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MIDSTORY WINS INAUGURAL STATEWIDE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE HUMANITIES

Midstory is pleased to announce the receipt of the inaugural Descutner-Burnier Award for Excellence in the Humanities from Ohio Humanities.

Columbus, Ohio (February 26, 2025) — Midstory received first prize for the Descutner-Burnier Award for Excellence in the Humanities after being named a finalist among three organizations earlier this year. The annual awards given by Ohio Humanities celebrate people and organizations in Ohio whose outstanding work has positively impacted people and communities across the state. Midstory was selected for the Organizational Award, in particular for the project "Asian in Ohio."

"[Midstory's] goal is to bring the best and the brightest young people in America to post-industrial cities like Toledo and other cities in the Midwest," Rebecca Asmo, executive director of Ohio Humanities, said. "And let's find solutions. And let's make sure our cities are really great and show them how great these cities are. So we work really closely together with them. How do we bring more humanities and cultural opportunities to cities?"

Midstory was invited to participate in the awards ceremony at the Ohio Statehouse in Downtown Columbus, which took place on February 26, 2025. In attendance on Midstory's behalf were several state congresspeople, including Senator Theresa Gavarone and a representative from Speaker Matt Huffman's office.

"What they are doing is absolutely incredible. It is like the intersection of media and a think tank and they are working with the best and brightest," Senator Gavarone said.

Midstory was honored to receive this award and is proud to be representing Northwest Ohio at the state level.

"We really believe that stories and history are what really connects us all to one another and it's so important for us to amplify those stories and voices. Hopefully, Midstory is able to continue that great tradition that we have in Ohio and hopefully bring more connectedness that the Ohio region has to the rest of the world and nation," Samuel Chang, president at Midstory, said.

The awards are made possible by a generous endowed gift to Ohio Humanities from Athens residents David Descutner and DeLysa Burnier, who have spent their careers at Ohio University. Descutner and Burnier are champions of Ohio Humanities' mission and the creative, educational work it funds in communities across Ohio.

About Midstory: Midstory is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to progressing the Midwest narrative through multimedia storytelling, solutions-oriented research and community programming. You can learn more at www.midstory.org.

About Ohio Humanities: Ohio Humanities is a statewide nonprofit that shares stories to spark conversations and inspire ideas by hosting programs and awarding grants that support storytellers statewide, from museums to journalists to documentary filmmakers.