



JOIN US IN REVITALIZING WHEELING A BETTER FUTURE



2024-25

www.wheelingheritage.org

"WHO IS WHEELING HERITAGE?"

As the birthplace of West Virginia and an early industrial hub along the Ohio River, Wheeling holds a unique place in American history. Congress designated Wheeling as one of just 62 National Heritage Areas, which allows us to tell these rich cultural stories while preserving its natural and historic resources.

In 2016, Reinvent Wheeling, the city's Main Street program, merged with Wheeling Heritage. As a Main Street West Virginia Community, Wheeling Heritage expanded its role in business development, city planning, and public art. Since 1994, we have leveraged funding and expertise to help shape Wheeling's redevelopment.



30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating three decades of impact and growth, this marks a year of reflection.

- **Friend of Heritage Breakfast:** Honored Jeanne Finstein for her contributions to historic preservation.
- **Power of Partnership Panel:** Engaged with key community stakeholders to drive new collaborative efforts in developing Wheeling.
- **Show of Hands 10-Year Anniversary:** Reached a grand total of **\$143,864** in funding support for local businesses, growth and retention.
- **Wheeling Island Memorial Flood Wall:** Continued preservation efforts, including the restoration of the flood marks, to honor this historic landmark.
- **Wheeling Artisan Center Renovation:** Made significant progress on vital renovations to enhance this community space, welcoming several new tenants and hosting successful art exhibitions that showcase local talent.
- **Arthur I. Boreman Memorial:** Contributed to the preservation of Arthur I. Boreman's legacy with the dedication of a statue at WV Independence Hall honoring West Virginia's first governor.
- **Walter Reuther Memorial:** Installed a new placard honoring the labor leader at Wheeling Heritage Port with UAW support.
- **Wheeling Gateway Visitors & Heritage Center:** Collaborated with partners to shape the future of Wheeling's historic districts, including the Tipping Point initiative, funded by the Wheeling Heritage Foundation, which focuses on driving the city's growth.

This year has been filled with accomplishments that honor Wheeling's past while driving forward its future.

Support Our Mission

WHEELING HERITAGE

OUR MISSION is to be a catalyst for the revitalization of Wheeling.

- Recognizing, communicating, and preserving Wheeling's heritage
- Collaborating through public/private partnerships
- Focusing investments in downtown and the riverfront
- Engaging citizens in projects, programs, and activities

Historic Preservation:

Preserving historic properties through the National Park Service's Paul Bruhn Grant, the **Wheeling Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program** fuels projects like **The SMART Centre** and **Waterfront Hall**. In addition, Wheeling Heritage supports local revitalization efforts such as the restoration of **Mt. Wood Cemetery**, neighborhood surveys in **North and South Wheeling**, and the creation of new historic districts, including **Dimmeydale**.

Small Business Development:

Supporting entrepreneurs through programs like **Show of Hands** and **CO.STARTERS**, while hosting bi-annual events like **Handmade Holiday** and promoting **Small Business Week** to help local businesses grow and connect with the community.

Arts & Culture:

Nurturing community pride through public art installations, artist workshops, and exhibitions at the **Artisan Center Gallery**, including events like **Hip Hop: A Black Tie Affair** and **Juneteenth** celebrations, which provide artists with platforms for growth, cultural expression, and retail opportunities.

Grants & Investment:

Investing in historic renovations and public spaces like the **Capitol Theatre**, while facilitating partnerships that drive community growth, including the **West Liberty University's 48-Hour Film Festival**, **Ohio County Schools' History of Wheeling**, the **SMART Center**, **Warwood Farmers Market**, and other local initiatives and events.



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year, one word comes to mind – “Resilience.”

To each season of life, we are called to give our best, honoring the hard work of those who built our foundation, while embracing the present and planning for the future.

Wheeling is making a comeback! While some may argue that it's not happening fast enough, I believe that a well-thought-out, steady pace has set us on the right path. In this brochure, you'll read about the many projects and initiatives Wheeling Heritage has championed. As Executive Director, I am proud of our boards, staff, and volunteers who have taken action and not let up. I am also grateful to you, our partners, for helping us celebrate 30 years—attending our events, supporting local small businesses, and making our recent annual appeal the largest to date. Your contribution makes all of this possible.

Together, we build on the past, work with dedication today, and serve as a catalyst for the future. You have shown resilience, and with your continued support, I'm confident we can achieve great things.



With heartfelt gratitude,
~Scott

Wheeling Heritage Foundation Board Members:

Jay Frey - Chair
Walker Holloway - Vice Chair
Jeanne Finstein - Treasurer
Jessica Barclay
Natalie Hamilton

Pete Holloway
Kim McCluskey
Frank O'Brien
Craig O'Leary
Scott Schenerlein

**SUPPORT
OUR
MISSION**



1400 Main Street
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-3087

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2025 Initiatives

Support Our Journey

- **Annual Appeal:** Support our ongoing revitalization efforts in Wheeling by contributing to our Annual Appeal.
- **Artisan Center Renovation:** Contribute to transforming our Artisan Center into a community hub for arts and culture, featuring workshop space and a new third-floor conference and event space.
- **Historical & Neighborhood Interpretive Signage:** Help preserve local history and contribute to revitalizing Wheeling's story by sponsoring the restoration of Historical & Neighborhood Interpretive signs throughout the area.
- **Marsh Wheeling Stogies Sign:** Support the revitalization of the Marsh Wheeling Stogies Sign as a welcoming entrance to our city.
- **Show of Hands:** Help us empower entrepreneurs for over ten years by becoming a Friends of Show of Hands Sponsor.
- **Wheeling Gateway Visitors & Heritage Project:** Shape the city's future through development support for the Wheeling Gateway Project.

