



This elegant fanlight window showcases the Gothic and Classical architecture of the former school on Main Street in Napoleon, Ohio.

Revitalizing the former school into a dynamic hub presents a unique opportunity for Napoleon, Ohio, a community that has experienced a 6% population decline since 2000. While the shift is not as dramatic as in some areas, it is no time for complacency.

### Investing in Thriving Communities

Research shows that young adults consider vibrant community spaces, arts and cultural programming, and economic opportunities when deciding where to live. Three Arches Ohio revitalizes the former school into a dynamic hub that positions Napoleon as a place where people not only grow up but choose to stay, work, and build their futures.

*“More young people, ages 25 to 44, are deciding to leave big cities behind in favor of rural small towns.” — Kendall Crawford, The Ohio Newsroom*

The trend isn't just anecdotal—rural counties and small metro areas with fewer than 250,000 people have become the top destination for young people migrating within the country. Ohio's smaller cities and towns, like Youngstown, are already seeing positive shifts.

#### Learn More

- Small Towns Attracting More Young People (The Ohio Newsroom)  
<https://woub.org/2024/11/14/ohio-small-towns-attracting-more-young-people>
- Ohio's Long-Term Population Trends (NBC4i)  
<https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/central-ohio-news/ohio-projected-to-experience-long-term-population-decline-report-reveals>

### Investing in Community Well-Being

Research shows that the healthiest counties—where people live longer and have a higher quality of life—invest in strong civic infrastructure, including community centers. The spaces provide opportunities for people to meet, engage in cultural activities, have their voices heard, and foster a sense of belonging.

*“Civic infrastructure provides us with spaces to meet, make our voices heard, engage in cultural activities, and assure belonging.” — 2024 National Findings Report, County Health Rankings*

#### Learn More

- 2024 National Findings Report, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps  
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/findings-and-insights/2024-national-findings-report>

### Investing in the Arts & Tourism

The arts are more than just a cultural asset — they are an economic driver. Revitalizing the school as a community hub will help strengthen local identity and create spaces that bring people together across generations.



"In 2023, tourism in Ohio generated over \$56 billion in economic impact, marking the highest level ever recorded." —*2023 TourismOhio Economic Impact Report*

Compared to 2021, when tourism generated \$35.1 billion, the economic impact of visitors in Ohio has increased by more than 60%. Visitor spending also grew substantially, with 238 million total visits in 2023, up 5 million from the previous year.

"On average, day-trippers to Ohio venues spend \$115 per person, while overnight visitors spend \$343 on activities such as dining and shopping. Even local attendees contribute between \$25 and \$47 per visit."— *2021 TourismOhio Economic Impact Report*

Given this sharp rise in overall tourism spending, these 2021 per-visitor dollar amounts have no doubt increased significantly. As tourism spending continues to grow, investing in Three Arches Community and Arts Center would position Napoleon to capture a share of this economic activity, boosting local businesses, dining, retail, and accommodations.

**Small towns across Ohio** are proving that investing in the arts fuels economic growth and strengthens local businesses. Increased tourism, job creation, and a stronger sense of place were seen when they prioritize arts and cultural development.

"In 2022, Southeast Ohio's nonprofit arts and culture sector generated over \$24 million in economic activity—without the presence of a major metro like Columbus or Cincinnati. Small-town investments in the arts create jobs, attract tourism, and strengthen local businesses." — *Buckeye Hills Regional Council, The Economic Impact of the Arts*

#### Learn More:

- 2023 TourismOhio Economic Impact Report: <https://development.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/2024-0521-ohio-celebrates-tourism-day>
- 2021 TourismOhio Economic Impact Report: <https://npr.brightspotcdn.com/13/35/6d5b0f4d40d88ee499a639b2d39f/2022-tourismohio-economic-impact-card.pdf>
- 2022 Southeast Ohio Arts Economic Impact Report: <https://buckeyeohio.org/community-development/the-economic-impact-of-the-arts/>



### Investing in Youth

By providing supervised activities, Three Arches Ohio and its arts programs will keep youth engaged, build their self-confidence, and enhance emotional well-being—all while offering positive alternatives to risky behaviors.

The Cultural Center of Henry County has been recognized for their commitment to the community’s youth for many years through various performing and visual arts programming.

“Engaging in arts activities is associated with positive social behaviors, including empathy, sharing, and mood control. These programs provide safe spaces during non-school hours, reducing the likelihood of youth involvement in community violence.”

— *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

### Learn More:

- Arts-Based Programs and Juvenile Justice (OJJDP):  
<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/model-programs-guide/literature-reviews/arts-based-programs-and-arts-therapies-risk-justice-involved-and-traumatized>
- Arts and the Juvenile Justice System (Education Commission of the States):  
<https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Engaging-the-Arts-Across-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf>