



Bob Hackett

State Senator
10th District

Committees

Insurance– Chair
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Financial Institutions and Technology
Rules and Reference
Veterans and Public Safety

Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-3780

November 3, 2022

Susan Edwards, Ph.D., President
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway
Dayton, OH 45435

Dear President Edwards:

I want to express my support for the Wright State University Archives Upgrade Project, as it showcases our community's history.

Wright State University's archives houses the largest two-dimensional Wright Brothers collection, along with the Dayton Daily News collection. These collections highlight Dayton's proud and rich history and welcomes thousands of visitors each year, many from outside of the region.

The Archives Project will provide an appropriate home and showplace for our aviation and regional history collection. This will renovate existing space to consolidate the collection into a single location, ensure long-term preservation of collections and provide opportunities for community engagement. The project includes environmental upgrades and control, fire suppression, security system, consolidated collections areas, and public engagement spaces.

I fully support the Wright State University's Archives Upgrade Project to ensure the appropriate protection of our region's history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Hackett".

Bob Hackett
State Senator
10th Senate District

November 3, 2022

Susan Edwards, Ph.D.
President
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway
Dayton, OH 45435

Dear President Edwards:

I want to express my support for the Wright State University Archives Upgrade Project to make necessary facility upgrades to protect the collections it houses.

The Wright Brothers collection, along with the Dayton Daily News collection is held at the Wright State University Special Collections and Archives. The numerous artifacts found in the Archives showcases the rich history of the Dayton area, including the pioneers of aviation.

The Archives Project will ensure the permanent protections for our aviation and regional history collection. This will renovate existing space to consolidate the collection into a single location, ensure long-term preservation of collections and provide opportunities for community engagement. The project includes environmental upgrades and control, fire suppression, security system, consolidated collections areas, and public engagement spaces.

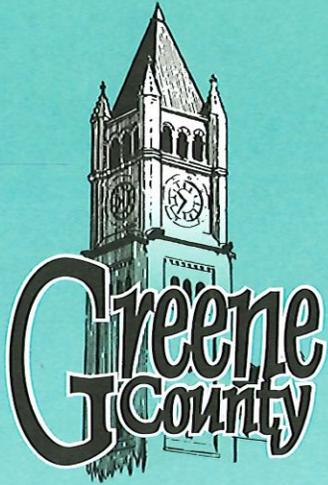
To date, the University has received strong support from the community, with over \$1 Million in private contributions and pledges.

I fully support the Wright State University's Archives Upgrade Project as it is a major collection of our region's history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BLampton", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian Lampton
State Representative, 73rd Ohio House District



Board of Commissioners

Richard D. Gould, CPA
Tom Koogler
Richard G. Perales

35 Greene Street
Xenia, Ohio 45385-3101

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November 3, 2022

Susan Edwards, Ph.D
President
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy
Dayton, Ohio 45435

Re: PDAC Funding, Wright State University Archives Project

Dear President Edwards,

The Greene County Board of Commissioners fully supports the proposed Wright State University Archives Project, as it is a vital part of community's history.

Wright State University's archives is home to the largest two-dimensional Wright Brothers collection, along with the Dayton Daily News collection. These collections, along with countless others, exhibits our area's history for all to enjoy. The Wright State Archives welcomes thousands of visitors each year, many from outside of the region.

This project will ensure safe storage and preservation of these records, including UV protections, fire suppression, and humidity controls.

The Greene County Board of Commissioners fully supports Wright State University's Archives Project to continue the preservation of our area's historical treasures.

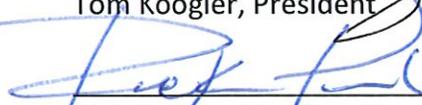
Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

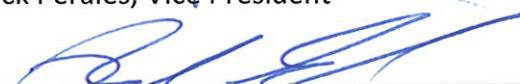
THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tom Koogler, President



Rick Perales, Vice President



Richard D. Gould, Commissioner



October 26, 2022

Priority Development & Advocacy Committee
Dayton Development Coalition
1401 S Main St Suite 200,
Dayton, OH 45409

Come. Discover. Fly!

Dear PDAC Committee Members:

Since 2019 the Quality-of-Life review panel ranked Wright State University's Archive Center a priority project for our region. I am asking you to retain its priority ranking. This project is ready to execute and will create a unique research and educational asset serving a wide variety of local, national, and international audiences. It will create permanent jobs and leverage private funding to match any state or federal capital allocation. Furthermore, Wright State University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives is a vital part of the National Aviation Heritage Area.

Wright State's Special Collections and Archives is the keeper of our region's stories. It preserves and makes available noted Dayton archival collections including the Wright Brothers Collection (largest in the world), the Dayton Daily News collection, and hundreds of individuals and organizations that weave together the story of the Dayton region, aviation, WPAFB, and our people. As the standard-bearer for archival collection and research, the Archives' collections have ballooned in recent years. This project will create an improved facility protecting the collections for accelerated aging and damage. Improving the collection environment has the greatest impact on the long-term usability and preservation of the collections in the archives. Specifically, the project will provide a critical HVAC system, controllable light levels, and a fire suppression system, and additional archival compact shelving.

The Archive Center project is in a unique situation. It is part of Wright State University but has been excluded from past capital project awards for education projects. The University will continue to put forward education projects addressing their critical student needs. This archive project is a community need that the Quality-of-Life panel can support. On behalf of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance board of trustees, I ask that you continue your strong support for this current project.

Sincerely,

Mackensie Wittmer
Executive Director

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- Air Camp
-
- Armstrong Air & Space Museum
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- Aviation Trail, Inc.
Visitor Center & Museum
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- Dayton Aviation Heritage
National Historical Park
-
- Hawthorn Hill*
-
- Huffman Prairie Flying Field*
-
- Huffman Prairie Flying Field
Interpretive Center*
-
- John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers
Aviation Center at
Carillon Historical Park*
-
- Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial*
-
- Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and
the Wright Cycle Shop*
-
- Dayton History
-
- Greene County
Historical Society
-
- Historic Grimes Field
Champaign Aviation Museum
Grimes Flying Lab Foundation
-
- Historic WACO Field
-
- Historic Woodland
Cemetery & Arboretum
-
- National Aviation Hall of Fame
-
- National Museum of the
United States Air Force
-
- Vectren Dayton Air Show
-
- The Wright B Flyer
-
- Wright Family Foundation
-
- Wright Image Group
-
- Wright State University
Wright Archives



JG&H

Miami Valley Jewish
Genealogy & History

Marshall Weiss
Project Director

November 2, 2022

Dayton Regional Priority Development
and Advocacy Committee
Dayton Development Coalition
1401 S. Main Street, Suite 200

Dear Committee Members:

Through my own professional experiences for more than a decade, I have found Wright State University Libraries Special Collections and Archives to be a vital, invaluable resource for preserving and making available the history of our region to all who wish to research, clarify, and share stories of the Miami Valley's past. This treasure must not only be cared for with the most state-of-the-art amenities and facilities, it must also have the capabilities to meet the needs of the foreseeable future. This is why I champion in the strongest terms your support of its project to improve its facilities.

In 2008, I embarked on a project to help the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton better understand its history, with its centennial two years away. With guidance from a professional archivist who was a graduate of Wright State's public history master's degree program, I set out to inventory the Jewish Federation's archival materials. We were horrified to find that most of the Jewish Federation's early materials were piled in heaps in the basement of Dayton's Jewish nursing home. Our archivist volunteer launched a project to properly preserve, catalog, and store the collection, with help from graduate students in Wright State's public history program. One of these graduate-level interns even completed the project as his capstone project. In 2011, Wright State Special Collections and Archives accepted the Jewish Federation's collection.

Since then, because of the ease of access to and precise organization of the collection, I've been able to write two books about the history of the Dayton area's Jewish community. It would have been much more difficult without the professionalism and talent of Wright State's archivists, too. Having access to the myriad collections that comprise Wright State's archives has enabled me to piece together many other stories and scenarios that relate to the Dayton-area's Jewish community, as no religious or ethnic community lives in a vacuum. I know we made the right decision to entrust the Jewish Federation's collection to Wright State. I can only begin to imagine how future generations will be able to integrate and share the information, images, and artifacts Wright State's archivists so meticulously preserve.

Wright State's Special Collections and Archives is an international gem, keeping alive the history of the Gem City and its surroundings for all the world to discover, and for generations to come. A great archives deserves an equally great facility.

Sincerely,

Marshall Weiss

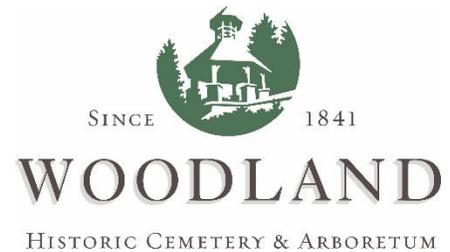


Member, International
Association of Jewish
Genealogical Societies



November 1, 2022

Priority Development & Advocacy Committee
Dayton Development Coalition
1401 S. Main St. Ste. 200
Dayton, OH 45409



Dear PDAC Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for the Wright State University's Archives Center project. The WSU Special Collections and Archives is the keeper of Dayton's most historic documents pertaining to individuals, businesses, and organizations in the greater Miami Valley region. The Archives preserves the most significant of documents pertaining to Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum. From personal experience, I have asked the archives on several occasions to review historic photos, correspondence and most importantly, the original building plans of our historic Chapel, Entry Gates and Administration Building built in 1887. Access to these building plans were instrumental in working with our historic architect on our own restoration and preservation project of the mentioned structures. We are grateful that these delicate documents are well-preserved for over 130 years and will continue to be preserved through our partnership with the Archives Center.

The Archives preserves the papers of Governor James M. Cox, the Wright Brothers, Charles F. Kettering, Mayor James H. McGee, and Katherine Kennedy Brown among others, and these well-known Daytonians rest peacefully at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum. It is important that the personal and business documents of these Daytonians be preserved for future generations.

The Archives has an urgent need to upgrade its facilities. These essential updates will provide the best environment necessary to preserve and protect these priceless items for decades to come and assist with sharing their collections with students, researchers, scholars, and local organizations such as Woodland.

I look forward to the WSU Special Collections and Archives undergoing these important facilities improvements to help it preserve the rich heritage of our region. I hope this letter of support conveys my sincere support of the WSU Archives Center project and encourages others to do the same.

Sincerely,

Angie Hoschouer
Manager of Development and Marketing
Woodland Cemetery, Arboretum, and Foundation

DAYTON
Philharmonic

Neal Gittleman

CONDUCTOR & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

31 October 2022

Ms. Tyler Clogg
Priority Development & Advocacy Committee
Dayton Development Coalition
1401 S. Main Street, #200
Dayton, OH 45409

Dear Ms. Clogg:

I am happy to write to you in support of the Wright State University Archives' proposal to the Priority Development & Advocacy Committee.

Though they are unsung and “under the radar”, archives are a vital element of a community’s history and legacy. The collection of historical artifacts and documents—from the revolutionary to the mundane—housed in the Wright State University’s Special Collections and Archives are a precious record of the Dayton Region’s DNA. Want primary and secondary source materials about the Wright Brothers? You go to the Wright State Archives. Looking for information on Paul Laurence Dunbar? Wright State Archives. Want to know more about Governor Cox? You know the answer! Need to know what music the Dayton Philharmonic performed in 1936? Yup. This amazing collection is a treasure trove for academic researchers and everyday folks alike. It’s a precious and valuable resource.

The Archives has an urgent need to upgrade its facilities in order to create the best environment to preserve and protect these priceless items for years to come. Wright State’s archivists are the best caretakers imaginable for these unique collections, which they proudly and gladly share with university students, local and international researchers and scholars, filmmakers (Tom Hanks), Pulitzer-Prize-winning authors (David McCullough), but also K-12 students, and any interested person who wants to know more about this community and its history.

I thoroughly endorse this project and I hope that PDAC will make it a top priority for funding and support.

Sincerely,



Neal Gittleman
Artistic Director & Conductor, Dayton Philharmonic

Dear Members of the Review Panel,

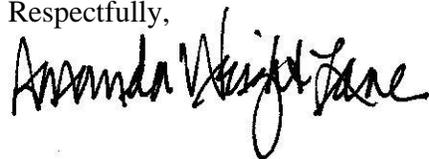
In an October 23rd article in the New York Times, heralding a Google breakthrough in “quantum supremacy”, scientists “likened Google’s announcement to the Wright Brothers first flight in 1903- proof that something is really possible even though it may be years before it can fulfill its potential.” Weekly, there are shout-outs in the media to Dayton’s Wright Brothers, and their achievements that led to the advent of aviation, followed by the age of aerospace. Their story did not end on December 17th, 1903....that wintry day was merely the birth of a new technology that would build America as a world power, and would transform the way we interact with each other on our planet and beyond.

Today, Dayton, Ohio, is home to the largest collection of Wright stuff in the world and that treasure is housed at the Wright State University Library’s Special Collection and Archives. Yearly, weekly, daily....folks from around the world seek out not only the Wright Brothers’ story, but literally thousands of our region’s stories found in the vast collections at Wright State for the purpose of research, writing, reading, or in some cases, just “holding“....many visitors want the opportunity to hold history in their hands.

Moving this world class, one of a kind collection, to a repurposed space will allow WSU to make the archives and its materials more accessible and visible to the public on campus. It will grant the team of professionals that “tends” to these rare papers and artifacts the space to host students of all ages, community groups, and visitors from near and far. It will also allow the University to broaden its’ programs in teaching the science of organizing, preserving, and making accessible priceless materials. And as a matter of practicality, the move to the new building will give this ever expanding collection room to grow.

I couldn’t be prouder of OUR heritage, as it belongs not only to my family, but to you...and our neighbors, and our nation. I ask that you give thoughtful consideration, and priority to, the request from Wright State University for funding for this remarkable project.

Respectfully,



Wright Family