

Marion Voices
Folklife + Oral History
presents

Marion Voices CHAMP

Marion Voices' Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project

CHAMP Year Recap: 2024

Presented by: Jess
Lamar Reece Holler
Executive Director,
Marion Voices; &
Jeff Nagle, Marion
Voices Contractor &
CHAMP Map Specialist



MARION VOICES
FOLKLIFE + ORAL HISTORY



AMPLIFYING MARION COUNTY'S
UNDERHEARD HERITAGES ...
FOR MORE JUST FUTURES <3

2024 RECAP!

Marion County CHAMP:

Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History presents ...

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



CHAMP Return Tour: Lessons & Recommendations from the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project!

Wednesday, Dec. 11th || 6-8PM
Harding Centre (Harding Hotel)
Garden Room (1st Floor)
Free & Open to the Community!

Join us to learn more about Marion Voices' Summer 2024 Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP), which held seven sessions across Marion County regions & identity groups to collaboratively document Marion County's cultural heritage resources, & opportunities for connection & investment. Get to know your community, & hear our recommendations for the biggest opportunities to support our county's cultural ecology ... & futures!

For more: marionvoices.org

CHAMP Return Tour Event #2 (Zoom): Sun., Dec. 15th || 3-5PM



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Online: Marion Voices' Zoom Room
tinyurl.com/MVCHAMPReturnTour
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Marion Voices' Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP) made possible in part by:



Ohio Arts Council

OHIO HUMANITIES

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"This program is made possible, in part, by Ohio Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, & the America 250 Ohio Commission. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of Ohio Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, or the America 250 Ohio Commission."

CHAMP Return Tour Event #1 (In-Person): Weds., Dec. 11th || 6-8PM Harding Centre Garden Room

SLIDE DECK **Overview**

Marion Voices : Introduction + About Us

Review: *Marion Voices* CHAMP 🏆🏆🏆

The Marion County **Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)**:
Summer 2024 Sessions + Summaries

Marion Co. CHAMP: Big Themes

What's Next: *Going Regional!*

Audience Q +A & Discussion

CHAMP 'Zine Launch Party 🎉🎉🎉



2024 RECAP!

Marion County CHAMP:

Super-Quick Introductions to Your Presenters!



Jess Lamar Reece Holler (*Co-Founder & Director, Marion Voices*) is a community cultural organizer, public historian, & arts administrator in North-Central Ohio. Jess is Co-Founder & Executive Director at *Marion Voices* Folklife + Oral History – Marion County’s countywide folklife + cultural arts organization – and oversees *Marion Voices*’ many community-collaborative projects: from our K-12 school residencies to our annual Marion Black Joy Summerfest to our 2024 CHAMP Project!

Jeff Nagle (*Contract Historian, Designer, & Media Specialist, Marion Voices*) is a historian of environment, architecture, technology, & labor trained at the University of Pennsylvania. By day, Jeff is a project historian at an engineering firm: developing historic contexts, impact assessments, & Section 106 reviews for a variety of preservation & mitigation projects across the Midwest. Jeff was *Marion Voices*’ Historian-in-Residence from 2022-2023, & has worked on many past *Marion Voices* exhibits & community projects, including our Black History Walking Tour. Jeff served as Map Designer, researcher, & session scribe for CHAMP.



What **is** *Marion Voices???*

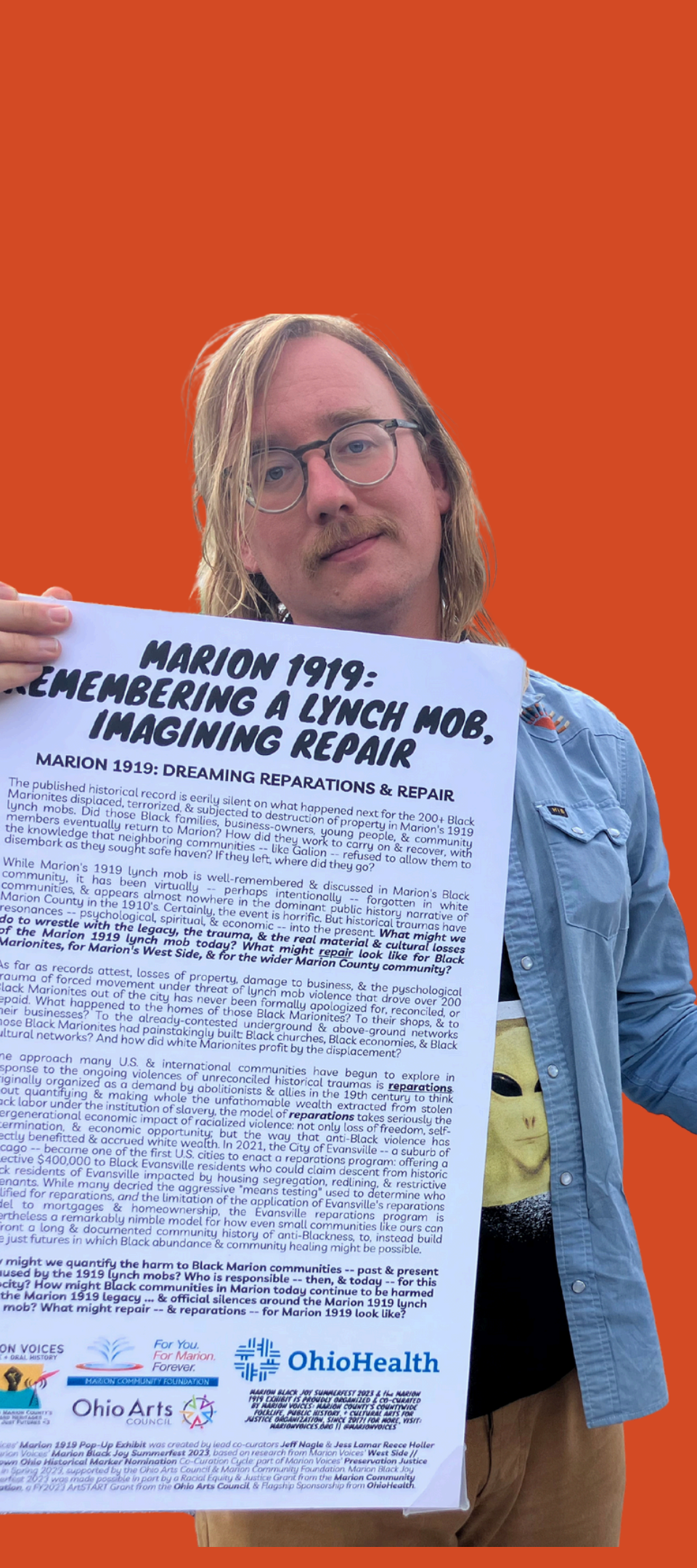


Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History is Marion County's county-wide 501(c)(3) non-profit serving **Marion County** through **amplifying our diverse arts, cultures, heritages, & traditions!** Founded in 2017 by Jess Lamar Reece Holler & Johnnie Jackson.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Amplifying Marion County's diverse cultural heritages for more just, more abundant futures for all!

In a nutshell: arts-based economic development; & building cultural coalitions across lines of ethnic, racial, geographic difference through **folklife, history, & cultural arts!**



What is Marion Voices???

What We Do: Exhibits, festivals, walking tours, books, historical nominations, historic markers, folk arts apprenticeships

How We Do It: matters even more than the what! ➡

- THREE CORE PRAXES:**
- Community Co-Curation
 - Equity Budgeting
 - Emergent Design

Why: Help people appreciate our own traditions, and learn from different cultures, traditions, & histories ... through *folk arts*! And grow more liveable economies for Marion County through folklife & cultural arts!

MARION 1919: REMEMBERING A LYNCH MOB, IMAGINING REPAIR

MARION 1919: DREAMING REPARATIONS & REPAIR

The published historical record is eerily silent on what happened next for the 200+ Black Marionites displaced, terrorized, & subjected to destruction of property in Marion's 1919 lynch mobs. Did those Black families, business-owners, young people, & community members eventually return to Marion? How did they work to carry on & recover, with the knowledge that neighboring communities -- like Galion -- refused to allow them to disembark as they sought safe haven? If they left, where did they go?

While Marion's 1919 lynch mob is well-remembered & discussed in Marion's Black communities, it has been virtually -- perhaps intentionally -- forgotten in white Marion County in the 1910's. Certainly, the event is horrific. But historical traumas have resonances -- psychological, spiritual, & economic -- into the present. *What might we do to wrestle with the legacy, the trauma, & the real material & cultural losses of the Marion 1919 lynch mob today? What might repair look like for Black Marionites, for Marion's West Side, & for the wider Marion County community?*

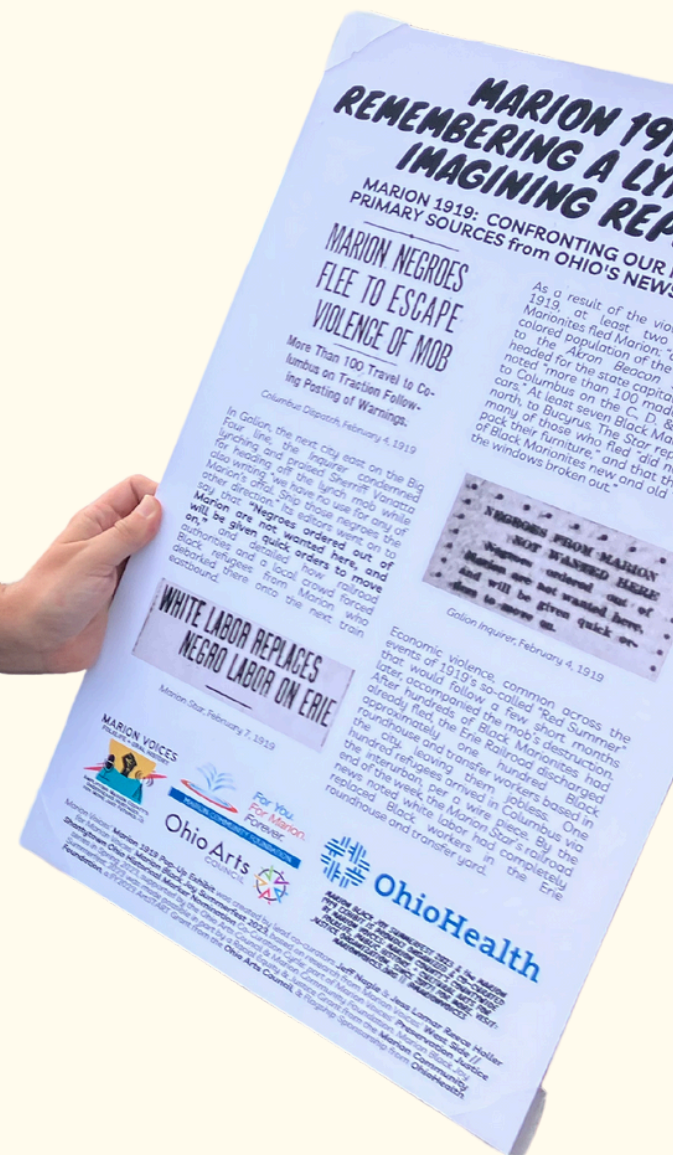
As far as records attest, losses of property, damage to business, & the psychological trauma of forced movement under threat of lynch mob violence that drove over 200 Black Marionites out of the city has never been formally apologized for, reconciled, or repaid. What happened to the homes of those Black Marionites? To their shops, & to their businesses? To the already-contested underground & above-ground networks those Black Marionites had painstakingly built: Black churches, Black economies, & Black cultural networks? And how did white Marionites profit by the displacement?

The approach many U.S. & international communities have begun to explore in response to the ongoing violences of unreconciled historical traumas is **reparations** -- originally organized as a demand by abolitionists & allies in the 19th century to think out, quantifying & making whole the unfathomable wealth extracted from stolen Black labor under the institution of slavery, the model of **reparations** takes seriously the intergenerational economic impact of racialized violence: not only loss of freedom, self-determination, & economic opportunity, but the way that anti-Black violence has directly benefited & accrued white wealth. In 2021, the City of Evansville -- a suburb of Chicago -- became one of the first U.S. cities to enact a reparations program: offering a one-time \$400,000 to Black Evansville residents who could claim descent from historic Black residents of Evansville impacted by housing segregation, redlining, & restrictive covenants. While many decried the aggressive "means testing" used to determine who qualified for reparations, and the limitation of the application of Evansville's reparations to mortgages & homeownership, the Evansville reparations program is nonetheless a remarkably nimble model for how even small communities like ours can confront a long & documented community history of anti-Blackness, to instead build just futures in which Black abundance & community healing might be possible.

How might we quantify the harm to Black Marion communities -- past & present -- caused by the 1919 lynch mobs? Who is responsible -- then, & today -- for this city? How might Black communities in Marion today continue to be harmed by the Marion 1919 legacy ... & official silences around the Marion 1919 lynch mob? What might repair -- & reparations -- for Marion 1919 look like?



Marion 1919 Pop-Up Exhibit was created by lead co-curators Jeff Nagle & Jess Lamar Reece Holler. Marion Voices' Marion Black Joy Summerfest 2023, based on research from Marion Voices' West Side // Marion Ohio Historical Marker Nomination Co-Curation Cycle, part of Marion Voices' Preservation Justice in Spring 2023, supported by the Ohio Arts Council & Marion Community Foundation. Marion Black Joy Summerfest 2023 was made possible in part by a Racial Equity & Justice Grant from the Marion Community Foundation, a 2022 ArtsTAK! Grant from the Ohio Arts Council, & Flagship Sponsorship from OhioHealth.





CHAMP: The Return Tour



***Introduction to Marion Voices'
Marion County
Cultural Heritage
Assets Mapping Project
(CHAMP)***



Cultural Assets:

What is a cultural asset?

- **Anything** that we recognize as an element of culture, heritage, arts, history, or tradition
- Often useful to sort into genres/categories ...
 - **Material Culture Heritage**
 - **Verbal Arts Culture/Heritage**
 - **Customary Traditions**
 - **Foodways**
 - **Architecture or Spaces**
- Can be a **stationary location** or a **procession or route** that has become the site of a tradition. *Example: St. Mary Church's **Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession** each December -- route!*





Cultural Assets:

Two Types of Heritage:

- **Tangible Cultural Heritage**: cultural heritage that we can touch & feel, & which has a physical, specific, locateable presence in the world
 - *Examples:*
 - Historic Architecture
 - Sites of Historic Events
 - Historic Markers
 - Traditions Tied to a Particular Place (Church; Foodways)
 - Material Culture
- **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)**: cultural heritage traditions without physical form, or *one specific location*; may be *regional*
 - *Examples:* stories, songs, dance forms, regional foodways traditions, language & dialect patterns, markers of cultural community & belonging, *practices*





Cultural Assets Mapping

Why map them?

- People often experience culture, arts, & tradition in relation to place -- so it's easier & more fun & just makes embodied sense to map culture tied to the places we experience it!
- **Cultural assets mapping processes** are important tools in community cultural planning, downtown development, & tourism ... & help those processes be both *participatory* & *reflective of the cultural priorities & treasures of diverse communities* ... rather than just of one dominant cultural, racial, ethnic, or linguistic group
- Comparing & then **combining** maps can lead to rich storytelling & connection!



2024 RECAP!

Marion Co. CHAMP

Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)

- New *Marion Voices* for **FY2024**, funded by the **Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Humanities & National Endowment for the Arts**; Regional North-Central Ohio CHAMP starting in Fall 2024 + FY2025
- CHAMP is a **countywide & regional participatory cultural heritage assets mapping project** aiming to create a directory of *diverse cultural heritages* across Marion County
- Half-day **CHAMP sessions** in four geographic communities & with three cultural communities; maps & findings turned into zines; plus a sharing tour!



2024 RECAP!

Making It Arts Livelihoods Survey:

- ***Making It: Arts Livelihoods & Arts Economies in Marion County*** is a companion project to Marion Voices' Marion County CHAMP ... focused especially on understanding the conditions impacting local artists & culture-keepers' abilities to make a living from their artistic, cultural, or heritage practices.
 - **Countywide *Making It* Artists' Survey:** GoogleForms Survey closed in June 2024; Recap Session Offered December 2024
 - ***Making It* Focus Groups:** attached to each of our CHAMP sessions! Come share your experiences, grievances, & hopes for growing paid arts & culture opportunities in Marion County for the second part of each of our CHAMP sessions!
 - *Open to all, but particularly targeting community arts who already do or who wish to make money from their practice!*



2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**

- Half-day participatory cultural heritage assets mapping sessions with four geographic communities & three historically-marginalized cultural & identity communities in Marion County
- Goal is to collate a **directory of cultural heritage resources** both within and across cultural, identity, & geographic groups in Marion County; & to **produce a white paper** advocating for the protection, preservation, & expansion of investment in those cultural heritage assets & resources!
- Essentially ... this is **arts-, culture-, & heritage-based economic development for Marion County** ... by, for, & of the people who live here! <3
- **Final Product:** 7 'Zine-Style Reports





Marion County **CHAMP:**

- **Four Geographic Communities:**

- **Marion City** (Marion City Limits)
- **Western Marion County** (Green Camp, New Bloomington, La Rue; & unincorporated)
- **Eastern & Northern Marion County** (Caledonia, Morral, Kirkpatrick, Claridon, Martel)
- **Southern Marion County** (Prospect, Waldo, Pleasant Township; & unincorporated)

- **Three Cultural/Identity Communities:**

- **African-American // Black**
- **Latine // Hispanic**
- **Queer & Trans*** (widely inclusive of LGBTQIA, non-binary, gender non-conforming, & other self-defined queer and/or trans community members & allies)





Marion County **CHAMP:**

- **Process & Methods:**

- **Community Liaisons** in each community -- Western, Eastern, Southern, Marion City, African-American, Latine, LGBTQIA+
- **Accessible public locations:** community parks & nature centers
- **Equity Budgeting:** pay all participants
- **Custom CHAMP Maps** by graphic designer & historian Jeff Nagle
- **Custom *Marion Voices* Marion County CHAMP Packets**, inspired by Austin, Texas's CAMP Kit!

- **CHAMP Session Agenda:**

- **Brainstorming in Packet:** Solo, 10 Min.
- **Collective Mapping:** 1 Hour
- **8 Discussion Questions:** 20-30 Min.
- **Artists' Focus Group for Working Artists:** 10-30 Minutes



Marion County **CHAMP:**

2024 RECAP!

Marion County CHAMP:

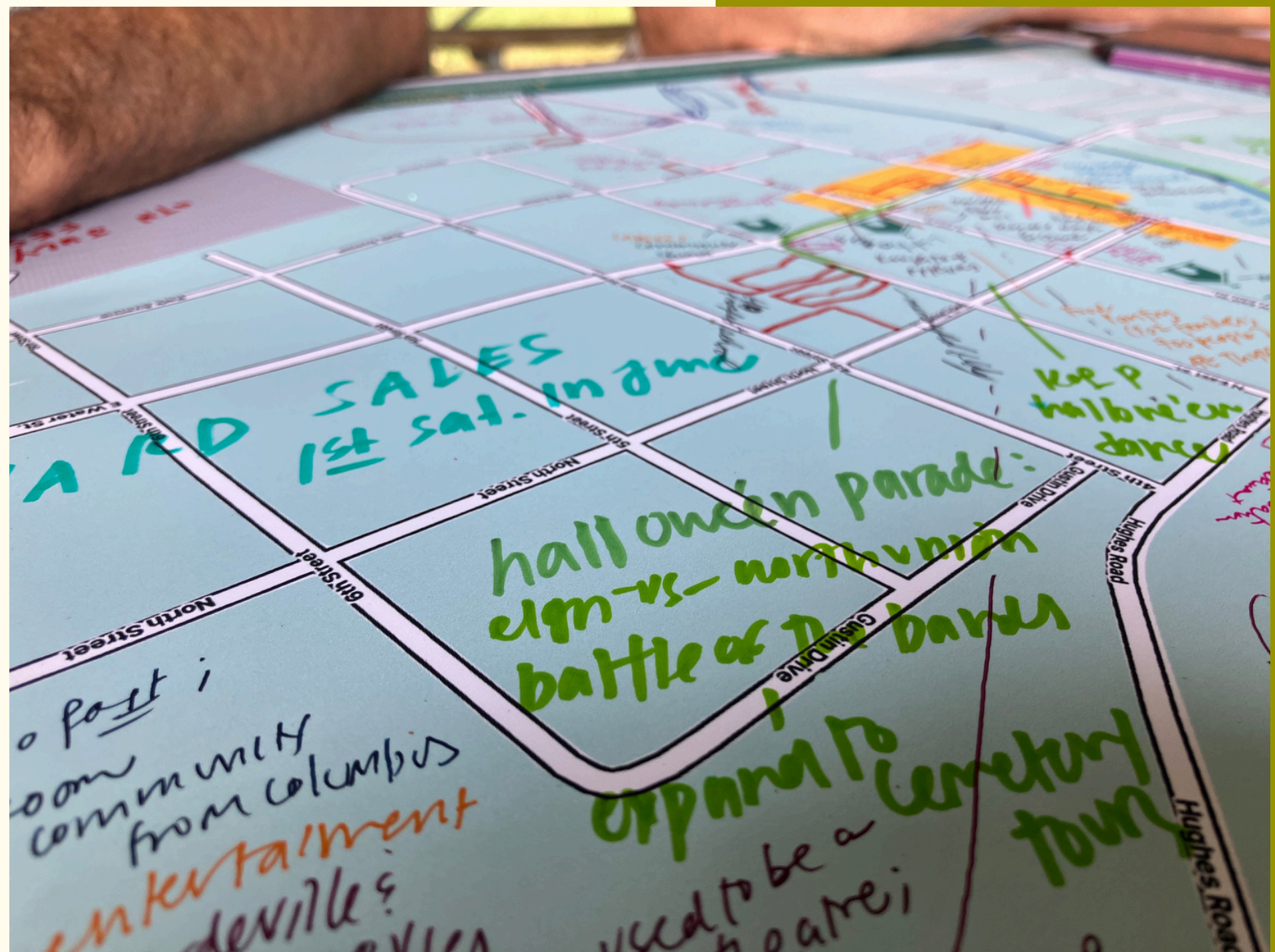
Instructions:
Name: Write or make a name for your cultural asset.
Category: Pick a category from the list on Page 2. Choose all that apply!
Genre: If relevant, identify a related arts genre. Choose all that apply!
Notes: Share the story behind your asset! Do you have a longer history? Is it contested, endangered, or threatened? How could this resource better support its community? What does it need, or a vision you have for how it might look in the future?

Cultural Heritage Asset #4
Name: PASTIMES
Category: foodways // businesses
Genre:
Notes: dairy barn are the heart of our rural communities!
Location: alley leading to PASTIMES

Cultural Heritage Asset #5
Name: myrals downtown in realley
Category: public art
Genre:
Notes:
Location:

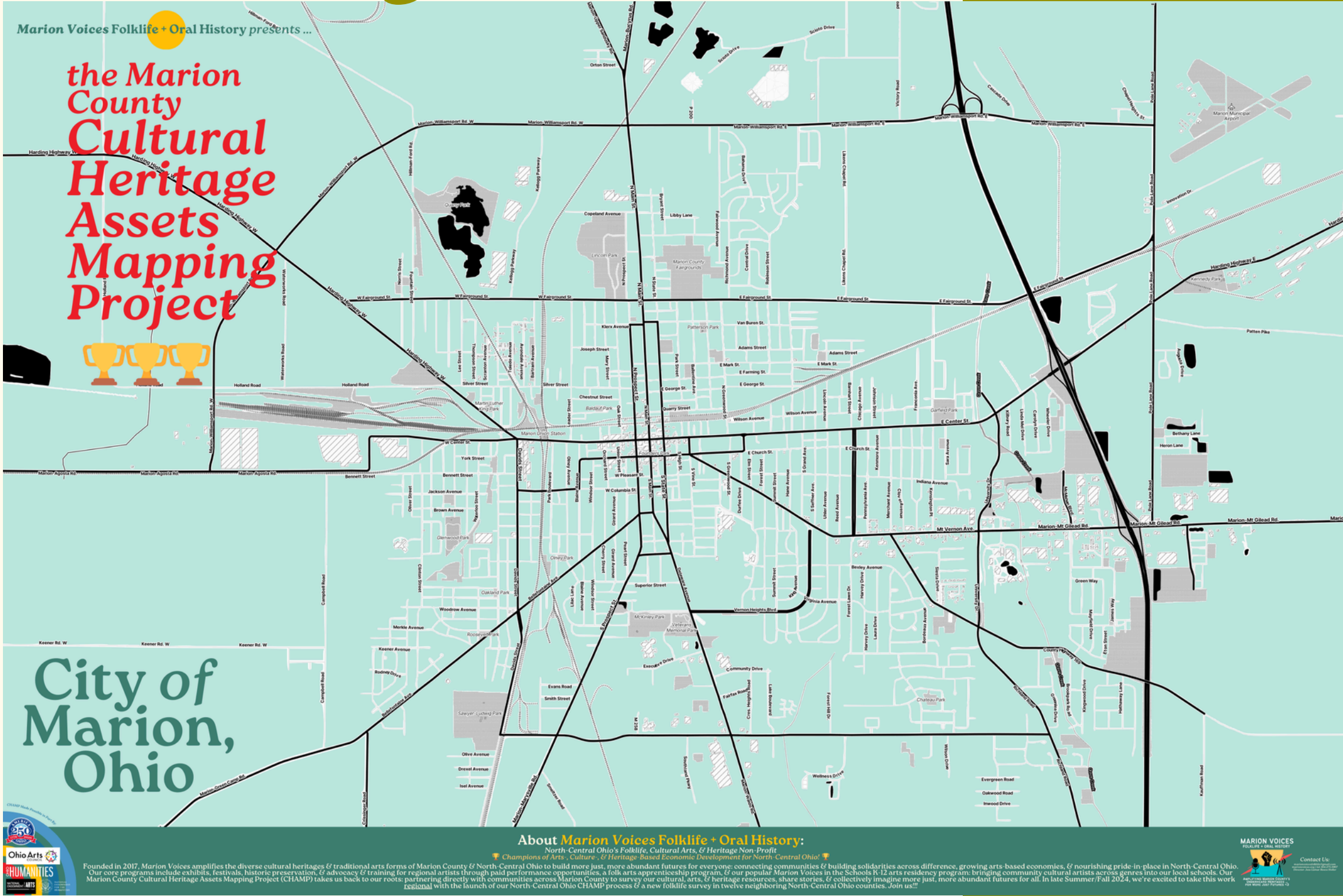
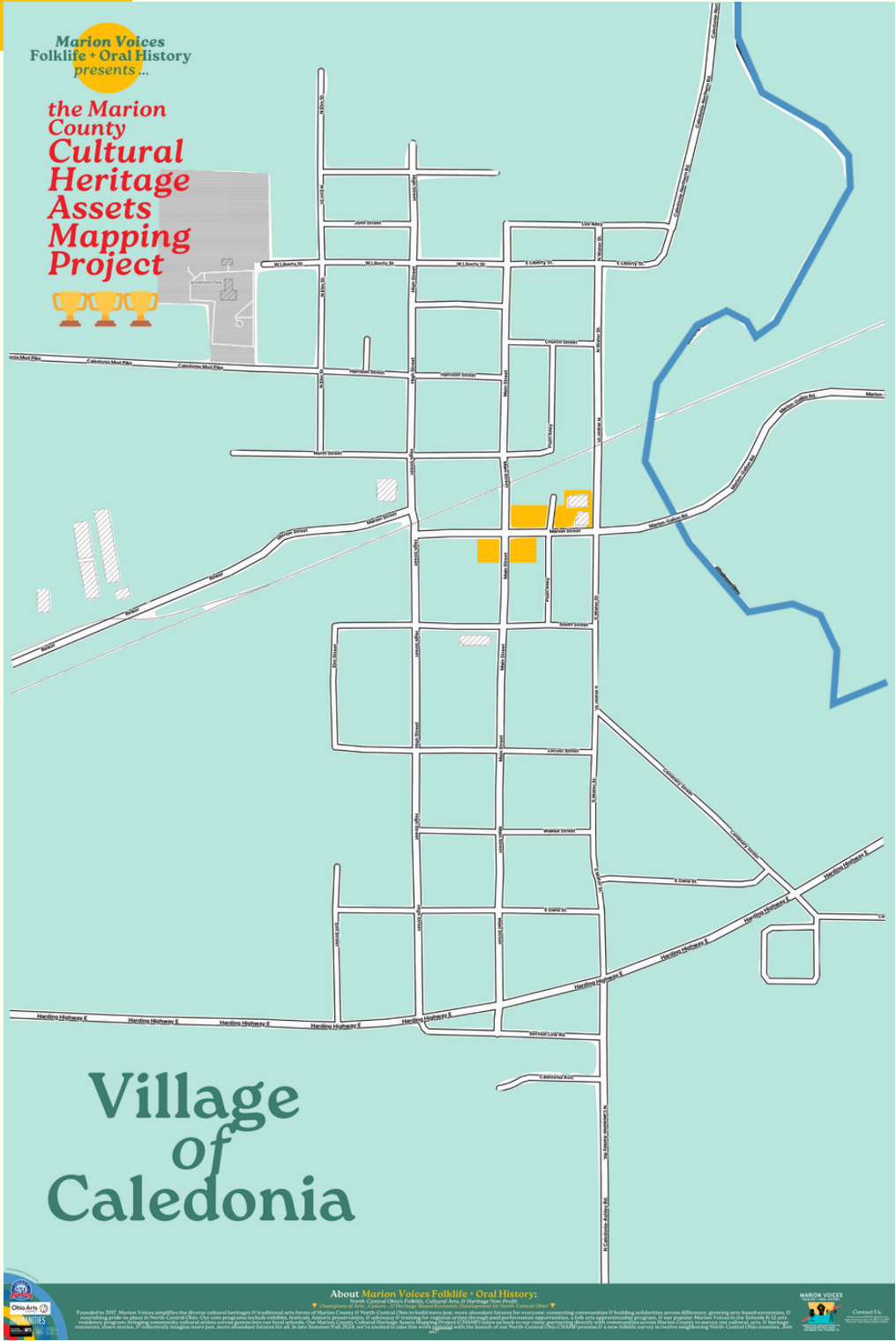
Cultural Heritage Asset #6
Name: fourth of july in prospect
Category:
Genre:
Notes: major annual festra to bring the community together
Location:

About Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History:
North-Central Ohio's Folklife, Cultural Arts, & Heritage Non-Profit
Culture- & Heritage-Based Economic Development for North-Central Ohio
Celebrates the diverse cultural heritages & traditional arts for the abundant futures for everyone: connecting place, economies, & nourishing pride-in-place. Advocacy & training for our popular Marion County to our local direction.



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Mapping
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Village of Prospect





Ohio Arts & Humanities

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presents...

the Marion
County
Cultural
Heritage
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Village of LaRue





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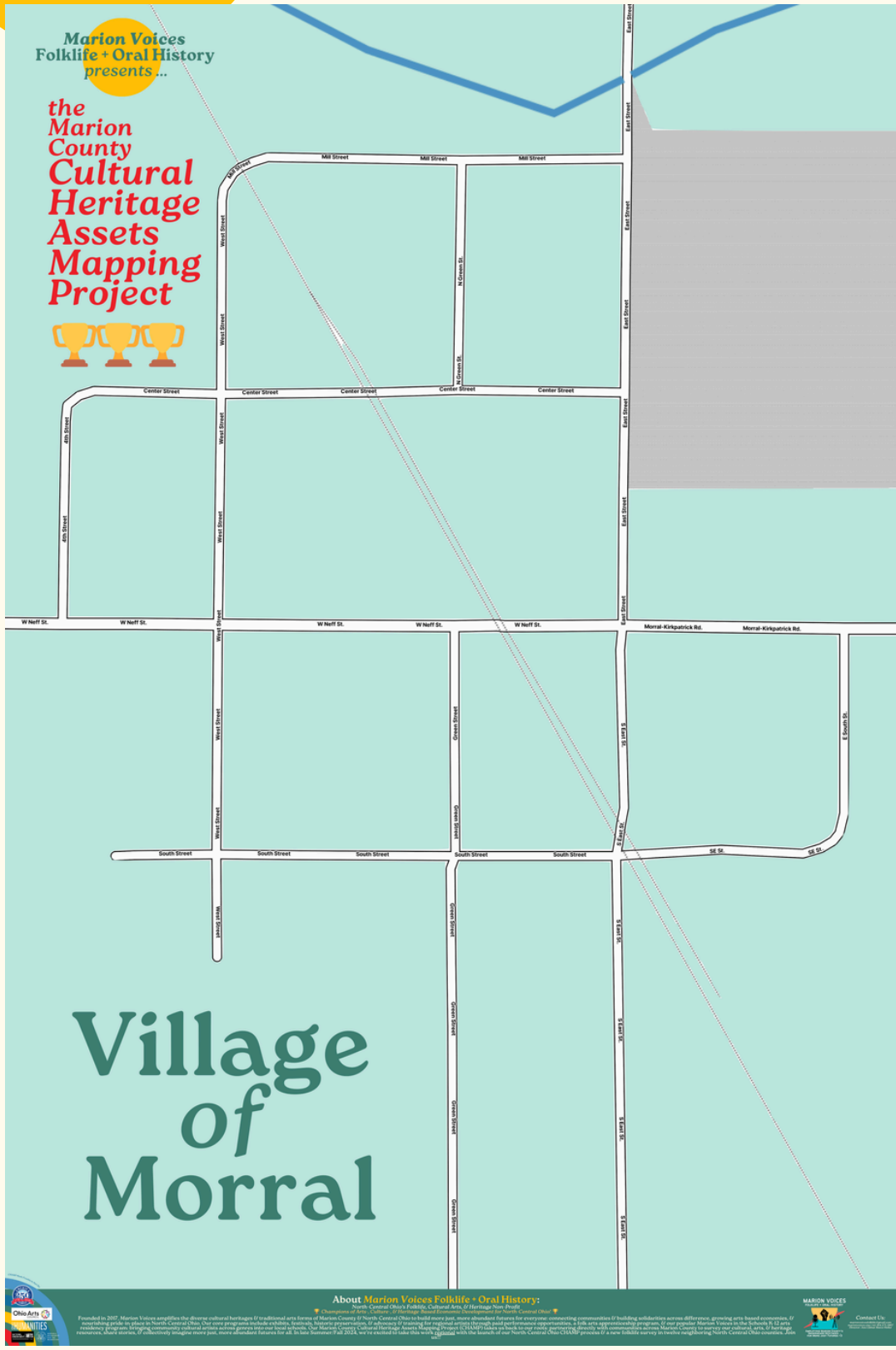
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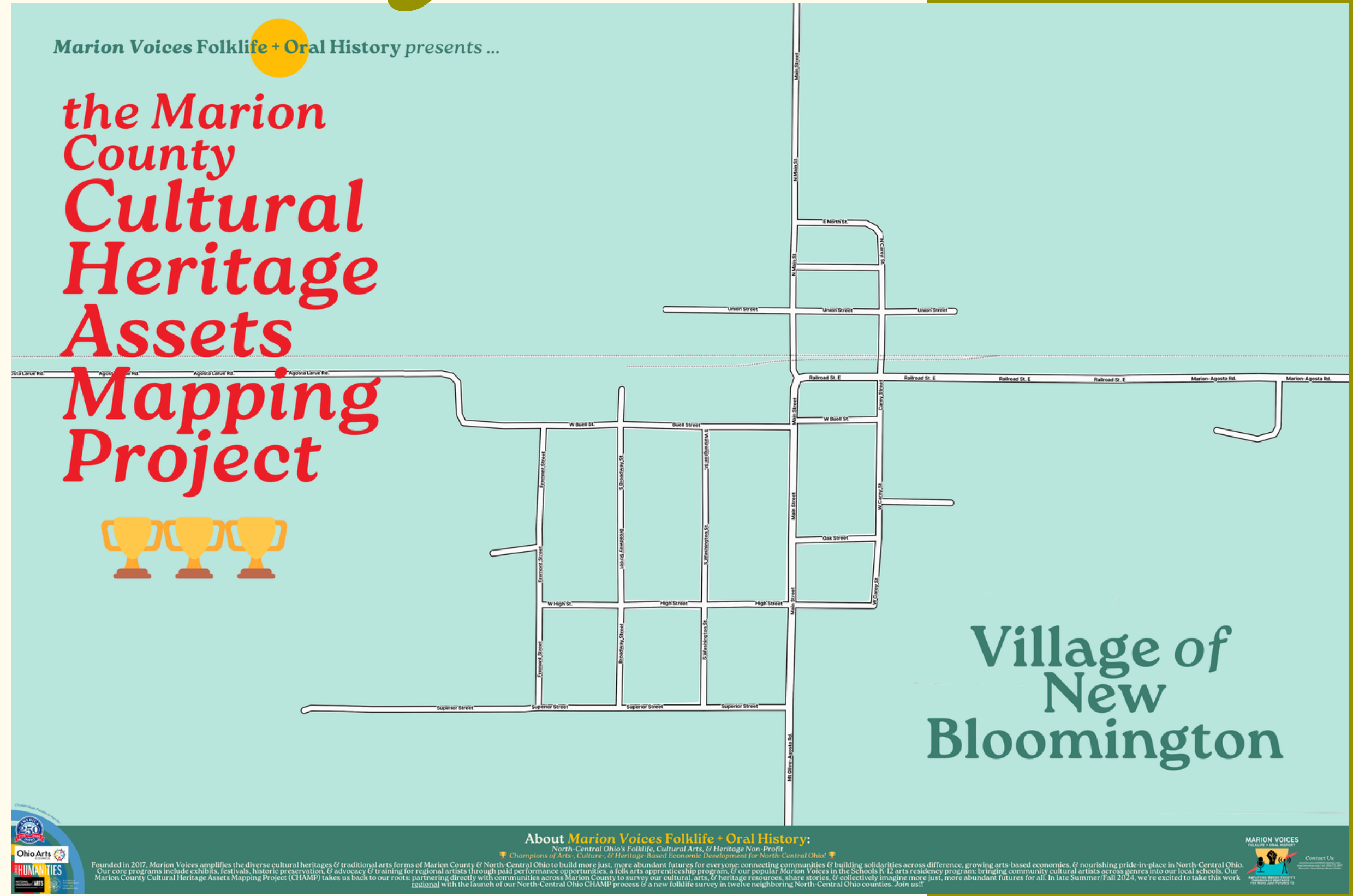


Village of Morral

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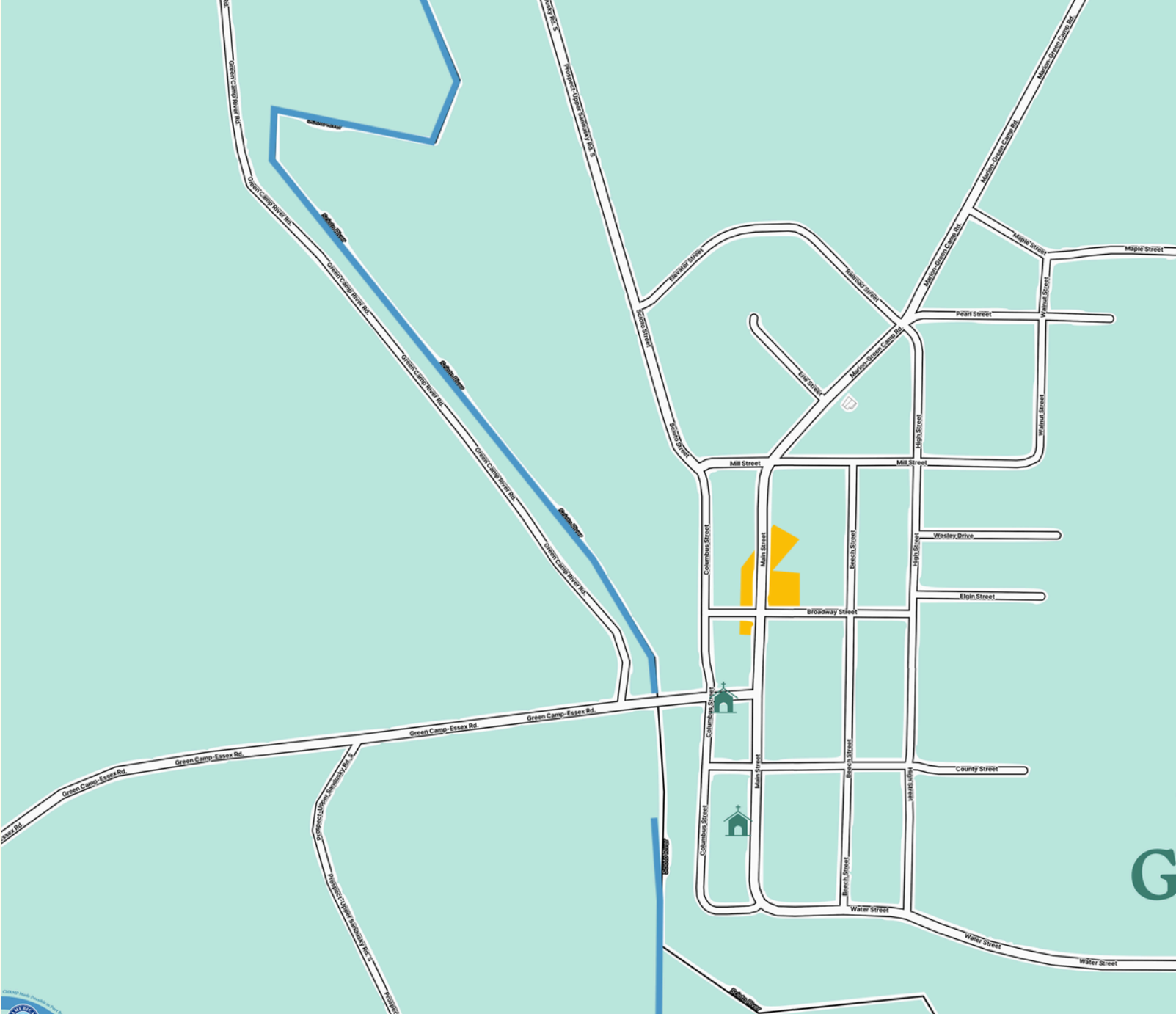


Village of New Bloomington

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Marion County CHAMP:



A detailed street map of the Village of Green Camp. The map shows a network of streets including Green Camp-Exeter Rd, Mill Street, Main Street, Branch Street, Water Street, and others. A blue line highlights a specific route through the village. Several buildings are marked with icons, including a church and a school.

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Village of Green Camp

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Marion County CHAMP:

Marion County, Ohio

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OHIO ARTS HUMANITIES

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Contact Us:
marionvoices.org
2024-2025 Season Tickets: \$5

2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**



2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**

🏆 Discussion Questions 🏆

After we discuss & map our cultural heritage assets for our particular session's maps, we'll discuss all or some the following questions, included here for your reference & for accessibility:

- **Question 1:** What important cultural, arts, & heritage resources did we used to have in our community; & what happened to them?
- **Question 2:** What cultural heritage assets in our community are currently *threatened*; & what would protecting them look like?
- **Question 3:** What cultural heritage resources or amenities do we not have in our community that other communities do have? What barriers exist to their existence here? What might building them require or look like?
- **Question 4:** What cultural assets define our sense of place & help make our community & local landscape distinct from other communities?
- **Question 5:** What cultural assets in our community *need* to be invested in? What investments are needed? By whom?
- **Question 6:** What cultural assets in our community are the “best kept secrets?” Should those assets be amplified?
- **Question 7:** Let's review the cultural heritage assets we've mapped & generated. What opportunities exist to network, connect, & grow partnerships/collaborations between the resources we've listed; or with others in the county?



Closing Question: In five, ten, & fifteen years, how would you like to see our Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Map look different? In an ideal world, where would we be in the future? What would be strengthened? What would be connected? What new is here & what old is honored?



CHAMP Simulation:

Question 1:

What is one *place* you think of, in Marion County, that is tied to a tradition or arts or cultural form *important to a group you belong to*? This can be a cultural group, geographic group, identity group, fan community, religious group... *you name it!*





CHAMP Simulation:

Question 2:

What is one cultural heritage or arts tradition you can think of, that is important to a group you belong to, that cannot be placed on a map? How come?





CHAMP Simulation:

Question 3:

What is a cultural heritage or arts assets in our Marion County community that you consider endangered, threatened, or in need of preservation?





CHAMP Simulation:

Question 4:

What is a cultural heritage or arts asset in Marion County that you would like to see invested in, or where you see opportunity?





CHAMP: The Return Tour



***Marion County CHAMP
Session Summaries,
Spotlight Cultural Heritage
Assets, Future Cultural Assets,
& Key Recommendations***

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2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**

By the Numbers:

- 7 Sessions
- 3 Weekends in June
- 14+ Hours of Community Conversation & Participatory Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping
- 4 Geographic Communities -- Marion, LaRue, Caledonia, Prospect
- 59 Session Participants
 - 39 Unique Participants (Individuals)
 - 5 Multi-Session Participants
 - 3 Repeat *Marion Voices* Facilitators
- 9 Custom-Designed Maps -- Marion County, Marion City, LaRue, New Bloomington, Green Camp, Prospect, Morral, Waldo, Caledonia
- 121+ Cultural Heritage Assets Mapped by Marion County Community Members
- 2 6-Page Marion County CHAMP Kits Designed: 1 in English; 1 in Spanish
- 7 Printed, 16-Page 'Zine Reports
- 2 Zine Reports Translated into Spanish (Western Marion County; Latine Communities)
- 2 CHAMP "Return Tour" Events





Western Marion County

Western Marion County CHAMP Session

- June 8th, 2024 at the Oorang Bang, in collaboration with the LaRue Community Alliance
- Community Liaison: Irene Tron
- Translator: Danllaly Pavón
- No. Participants: 3 + 3 MV = 6

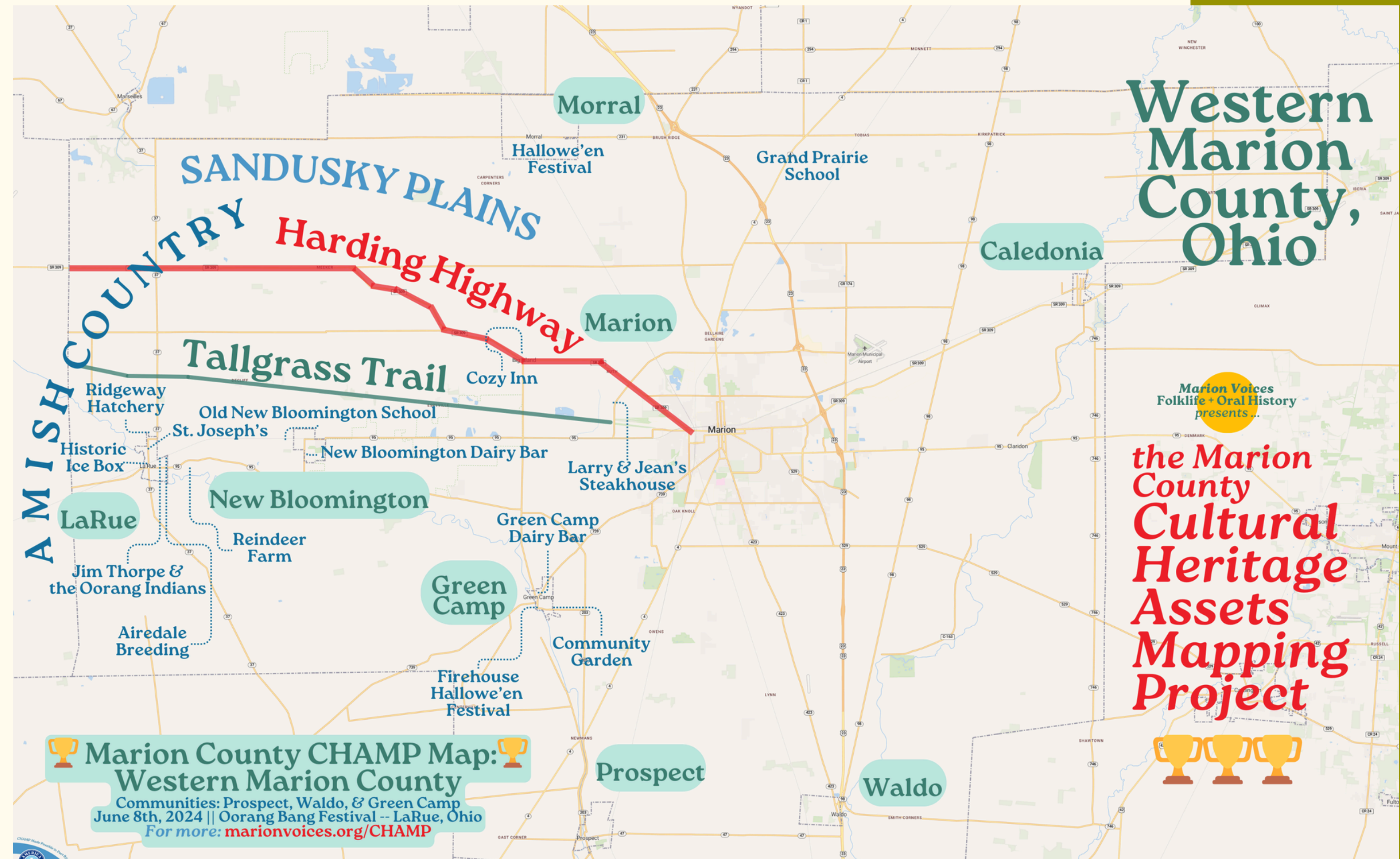




Western Marion County



Western Marion County, Ohio



About Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History:

North-Central Ohio's Folklife, Cultural Arts, & Heritage Non-Profit
Champions of Arts, Culture, & Heritage-Based Economic Development for North-Central Ohio!

Founded in 2017, Marion Voices amplifies the diverse cultural heritages & traditional arts forms of Marion County & North-Central Ohio to build more just, more abundant futures for everyone: connecting communities & building solidarities across difference, growing arts-based economies, & nourishing pride-in-place in North-Central Ohio. Our core programs include exhibits, festivals, historic preservation, & advocacy & training for regional artists through paid performance opportunities, a folk arts apprenticeship program, & our popular Marion Voices in the Schools K-12 arts residency program: bringing community cultural artists across genres into our local schools. Our Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP) takes us back to our roots: partnering directly with communities across Marion County to survey our cultural, arts, & heritage resources, share stories, & collectively imagine more just, more abundant futures for all. In late Summer/Fall 2024, we're excited to take this work regional with the launch of our North-Central Ohio CHAMP process & a new folklife survey in twelve neighboring North-Central Ohio counties. Join us!!!



Contact Us:
marionvoices.org/contact-us
or call 419-398-2222



Western Marion County



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Western Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



the Sandusky Plains & Indigenous Heritage



Participants recognized Western Marion County's natural heritage -- including the Sandusky Plains open oak prairie formation & marshes -- as a defining cultural heritage feature, alongside the community indigenous heritage: including the complicated legacies of the Oorang Indians football team in LaRue, a team "featuring" (but not owned by) & also sensationalizing & often mocking indigenous peoples.



Western Marion County



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Western Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



German & Amish Communities



Participants celebrated the strength of traditional Amish communities in Western Marion County near LaRue, including their agricultural, foodways, entrepreneurial & handcraft traditions & their *Platte Deutsch* language tradition, as well as the importance of other German heritage traditions in the region. Participants noted the important role Western Marion County's Amish communities play in maintaining agricultural & handcraft traditions, as well as local business.





Western Marion County



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Western Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



Latine Communities



Western Marion County has seen a surge in popular from Central & South American newcomers in the past decade -- with more recent newcomers from Guatemala & Honduras. Participants saw Western Marion County's Latine communities -- and diversity of languages, & culture, with multiple indigenous Mayan languages now spoken -- as an exciting & important part of Western Marion County's cultural heritage landscape.



Western Marion County

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Western Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



Cultural Groceries!

🏆 Cultural Grocery Stores 🏆

With the closure of LaRue's Cash & Carry, Western Marion County lost its last local grocery store & meat market. Latine residents in Western Marion County have to drive to Kenton for a Latine grocery store. Participants shared excitement about support for local entrepreneurs to open a Latine grocery serving Western Marion County.



Western Marion County

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Western Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!

🏆 Revitalize Existing Spaces 🏆

Residents say that Western Marion County is full of heritage spaces -- like LaRue's Catholic Church, or Big Island's historic Cozy Inn motor court -- that are ripe for reinvestment & new possibilities. Residents also identify many Latine & Amish residents with thriving businesses -- many connected to agriculture, horticulture, & foodways -- who could use new retail spaces!





Western Marion County

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Western Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Invest in Renewable Energy & Natural Spaces 🏆

Residents of Western Marion County are fired up about renewable energy & natural spaces. They would like to see electric vehicle charging stations available anywhere West of Marion, as well as an extension of the Marion Tallgrass Trail thru Hardin County, and continued investment in Marion County Parks District properties like Myers Woods near Morral.



Western Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Western Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Western Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #1	 Foster Latine-Amish Connections in Western Marion Co. 		
	Description: Connect Central & South American Immigrant & Newcomer & Heritage Amish & German Communities in Western Marion around shared heritage arenas like foodways & agriculture. Provide opportunities for language & culture exchange, and business // entrepreneurial exchange, to foster a more culturally-connected & collaborative landscape.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Language Classes; Small Business Training; Forums for Cultural Exchange -- Festivals, Council, etc.	Potential Changemakers: Language Teachers; Entrepreneurs; New or Extant Community Non-Profits



Western Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Western Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Western Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #2	 Extend the Tallgrass Trail & Invest in Natural Resources 		
	Description: Embrace the legacy and future of the Sandusky Plains Prairie Region by investing in, interpreting, & increasing opportunities for the community to connect to natural resources in Western Marion County: including through increased funding to & expansion of Marion County Parks District's Tallgrass Trail, & investment in other natural resources in the area, like the Kildeer Plains, Big Island Wildlife Area, & Myers Woods near Morral.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Increased funding to parks & natural areas; increased interpretation & awareness of natural cultural heritage	Potential Changemakers: Community Members; Voters; Local Government; Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources



Western Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Western Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Western Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #3	 Grow Historic Preservation & Community Revitalization 		
	Description: Honor the legacy & invest in the potential of Western Marion County’s architectural & business heritage by supporting heritage building owners in historic preservation & restoration of existing spaces, rather than demolition. Focus on adaptive reuse of extant historic structures to provide spaces or incubators for new local businesses, with support for first-time business owners in launching business concepts in adapted historic spaces!		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Grants, programs, or strategic investment in historic preservation for legacy owners; small-business development support	Potential Changemakers: County or Local Government; Non-Profits; Colleges; Regional Planning & Land Bank



Western Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Western Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Western Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Additional Recommendations: Western Marion County

- **Recommendation #4 -- Transportation History, & Futures:** Embrace transportation history while investing in the green economy -- participants wanted to see electric vehicle charging stations, & also recognition of the history of the Harding Highway (today's 309): an alternative route of the Lincoln Highway.
- **Recommendation #5 -- Explore Religious Heritage & Futures:** Participants noted the enormous impact of LaRue's now-shuttered Catholic Church, St. Joseph, & parish priest, Father Joseph Losch; & traditions of other religious communities.
- **Recommendation #6 -- Celebrate Re-Indigenization of Western Marion County:** Participants were excited to connect the region's rich indigenous heritage with new indigenous traditions brought by Central Americans relocating to the area!

2024 RECAP!

Latine Communities

Marion County Latine Communities CHAMP Session

- June 9th, 2024 at Lincoln Park
- **Community Liaisons:** Evelyn Olivos Lisiecki; Danllaly Pavón
- **Translator:** Danllaly Pavón
- **No. Participants:** 7 + 6 Youth + 2 MV = 15



2024 RECAP!

Latine Communities

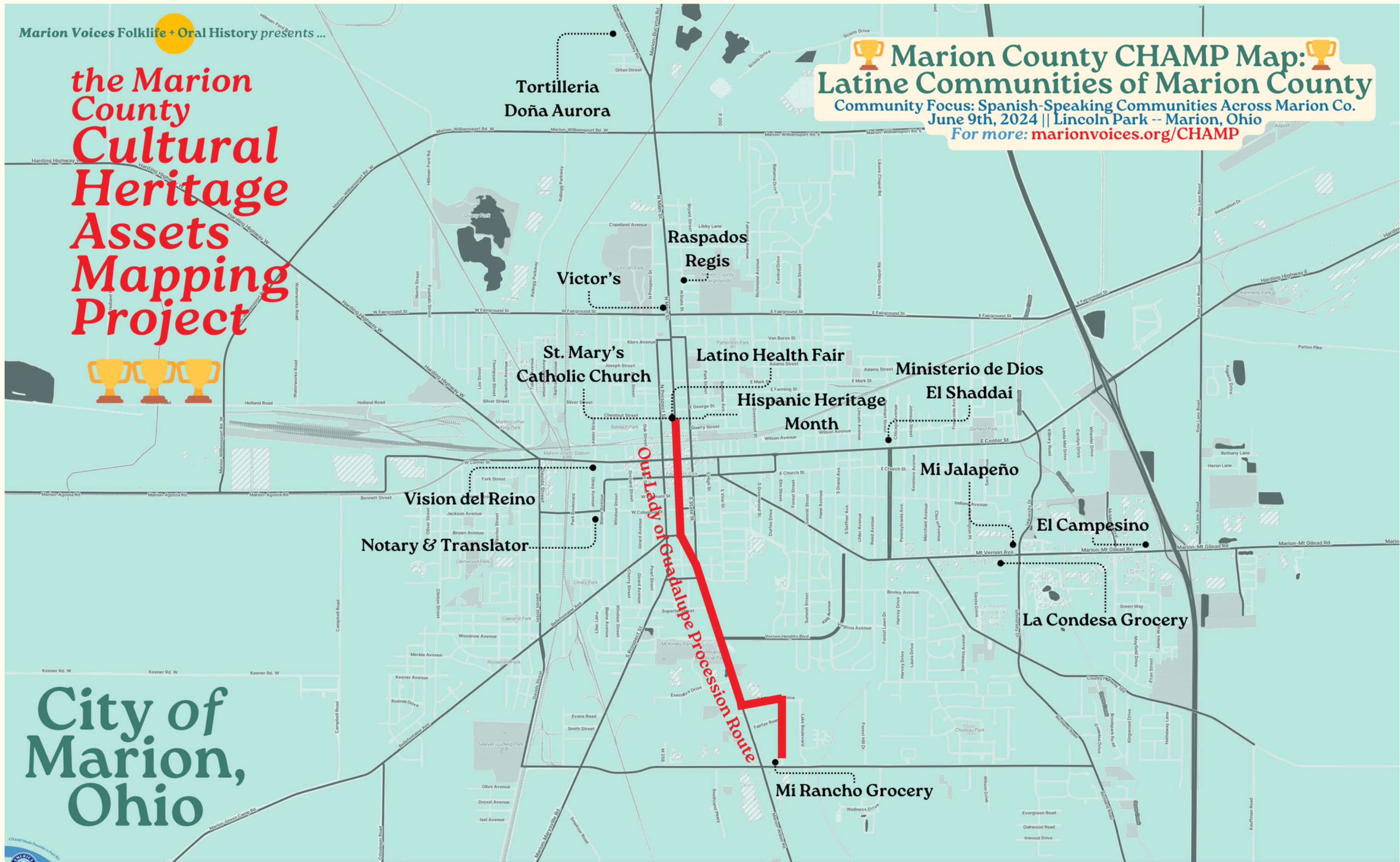


Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History presents ...

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project



Marion County CHAMP Map:
Latine Communities of Marion County
Community Focus: Spanish-Speaking Communities Across Marion Co.
June 9th, 2024 || Lincoln Park -- Marion, Ohio
For more: marionvoices.org/CHAMP



City of Marion, Ohio

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2024 RECAP!

Latine Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County Latine Communities CHAMP session participants overwhelming describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



Marion St. Mary Church



Participants celebrated Marion County's Latine-supporting church communities for providing not just a welcoming spiritual home for Latine newcomers & community members, but for providing essential social services, translation, & cultural continuity. Marion St. Mary Catholic Church, for instance, has long employed a Latino Ministries Coordinator; & hosts multiple Latine community cultural festivals: including the beloved Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession & Feast in December, & September's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.



2024 RECAP!

Latine Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County Latine Communities CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



Pan-Latine Solidarity



Participants celebrated the interconnection of Marion County Latine communities, despite origins in different cultures and nations. The smaller size of Marion County's Latine community, compared to cities like Columbus, allows for pan-cultural sharing & activities: like the Azteca folk dancing troupe.



2024 RECAP!

Latine Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County Latine Communities CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



Home-Based Cultural Businesses & Cottage Industry



Participants highlighted the role that home-based, cottage industries played in launching entrepreneurship for Latine Marion County residents, in fields like baking, tortilla-making, aesthetics, horticulture/gardening, & more. At the same time, participants noted that regulation & bureaucratic oversight -- like public health regulations, or licensing & registration to sell food at the Marion County Fair -- feels inaccessible to many in the Latine community; more access is desired!



Latine Communities

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County Latine Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Support Latine Foodways 🏆

Participants mourned the low number of Latine-owned restaurants, & that Marion only has Mexican restaurants. Public health code compliance & vendor registration were noted as barriers to Latine entrepreneurship -- translation services are a must here! Additionally, participants noted that maintaining foodways traditions depends on access to culturally-specific plants, seeds, & ingredients: an opportunity for local grocery entrepreneurs!



Latine Communities

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County Latine Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!

🏆 Create Latine Social Spaces 🏆

Participants note a lack of Latine-run “third space” social spaces -- especially, spaces that might foster diverse Latine music & dance traditions -- in Marion County. Residents, instead, have to access these traditions in Columbus. Participants note that Marion County is ripe for a Latine discotheque -- but support is needed to make entrepreneurship of this kind accessible across language barriers. Participants want to see spaces for sharing music, performance, & dance across Latine cultures.



2024 RECAP!

Latine Communities

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County Latine Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Grow Both Pan-Latine & Culturally-Specific Festivals in Marion County 🏆

Participants across the board praised the impact of Marion County's extant Latine community festivals -- like Hispanic Heritage Festival, & the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration -- but emphasize that more festivals are needed to both maintain cultural community & build cultural awareness & solidarity: especially for kids; once a year isn't enough! Participants especially would like to see culturally- & nationally-specific festivals.



Latine Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County Latine Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County Latine Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #1	 Foster Spaces for Latine Cultural Entrepreneurship 		
	Description: Grow spaces for Latine entrepreneurs to launch businesses -- such as a flea market, where individual entrepreneurs could rent affordable, flexible booth space; or a foodways entrepreneurship incubator kitchen, where restaurant, bakery, & foodways entrepreneurs could try out new businesses. Event spaces for dance, music, & gathering are also priority.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Available, affordable space; intentional outreach about licensing & bureaucratic requirements of small business	Potential Changemakers: Marion Area Chamber of Commerce; New or Existing Non-Profits; Space Owners; Latine Entrepreneurs



Latine Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County Latine Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County Latine Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #2	 Invest in All-Year Cultural & Language Transmission 		
	Description: Nourish & support year-round language classes, culture schools, & festivals to provided consistent opportunities for cultural transmission, continuity, & affirmation to Latine young people in Marion County. In addition to Marion County’s current annual festivals like Our Lady of Guadalupe & the Hispanic Heritage Festival, develop monthly opportunities for transmission: including programs specific to national & cultural traditions.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Non-profits or committees dedicated to organizing ongoing festivals, cultural events, & language schools for adults & youth	Potential Changemakers: A new Latine non-profit/non-profits; churches; OSU-Marion/ Marion Tech/Tri-Rivers



Latine Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County Latine Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County Latine Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #3	 Grow Language Justice Infrastructure for Equity & Access 		
	Description: Acknowledge the accessibility gap for existing social services & programs -- from public health to education to business & vendor licensing -- & take proactive steps to hire translators make services freely available in Spanish, English, & other Mayan indigenous languages spoken in the county. Cultural translation may also be required. Language justice is a framework for equity that holds that <i>everyone</i> gets a seat at the table, & that all language needs will be accomodated. For more, see CIRCULAR Language Justice Collective.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Consistent training & education in language justice for social service providers & agencies across Marion County; dedication to language justice	Potential Changemakers: Marion County government & related agencies; hospitals; non-profits; local businesses; Marion Area translators



Latine Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County Latine Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County Latine Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Additional Recommendations: Latine Communities, Marion County

- **Recommendation #4 -- Free Community Language Classes:** As in our Western Marion County CHAMP session, participants expressed the transformative role that free, accessible (i.e., in the evenings) language classes in English and Spanish would play in creative language justice, cultural cohesion, & integration for Latine community members. Spanish classes would provide opportunities for existing Marion area non-profits & service providers to learn conversational Spanish, also.
- **Recommendation #5 -- Gather a Community Band:** Band-based musical genres are important across Central & South America. Form a Marion County Pan-Latine Community Band to grow, celebrate, exchange, & preserve musical heritage.
- **Recommendation #6 -- Create a Spanish-Language "The Forge":** Invest in meaningful, targeted opportunities for small business & entrepreneurial training for Latine Marion County residents, in a language they speak, at accessible times.

2024 RECAP!

Marion City & Suburbs

Marion City & Suburbs CHAMP Session

- June 15th, 2024 at McKinley Park
- **Community Liaisons:** Ms. Linda Sims; Ms. Katie Reese-Hairston
- **No. Participants:** 5 + 2 = 7



2024 RECAP! Marion City & Suburbs





City of Marion, Ohio

Communities: City of Marion, Marion Suburbs, & Pleasant Twp.
June 15th, 2024 || McKinley Park -- Marion, Ohio
For more: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

...New YMCA.

Contact Us:
marioncountyculture@gmail.com
marioncountyculture.org | tel. 404.273.5807
 Director: Jean Lambert Householder



Marion City & Suburbs



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion City & Suburbs CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



Hoops Classic Tournament



Participants celebrated the endurance of a few key Marion County cultural traditions & festivals: such as the Hoops Classic basketball tournament, which developed at Mayes Community Temple, & was historically held on Marion's West Side at MLK Park. Participants expressed the importance of preserving &, where needed, revitalizing these heritage traditions, to keep Marion City culture alive.



Marion City & Suburbs



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion City & Suburbs CHAMP session participants overwhelming describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



Marion City Parks



Participants highlighted Marion City's network of parks as critical remaining "third spaces" for community cultural & social traditions. Participants praised recent reinvestment in accessible playground equipment & infrastructure; but wanted to be consulted about their neighborhood park redesigns. Participants also mourned the loss of functional kitchens at parks like Sawyer-Ludwig.





Marion City & Suburbs



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



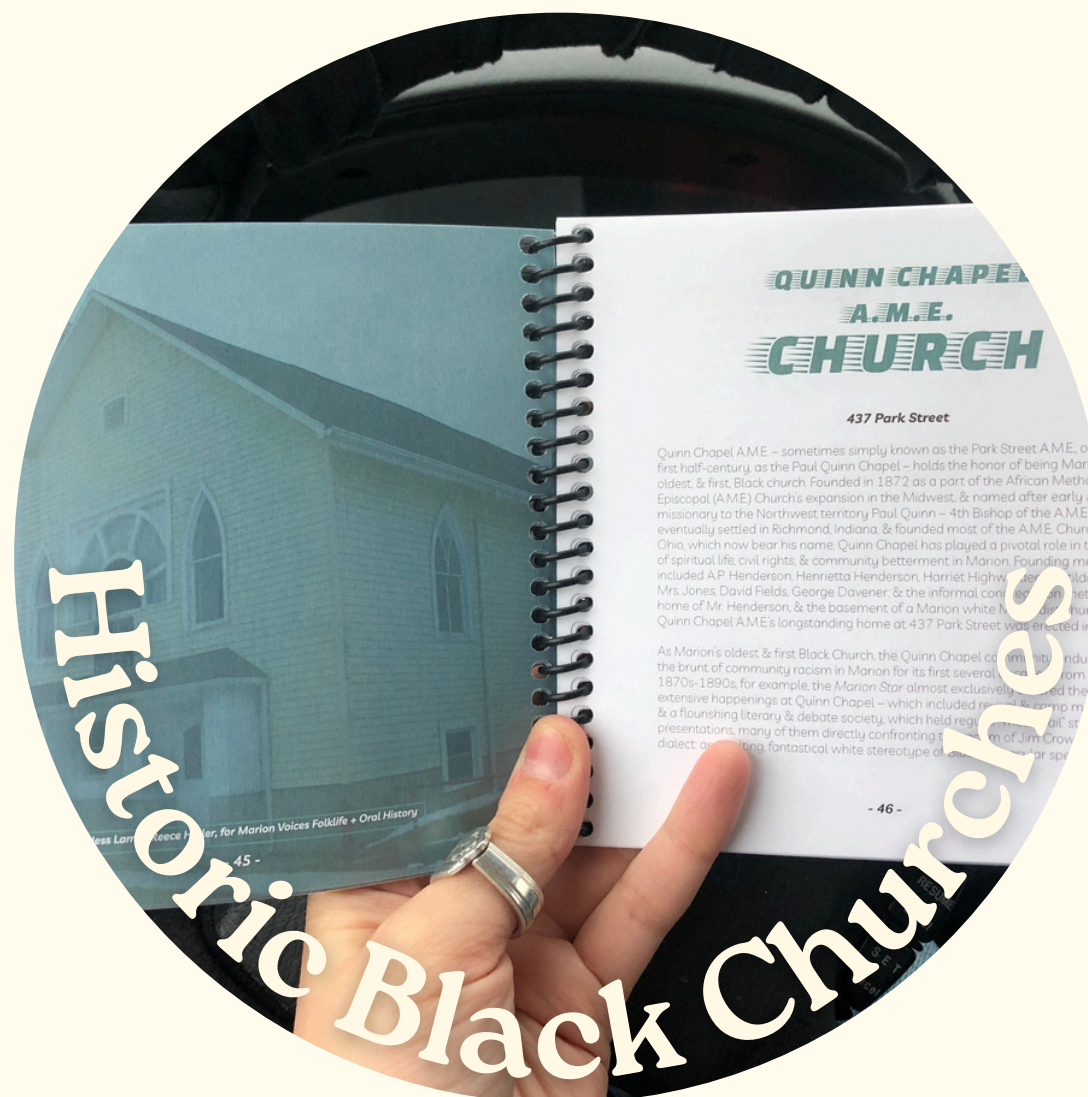
Marion City & Suburbs CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



Historic Black Churches



While participants noted that much of the landscape of the neighborhoods of their youth has been demolished, Marion's historic Black churches have been critical community anchors: preserving culture, tradition, & providing a lifeline of remaining neighborhood-based social service & spiritual support, in an era in which most schools, recreation centers, jobs, & other community amenities have been moved out of neighborhoods to the outside of Marion's urban core. Participants worry about the future of Marion's many historic Black churches in an era where new churches are growing: resulting in spread-out memberships.





Marion City & Suburbs

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion City & Surbs could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Rebuild Neighborhood Rec Centers, & Social Clubs 🏆

Participants noted the stark loss of neighborhood schools, recreation spaces, fraternal organizations, & social clubs in Marion since the 1960s; & expressed the clear need for “third spaces” (beyond home, work, or church) for recreation, socialization, & arts & culture transmission, in Marion City today.



Marion City & Suburbs

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion City & Surbs could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!

🏆 Participatory Community Development & Planning 🏆

Participants expressed frustration at the lack of consultation of Marion's diverse communities in the planning & design of infrastructural improvements, such as the recent re-design of the playground at MLK Park. Participatory community charette processes ensure equitable representation & that tax dollars build resources that actually express community need & desire.





Marion City & Suburbs

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion City & Surbs could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Launch a Youth Arts & Culture Conservatory 🏆

Participants identified a clear need for engaging, culturally-relevant, arts-enriched programming for youth: beyond the mere baseline of accessible childcare. One participant -- who spent a career as an educator & cultural worker in another state -- suggested developing a "Conservatory for Youth," which would include lessons & programs in the performing arts: dance, theatre, music, so that youth could come in for lessons (individual or group), & access scholarship support. Other participants concurred: we need youth classes!



Marion City & Suburbs

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion City & Suburbs

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion City & Suburbs, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #1	 Rebuild Downtown & Neighborhood “Third Spaces” 		
	Description: Grow “third spaces” -- different than home, work, & church -- for community members to come together, downtown & in neighborhoods. Many of Marion’s most beloved third spaces shuttered or were relocated outside the urban core; community members want to see dance halls, music spaces, recreation centers, & spaces to build community downtown.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Adaptive reuse of existing vacant structures; collaborative community planning for Third Spaces	Potential Changemakers: City of Marion; Marion YMCA; Marion Area Arts & Culture Non-Profits; Arts/Entertainment Visionaries



Marion City & Suburbs

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion City & Suburbs

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion City & Suburbs, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #2	 Fight Infrastructural Racism w/ Participatory Planning 		
	Description: Work to proactively identify, address, & undo legacies of infrastructural racism -- such as railroads that cut off the West Side -- through participatory community planning; & use participatory planning processes like community design charettes to ensure that investments in Marion neighborhoods actually reflect the needs, desires, & culture of local residents; & feel equitable across neighborhoods.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed: Training in community outreach, engagement, & participatory design processes for non-profit & governmental officials & departments.	Potential Changemakers:	Marion City Government; Marion City Parks; ODOT; Local Non-Profits



Marion City & Suburbs

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion City & Suburbs

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion City & Suburbs, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #3	 Foster Downtown Enrichment Programs for Youth & Elders 		
	Description: Accessible & affordable childcare & eldercare limited to assisted living facilities is not enough! Invest in, build, & grow arts, culture, history, recreation, & social enrichment programs to support youth in imagining futures in Marion County, & elders aging in place, in their creative, social, community, & cultural development. Enrichment programs could include classes in arts & culture, a new Arts Conservatory, or new centers & spaces.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Funding for programs & spaces for young people & elders, based either downtown or available directly in <u>neighborhoods</u> , no transport required.	Potential Changemakers: Marion City Government; Marion YMCA; Local Arts + Culture Non-Profits; Youth & Elder Service Providers



Marion City & Suburbs

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion City & Suburbs

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion City & Suburbs, with additional recommendations below:

Additional Recommendations: Marion City & Suburbs

- **Recommendation #4 -- Support Succession Planning for Non-Profits & Groups:** Marion City & Suburbs CHAMP Session participants noted the loss or perceived atrophy of several staple community organizations that provided space for African-American intergenerational community-building: including the Marion NAACP, Marion's Medgar Evers Elks Lodge, & Black Heritage Council. Participants attributed the loss or quieting of these essential organizations to burnout amongst organization founders, a small pool of organizers being centrally involved in multiple organizations, & problems with intergenerational transfer of power & institutional knowledge. Local non-profit capacity-building organizations & foundations should support succession planning & intergenerational capacity-building for grassroots non-profits -- helping proactively plan for & ease transitions to new generations of leadership & vision, while strategizing to prevent burnout -- to preserve these essential organizations ensure they continue to serve the community in the future.

2024 RECAP!

LGBTQIA+ Communities

Marion County Queer & Trans* Communities CHAMP Session

- June 15th, 2024 at McKinley Park
- **Community Liaisons:** Shannon Pegg -- Marion Area LGBTQIA+ Coalition
- **No. Participants:** 11 + 2 MV = 13



2024 RECAP!

LGBTQIA+ Communities



Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History presents ...

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project



Marion County CHAMP Map: Queer & Trans* Communities (LGBTQIA+) of Marion County

Community Focus: LGBTQIA+ Communities Across Marion Co..
June 15th, 2024 || McKinley Park -- Marion, Ohio
For more: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

First Marion LGBTQ+ Coalition Meeting

Stitch & Skein

The Guild Sundance Lounge

Gotham City

A Taste of Memphis

The Brickyard

Marion Brewing Company

Unity Center

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Founders Park

Marion Public Health

Marion Medical Center

Marion General

Turning Point

YMCA

City of Marion, Ohio

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Contact Us:

2024 RECAP!

LGBTQIA+ Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County LGBTQIA+ CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



Queer-Friendly Bars



While the nature of rampant homophobia & transphobia in Marion County -- then & now -- meant that participants struggled to explicitly name & map sites of LGBTQIA+ heritage significance compared to sessions focused on other marginalized identity groups, participants overwhelmingly remembered & identified several bars -- all now shuttered -- from an earlier era of Marion's downtown as key touchstones in Marion County cultural life, & as transmission venues for important queer & trans*-affiliated traditional arts genres such as drag performance.





LGBTQIA+ Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County LGBTQIA+ CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



LGBTQIA+-Owned Businesses



Participants celebrated the few openly queer/trans* &-proud local businesses in Marion County: including a handful in downtown Marion. Participants noted that these places not only cultivated understanding & acceptance of queer/trans* identity; but formed links in a chain of safe public spaces, which expands the possibilities of queer/trans* public life in Marion.





LGBTQIA+ Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County LGBTQIA+ CHAMP session participants overwhelming describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



Marion City Parks



Participants -- many of whom were also members or officers of the Marion Area LGBTQ+ Coalition -- celebrated the role that Marion City's Parks & open spaces have played in the maintenance of queer/trans* community in Marion County: especially since the formation of the Coalition. Parks provide affordable, safe outdoor meeting locations of Coalition activities: including artmaking activities, craft events, & the LGBTQ+ Coalition's beloved annual Pride Picnic.



LGBTQIA+ *Communities*

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Community Art Show, Art Spaces, & Art Supply Library 🏆

Participants -- the overwhelming majority of whom were either professional or amateur artists & performers -- discussed the clear need for a centralized space for artists (including queer/trans*) artists in Marion County. This space could be an event (art show, festival), a teaching/performance space, or a gallery. Participants also expressed interest in an "art supply" exchange library: building on the concept of tool libraries popular in some communities.



LGBTQIA+ Communities

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!

🏆 LGBTQIA+-Friendly Performance Venues & Events 🏆

Participants reflected on the strong relationship between queer/trans* culture & performing arts genres: including dance, spoken word poetry, and especially, drag performance. Participants expressed a strong desire not only for more smaller-scale, accessible, & intimate performance venues for grassroots performance, but for more events like open mics to foster these traditions.





LGBTQIA+ Communities

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Reimagine Vacant Spaces as Queer/Trans* Safe Havens 🏆

Permanent, safe space for LGBTQIA+ culture & community was a running theme at this CHAMP session. Historically, queer & trans* spaces have been ephemeral, & threatened. New LGBTQIA+-owned & -allied spaces have expanded local queer public landscapes. As Downtown Marion & Marion County's Village developers, community leaders & queer/trans* entrepreneurs should reimagine vacant spaces as safe havens for LGBTQIA+ entrepreneurship!



LGBTQIA+ Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #1	 <i>Ensure the Safety of Marion County LGBTQIA+ People</i> 			
	Description: Build coalitions to ensure the safety, health, & security of queer & trans* people in Marion County; & the community as a whole. If our CHAMP session was any indication, Marion County remains a highly unsafe & unwelcoming place for queer & trans* community members; safety is a fundamental right; & is essential to community health & thriving.			
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Community conversations; pledges of allyship; safe space declarations; grassroots organizing	Potential Changemakers:	the Marion Area LGBTQ+ Coalition; City of Marion; Marion County Non-Profits; Mental Health Organizations



LGBTQIA+ Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #2	 Investigate Queer/Trans* History in Marion County 		
	Description: Understanding, documenting, & amplifying queer/trans* history in Marion County is a critical need. There have long been queer & trans* people in Marion County; but without understanding their histories & experiences in earlier eras of LGBTQIA+ experience, intergenerational experience will remain fragmented, & critical developments in Marion County LGBTQIA+ heritage will be lost. Oral history projects, exhibits, & community scanning days could help kickstart a Marion County Queer/Trans* History Project.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Project funding & project team; community conversations to ensure the safety of potential participants	Potential Changemakers: Marion Area LGBTQ+ Coalition; Marion Voices; funders interested in underheard histories + futures



LGBTQIA+ Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #3	 Support Queer/Trans* Artists thru Supportive/Safe Venues 		
	Description: Queer & trans* people deserve safe, supportive venues to share, practice, & sell artwork -- including both art forms specific to queer community, like drag performance; & other genres & media that just happen to be practiced by queer/trans* community in Marion County. Participants noted a need for more galleries, open mic performance nights, accessible intimate community performance venues, arts festivals, & marketplaces.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Funding for programs & spaces for young people & elders, based either downtown or available directly in <u>neighborhoods</u> , no transport required.	Potential Changemakers: Marion City Government; Marion YMCA; Local Arts + Culture Non-Profits; Youth & Elder Service Providers



LGBTQIA+ Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County LGBTQIA+ Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Additional Recommendations: LGBTQIA+ Communities of Marion County

- **Recommendation #4 -- Affirming Spaces, Show Up!** Participants in our LGBTQIA+ CHAMP session lavished praise upon the Marion County venues -- including health spaces, affirming churches, & LGBTQIA+-owned or -friendly shops & galleries -- that provided conscious safe space for queer & trans* Marionites. Affirming spaces in Marion could display “safe space” markers, pride flags, or otherwise make themselves known to the Marion Area LGBTQIA+ Coalition, to signal their welcome & support of Marion County queer & trans* residents & workers.
- **Recommendation #5 -- Queer & Trans* Healthcare:** Queer, trans*, non-binary, & gender-nonconforming people may have unique health needs: including mental health & primary care. Marion should prioritize codifying healthcare resources familiar with or specializing in LGBTQIA+ health, mental health, & community care.

2024 RECAP!

African-American Communities

Marion County African- American Communities CHAMP Session

- June 16th, 2024 at MLK Park
- Community Liaisons: Ms. Jessie Thompson
- No. Participants: 8 + 2 MV = 10



2024 RECAP!

LGBTQIA+ Communities



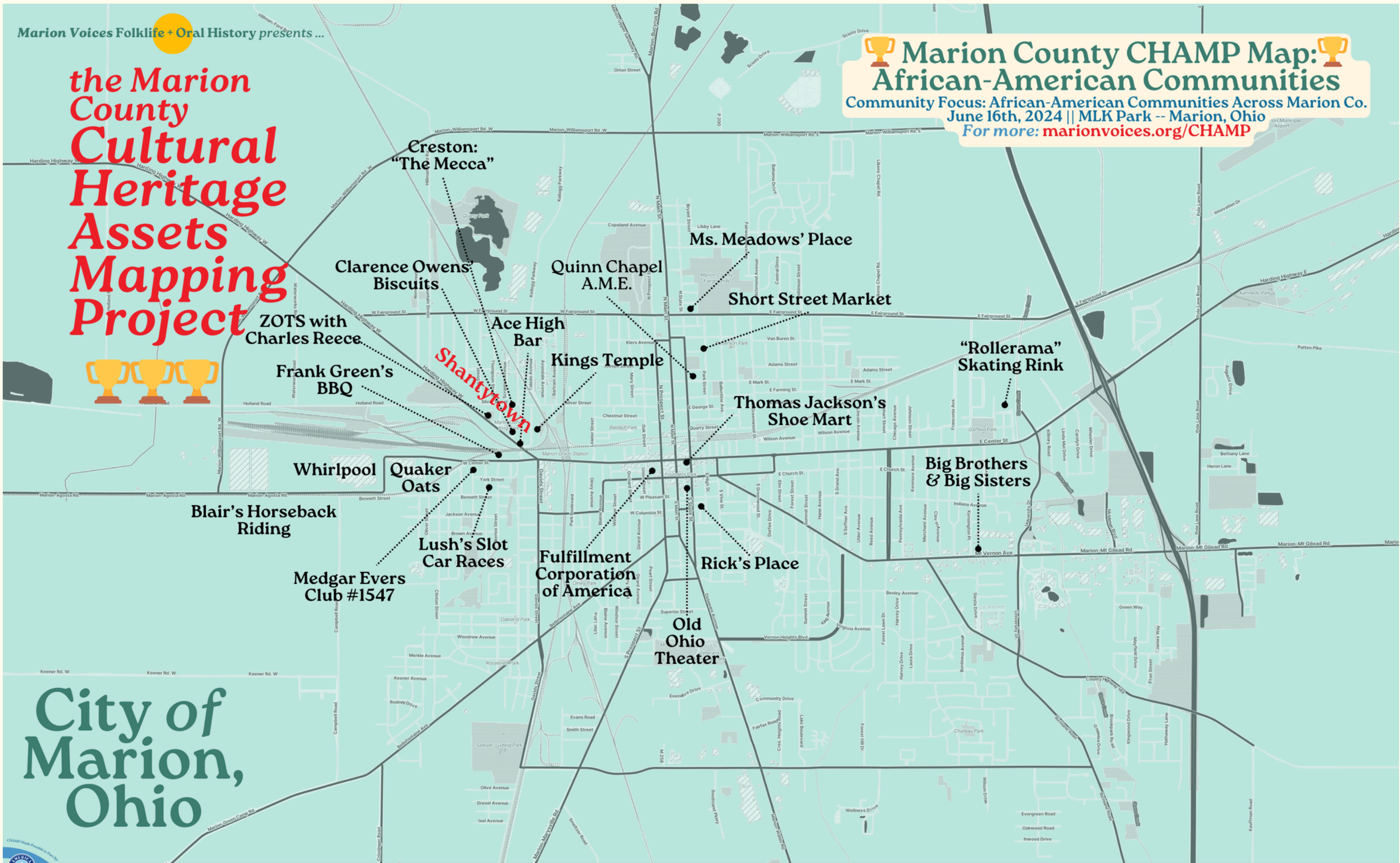
Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History presents ...

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project



Marion County CHAMP Map: African-American Communities

Community Focus: African-American Communities Across Marion Co.
June 16th, 2024 || MLK Park -- Marion, Ohio
For more: marionvoices.org/CHAMP



City of Marion, Ohio

About Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History:

North-Central Ohio's Folklife, Cultural Arts, & Heritage Non-Profit

Champions of Arts, Culture, & Heritage-Based Economic Development for North-Central Ohio!

Founded in 2017, Marion Voices amplifies the diverse cultural heritages & traditional arts forms of Marion County & North-Central Ohio to build more just, more abundant futures for everyone: connecting communities & building solidarities across difference, growing arts-based economies, & nourishing pride-in-place in North-Central Ohio. Our core programs include exhibits, festivals, historic preservation, & advocacy & training for regional artists through paid performance opportunities, a folk arts apprenticeship program, & our popular Marion Voices in the Schools K-12 arts residency program: bringing community cultural artists across genres into our local schools. Our Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP) takes us back to our roots: partnering directly with communities across Marion County to survey our cultural, arts, & heritage resources, share stories, & collectively imagine more just, more abundant futures for all. In late Summer/Fall 2024, we're excited to take this work regional with the launch of our North-Central Ohio CHAMP process & a new folklife survey in twelve neighboring North-Central Ohio counties. Join us!!!



Contact Us:



African-American Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County African-American Communities CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



The West Side's Black Business District Legacy



Participants honored & celebrated the legacy & impact of the Black-owned business districts on the West Side's Senate & Silver streets as a defining aspect of the history, heritage, & legacy of Marion's West Side, & a key contributor to the sense of safety, security, vibrancy, & sovereignty that participants experienced in the neighborhood in the 1960s and 1970s. While that legacy has largely been dismantled, participants note that bringing back commerce is a critical step in revitalizing the West Side, with one participant noting: "we need to be able to live here to prosper, rather than having to go away & come back to make your mark."



African-American Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County African-American Communities CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



Black Culture on the West Side



Participants honor & cherish memories of the vibrancy of Black culture on the West Side in the 20th century: including local musical groups like the Zots (Zebulon, Orville, Tyrone, & Charles Reese); foodways culture -- including rich traditions of gardening, baking, & hospitality -- & cultures of DIY traditional arts & entrepreneurship, as is expressed in participants' own skills in sewing, alterations work, mushfake woodcarving, antiques restoration, & more.



2024 RECAP!

African-American Communities



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Marion County African-American Communities CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their community.



MLK Park



Participants lift up the West Side's MLK Park -- the historic home of the West Side Shantytown Softball team, & built through donations from incarcerated people at Marion Correctional Institute -- as a keystone gem of the West Side: worthy of reinvestment, & deserving of the same amenities as larger Marion City Parks properties.



African-American Communities

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County African-American Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Re-Growing a Black Business District on the West Side 🏆

Participants overwhelmingly wanted to see a comeback for the West Side as a Black business district. To get there, they want to see intentional outreach & support of Black business owners, & accessible programs to help get vacant lots of vacant commercial properties in the hands of potential entrepreneurs. Participants also want to see the reinvestment in & celebration of "Downtown Marion" extended past the railroad tracks to the West Side.



African-American Communities

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County African-American Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!

🏆 Re-Greening, Re-Gardening, & Beautification of the West Side 🏆

Participants mourned the loss of the Black- and Italian-American-tended gardens, fruit trees, & orchards of the West Side; & saw opportunities, with the many vacant lots in the neighborhood, to both interpret & reclaim the West Side's legacy as a hub for self-sufficient, multi-ethnic foodways. Participants want to see a re-greening, re-gardening, & beautification of the West Side.



2024 RECAP!

African-American Communities

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Marion County African-American Communities could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 West Side Youth, Rec, & Community Center 🏆

Participants identified Marion City's young people as the most urgent resource requiring investment; & noted, with concern, that there is nowhere for young people to go to hang out when the weather turns cold. Participants would love to see an indoor youth recreation or community center open on the West Side, that will give young people a place to go, things to do, & will start to revitalize the West Side's lost culture of "third spaces" for community to come together.



African-American Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County African-American Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County African-American Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #1	 Revitalize the West Side: Entrepreneurship & Greenery 		
	Description: Participants were fiercely proud of the legacy of the West Side, & optimistic that a combination of advocacy & grassroots elbow grease could foment a revitalization. Participants want to see a rebuilding of Black-owned businesses & commerce on the West Side, the extension of Downtown Marion’s fervor to the West Side, & a return of gardens.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Funding & investment on the West Side; including grant opportunities, City of Marion or County Commissioner funding; elbow grease!	Potential Changemakers: West Side Neighborhood Coalition; West Side Non-Profit Groups; City of Marion; Downtown Marion, Inc.; Regional Planning; Marion County Land Bank; West Side Residents



African-American Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County African-American Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County African-American Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Rebuild “Third Spaces” for Community Connection

Description: Participants noted the almost all “third spaces” for intergenerational community connection -- Marion’s Rec Center & Downtown YMCA, the Medgar Evers Elks Lodge, & community bars, restaurants, & gathering places -- had disappeared from the West Side. Only Black Churches carry that function today. Participants were hungry to connect across the wider African-American community; & expressed a clear need & desire for community & cultural centers, for youth & elders alike, to foster that connection.

Resources or Policy Change Needed: Collaborative community planning to identify a location & funding source, & design/designate a facility

Potential Changemakers: West Side Residents; Marion Regional Planning; West Side Black Churches; Elders & Youth



African-American Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County African-American Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County African-American Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #3	 <i>Re-Localize Neighborhood Recreation & Culture</i> 		
	Description: Participants reflected on the “golden age” of Marion’s West Side as a time when ample cultural, recreational, & entertainment opportunities -- from Vacation Bible Schools to horseback riding to slot car racing to musical performance -- was available right in the neighborhood. Re-localizing culture, recreation, & entertainment opportunities across Marion’s neighborhood, & on the West Side, will re-build sense of place & sense of pride.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Entrepreneurial & arts/culture-landscape collaborative planning & investment to identify needs & opportunities for new resources	Potential Changemakers: West Side Residents; Arts/Culture Non-Profits (incl. Marion Voices); West Side Non-Profits: Peace & Freedom, Marion Matters



African-American Communities

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Marion County African-American Communities

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Marion County African-American Communities, with additional recommendations below:

Additional Recommendations: African-American Communities

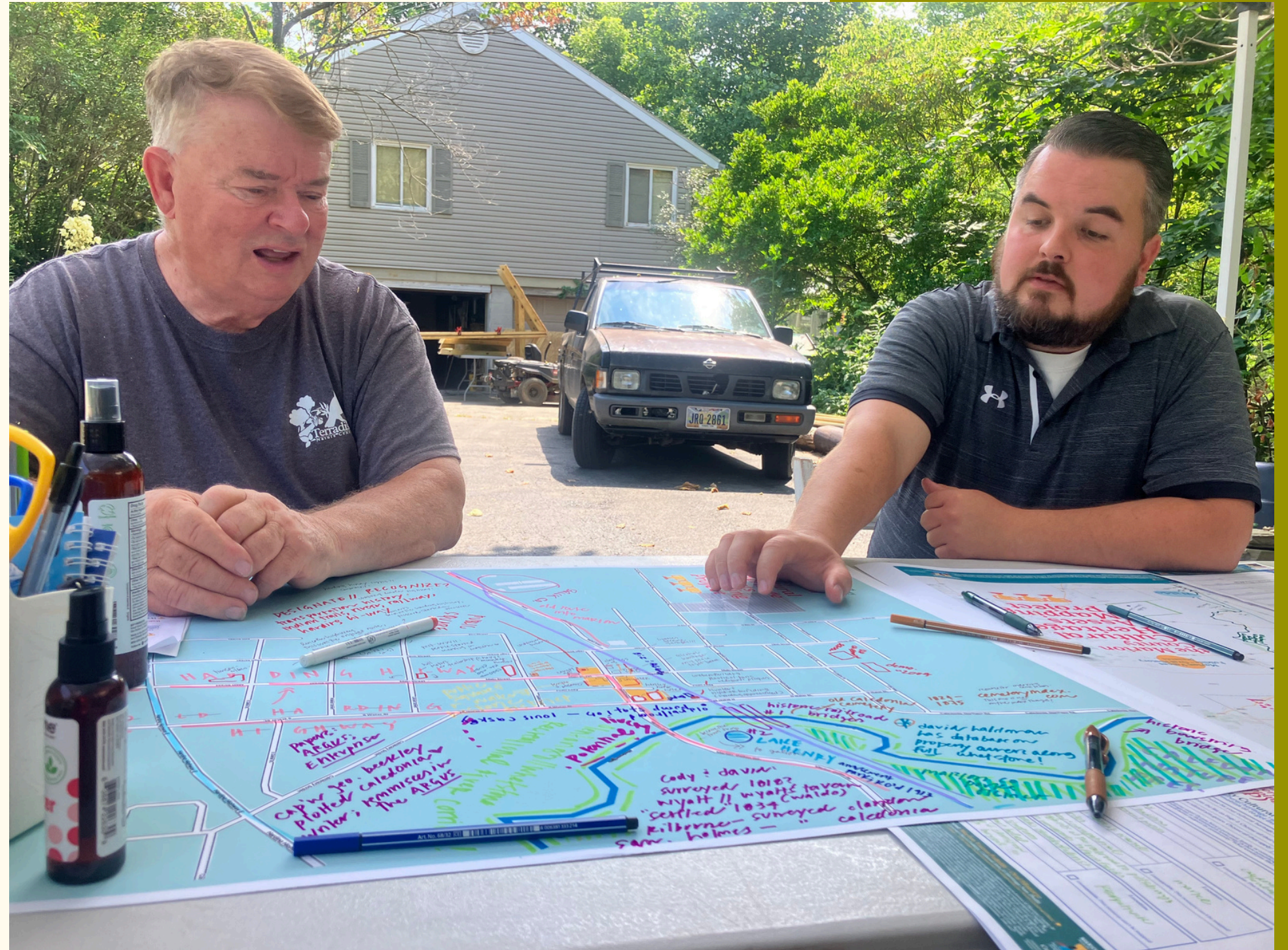
- **Recommendation #4 -- Youth Cultural // Recreation Center:** A dedicated, stand-alone youth cultural or recreation or community center -- something “open late” -- was a key desire of participants in this African-American CHAMP session
- **Recommendation #5 -- Offer Intergenerational Workshops // Classes in Skilled Trades & Traditional Arts, to Grow Livelihoods:** Participants practiced career-supporting skills including sewing, fashion design, antiques restoration, & woodcarving. Intergenerational classes could foster community & cultural memory, & build livelihoods: helping new generations launch cultural heritage businesses.
- **Recommendation #6 -- Create Place-Based Entrepreneurial Incubation Programs:** Invest in diversifying commerce not just Downtown, but in Marion’s diverse neighborhoods -- like the West Side -- through neighborhood-based community commercial design charettes & targeted neighborhood entrepreneurship cohorts



Eastern Marion County

Eastern Marion County CHAMP Session

- June 22nd, 2024 at Terradise Nature Center outside of Caledonia, Ohio
- Community Liaisons: April Morrison; Cody Higley
- No. Participants: 2 + 2 MV = 4

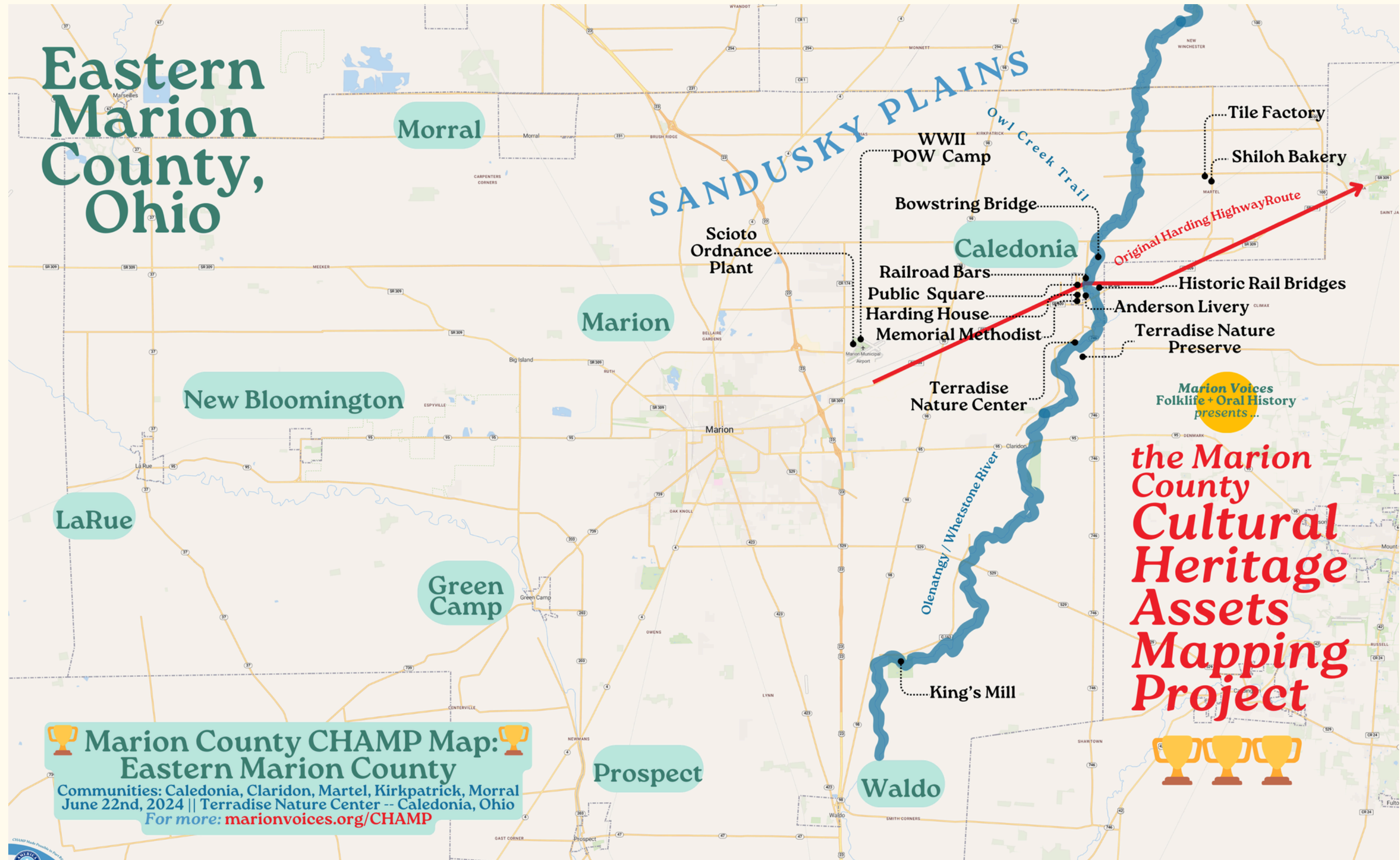




Eastern Marion County



Eastern Marion County, Ohio



Marion County CHAMP Map:
Eastern Marion County
Communities: Caledonia, Claridon, Martel, Kirkpatrick, Morral
June 22nd, 2024 || Terradise Nature Center -- Caledonia, Ohio
For more: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project





Eastern Marion County



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Eastern Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelming describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



the Olentangy (Whetstone) River



Participants #1 cultural heritage resource in Eastern Marion County is also its most significant natural heritage resource. Participants noted how the Olentangy (Whetstone) River has been the continuous shaper of history & human community in Eastern Marion County: from indigenous tending of the land to settler-colonial incursions to today's movements for landback & repair.

Participants want to see the Whetstone River researched, celebrated, cleaned-up, & protected.



Eastern Marion County



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Eastern Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelming describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



Downtown Caledonia's Italianate Architecture & Public Square



Participants identified downtown Caledonia's collection of extant 1860s-1890s Italianate brick buildings -- including its monumental & unique Village Hall, & several extant Block Buildings, in one of Ohio's few remaining "empty center" true Public Square formations -- as one of the defining heritage assets of Eastern Marion County, & worthy of urgent attention, historical interpretation, & historic preservation reinvestment.





Eastern Marion County



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Eastern Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelming describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



the Owl Creek Indigenous Trail



While its exact historic route through Eastern Marion County is not known, participants emphasized the significance of the fact that the Owl Creek Trail -- a footpath highway system built by the indigenous Wyandot, Shawnee, & Lenape people who frequented the Sandusky Plains region, as a critical part of the longer history of transportation as a force in the region. Local historian Kensel Clutter worked to map out an idea of where the Owl Creek Trail may have crossed the Whetstone River. Participants want to see the Owl Creek Trail & indigenous history of the region celebrated & amplified -- in connection with indigenous groups with historic ties to Ohio.





Eastern Marion County

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Eastern Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Olentangy (Whetstone) River Recreational Corridor 🏆

Participants are ecstatic about the possibility of connecting Eastern Marion County communities along the flow of the Whetstone to create a “Recreational River Corridor”: including opportunities for getting on the river (canoes, kayaks, boating), interpretation of the Whetstone River’s historic & significance (Terradise Nature Center’s new Interpretive Center), opportunities for nature study (Terradise Nature Center, Terradise Nature Preserve, & the Caledonia Nature Preserve), & opportunities to shop & explore Caledonia’s historic Public Square.



Eastern Marion County

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Eastern Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!

🏆 Historic Preservation on Caledonia's Public Square 🏆

Participants highlighted the significance of Caledonia's Historic Public Square & remarkable collection of intact 19th-century Italianate commercial, fraternal, & municipal buildings; but also remarked on the poor status of many of the buildings, & the urgency of rapid investment in historic preservation & restoration of these buildings, to protect Eastern Marion County's built heritage for the next generation.





Eastern Marion County

🏆 Future Community Cultural Assets 🏆

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Eastern Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



🏆 Harding Highway Network 🏆

Participants were jazzed on the idea of connecting communities along the historic "Harding Highway" spur of the Lincoln Highway -- from Galion thru Marion, & across Western Marion County -- as a cultural heritage toursim & advocacy campaign that could tie into the Hardng Home, Harding Presidential Library, & other President Warren G. Harding sites in the region -- including his birthplace in Blooming Grove, college in Iberia, & childhood home & early family print shop locations in Caledonia.



Eastern Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Eastern Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Eastern Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #1	 Build a Recreational River Corridor on the Olentangy 		
	Description: Grow a coalition to clean-up, celebrate, amplify, interpret, & activate the Olentangy (Whetstone) River -- first, within Eastern Marion County (Caledonia to Waldo); but eventually, across Morrow, Marion, Delaware, & Franklin Counties. An accessible, floatable Whetstone means tourists to downtown Caledonia & Waldo, which grows local economies.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Funding for Whetstone River clean-up (dead ash trees); coordination between all interested parties; public-private partnerships	Potential Changemakers: the Marion County Parks District, Terradise Nature Center, Village of Caledonia, Landowners on the Whetstone



Eastern Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Eastern Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Eastern Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #2	 <i>Invest in the Preservation of Caledonia's Public Square</i> 		
	Description: Generate funding, advocacy, & support for the historic preservation restoration of Caledonia's historic & National Register of Historic Places-listed Public Square. Organize a historic commission within Village of Caledonia government and/or allied non-profit organizations to seek funding for education, a design review board, guidelines for the historic district, & to advocate for public-private funding partnerships to take the sole burden of building restoration off hard-hit local building owners. This task is urgent.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	LMI Re-Survey to Help Caledonia Access Preservation & Revitalization Funds; Advocacy	Potential Changemakers: Village of Caledonia, County Commissioners, State Reps & Senators, Historic Building Owners



Eastern Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Eastern Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Eastern Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #3	 Collaboratively Research & Amplify Indigenous Heritages 		
	Description: Foster connections & long-term partnerships with indigenous communities with historic ties to Ohio -- including the Wyandot, Lenape, & Shawnee -- to better understand indigenous heritages in Eastern Marion County, & to collaboratively & sensitively amplify the story of indigenous life & ongoing connections to the region. Annotate & amplify the Owl Creek Trail; & consider opportunities for landback, as is happening across the region.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Direct education on indigenous history & culture; sensitivity & awareness of the trauma of settler-colonialism; deferral to indigenous historical authority	Potential Changemakers: Marion County Historians, Non-Profits, & Communities; Marion County Landowners, the Wyandot, Shawnee, & Lenape Tribes of Oklahoma & Kansas



Eastern Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Eastern Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Eastern Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Additional Recommendations: Eastern Marion County

- **Recommendation #4 -- Document & Protect the Heritage Landscape of the Sandusky Plains Prairie Region:** Celebrate the important history & legacy of the Sandusky Plains Prairie region by continuing to research, preserve, & interpret extant remnant prairie parcels, & seeding new prairie ecologies across the region
- **Recommendation #5 -- Organize Communities Along the Harding Highway (US 30-S // Today's 309):** Collaborate with communities along the route of the historic Harding Highway (US-30 S), which stretched from Galion through Western Marion County to Kenton, to tell the story of the Harding Highway, & to expand possibilities & options for Harding Presidential tourists into Eastern & Western Marion County
- **Recommendation #6 -- Celebrate Agricultural Heritage:** Document & interpret the changing history & culture of agriculture in Eastern Marion County, from the Agricultural Revolution of the 1950s to the Farm Crises of the 1980s to today.

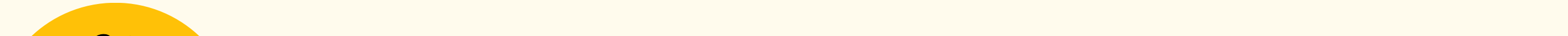
2024 RECAP!

Southern Marion County

Southern Marion County **CHAMP** Session

- June 23rd, 2024 at Prospect Community Park in Prospect, Ohio
- **Community Liaisons:** Tim Gorenflo, Susan Ann Rhodes
- **No. Participants:** 2 + 2 MV = 4





2024 RECAP!

Southern Marion County



Marion Voices
Folklife + Oral History
presents ...

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project



Fiber Mill

Victory Inn
Carp Tournament

New Bridge

Gast Sanatorium
(burned 1905)

Dam (removed)

Hanley Hydro-Jet:
First Motorboats in Ohio

Stained Glass
Alpaca Wool Fiber

Pioneer Days
(former festival)

Hallowe'en Parade

June Yard Sales

Prospect
Community
Park (WPA-Era)

Fourth of July
Festival

Opera House
(Knights of Pythias)

Prospect
Sunswim
Pool

Village of Prospect

🏆 Marion County CHAMP Map: 🏆
Southern Marion County

Communities: Prospect, Waldo, & Green Camp
June 23rd, 2024 || Prospect Community Park -- Prospect, Ohio
For more: marionvoices.org/CHAMP



Founded in 2017, Marion Voices amplifies the diverse cultural heritages & traditional arts forms of Marion County & North-Central Ohio to build more just, more abundant futures for everyone: connecting communities & building solidarities across difference, growing arts-based economies, & nourishing pride-in-place in North-Central Ohio. Our core programs include exhibits, festivals, historic preservation, & advocacy & training for regional artists through paid performance opportunities, a folk arts apprenticeship program, & our popular *Marion Voices* in the Schools K-12 arts residency program: bringing community cultural artists across genres into our local schools. Our Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP) takes us back to our roots: partnering directly with communities across Marion County to survey our cultural, arts, & heritage resources, share stories, & collectively imagine more just, more abundant futures for all. In late Summer/Fall 2024, we're excited to take this work regional with the launch of our North-Central Ohio CHAMP process & a new folklife survey in twelve neighboring North-Central Ohio counties. Join us!!!

About **Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History:**
North-Central Ohio's Folklife, Cultural Arts, & Heritage Non-Profit

🏆 Champions of Arts · Culture · & Heritage-Based Economic Development for North-Central Ohio! 🏆

MARION VOICES
FOLKLIFE + ORAL HISTORY



Contact Us:

APPLYING MARION COUNTY'S
FOLKLIFE + ORAL HISTORY
FOR WIDE 2024 FUTURE-3

2024 RECAP!

Southern Marion County



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Southern Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



the Scioto River



the Scioto River



As in Eastern Marion County along the Olentangy (Whetstone), Southern Marion County residents identified the mighty Scioto River as a critical cultural/natural heritage resource. In particular, participants cited a long legacy of recreational watersport, industrial-manufacturing, & festival/foodways traditions along the Scioto -- all of which have been throttled by the Little Scioto's Superfund declaration. The Scioto River's devastating 1913 flood also looms prominently in Prospect.



Southern Marion County

Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets

Southern Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.

Prospect Community Park

Participants identified Prospect's unique community park -- which functions as its own 501(c)(3) entity -- as a precious community cultural asset, & centerpiece for Southern Marion County community life. Built by the WPA in the 1930s, with an extant stone wall, the park & its unique shelterhouses is a hub for both community amateur sports & recreation, & is the home of Prospect's beloved annual Fourth of July & BBQ celebration.





Southern Marion County



Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets



Southern Marion County CHAMP session participants overwhelmingly describe these three cultural assets as defining features of their region.



Historic Downtown Prospect



One of only three intact historic 19th-century commercial districts in Marion County, downtown Prospect features a unique two-street commercial district, & a collection of Italianate mixed-use structures: many with original or near-original storefronts. While several downtown Prospect builds have been maintained in active use or have been revitalized by community preservationists & entrepreneurs, Prospect, like Marion County's other historic villages, faces an uphill challenge with rapidly-aging, vacant historic structures. Prospect community members have bold visions for their downtown & for adaptive reuse of these buildings to bring back a thriving commercial core; but also cite red tape & financial challenges involved in rehabilitation.



Southern Marion County

Future Community Cultural Assets

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Southern Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!

Historic Preservation in Downtown Prospect



Participants expressed dismay at the decline in commercial, restaurant, & social offerings in downtown Prospect, & the sharp rise in vacant buildings. Participants themselves are actively involved in downtown historic preservation & revitalization, but note the steep building code challenges for adaptive reuse projects, & the enormous cost of preserving old buildings. Marion County & its Villages should invest in historic preservation, to make revitalizing Marion's Village downtowns more accessible to entrepreneurial residents: meeting those residents halfway. Listing Prospect's downtown to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district could also unlock historic tax credits.



Southern Marion County

Future Community Cultural Assets

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Southern Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!

Prospect History Museum

Participants emphasize that the “kiss of death” for downtown Prospect was the consolidation of Prospect’s local schools. To rekindle a sense of local identity, participants want to use Prospect’s old Kindergarten Building as a local history museum: interpreting Prospect’s rich history as a way to grow sense of local identity & pride, & to kickstart local reinvestment & revitalization.





Southern Marion County

Future Community Cultural Assets

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Southern Marion County could use; or ways to creatively re-imagine existing cultural heritage & community resources!



Clean-Up & Liveries on the Scioto River

Participants emphasize the Scioto River as one of Southern Marion County's most significant heritage & recreational resources. Long underused due to concerns about the Superfund site, participants want to see Marion County invest in truly cleaning up the river, so that entrepreneurs can build liveries along the river, & so that river-based festival traditions like the annual Carp Tournament can be revived.



Southern Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Southern Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, *Marion Voices* makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Southern Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #1	 Kickstart Downtown Preservation with Place Activation 			
	Description: Prospect Downtown Preservation & Revitalization leader Tim Gorenflo suggests catalyzing investment & interest in Prospect’s historic downtown through arts-based “place activation” strategies: like organizing a competition for painted or decorated window displays in vacant storefronts. These time-tested strategies “wake up” downtowns & whet appetites for possibilities for adaptive reuse: critical imaginations for revitalization.			
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Community Organizing; Local Business Support; Artist Involvement; Prize Money	Potential Changemakers:	Local Preservation Visionaries; Local Businesses & Building Owners; Community Artists



Southern Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Southern Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, *Marion Voices* makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Southern Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #2	 <i>Invest in the Legacy & Future of the Scioto River Corridor</i> 		
	Description: Continue to organize not only for the physical clean-up of the Scioto River downstream of the Little Scioto Superfund site, but to reintroduce “clean-up” species, & to rehabilitate the legacy of the Scioto River in Prospect as a safe & possible resource for culture, recreation, & tourism. Festivals & recreational modes like fishing, canoeing, kayaking, & additional engagements like environmental education & fish, wildlife, & macroinvertebrate survey can help “activate” the Scioto as an overlooked but critical resource for Prospect’s future.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Environmental Survey; River Clean-Ups; Marketing the River; Revitalizing River Festivals & Events	Potential Changemakers: Ohio // Federal EPA, Village of Prospect, ODNR, OSU-Marion Biology, Local Environmentalists



Southern Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Southern Marion County

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, Marion Voices makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Southern Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Cultural Heritage Recommendation #3	 Nourish Intergenerational Collaboration & Succession 		
	Description: Support long-time community organizers & ensure the future of community revitalization in Prospect through intentionally cultivating intergenerational organizational & project teams, & investing in succession planning. Prospect CHAMP participants reported high degrees of burnout, the same “usual suspects” involved in community revitalization efforts, & a recent loss of key organizations due to the same.		
	Resources or Policy Change Needed:	Intergenerational community organizing; collaboration across existing organizations & groups; training in succession planning	Potential Changemakers: Non-Profit Leaders; Millennial, Gen Z, & Gen Alpha Prospect Residents, “Old Guard” Legacy Prospect Community Organizers & Groups



Southern Marion County

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: **Southern Marion County**

Based on community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping, discussion, & recommendations at our CHAMP session, *Marion Voices* makes the following top three recommendations for investment in the cultural heritage landscape of Southern Marion County, with additional recommendations below:

Additional Recommendations: Southern Marion County

- **Recommendation #4 -- Continue to Activate & Amplify Prospect Community Park as a Community Cornerstone:** Maintain & expand investments in the WPA-era Prospect Community Park through ongoing festivals, & historical interpretation: such as a walking tour, audio guide, or Ohio Historical Marker, sharing the unique history of the park in the community
- **Recommendation #5 -- Organize & Advocate for More Support for Local-Led Historic Preservation:** Work proactively with Village, County, & Regional leaders to seek grants & technical assistance to support resident historic preservation leaders in revitalizing, restoring, & reimagining vacant historic building downtown
- **Recommendation #6 -- Celebrate Local History & Identity for Local Pride & to Attract Heritage Tourists:** Prospect is well-positioned to codify & share its heritage as identity, & to market that heritage to tourists from Central Ohio, & beyond



CHAMP: The Return Tour



***Marion County CHAMP:
Big Themes,
Next Steps,
& Get Involved!***

2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**

CHAMP Themes:

- Loss of & need // opportunity for new **third space** community gathering spaces: for youth, for elders, for cultural communities, & for marginalized neighborhoods -- especially spaces for musical performance, dance, athletics, & recreation; & including LGBTQIA+-safe // supporting & all-ages venues.
- Communities show a vested interest in building // rehabilitating **recreational river corridors** along the Olentangy & Scioto
- Marion County communities -- both villages *and* neighborhoods -- seek support for **historic preservation, & downtown/ commercial district revitalization**
- Communities want to see a **re-localization** of resources: with grocery stores, YMCA, etc., moved back downtown // within reach!



2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**

You Be the CHAMP:

- Use our *Marion Voices* CHAMP Kit & Basemaps for your own **Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping** exercises & activities across Marion County -- just keep our design & cite our work! :)
- Or ... **commission *Marion Voices*** to host a **Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping** process with your target community // organization!
- **Peruse our CHAMP session maps & 'zines** for ideas for dinner, cultural heritage tourism destinations, or to discover new things in our county, through the lens of particular cultural, identity, or geographic communities!
- **Community Organizers & Leaders:**
 - Take note of *endangered resources* to protect, or opportunities to **invest/support!**
 - Shape your **arts & culture agendas** with consideration of the imagined & desired future arts & cultural landscapes that real Marion County residents want!
 - Take action on recommendations in our seven CHAMP 'zines, straight from diverse Marion County communities!



2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**

Up Next:

- *Marion Voices* launches our **North-Central Ohio Regional CHAMP** process -- AKA the **North-Central Ohio Folklife Solidarities Project** -- this winter, with fieldwork & CHAMP strategy sessions in **twelve** neighboring counties across North-Central Ohio
- Goal is to connect & build solidarities & collaborations across arts, culture, & heritage organizations from Lima to Mansfield: illuminating the under-sung region of North-Central Ohio, & providing scaffolding for future partnership work & regional projects
- **North-Central Ohio Folklife Survey:** “Windshield” survey of cultural heritage & arts assets in each county
- **Final Product:** Twelve county CHAMP reports; new North-Central Ohio regional folklife // culture website & organizational directory



2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**

Get Involved!

- Take home a 'zine ... or nine; & share with friends, neighbors, your community, and/or your workplace!
- Use our Marion County CHAMP 'zines as a blueprint for opportunities to invest in, & support, the growth or rebirth of flourishing cultural landscapes & communities across Marion County. With top recommendations & spotlights on key cultural assets & desired future community cultural assets, we've done all the work for you! Just start right in! :)
- Recommend partner/collaborator/liaison organizations for our current **North-Central Ohio Regional CHAMP** work -- in Morrow, Wyandot, Crawford, Seneca, Huron, Ashland, Richland, Hardin, Allen, Putnam, & Logan Counties, so we can network arts, culture, & heritage organizations across the region!
- Updates & More: marionvoices.org/CHAMP





CHAMP: The Return Tour



***Marion County CHAMP:
Credits &
Acknowledgements!***

2024 RECAP!

Marion County **CHAMP:**

Our CHAMP Team:

- **Core Team:**
 - **Jess Lamar Reece Holler** -- Project Direction, Strategy, Graphic Design, Facilitation, & Analysis
 - **Johnnie Jackson** -- Strategy & Outreach
 - **Jeff Nagle** -- Map Design; Graphic Design; CHAMP Session Support & Notes
 - **Danlaly Pavón** -- Translation, Interpretation, & Language Justice
- **CHAMP Liaisons:** **Irene Tron** (Western Marion County), **Danlaly Pavón** & **Evelyn Olivos Lisiecki** (Latine Communities); **Ms. Linda Sims** & **Ms. Katie Reese-Hairston** (Marion City & Suburbs); **Ms. Jessie Thompson** (African-American Communities); **Shannon Pegg** & the **Marion Area LGBTQ+ Coalition** (Queer/Trans* Communities); **April Morrison** & **Cody Higley** (Eastern Marion County); **Tim Gorenflo** & **Susan Ann Rhodes** (Southern Marion County)



2024 RECAP!

Marion County CHAMP:

Our CHAMP Team:



THANK YOU <3

Contact & to Collaborate:

Jess Lamar Reece Holler

Co-Founder & Executive Director
Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History
marionvoicesoralhistory@gmail.com
tel. 614.273.5907 || marionvoices.org

Join our mailing list on our website!



THANK YOU <3

Donate to *Marion Voices*:

Checks to:

Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History
P.O. Box #489
Caledonia, Ohio 43314

Or Online, via the PayPal Giving Fund!
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