

the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP)



🏆 Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Kit 🏆

Map our community cultural heritage + arts resources ... & plan our heritage futures!

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

This packet will help guide your Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP) session. Together, with your facilitators, we'll discuss & share stories about important cultural heritage, arts, & affiliated resources in the geographic, cultural, or experience/identity group each session focuses on; & then we'll work to place those resources on maps ... or to discuss what makes them unmappable! Finally, we'll discuss our maps & resources together; & make a plan & recommendations that will be shared out with community stakeholders on how we'd like to see our community cultural heritage resources invested in, networked, amplified, & strengthened. We will also discuss resources we don't yet have ... & want to see!

Welcome to the Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project! Thank you for your time!

🏆 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 discussion 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
- Festivals & Events
- Schools & Educational Spaces
- Rivers, Parks, & Natural Resources
- Historic Sites & Infrastructure
- Landmarks & Public Spaces
- Cultural Landscapes
- Artists' Studios & Workshops

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!

🏆 Why is Marion Voices doing Marion County CHAMP? Why now?! 🏆

Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History is your countywide arts, culture, & heritage organization.

We are public history, cultural arts, & arts-based economic development by & for the people. Our mission statement holds us to connect Marion County communities across lines of difference, & to amplify Marion County's underheard heritages ... building new solidarities, & more expansive, livable arts-based economies along the way!

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!

About Marion Voices Folklife + Oral History:

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

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Process & Agenda: Marion County CHAMP!!!

We use a standardized agenda across all of our Marion County CHAMP sessions to ensure all participants have the same experience! Our CHAMP sessions last approximately two hours; there is an optional third hour (with a separate stipend pool) for working community artists, focused on arts livelihoods & arts economy -- sort of a live "focus group" for our countywide artists' survey. Depending on your interest, experience, & availability, you can choose to stay for both sessions; or just the first part.

- Introductions & Expressive Traditions
- Marion County CHAMP Introductory Presentation
- Listing Cultural Heritage Assets for our Community -- *By Yourself*
- Listing Cultural Heritage Assets for our Community -- *As a Group*
- Mapping Cultural Heritage Assets for our Community -- *As a Group*
- Discussion Questions: Blueprints for Our Community Futures

Listing Cultural Heritage Assets for Marion County & Geographic/Identity Community

Any number of spaces & places can be thought of as "cultural heritage assets" -- that is: resources that exist in our community that contribute to the arts, culture, & heritage landscape, & which help create a "sense of place" for where we live, or for our particular communities.

Your job, at this Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Session, is to contribute to our overall Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project by identifying a few cultural heritage assets important to you. You'll be asked to name the asset, identify its category or type, and (where relevant) identify any arts genre(s) associated with that cultural heritage asset.

To help us physically map the resource on a map, we'll ask you to give an address or approximate location, or to help us mark it on a map.

Don't worry -- some cultural heritage assets, for a variety of reasons, are "unmappable." They may cover a wide expanse (like a parade or procession or festival or regional tradition), they may happen in multiple locations (like Gospel singing, which might be anchored in multiple churches), or they may not be mappable because they've been demolished, or operate incognito. For some communities, cultural assets, for safety reasons, may not be publicly recognized: like underground clubs, informal restaurants, or spaces that serve marginalized communities who might be under threat or operating below the radar.

Use the worksheet on the next page to generate ideas for Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets for the focus community of your particular session! Try to fill these out on your own; then we will come together & share our ideas & map them together on a big map of our geographies!

Cultural Heritage Assets: Categories

- Organizations
- Performance Venues
- Galleries & Museums
- Foodways Establishments
- Businesses
- Religious Space
- Festivals & Events
- Schools & Educational Spaces
- Rivers, Parks, & Natural Resources
- Historic Sites & Infrastructure
- Landmarks & Public Spaces
- Cultural Landscapes
- Artists' Studios & Workshops
- ... or pick your own!

Identifying a category or categories for your chosen Cultural Heritage Assets will help us as we aggregate assets & maps from across all of our sessions, so that we can build a standardized directory of Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets! If you're not sure or something doesn't seem to fit, don't worry ... we'll discuss together! Often, a Cultural Heritage Asset will have multiple categories. Example: a church might also be a foodways establishment (supper after church) & a performance venue (musical traditions, spoken word).

Cultural Heritage Assets: Arts Genres

Try to identify an arts or heritage genre associated with your cultural asset: what type of art or culture thrives at this venue or location?

Verbal Arts
Writing & Literary Arts
Music & Performing Arts
Material Culture & Craft
Customary Traditions
Foodways & Culinary Arts
Outdoor Traditions
Local History // Heritage
Media & Documentary Arts

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Instructions:	Name: Write or make a name for your cultural heritage asset!	Location: List the address for this resource if known; or check "unmappable" if not, & describe how this resource exceeds mapping!
	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 personal, family, or community connection to this place? Does it no longer exist? Is it contested, endangered, or threatened in some way? Is there something it needs; or a vision you have for how this resource could better support its community? What would you like to see for its future?	

Cultural Heritage Asset #1	Name:	Location:
	Category:	
	Genre:	
	Notes:	

☐ Unmappable: This resource can't be mapped!

Cultural Heritage Asset #2	Name:	Location:
	Category:	
	Genre:	
	Notes:	

☐ Unmappable: This resource can't be mapped!

Cultural Heritage Asset #3	Name:	Location:
	Category:	
	Genre:	
	Notes:	

☐ Unmappable: This resource can't be mapped!

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	Notes: Share the story behind your asset! Do you have a personal, family, or community connection to this place? Does it no longer exist? Is it contested, endangered, or threatened in some way? Is there something it needs; or a vision you have for how this resource could better support its community? What would you like to see for its future?	

Cultural Heritage Asset #4	Name:	Location:
	Category:	
	Genre:	☐ Unmappable: This resource can't be mapped!
	Notes:	

Cultural Heritage Asset #5	Name:	Location:
	Category:	
	Genre:	☐ Unmappable: This resource can't be mapped!
	Notes:	

Cultural Heritage Asset #6	Name:	Location:
	Category:	
	Genre:	☐ Unmappable: This resource can't be mapped!
	Notes:	

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Mapping our Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets

After you have brainstormed some Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets you'd like to add to our map, we'll share all of our contributions together, & mark them on the map! Our mapper will use specialized colors to mark each category of entry. We'll have post-it-notes & lots of markers to make sure we capture all the nuance & detail. Every Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project session will have its own unique collection of maps, focused on specific geographic and/or cultural communities:

- Western Marion County: LaRue, New Bloomington, Green Camp, & Western Marion County Countryside
- Latine/Hispanic Communities: New Bloomington, Marion City, & Large Marion County Map
- Marion City & Suburbs: City of Marion Ward Maps; City of Marion Large Map; Large Marion County Map
- LGBTQIA+ Communities: City of Marion Ward Maps; City of Marion Large Map; Large Marion County Map
- African-American Communities: City of Marion Ward Maps; City of Marion Large Map; Marion County Map
- Eastern Marion County: Caledonia, Martel, Kirkpatrick, Claridon, & Morral; E. Marion County Countryside
- Southern Marion County: Prospect, Waldo, Green Camp, & Southern Marion County Countryside

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?

So ... what happens next?

The Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project (CHAMP) will host sessions across June 2024. Then, we'll work with our internal team to aggregate & analyze results from across all Marion County CHAMP sessions. Our final products will include:

- A **graphic-designed, "zine"-style report** from each Marion County CHAMP session
- **Graphic-designed annotated maps** from each Marion County CHAMP session with color-coded cultural heritage assets & notes from participants
- **Analysis & summary** of our accompanying *Making It: Marion County Arts Livelihoods & Arts Economies Survey*, & Artists' Focus Groups
- A **final, graphic-designed Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project Final Report & White Paper**, with recommendations // blueprints for future investment in Marion County's arts & culture infrastructure
- **Directory & map** of Marion County cultural heritage resources on our website
- **Final presentation** of results to our community!

Most exciting of all, in Late Summer/Fall 2024, we are excited to take this process **regional**: launching the **North-Central Ohio Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project** to grow solidarities & resources with 12-15 neighboring counties in North-Central Ohio!



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?

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Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project: Notes & Ideas

Notes:

Making It: Marion County Artists' Livelihoods & Arts Economies Artists' Survey & Focus Groups

Are you a working artist in Marion County? If yes, you're eligible to participate in an accompanying part of our project: helping us to better understand working conditions for artists in Marion County, so we can better advocate for fair pay for artists, and expanded arts-based economies!

We invite all working artists -- in any genre, including folklife + traditional cultural arts genres -- to stay for a final hour of our Marion County Cultural Heritage Assets Mapping Project to take part in our **Marion County Artists' Livelihoods & Arts Economies Focus Group** -- offered as the third hour of our Marion County CHAMP Sessions.

Community artists are also highly encouraged to take our 15-minute **Making It: Artists' Livelihoods & Arts Economies in Marion County Survey**: offered online, via GoogleForms, at the following shortlink:

tinyurl.com/MVArtistSurvey

Participation Stipends

Storytelling & community cultural planning is labor -- it's important, it matters, & it deserved to be paid! As a part of walking our talk & growing more vibrant arts & cultural economies, all **active participants** in our CHAMP sessions & Artists' Focus groups staying 'til the end receive a **stipend**!

Checks will be cut on-site; stipend amounts depend on # of participants. Thank you to our funders for making our equity budgeting possible for CHAMP; & for your time taking part! 🏆

All survey respondents will be entered into a drawing for Marion Voices swag packs -- including t-shirts, stickers, tote bags, & cultural heritage publications -- as well as a raffle for 4 available gift certificates to Marion County establishments emblematic of our local sense-of place!

Our survey is open **June 1st-June 23rd**: respond **today**!

Shape the future of arts economies in Marion County by sharing your experience & getting your needs on the map!

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!

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!** 🏆

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