

BE A PART OF WHEELING'S STORY

We don't do this work alone. We do it with partners, community members, and supporters like you.

WHEELING, WV

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



OUR IMPACT

★ **\$221.6 MILLION**
ECONOMIC IMPACT

★ **\$18.9 MILLION**
TAX REVENUE

★ **2,199 JOBS SUPPORTED**

★ **2,668 VOLUNTEER HOURS**

SUPPORT OUR MISSION AND MAKE AN **IMPACT** THAT LASTS.



CONTACT US

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Wheeling
HERITAGE

**PRESERVING THE PAST.
INSPIRING THE FUTURE.**

wheelingheritage.org

*These numbers were recorded in FY24-25 (via Trip Umbach)

WHY WHEELING?

As the **birthplace of West Virginia** and an early industrial hub along the Ohio River, Wheeling holds a special place in American history. Wheeling Heritage helps preserve those themes and stories.



WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

A nationally significant area, designated by Congress, where **natural, cultural, and historic** resources combine to tell a unique American story. Similar to a National Park, but instead of mountains and trees, we have buildings and people. We focus on *“lived-in landscapes”* and are responsible for telling the story of our rich cultural past and using that as a foundation for **preservation, economic growth, and community revitalization.**

Wheeling Heritage is a proud member of the **Alliance of National Heritage Areas**, a system of support and advocacy for NHA’s across the country.



✦ Indigenous

Indigenous heritage is foundational, reflecting the years of **Native presence** along the Ohio River. It has shaped the region’s cultural landscape, trade routes, and sense of place.

✦ Frontier

As a **gateway** to the West, early settlements grew along the river, becoming a launching point for American expansion.

✦ Transportation

Wheeling was the western terminus of the **National Road** in the early 1800’s and a crossroads of river, road, and rail travel that helped open the nation to expansion.

✦ Civil War & Statehood

Wheeling played a pivotal role in the creation of West Virginia during the Civil War and even served as the state’s **first capital** from 1863-1870, and again from 1875-1885.

✦ Commerce & Industry

A vital port on the Ohio River, Wheeling became a powerhouse of **manufacturing**. Most notably by producing products like iron, steel, glass, nails, and tobacco.



A CATALYST FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF WHEELING.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



We protect and celebrate Wheeling’s historic resources by supporting preservation, adaptive reuse, and the development of historic districts and public spaces.

ARTS & CULTURE



Art helps interpret our past and imagine our future. By providing support for local artists and cultural celebrations, we connect creativity with community identity.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



As a “WV Main Street Community,” we support entrepreneurs through programs like Show of Hands and CO.STARTERS, helping small businesses grow and thrive.

GRANTS & INVESTMENTS



We award Partnership Grants providing financial support for community-led initiatives, and advance program-related investments in historic buildings.

