

MARION VOICES
FOLKLIFF + ORAL HISTORY



Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History's



the Marion County
Cultural Heritage
Assets Mapping Project
(CHAMP)

🏆 Made Possible in Part By: 🏆



Ohio Arts
COUNCIL



OHIO **HUMANITIES**
Sharing stories. Sparking conversations. Inspiring ideas.

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES

"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"

Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History presents ...

the Marion County
Cultural Heritage
Assets Mapping Project
(CHAMP)



🏆 Marion County CHAMP Report: 🏆 Latine Communities

Community Focus: Spanish-Speaking Communities Across Marion Co.
For more: marionvoices.org/CHAMP



This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Marion County Latine Communities CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park in Marion City. Report findings are ultimately only reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in Marion County!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!



Ohio Arts
COUNCIL

OHIO **HUMANITIES**

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**

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!!

MARION VOICES
FOLKLIFF + ORAL HISTORY



Contact Us:
marionvoicesfolklife@gmail.com
marionvoices.org | Tel. 614.572.5907
Director: Jace Lamar Reece Holler

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!



Session Summary & Participants: Marion County Latine Communities -- Marion, Ohio

Our Marion County Latine Communities Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Session was held in June 2024 in Marion, Ohio at Lincoln Park. This well-attended session drew a total group of fifteen participants -- including several family groups spanning generations -- alongside two Marion Voices team members. Participants lived in Marion, New Bloomington. All fifteen participants had especially strong ties to Marion County Latine communities: either through being Latine themselves, or working in language & cultural education & advocacy roles or in schools -- like Marion's Marion St. Mary School -- with strong ties to Marion County Latine communities. Participants included a Peruvian immigrant & Latino ministries coordinator, a Nicaraguan-borne translator, a newcomer from Mexico who is a foodways & horticultural artist, & young people. This session's participants mapped cultural assets & fostered a discussion emphasizing the unique ingenuity of immigrant & newcomer artists, culture-keepers, & entrepreneurs in Marion County, alongside the need and potential for economic development & support for Latine entrepreneurs in Marion County looking to launch businesses and enterprises connected to cultural heritage.

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!!!

MARION VOICES

FOLKLIFE + ORAL HISTORY



Amplifying Marion County's
Heritage & Traditions
For More Just Futures

Contact Us:

marionvoicesfolklife@gmail.com

Marionvoices.org | Tel. 644.372.5707

Director: Jess Lamar Reece Holler

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



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!!!

Cultural heritage assets mapping projects lead to lists // directories of cultural assets organized by community, as well as lots of good ideas about how to better activate, network, & build on our resources. They often also surface projects & demands for funding: community needs that Marion Voices can bring to municipal, non-profit, & philanthropic leaders as a part of our advocacy efforts to grow arts- & culture-based economies for Marion County.

In short: your ideas & contributions will help us build more just, more abundant futures for everyone in Marion County ... starting with our diverse local heritages! **Let's goooo!**

Cultural Assets Mapping Resources, Thank-Yous, & Citations

We are grateful to a number of municipal, non-profit, & community Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Projects across the country for sharing resources, guides, & materials, which helped our Marion Voices team develop our folklife & cultural arts-based Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project kit, facilitation plan, & materials! We are especially grateful to the City of Austin's Cultural Assets Mapping Project (CAMP) & CAMP Kit, which served as a model for this packet!

Thank you to our funders, the **Ohio Arts Council**, **Ohio Humanities**, **National Endowment for the Arts**, & private Marion Voices donors, for helping to make the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process possible for Marion County! Additional thanks to the **America-250 Ohio Semiquincentennial Commission** for support for the project's next phase: the North-Central Ohio Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project, helping bridge this work with our regional neighbors!

Project Team -- Credits & Acknowledgements: Jess Lamar Reece Holler -- Project Director, Lead Facilitator & Analyst, Graphic Design; Jeff Nagle -- Maps, Session Notes, Graphic Design, & Research; Johnnie Jackson -- Outreach & Strategic Lead; Danlaly Pavón -- Translation, Interpretation, & Language Justice; CHAMP Community Liaisons -- Irene Tron (Western Marion County), Danlaly Pavón & Evelyn Olivios 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).

This program is made possible, in part, by Ohio Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of Ohio Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thank you for being CHAMPs for Marion County Culture!

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



🏆 Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities 🏆

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!

🏆 What is cultural heritage assets mapping? 🏆

Cultural heritage assets mapping is a tried-&-true participatory process used in communities across the United States & world to guide communities in identifying our cultural, historic, arts, natural, & community resources; & making plans for their protection. Cultural heritage assets mapping projects can surface what we have in our community -- cultural heritage assets. Knowing what we have is the first step in organizing & advocating together to better invest in these resources. Cultural heritage assets mapping can also identify resources we used to have, & lost -- & can lead to important discuss about why those losses occurred, how we can repair them, & how we can build different futures that reflect all histories & meet the needs of all community members. **Our goal is to set a blueprint for our county's cultural futures!**

🏆 What is a cultural heritage asset? 🏆

Cultural heritage assets are resources related to arts, culture, or heritage that are present in our communities & on the landscape. Some cultural heritage assets can be mapped -- physical locations, for example. Others -- what folklorists call "intangible cultural heritages" -- may be connected to a place in a more abstract or general way: like a regional foodways dish that is present across multiple restaurants or dairy bars, or an association (Marion & popcorn; Bucyrus & bratwurst.)

Some general categories of cultural assets we invite you to consider in our Marion County CHAMP process include:

- Organizations
- Performance Venues
- Galleries & Museums
- Foodways Establishments
- Businesses
- Religious Spaces

Tip: See our Marion Voices CHAMP Packet for more details on how to lead your own Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project!

Ultimately, there is no "right or wrong" or when it comes to identifying cultural heritage assets in our communities. You are the expert. If you think a resource is important to your community, say so ... & we'll include it!

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!

MARION VOICES

FOLKLIFE + ORAL HISTORY



AMPLIFYING MARION COUNTY'S
UNDISCOVERED HERITAGES &
FOR MORE JUST FUTURE

Contact Us:

marionvoicesfolklife@gmail.com
marionvoices.org | tel. 647.372.5907
Director: Jessi Lamar Reese Holler

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



🏆 Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities 🏆

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!



🏆 Historic Contexts: 🏆 Latine Communities of Marion County

Marion County, Ohio has been home to Latine communities for multiple generations. While earlier patterns of immigrant & migration of Spanish-speaking peoples to Marion County brought families from Mexico and with Mexican-American heritage, Marion County's contemporary landscape has also been shaped by immigrants & newcomers from other regions of Central America: including many indigenous Mayan peoples from Guatemala & Honduras, & newcomers from other Central & South American nations: including Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela, Chile, & the Hispanophone Caribbean. Today, Latine communities are concentrated in Marion City, & in Western Marion County: including in the Villages of New Bloomington & LaRue.

🏆 Cultural Contexts: 🏆 Latine Communities of Marion County

The following major Marion County Latine community cultural contexts & traditions were identified by participants in the Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP session:

- **Diverse Language Contexts:** Participants noted that many recent Latine newcomers to Marion County don't actually speak Spanish as a first language! Many families from or with roots in parts of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, & other South American nations actually speak a variety of indigenous Mayan languages: including K'ich'è, Mam, & Q'anjob'al. While Spanish is often used as a common language, it may be a second, third, fourth, or even fifth language in some communities. Marion County is linguistically diverse; & our Latine communities are not a language monolith!
- **Religious Diversity:** Similarly, Marion County Latine communities have multiple faiths & faith-based traditions, including Catholic, Protestant, & indigenous traditions.

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!

Community Trends: Latine Communities of Marion County

Participants in our Marion County Latine Communities CHAMP session highlighted several larger trends in the contemporary Marion County Latine heritage & cultural landscape: including praising the ingenuity of Latine community members in maintaining cultural traditions & entrepreneurship; but also cited equity issues -- like consistent access issues with opportunities to develop cultural entrepreneurship (like funding, loans, or training in public health protocols) due to a shortage of translation services & lack of language justice framework, a lack of "third spaces" for the cultivation & transmission of traditional cultural arts like dancing or music across generations and across national & cultural communities, a "flattening" of specific cultural & national differences due to Latine communities needing to band together for advocacy & community, & a dispersed community cultural experience due to Latine community members needing to go to larger cities like Columbus to access specific national cultural communities, foodways, & ingredients.



Cultural Resources: Latine Communities of Marion County

Participants named the following cultural heritage assets as important contributors to the cultural ecology & landscape of Marion County's Latine Communities:

- **Marion City's 2 Mexican // Latine Grocery Stores (La Condesa #3; Mi Rancho) & Mexican Restaurants (El Campesino x 2; Victor's Tacos)**
- **The New Bloomington Dairy Bar: a revitalized heritage New Bloomington Dairy Bar, reimagined under Mexican-American ownership to serve both traditional Mexican fare (including gorditas, huaraches, & tamales rojo y verde) and North-Central Ohio dairy bar staples**
- **Marion St. Mary Catholic Church & its Latine Festival Traditions & Social Services: including the Latino Health Fair (June), Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15th-Oct. 15th), & the Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession & Feast (Early December)**
- **Latine-Owned Home-Based (Cottage) Businesses: including tortillerias (tortilla shops), plant shops, community meal-sharing, aesthetic businesses, translation, & notary services!**

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!

MARION VOICES

FOLKLIFE + ORAL HISTORY



Amplifying Marion County's
Heritage & Traditions
For More Just Futures

Contact Us:

marionvoicesfolklife@gmail.com
MarionVoices.org | Tel. 614.372.5707
Director: Jess Lamar Reese Holler

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!

Future Community Cultural Assets

Speculation, scheming, & dreaming from our CHAMP session on what Latine Communities of Marion County 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!



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.



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.



the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!

Spotlight on Key Community Cultural Assets

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

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.



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.



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!



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!

MARION VOICES

FOLKLIFE + ORAL HISTORY



Amplifying Marion County's
Heritage and Traditions
For More, Just Futures

Contact Us:
marionvoicesfolklife@gmail.com
marionvoices.org | Tel. 614.372.5907
Director: Jessi Lamar Boone Holler

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!



Discussions & Major Themes: Latine Communities of Marion County

Participants in our Latine Communities of Marion County session both celebrated the creativity, solidarity, & ingenuity of newcomers from Central & South America & the Hispanophone Caribbean in Marion County, and mourned the difficulties in cultural continuity & heritage transmission in a county in which Latine communities are a minority, & are often perceived as a monolith. For this group -- affiliated by the Spanish language, even though many Latine Marion County residents also or even primarily speak other languages, such as Mayan indigenous languages native to Central America -- significant structural barriers exist to both cultural transmission and access to basic human services: including language barriers, the lack of a language justice framework (i.e., the belief that all people deserve access to public services, regardless of language spoken), & gaps in outreach. Participants also discussed needing to participate in an expanded metropolitan region -- including frequent trips to Columbus -- to access foodways, music, dance, & specific cultural traditions. Participants noted that "third space" social spaces for Latine communities are almost non-existent in Marion: there is nowhere to dance or listen to music; there are no shops or boutiques catering, for example, to dresses for quinceñera celebrations; there are not (yet) Central American bakeries or coffeeshops, & there are only a handful of Latine-owned restaurants & businesses. Marion's churches -- including a handful of either majority- or historically Latine-associated churches -- have stepped in to play the role of cultural connector & interpreter. Participants noted many exciting & specific opportunities for the community to support Latine newcomers interested in fostering cultural arts, heritage, & heritage businesses.

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



🏆 Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities 🏆

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!



Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session Participants annotate a Marion Voices CHAMP Map of Marion City to highlight Latine-affiliated cultural heritage resources.

Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session Participants annotate a Marion Voices CHAMP Map of the Village of New Bloomington -- a hub for Latine cultural life in Western Marion County -- to highlight Latine-affiliated cultural heritage resources.



the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



🏆 Key Takeaways: 🏆

Latine Communities of Marion County 🏆

Here, we summarize key takeaways to each of the eight discussion questions which formed the heart of our Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping session, with participant recommendations for community investment & action.

- **Question 1:** What important cultural, arts, & heritage resources did we used to have in our community; & what happened to them? Participants agreed that, in Marion County's Latine communities, there are definitely more cultural heritage resources than before. Participants reflected that, twenty years ago, Marion County's Latine community was 90% Mexican, & maybe 10% Guatemalan. Today, participants felt the breakdown was 50% Mexican, & 50% diverse other Latine communities. Still, with total demographic numbers in the hundreds, but not yet thousands, participants saw lots of room for an expansion of Latine cultural heritage resources & businesses.
- **Question 2:** What cultural heritage assets in our community are currently threatened; & what would protecting them look like? Participants worried, emphatically, that young Latine people growing up in Marion would lose their language, & their cultural connections. Participants noted that festivals like Our Lady of Guadalupe were but once a year; they expressed a strong need for ongoing cultural heritage events and language // culture schools to keep young people's connections to their home cultural communities & heritages alive.
- **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? Participants mourned a lack of disco facilities, "places to get dresses" (especially for quinceñeras, communions, & other fancy events), flea markets, toy stores, & bakeries catering to Latine heritage. Other participants noted that some amenities -- such as small business resources or help navigating regulations to legally vend food -- are available but not truly or accessibly available to the Latine community due to English-only services or other barriers.
- **Question 4:** What cultural assets define our sense of place & help make our community & local landscape distinct from other communities? For most Latine community participants, Marion County was described in terms of lack: especially compared to the vibrant Latine cultural & commercial landscape & support systems that exist in neighboring Columbus.
- **Question 5:** What cultural assets in our community need to be invested in? What investments are needed? By whom? Critical social services & language justice topped the list here, with participants advocating for support for navigating foodways & vending licensure for fairs and festivals, medical interpretation, & small business incubation for Latine entrepreneurs.
- **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? Participants mentioned several concrete options: (free) language classes at the Marion Public Library -- with accessible, evening times; a Latine "flea market" model where entrepreneurs could rent a booth; & Spanish-language radio/TV to connect the community!

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!

Recommendations for Cultural Investment: Latine Communities of 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 Latine Communities in Marion County, 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.		
Cultural Heritage Recommendation #2	Invest in All-Year Cultural & Language Transmission		
	Description: Nourish & support year-round language classes, culture schools, & festivals to provide 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.		
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 everyone gets a seat at the table, & that all language needs will be accommodated. For more, see CIRCULAR Language Justice Collective.		
Cultural Heritage Recommendation #4	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.		

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



Marion County CHAMP Report: Latine Communities

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP

This report details community feedback, findings, & discussions from our June 9th, 2024 Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session, held at Lincoln Park. Report findings are ultimately reflective of the participants at each session; but provide a useful starting place for thinking about future investments in arts, culture, & community in each geographic or identity community!

Thank you to all who participated in the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping process!



Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session Participants discuss opportunities for the creation of entertainment & event spaces for the transmission of important Central & South American cultural forms like dance & music, which are currently struggling in Marion County.

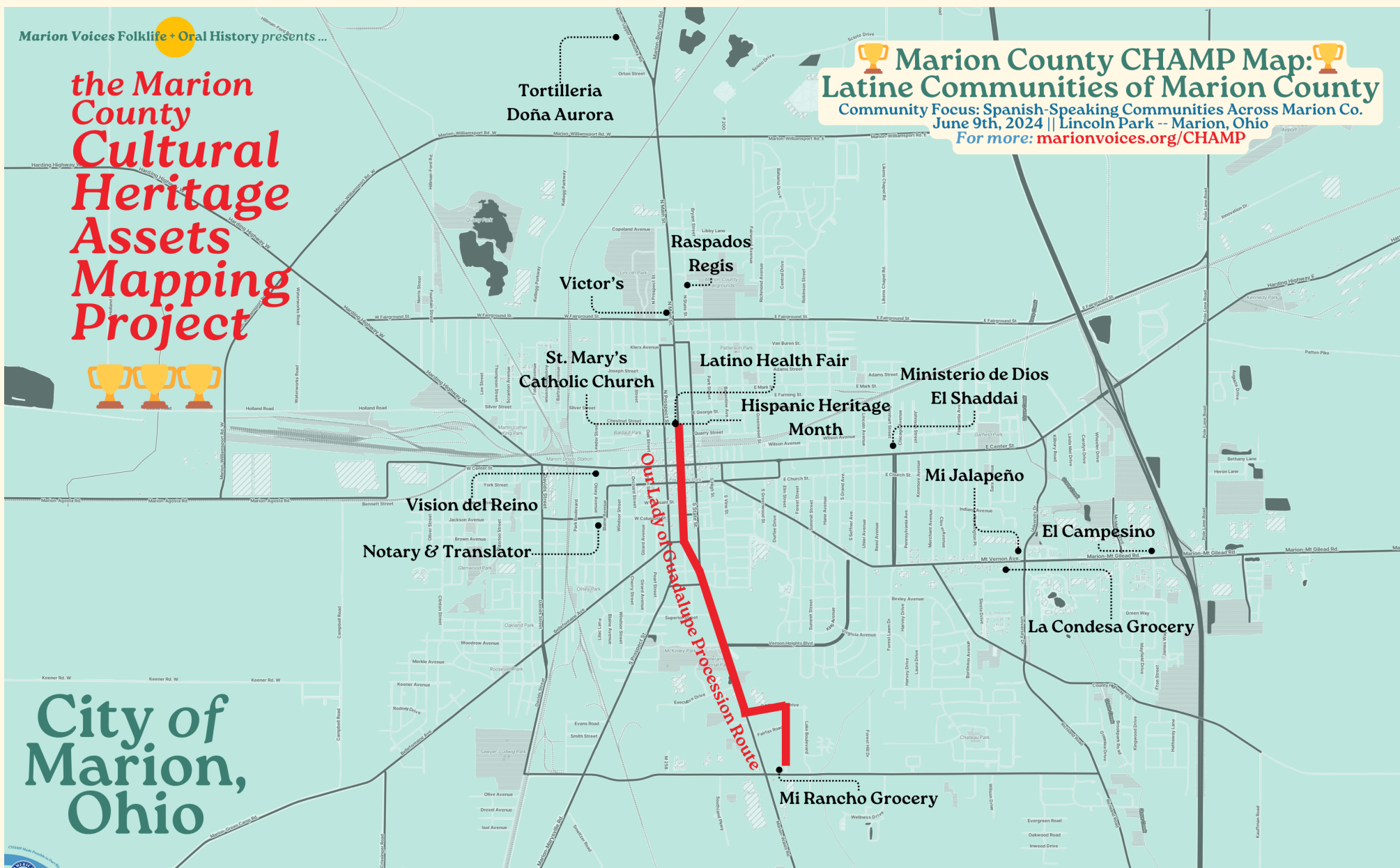
Latine Communities of Marion County CHAMP Session Participant Ma Esther Espino -- a successful horticulturalist, social media influencer, & aspiring horticultural entrepreneur -- discusses her vision for her future bakery & plant shop, & the need for accessible space & guidance through small business licensing requirements.



Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History presents ...

Marion County CHAMP Map: Latine Communities of Marion County

For more information or to get involved: marionvoices.org/CHAMP



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!!