



May 28, 2013

The Ohio Historical Society
OHPO Public Education & Awareness Award
800 E. 17th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

On behalf of the Downtown Dayton Partnership (DDP), I am pleased to write this letter in support of the nomination submitted by the City of Dayton, HistoryWorks and Cyp Studios for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office's Public Education and Awareness Award. The award nomination is for the Patterson Boulevard Canal Parkway project.

The DDP is a nonprofit organization committed to making downtown a better place to live, work and visit. Our organization believes it's vital the Dayton region have a strong, vibrant urban core for its overall economic prosperity. That's because today, businesses and organizations want to locate where people want to be, and more and more of them want to be in a convenient, active, thriving downtown. Yet they also want to be in an *authentic* center city. Therefore, it is critical we preserve our historical assets in Dayton's urban core, which is so rich in history.

The Patterson Boulevard Canal Parkway project both educates the public about Dayton's history and helps make downtown Dayton a more attractive, vibrant and walkable place. Its interpretive element allows current and future Daytonians to learn about and appreciate local history. The project has made it easy and fun for all citizens and visitors to learn about the importance of the Miami Erie Canal to the Dayton region, the Great Flood of 1913, downtown's National Register historic districts and other events that have been so important in the Miami Valley — and beyond.

This wealth of history can be learned while traveling along the public right-of-way, accessible to everyone at all times at no cost. Yet this is no standard public right-of-way: the Patterson Boulevard Canal Parkway is an attractive artery connecting such downtown Dayton hotspots as its ballpark and riverfront park with its public library, a residential neighborhood, and its arts and entertainment district. Creating an attractive, walkable downtown is a key strategy in the Greater Downtown Dayton Plan, a long-term, strategic economic development blueprint for the continued revitalization of downtown Dayton.

Because this project both raises awareness about Dayton's history and the city's important legacy while also enlivening downtown's streetscape, I believe it is very worthy of this award. The project will be an educational and urban design asset for many years. Such projects are critical, as the future belongs to those regions serious about urban revitalization. It is those regions that will continue to attract high-value jobs and creative, young professionals — and the businesses and organizations that want to employ them.

Sincerely,

Sandra K. Gudorf
President, Downtown Dayton Partnership