with building renovations and site work across the property. The mansion renovation and visitor center construction were completed for Ohio's bicentennial in 2003. Thanks to regular maintenance, both remain in very good condition, with the exception of HVAC systems that have reached end of life and need to be replaced.

This site-wide renovation focuses, therefore, on the ancillary structures at Adena that will make the whole site function in a new and vibrant way. The proposed project includes the aforementioned HVAC needs in the museum, renovating the barn into an event space, renovating the caretaker's house as on-site staff housing and a security headquarters, renovating the greenhouses so that heirloom plants can once again be raised on-site, renovating outdated exhibits in the museum/education center, stabilizing the pond/spillway, creating a site master plan for capital projects at the site, and completing HVAC work including replacing the museum boiler, installing a building automation system for energy efficiency, and replacing end-of-life HVAC systems in support buildings.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

This project could be completed in phases with the master planning work, caretaker's house renovation, greenhouse renovation, urgent HVAC work, and pond/spillway work, and master planning happening in a phased manner. Barn renovation and other site-wide capital needs yet to be identified in the master plan would occur in a future Phase 2.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on historical cost estimating by in-house architectural, maintenance, engineering and historic site management staff.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

This project will significantly raise Adena Mansion & Gardens' profile as a historic site and as a cultural event destination. Earned revenue potential through special event programming will help make the site more self-sustaining.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230EU ADENA MANSION AND GARDENS, Capital Project 016**

In late 2025, Ohio History Connection regained daily management of Adena Mansion & Gardens from a contracted managing partner. Since that time, facilities management and operations staff have been reassessing the site's condition, assets, and operating plan. This iconic National Historic Landmark has substantial additional potential for increased visitation and special events, and as a more significant tourism draw for Ross County. Similar prominent historic homes like the Rutherford B. Hayes home in Fremont, Ohio, offer cultural events and programs outside of regular visitation. Concerts, nationally-recognized speakers, and other programs use the substantial and beautiful outdoor spaces available at these locations to draw visitors, earn revenue, and introduce these iconic places to broader audiences. With the site-wide renovation and master planning proposed herein, Adena Mansion & Gardens can similarly become both a historic and a contemporary cultural attraction. The renovated greenhouse will support the restoration of the gardens, which have potential to be a tremendous draw to the site as they have been in the past.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Upgrades to mechanical systems will increase energy efficiency and the master plan will include a focus on enhancing accessibility of outdoor spaces.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230ED HISTORICAL CENTER/OHIO VILLAGE, Capital Project 017**

1. List the project name and priority.

Ohio Village Redevelopment Phase 2 Priority 17

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Ohio Village, located adjacent to the Ohio History Center in Columbus on an 8.5 acre parcel, opened in 1974 as a living history museum to recreate the appearance of a typical Ohio county-seat town during the pre-Civil War period. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as a living history site. Ohio Village has most recently portrayed life during the 1890s in eighteen major exhibit buildings through costumed interpreters and hands-on public programming, school group field trips, special event rentals, and popular seasonal events such as Dickens of a Christmas and All Hallows' Eve.

The project is implementing the recommendations of the 2022 master plan to transform Ohio Village from a living history museum to a destination for education, leisure activities, play, and entertainment in an attractive setting. Phase 1 work already underway includes creating multiple activity and event venues, modernizing utility infrastructure, expanding visitor amenities, and implementing accessibility improvements. Phase 2, for which funding is requested here, will finish out the most essential components of the master plan including a family-friendly outdoor play area.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

This request as presented is the second phase of the project. Future phases may occur to complete the full build-out of the master plan.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on third-party construction estimating by the Phase 1 contracted A&E firm and the construction manager at risk.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Part of the redevelopment includes third-person interpretation, which eliminates the need for first-person interpreters, which will reduce operating expenses. Development of the site into an audience-centered learning and entertainment venue will increase maintenance costs but also increase revenue through increased visitation.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230ED HISTORICAL CENTER/OHIO VILLAGE, Capital Project 017**

In 2022, the Ohio History Connection commissioned a master plan to optimize the potential of Ohio Village by transforming it to a public engagement destination with the goals of increased visitation and revenue. The master plan concluded that the Village is underutilized as a public venue with broad appeal. Specific recommendations include:

- Change focus from living history to outdoor/indoor history attraction
- Broaden interpretive time period to allow flexibility in programming and more recent stories
- Increase investment in physical improvements to create attractive, safe, accessible environment
- Add fun and entertaining attractions that appeal to families

Investment in this important asset is necessary to appeal to wider audiences, offer increased programming and events, and provide a safe, accessible environment for engaging all visitors. As a contributing component of the Ohio History Center campus and the surrounding Ohio Expositions Center, Ohio Village is a resource that must be improved to ensure successful redevelopment of these signature state properties.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

Site development will incorporate several life safety and accessibility features, including accessible pathways and security cameras.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230X1 OHS-SITE ENG. CONSERVATION, Capital Project 018**

1. List the project name and priority.

Site Energy Conservation Projects Priority 18

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

The Ohio History Connection administers facilities at more than fifty locations around the state. The following are priority projects to reduce energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels at some Ohio History Connection museum facilities. This project will extend over several biennia, servicing energy- conservation and environmentally responsible design and construction at our facilities. For this biennium, the priority is on lighting and HVAC control upgrades that will increase energy efficiency.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project can be phased as each component of this request will be undertaken separately.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Estimates are based on previous experience and estimates from contractors.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Some cost savings should be seen due to increased energy efficiency.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

This project focuses on replacing outdated lighting technology with modern technology (like LEDs) that will increase energy efficiency and reduce energy costs over many years. Most of our museum and historic site facilities predate 1980 and have not yet been converted to modern lighting technology. We are also including HVAC controls and building automation systems in this request as they significantly improve energy efficiency.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

This project will increase energy efficiency.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230D3 JOHNSTON FARM AND INDIAN AGENC, Capital Project 019**

1. List the project name and priority.

Johnston Farm Interpretive Plan & Exhibit Planning Priority 19

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Johnston Farm, located near Piqua, has a long and complex history. From an ancient American Indian mound through the 19th-century canal era, this site includes the family home of Colonel John and Rachel Johnston, Indian agent. In addition to a working canal boat, the site includes a springhouse, a cider house, and Ohio's oldest barn, constructed in part from logs from Fort Piqua. The museum traces the story of the Eastern Woodlands Indians who made Ohio their home before the Indian Removal Act of 1830 up through the site's Johnston history and to the canal era and beyond.

This project involves creating a new interpretive plan and exhibit planning for the replacement of the museum exhibits. Completing this planning in the current cycle is essential to being prepared for future full exhibit replacement.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

It is already phased as presented. This is the planning phase with implementation to follow in the FY29-30 capital request.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on prior experience of costs for major exhibit planning.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

There is no anticipated increase in operating costs. The new exhibits will likely attract additional visitors, increasing revenue after the implementation phase is complete.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

This complex site currently does not have a full interpretive plan, which means that important aspects of the site's history are often overlooked. Having a robust interpretive plan prior to planning the new exhibits will help ensure that we are telling the full, rich history of this important place.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

The exhibit design will follow Universal Design principles to increase accessibility.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230EP FORT MEIGS, Capital Project 020**

1. List the project name and priority.

Fort Meigs Site Improvements Priority 20

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

Fort Meigs, located near Perrysburg in Wood County, is the only War of 1812 Ohio battlefield open to the public for tours. It played a central role in the young nation's history when, in the spring and summer of 1813, its defense against two sieges marked a turning point for the American army against the British. The fort, with its original defensive earthworks and reconstructed block houses and palisades, allows visitors to explore this time of uncertainty and conflict.

This project will focus on restoring portions of the fort where the effects of water and weather have taken their toll beyond the scope of regular maintenance, including reconstructing wall sections and blockhouses for safety. This work requires archaeological monitoring and excavation to protect the site's many underground cultural resources. In conjunction with this restoration, a sitewide interpretive plan will be developed to guide the renovation of exhibits across the site and in the museum.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the restoration and the interpretive updates could be phased separately, though this would likely leave a gap in interpretive content in some areas until the interpretive plan and ensuing exhibit replacements are complete.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

Cost estimates are based on prior experience by in-house architecture, design, archaeology, and interpretive staff.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

The project has no anticipated cost implications, though failing to complete the project will inhibit visitation as structures become unstable and dangerous for visitor use.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

Fort Meigs was OHC's 6th most-visited site in FY24 and had the 5th highest number of school children visit. Keeping this site safe and accessible for all is essential.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

This project will address life safety issues where regular maintenance can no longer stave off the decomposition of wood logs in the fort's construction.

**New Capital Justification for Ohio History Connection
ALI C230W8 OHS-CEDAR BOG IMPROVEMENTS, Capital Project 021**

1. List the project name and priority.

Cedar Bog Renovation & Improvement Priority 21

2. Description: What is the purpose, dimension, components, capacity, and location of the project?

One of the greatest examples of biodiversity in all of Ohio, Cedar Bog Nature Preserve near Urbana is a unique oasis of an Ice Age remnant wetland environment which was formed over 10,000 years ago. The boardwalk provides an accessible way for all guests to experience the highest concentration of rare species in the entire state, illustrating why it was Ohio's first designated state nature preserve and is now a National Natural Landmark. Cedar Bog's rare, threatened, and endangered species require a higher level of surveillance and security than most natural history sites in order to protect this gem.

This project will renovate the house that sits near the Education Center and parking lot to put so that it contains a caretaker's quarters and staff offices, including a security office. Creating space for this additional on-site staff presence will help better protect this unique site. This project will also include necessary equipment replacement of the geothermal HVAC system for the Education Center.

3. Project Phasing: Can the project be completed and funded in phases?

Yes, the project could be phased with the geothermal system upgrades first and the house renovation second.

4. Cost Estimate Methodology: What method is being used to estimate project costs?

A combination of contractor estimates and historical cost estimating of similar projects.

5. Operating Cost Impact: What are the anticipated operating costs or savings associated with this project?

Putting the house back in service in support of the site's after hours security will incur additional staff costs. The geothermal system upgrades are likely to slightly reduce energy costs.

6. Additional Information: Is there anything else that is useful to know about this project?

The rarity of plant and animal species at Cedar Bog has occasionally attracted illegal harvesting at the site. Increasing security is essential for protecting this Ohio gem.

7. Special Project Information (Energy Efficiency, Life and Safety, Legally Mandated, ADA Funding, and/or Prior Funding):

This project will increase energy efficiency and life safety.