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For immediate release

POC: Veronica Vanden Bout, OHC Communications Coordinator, (440)774-1700 or members@oberlinheritage.com

The Ohio History Service Corps (OHSC), an AmeriCorps program, is devoted to assisting local historical organizations in their efforts to preserve Ohio’s heritage and share its story. Since 2010, the OHSC has engaged more than 6,359 volunteers who contributed upwards of 56,912 hours for their communities, and leveraged $291,317 in cash to support their projects and $1.5 million of in-kind donations. Its members serve in various capacities helping organizations with their organizational structure and strategic planning, as well as professionalism with records management, collections care, preserving historic structures, community engagement, public program development, and historic interpretation. Additionally, they assist organizations with outreach projects, some of which have included inventorying, digitization, grant fundraising for special projects, and organizing community events.

Locally, Katrina Walker, who is hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, is currently serving on projects with six organizations. These projects include educational programming, assisting organizations improve their community engagement through communication and marketing, and providing feedback on collections policies. This year she looks forward to working with the Cleveland Grays Armory Museum to develop an educational and a public program exploring stories of African American from Oberlin who found further educational and career opportunities overseas.

As a strong believer in the value of working to give back to one’s community, AmeriCorps was a natural fit for Katrina. She was delighted to find the Ohio History Service Corps, one of only two history related capacity building programs in the country. As an Ohio native who had lived away for a few years, it is a wonderful way to reconnect with local history and to be able to give something back to the communities and organizations that shaped her love of history in the first place! So far this year Katrina has been particularly struck by the commitment of communities to preserve and share their histories. She hopes to be able to provide service that
engages organizations in the region in innovative and sustainable projects to improve their ability to serve their audiences. After AmeriCorps Katrina plans to continue in the museum field by completing graduate studies and eventually work in an administrative capacity, utilizing everything she learns in her year as an AmeriCorps member.

If you would like to learn more about the program please contact the OHSC Program Director, Sara Fisher at sfisher@ohiohistory.org or 614-297-2609, and visit www.ohiohistory.org/americorps.