

# GALLIPOLIS

## Railroad Freight Station Museum



*The 1901 Hocking Valley Railroad Freight Station  
of Gallipolis, Ohio*

*Lives Again!*

The Gallipolis Hocking Valley Railroad Freight Station has been an institution in our hard-working community for over a century.

### *History:*

Built in **1901**, The station served as a bustling freight depot for the area through the ownership of the Chessie System and CSX. In late **1981**, the station was closed by CSX, but in the years that followed, ownership was passed to the O.O. McIntyre Park district and the City of Gallipolis.



In **2015**, a group of concerned residents became involved in efforts to save the station as rumors circulated the city was planning to demolish the deteriorating structure.

As a vital part of our area's rich history, The Gallipolis Railroad Freight Station Museum plans to honor the previous building and teach the next generations about the contributions and significance of the railroads in Southeastern Ohio and the rest of the nation.



The museum will house railroad memorabilia (assisted by the Ohio Historical Connection), as well as a working telegraph office, period furnishings, possible store, model train displays, a rail yard with a working hand car, and rolling stock.

Once the renovations are executed, the museum and learning center will have a multi-faceted approach to impact both current and future Gallipolis residents.

### *Economic:*

- Renovation and restoration efforts will create jobs for those in our community
- Local businesses and tourism efforts will soar as the museum attracts visitors from all across the nation
- The museum will serve as a complement to the other museums in the area to build toward an eventual destination region
- The center will act as a meeting space for community engagement and railroad enthusiasts



### *Historic:*

- We plan to preserve a crucial portion of our area's history by updating and beautifying a historic local structure
- Our renovation will showcase the outstanding support and encouragement of our community by creating a space we can take pride in
- The addition of a **1947** boilerless Porter steam engine will be a corner stone of the rail yard



The museum will offer a great hands-on opportunity for local and visiting kids to connect with the history of Gallipolis.

## *Education:*

- Developed by current and retired educators in the community to keep the spirit of the railroad alive
- The learning center will instill important values and knowledge
- Community outreach programs will play a large role in the success of the museum and learning center



- We estimate that our programs will allow **250** children and students of all ages to participate in hands-on learning this year

- This represents only the fifth and seventh grades of the Gallipolis City Schools. In future years, other grades and districts will be added, increasing visitation by thousands



As evidenced by significant renovations including repair of the slate roof, replacement of wood exterior and the arrival of a 1969 Southern Railroad Caboose, the Freight Station Museum has already received outstanding support from our wonderful community.

*In creating plans for development, our Board hopes to accomplish the following community-oriented goals:*

- Increase membership, volunteers, and involvement
- Restore the passenger car/s to serve for meetings, parties etc., as we lack sufficient facilities in our area. One of the cars that may serve this purpose will be the 1949 Pennsylvania Sleeper car that was owned by Barnum & Bailey Circus
- Install outdoor public restrooms and picnic areas
- Make space available for small stand vendors and a possible farmer's market
- Obtain property adjacent to the station for expansion
- Work with the local convention center to make the museum a stop on their local tours of historical places
- Secure placement on the national historical register
- Establish an endowment fund to allow the station to be an ongoing museum, educational and cultural center for future generations



2018 began with the station receiving the Gallia County Chamber of Commerce's Beautification Award at the Chamber's 81st Annual Awards Ceremony.

In March, it was announced that we would receive a sizable grant of **\$125,000** from the Ohio General Assembly to work toward our goal of bringing the community this standout facility. In order to continue our momentum and build a space that will serve everyone in the area, *we need your help!*



To reach the facility's full potential, our goal is to raise an additional **\$400,000**. This will provide capital to finish the renovation project and serve as funding for the first three years of programming.

## *Find us:*



Other Local Attractions: Our House Tavern, Ariel Opera House, The French Art Colony, City Park, John Gee African Methodist Episcopal Church, Pine Street Colored Cemetery and the Elizabeth L. Evans Waterfowl & Bird Sanctuary

*Board Members: Mike Brown, Jerry Davis, Ronnie Keenan, Jim Love, Helenlu Morgan, Robert Schmoll, Rose Stoney, Dr. Bill Thomas*

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The Gallipolis Railroad Freight Station Museum, Inc. is a 501c3 in accordance with the law.