

Welcome



With the closing of the 2026 Legislative Session in Frankfort, state agencies like the Kentucky Heritage Council (SHPO) are adjusting to new or amended laws and regulations we are tasked with administering. Of particular note for our agency are substantive changes that have been made to the Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit program that take effect on April 30 of this year. While future newsletters will delve deeper into the altered program and what it means for applicants, it is worth noting some general changes including the passage of new allocation rounds with new dates, adjusted percentages to incentivize affordable housing, and changes to a variety of technical requirements for participation. These legislative changes will require amendments to the Kentucky Administrative Regulations and the forms incorporated by reference. We will work closely with the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, Kentucky Department of Revenue, Kentucky

Housing Corporation and the Legislative Research Commission to interpret and make those changes as quickly and efficiently as possible.

In addition, National Historic Preservation Month is in May and we encourage you to recognize and celebrate preservation achievements at the local, regional and statewide levels. We will be recognizing the best of the best at the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Awards on May 27 at Berry Hill Mansion in Frankfort.

Happy Derby everyone!

News

- [Kentucky African American Heritage Commission Awards \\$71,000 in Grants to 12 Kentucky Organizations](#)
- [Gov. Beshear Unveils 10 New Stops Along Kentucky African American Heritage Trail](#)
- [Kentucky Heritage Council Announces Final Round of America250KY Preservation Grants](#)

New EVENTS CALENDAR



There's a new way to keep up with Kentucky Heritage Council events! Check out the events calendar on our website.

Upcoming Events:

May - Historic Preservation Month!

- May 9 | [KHC Public Archaeology Dig](#) - Frankfort, KY

- May 20-22 | [Archaeology in Education](#) - a 2.5 day workshop for educators - Frankfort, KY

June

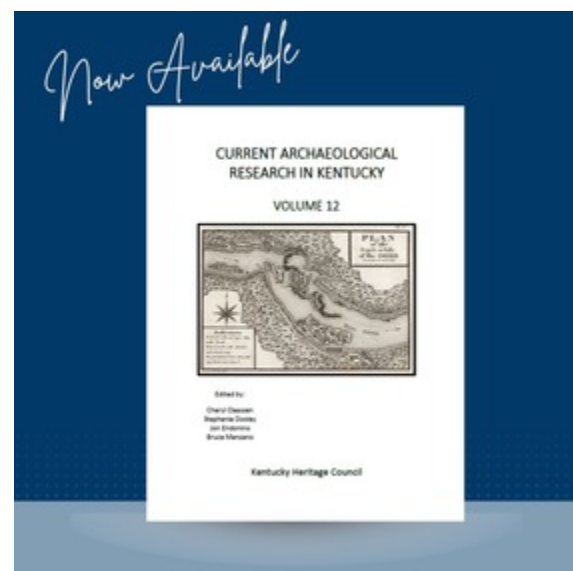
- June 2 | 4:00 PM ET | A Day in the Life of an Archaeologist - a program for kids at Constitution Square, Danville
- June 2 | 6:30 PM ET | A Discussion with Professional Archaeologists - Boyle Co. Library, Danville
- June 6 | [Kentucky History Day](#) - Old State Capitol Lawn, Frankfort, KY

[See Our Calendar](#)

Volume 12 of Current Archaeological Research in Kentucky is now available on our website.

Including:

- Lost Image: Insights from a looted rock shelter, by Larry Gray
- The Fisherman of the Falls of the Ohio: The relevance of fishing in late middle archaic settlement dynamics, by Anne Tobbe Bader
- Examining the Yankeetown Phase Occupation at the Kreitzer Site in Southwestern Indiana, Lower Ohio River Valley, by Patrick D. Trader
- New Perspectives on Small Historic House Sites in the Daniel Boone National Forest: Historic Forest Farming and Housing Strategies, by M. Jay Stottman
- Initial Recordings of Clandestine Distillation Sites at Land Between the Lakes, by Carl T. Feagans
- The Cleveland Rogers Mill Site on



Boone Creek, Fayette County,
Kentucky: An archival and
archaeological Study, by Charles D.
Hockensmith

[View the Journal](#)



Reports like this one from the National Park Service continually underscore the value of historic preservation as an economic development tool.

The numbers are out for 2024 and the NPS reports that [Private Investment in Historic Preservation Generated \\$12.8 Billion in Economic Output in 2024.](#)

Program Tracks for College Students

- Archaeology and/or Section 106
- Survey and Historic Research
- National Register of Historic Places
- Public History and Outreach

- Database Management and Archives
- Preservation Planning and Local Government
- Site Development
- Independent Project

[Learn More](#)



Right now, KHC is developing the next **10-year State Historic Preservation Plan**, and **we want your voice** to help guide it. This plan will set the course for how we identify, protect, and celebrate the historic places that make Kentucky distinct.

[Take the survey](#) and be part of planning Kentucky's preservation future!

[Take the Survey](#)

Kentucky Main Streets

The 2025 Kentucky Main Street Reinvestment numbers are in, and KYMS communities are having an economic impact on their cities!

Gov. Beshear: Main Street Communities Report Nearly \$76 Million Investment, 395 New Jobs, 72 New Businesses in 2025

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 12, 2026) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that Kentucky Main Street (KYMS) program communities finished 2025 strong, reporting a total investment of \$75.6 million in downtown commercial districts, resulting in 395 new jobs and 72 new businesses.

"Our downtowns are the heart of our communities and through this program they've celebrated major growth and success as they fuel our economy, create good jobs and boost our record-breaking tourism industry," said Gov. Beshear. "Team Kentucky is grateful to our Main Street leaders for their continuous hard work. Together, we're making our New Kentucky Home a better place to visit, live and work."

The \$75.6 million represents \$23.6 million in private investments matched by \$6.9 million in public investments encompassing building rehabilitation, new construction, infrastructure and special projects offset by rehabilitation tax credits, grant funds and local city and county budgets. Additionally, these communities finished the year with a net gain of 205 new full-time jobs, 190 new part-time jobs, 29 business expansions and \$32.6 million invested in completing 26 rehabilitation projects in Main Street districts. These efforts were also supported by over 26,000 volunteer hours, illustrating the communities' deep commitment.

"From some of the best restaurants to local shops and services, the businesses along Kentucky Main Streets fuel tourism and economic growth across the commonwealth. With an emphasis on historic preservation, along with public and private investment partnerships, Kentucky Main Street communities are flourishing more than ever," said Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet Secretary Lirny Casabier. "We are proud of our Main Street program's successes and the many ways it has contributed to quality of life in our New Kentucky Home, while showcasing what is special about our communities."

Since its inception, the Kentucky Main Street program has generated over \$4.8 billion in investment throughout the commonwealth.

Mayville Main Street Director Caroline Reeco, whose main street welcomed 43 new jobs in 2025, highlights the community's longstanding commitment to the Main Street program and the growth downtown.

See the press release

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