

# Alabama Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Senator Arthur Orr, Chair  
Representative Kenneth Paschal, Vice Chair

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

The Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission was established by joint resolution in February 2021. There are 11 members.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

**Vision:** For Alabamians to understand the importance of their role as active and responsible citizens united in their dedication to the founding principles of our nation, and the pursuit of a more perfect Union.

**Mission:** To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States' Declaration of Independence by supporting and promoting a multitude of programs and events that educate, engage, and unite Alabamians around the nation's founding principles.

**Goals:** The 4 Goals of the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission:

1. Enrich the awareness and understanding of the principles of our Declaration of Independence, how we achieved independence in the American Revolutionary War, and how we established our system of constitutional self-government.
2. Promote Semiquincentennial events and celebrations that will enhance historic and civic knowledge and practice, thereby advancing the cause of liberty and American self-government.
3. Educate students and the public to increase knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history and the century's long quest for "liberty and justice for all". Share the stories and contributions of all the people who have inhabited our Alabama land.
4. Emphasize the service and sacrifices of veterans of all generations who have secured and preserved American independence and freedom and encourage Alabamians to honor them through our State's Veterans' Register of Honor.

# Alabama Commission Factsheet



## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

Planning is underway with an official kickoff date set for April 18, 2025. We hope to have the Governor sign a proclamation for the 'Two Lights' vigil with a reenactment of the Battle at Concord Bridge scheduled for April 19 at The American Village's replica of Concord Bridge.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. Semiquincentennial Schools Initiative
2. Community Outreach
3. Honoring Veterans

## Get In Touch

[www.america250al.org](http://www.america250al.org)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

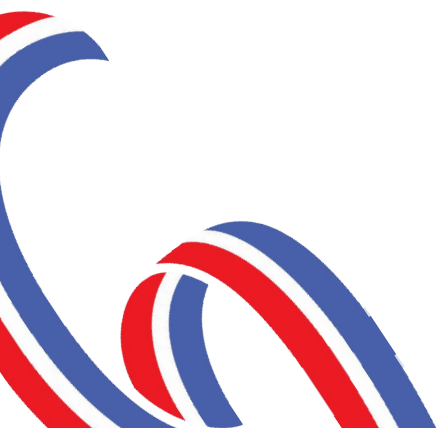
**Name:** Natalie Steed

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## Talk to us about...

...the desire to link founding principles to the civil rights movement in a way that unites Alabama citizens, celebrates the steady march of liberty and justice for all, and emphasizes the importance of bold and active citizen participation in keeping the republic.



# Arizona Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Arizona America250 Commission

The Arizona America250 commission is established to plan, develop, encourage and coordinate the commemoration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States and the impact of the citizens of this state on the nation's past, present and future.

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Leadership will be voted on at the first meeting planned for July 22, 2024.

- C. Members of the commission:
  - 1. Shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among the members of the commission.

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Structure is established by legislation.

- A. The commission consists of:
  - 1. One member of the senate who is appointed by the president of the senate.
  - 2. One member of the house of representatives who is appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
  - 3. The following members who are appointed by the governor:
    - (a) One member who represents the historic preservation community.
    - (b) One member who represents the tourism industry.
    - (c) One member who represents the veterans community.
    - (d) One member who represents the parks and recreation industry.
    - (e) One member who represents the arts community.
    - (f) One member who represents a recognized Indian tribe in this state.
    - (g) One member who represents the education community.
    - (h) One member who represents the business community.
    - (i) One member from a fraternal organization.

[Senate Bill 1497]

# Arizona Commission Factsheet

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

E. The commission shall:

1. Plan, coordinate and implement an overall program to build public awareness of and foster public participation in celebrating and commemorating the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the independence and founding of the United States.
2. Coordinate with federal, state and local agencies and private organizations on projects and programs to welcome and encourage national and international tourists.
3. Consider any related plans and programs developed by federal, state, local or private groups.
4. On or before December 31, 2026, conduct extensive public engagement throughout this state to develop programs with other agencies, communities or organizations that may take place to mark the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States.
5. Draw attention to the achievements, honors, innovations and significance of the people in this state since before the founding of this state to the present day and showcase all the counties in this state.
6. Designate special committees with representatives from stakeholder groups to plan, develop and coordinate activities.
7. Recommend ways for this state to commemorate the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the independence and founding of the United States through state and local legacy projects for counties and municipalities, including seeking ways to enhance educational programs, civic education and extended learning offered by the state board of education, the department of education, other relevant state agencies and community colleges and universities of this state.
8. Emphasize the service and sacrifices of veterans who have secured and preserved American independence and freedom and encourage citizens of this state to honor them.
9. Celebrate and commemorate events and activities throughout this state.

[Senate Bill 1497]

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

- Legislation was passed creating a commission.
- Commission members were appointed.
- Governor Hobbs asked the Secretary of State's office to staff the commission and appointed Secretary Fontes to the commission.
- Staff in the office of the Secretary of State have been monitoring national work and promoting the efforts and initiatives of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, such as the America's Field Trip contest, on our social media.

# Arizona Commission Factsheet

- The first Arizona America250 Commission meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2024.
- The agenda for that first meeting is to elect a chair and vice chair and to review what the state did during the national bicentennial and Arizona's state centennial as a foundation for planning for the semiquincentennial.
- The office of the Secretary of State hopes that the initiatives/programs will be diverse so that all communities in Arizona will choose to participate in some way.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

Initiatives/programs will be planned after the Commission meets and begins its work.

### Best Point of Contact for following up

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## Talk to us about...

We would welcome advice on fundraising to support activities of the state's commission.

# Colorado Commission Factsheet



## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Commission Co-Chairs are Dr. Stephanie Hartman and Ramona Martinez

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

In 2026, the United States will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—our nation's sesquicentennial. At the same time, Colorado will mark the 150th anniversary of our entrance into the Union—our state's sesquicentennial. As the Centennial State, Colorado is the only one who will observe twin anniversaries—our Sesquicentennial. As we celebrate this uniquely Colorado commemoration, we invite communities to pause, reflect upon, and honor Colorado's shared history as we imagine our future together through community events, educational opportunities, statewide celebrations, and more.

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is charged with guiding Colorado's Sesquicentennial in ways that empower every Coloradan to participate. The Commission consists of 15 members, representing Colorado's diverse communities, several state agencies, and works closely with members of an Advisory Panel representing communities throughout the state. The Commission was created by the Colorado General Assembly with the support of Governor Jared Polis, and is housed within History Colorado.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

As we create opportunities to commemorate and celebrate Colorado's stories, the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is committed to recognizing that our shared history includes the experiences of all who have called Colorado home. 2026 will be an opportunity for us to come together as we celebrate Colorado by acknowledging our complete shared history, honor what makes Colorado unique, and recognize our shared destiny as we strive toward a more perfect union.

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission will create opportunities for everyone in Colorado to participate in the Sesquicentennial through a variety of signature initiatives.

### **Commission Signature Initiatives:**

- **Creating Memorable Public Experiences:** The Sesquicentennial commemoration will feature opportunities for communities to come together and celebrate Colorado, including:
  - Public festivals and gatherings
  - Colorado Passport Program
  - 4th of July 14er Climb



# Colorado Commission Factsheet

- A Portrait of Colorado at 150
- New Public Art Pieces
- Commemorating Our Shared History: The Commission will support a variety of educational efforts that engage inclusively with our shared history and create a lasting legacy well beyond 2026. These will include:
  - Museums, Exhibitions and Cultural Experiences
    - The Commission is investigating the possibility of supporting several major exhibitions:
      - A History Colorado Marquee Exhibition
      - A Latino Heritage Exhibition
      - Proclaiming Colorado's Black History
      - Colorado Constitution at the State Capitol
    - Colorado Heritage for All Historic Preservation
    - Historic Markers
    - New Scholarship and Publications
    - Educational Materials
  - Supporting Colorado Communities: The Commission will support local communities in a variety of ways as Coloradans create moments of unity and lasting impacts throughout the Sesquicentennial.
    - Unified Branding and Awareness Building
    - Statewide Calendar of Events
    - Support for Local Programming

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is in the development phase of Colorado's signature initiatives and has been working to bring together stakeholders and industry leaders to create a once-in-a lifetime series of commemorative programming.

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

Supporting Colorado's Communities: the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission will support local communities in a variety of ways as Coloradans create moments of unity and lasting impacts throughout the Sesquicentennial. Most importantly, the Commission aims to offer grants to support commemorations and celebrations hosted by communities in all parts of Colorado. Sesquicentennial grants will target inclusive commemorative efforts and will be available to a variety of community-based organizations and agencies.

# Colorado Commission Factsheet

Roadside Markers: History is best appreciated where it was made, and community engagement sessions revealed that Coloradans are interested in learning about our shared history where it happened. The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission will invest in expanding the inclusive story of Colorado by updating existing and adding new roadside markers and historical signage throughout the state. Roadside markers are an accessible way to share the complete and inclusive story of Colorado's past with the public.

Passport Colorado will take Coloradans on a journey to discover the breathtaking landscapes, rich history, and hidden gems of the Centennial State. This passport program is designed to encourage Colorado's kids and families to experience and appreciate the places that make Colorado such a special place to call home. Tailored for Colorado youth and their families, Passport Colorado isn't just about collecting stamps in a passport—it's about discovering first-hand the stories of the diverse people who have called this place home and who continue to make it such a special place.

## Talk to us about...

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is grateful for the expertise of regional leaders who serve on an Sesquicentennial Advisory Panel. Advisory Panel members not only provide their feedback when considering statewide outreach and regional participation with signature initiatives, they are also forming Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) throughout the state, and inviting local businesses and local governments to begin planning their involvement with the upcoming commemorations. LOCs are identifying opportunities for local participation with the 2026 commemoration.

Additionally, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed an Executive Order in January 2024 directing state agencies to develop and implement plans to contribute to the 2026 commemoration. Commissioners and Commission staff worked closely with agency representatives to identify potential programs for each state agency, and to find the areas in which Commission signature initiatives can be supported by the work of these agencies.

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission has recently gone through the RFP process to bring a fundraising firm on board, and has begun the contracting process with a public relations firm. These firms will work hand in hand with the Commission to invite future partnerships with Colorado organizations, and invite members of the public to align existing programs and to create new commemorative programming in 2026.

## Get In Touch

[www.am250co150.org](http://www.am250co150.org)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

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**Phone #:** 720-505-6208



# Connecticut Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission (more commonly referred to as America 250 | CT)

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Denise Merrill, Chair; Jason Mancini, Vice Chair

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Established by Executive Order 22-2 on July 2, 2022

Commission Members include:

- Denise Merrill, chair - Former CT Secretary of the State, Member of the Public
- Jason Mancini, vice chair - CT Humanities
- Nicolas Angeli - Connecticut Old State House, Student/Youth Leader
- Stephen Armstrong - CT Department of Education
- Rodney Butler - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
- Anthony Champalimaud - Troutbeck, Member of the Public
- Kathryn D'Amato - Governor's Designee
- Melvette Hill - Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity
- Andrew Horowitz - State Historian
- Margaret Khan - Connecticut Library Association
- Robert Kret - Connecticut Historical Society
- Catherine Labadia - State Historic Preservation Officer
- Merle McGee - Everyday Democracy, Member of the Public
- Deborah Schander - State Librarian
- Elizabeth Shapiro - Department of Economic and Community Development/CT Office of the Arts
- Jonathan Slifka - Department of Aging and Disability Services
- Maisa Tisdale - Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community
- Sally Whipple - Connecticut Democracy Center
- Amrys Williams - Connecticut League of Museums
- Joe Smith - Mohegan Tribe
- Stephanie Thomas - CT Secretary of the State

# Connecticut Commission Factsheet

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

The America 250 | CT Commission, administered by CT Humanities, was established by Executive Order 22-2 plan and coordinate activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding; enhance tourism, economic development, historic education and preservation, and outdoor recreation within the state; and coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, as well as private and public organizations and partners. The Commission will develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration, commemoration, and observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence through civic, cultural, and historical education events and programming; and will promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historic resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the semiquincentennial period.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

Connecticut has come together around the mission of the commission and its vision of an inclusive commemoration that brings together all of the state's residents. At this point, we have a good idea of our plans for 2026, which include: cultural and capital grants to organizations, fellowships, developing a statewide exhibition and educational resources, and an annual conference. We are currently working to actualize those plans and encourage local participation with municipal committees.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. **America 250 | CT Exposition** -- This program will take place on July 4, 2026 and will pull together all of the work that communities around the state will engage in leading up to the commemoration of the semiquincentennial. Every municipality around the state will be invited to participate and host a booth where they are able to share their commemorative projects, promote organizations in their town, and engage with members of the public. In the morning, towns will be invited to nominate a representative to recommit to the ideals outlined in the Declaration of Independence, with a ceremony where every town signs the document acknowledging the anniversary and looking ahead to the future of our democracy. The day will also include presentations highlighting the four themes of Connecticut's commemoration, live music, and a fireworks display to end the celebration.
2. **Supporting Social Studies Teachers** -- On October 4, 2023, the Connecticut State Board of Education unanimously adopted the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards. These were developed by a range of social studies teachers, leaders, and advocates who engaged in a collaborative and deliberative process to develop standards promoting justice, representation, inclusivity, local connections, agency, and global context.

# Connecticut Commission Factsheet

1. The new standards ensure that students are provided the opportunity to take a hard and honest look at history, economics, geography, and civics through inquiry-based learning activities. The America 250 | CT Commission seeks to provide professional development and share existing resources in one central location to support teachers incorporating the 250th and this new curriculum in their classrooms.
2. **Fellowships to Research Underrepresented Histories** -- The America 250 | CT Commission seeks to fund a number of scholars to conduct and publish research on underrepresented histories in Connecticut. These are instrumental to correcting historical omissions and empowering all communities in Connecticut to see themselves as part of the 250th. Traditional narratives of history have often excluded or marginalized the experiences of various groups, such as minorities, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and colonized peoples. Fellowships dedicated to underrepresented history will provide dedicated resources and support for researchers to uncover and tell these often-overlooked stories, challenging dominant narratives and enriching our understanding of the past. These fellowships will start to uncover the stories in Connecticut that educators, museums, and other organizations can use to build a more nuanced narrative of the last 250 years in our history and provide the public with the tools they need to envision the next 250 years.

## Get In Touch

[www.ct250.org](http://www.ct250.org)



@america250ct



america250ct

### Best Point of Contact for following up

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**Phone #:** 860-986-6704



# Delaware Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Delaware 250

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Delaware 250 is a project of the Delaware Heritage Commission. The chair of the Delaware Heritage Commission is Mr. Richard (Dick) Carter, and the vice-chair is Dr. Reba Hollingsworth.

The executive committee of Delaware 250 is comprised of

Mr. Richard (Dick) Carter  
Chair, Delaware Heritage Commission  
Special Projects Director Emeritus, Senate Majority Caucus

Mr. Ivan Henderson  
Executive Director, Delaware Historical Society

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

The Delaware Heritage Commission was established by Senate Bill 578, which was approved by Governor Pierre S. du Pont on June 8, 1978. The Heritage Commission is part of the Delaware Public Archives. The commission grew out of and replaced the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, with the legislative recognition of the need for ongoing stewardship of the history of the First State. The Governor appoints commission members.

Delaware 250 was formed in June 2023, and the first meeting of the Delaware 250 Steering Committee was held in November 2023. Members of the steering committee include representatives of major museums, directors of heritage groups, institutions of higher education, the chiefs of the Nanticoke and Lenape tribes, and esteemed historians.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

The overarching themes of Delaware 250 are

- To tell the full and honest story of Delaware's past, which allows more people to see themselves reflected in our State's history.
- To frame 1776 as a beginning, not the end, of our American story, as we continually strive toward creating "a more perfect union."
- To cultivate a deeper appreciation for Delaware's history among state residents and visitors, so that we may celebrate our history and inspire the next generation of caretakers of the rich and diverse histories of our State.

# Delaware Commission Factsheet

Will will realize these themes by

- Empowering museums, historic sites, heritage organizations, and similar groups with the skills and resources they may need to serve twenty-first century audiences, and in doing so, build a capacity that will extend well beyond 2026.
- Serving as the connecting point between Delaware's rich historical and cultural resources and the public (whether in-state or out-of-state), thereby driving attendance at Delaware's many offerings while providing a clear place for visitors to seek and find information.
- Building upon established networks and existing organizational structures across a variety of sectors in order to reach diverse audiences and maximize reach of resources.
- Advancing the understanding that the diverse experiences of the peoples of Delaware have contributed to the development of this State over the course of its history.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

Delaware 250 has just moved out of its planning phase and into public-facing operations. We are in the middle of our second (quarterly) grant cycle, providing support to museums, heritage groups, and non-profit organizations to implement programming that supports the key themes of Delaware 250. We have also just launched the Delaware 250 website and social media presence. The next few months will see a concerted shift toward major fundraising, alongside an expanded programmatic presence across the state.

Delaware 250 anticipates equal attention to developing and leading some initiatives and also being a source of funding and of consolidated information distribution for efforts that are undertaken by other entities.

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

1. Programming for major Delaware anniversaries: Separation Day (June 2026), a state holiday in June marking Delaware's separation from the State of Pennsylvania, in June 1776; July 4, 2026; and the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, Delaware's Revolutionary War battle (September 2027)
2. Development of traveling exhibits and public programming on different aspects of Delaware history and culture
3. Mock Continental Congress/A Declaration for Today statewide school program. Held in Legislative Hall, this end-of-school-year gathering will bring together representatives from schools across the state to engage today's students with the practice of civil discourse. Students will explore the issues at the heart of the debates over independence, followed by an opportunity to draft their own declaration for today, reflective of the issues that are meaningful to them and to their lives today.
4. "Caesar Rodney's Ride," a film about the contributions and complexities of Delaware's "Founding Fathers"

# Delaware Commission Factsheet



## Get In Touch

[de.gov/250](https://de.gov/250)



@Delaware250



Delaware 250



@Delaware250

### Best Point of Contact for following up

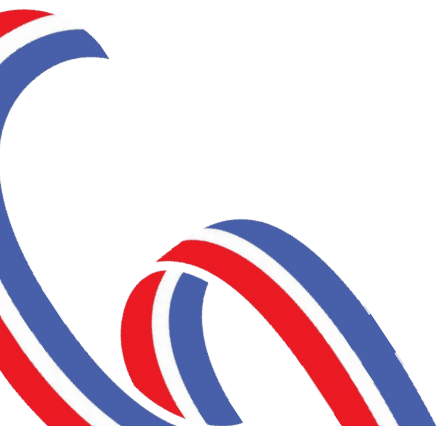
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[catherine.pierce@delaware.gov](mailto:catherine.pierce@delaware.gov)

**Phone #:** 302.744.5067, 302.744.5076

## Talk to us about...

- Participating in America250 national initiatives
- Mid-Atlantic joint tourism efforts
- Fundraising strategies for major private donors and corporate sponsorship (your hints/lessons learned/best practices)



# Hawai'i Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

"Hawai'i Semiquincentennial Commission", also known as the "Hawai'i America250 Commission"

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Peter T. Young, Chair  
Rob Moore, Vice Chair  
Laura Ingenluyff, Secretary  
Arthur Tulak, Treasurer

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

In the 2022 legislative session, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed HCR 166, 31st Leg., Reg. Sess. (2022) that states, in part, 'That the Governor is requested to establish a Hawai'i Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial by Executive Order', and that Commission is to "coordinate a statewide effort commemorating and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America".

The Hawai'i America250 Commission was formed in 2023 through an Executive Order issued by Governor Josh Green to provide for the coordinated observance and commemoration events and activities within the State of Hawai'i remembering the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

The nineteen-member commission includes representatives from across the Islands. Governor Green is the Honorary Chair, and each County Mayor is Honorary Co-Chair.

We are in the formative stage of the Commission, most of the effort has been through efforts by members of the Sons of the American Revolution (3 are members of the Commission) and Daughters of the American Revolution (2 are members of the Commission).

Now, each County in the State (Hawai'i has a total of 4 Counties) is represented by at least 2 members on the Commission (these include two Managing Directors, Mayor's Chief of Staff and Deputy Managing Director). In addition, the assistant superintendent for the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design from the State's Department of Education serves on the Commission; the President of the University of Hawai'i appointed a member to represent the University on the Commission. Each of the government Commissioners has a representative to sit in their seat, when the Commissioner cannot attend.

The Executive Order allows for the Commission to appoint a 'Secretariat' to handles the receipt and disbursement of funds; AMVETS Hawaii Service Foundation Corp, a 501(c)(3) was recently contracted to serve that role. (That is the only 'staff' supporting the Commission; the rest of the work is handled by volunteer Commissioners and committee members.

# Hawai'i Commission Factsheet



## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

Through events, programs, products, digital and printed media, symposia, and educational outreach, the Commission promotes and encourages:

- (1) Awareness and understanding of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, of the winning of American independence in the American Revolutionary War, and of the establishment of America's system of constitutional self-government;
- (2) Teaching students and increasing public knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history and the centuries-long quest for 'liberty and justice for all';
- (3) Advancing the cause of liberty of the meaning of 'E Pluribus Unum' ('From Many, One'); and
- (4) Emphasizing the service and sacrifices of the military (those in active duty, reserve, guard, and veteran) of all generations who have secured and preserved American independence and freedom and encouraging others to honor them.

### Hawai'i America250 Commission Committees

- Secretariat Committee
- Overall Planning Committee
- Overall Products and Merchandise Committee
- Education Committee
- Marketing, Outreach and Promotion Committee
- Military Committee
- Kauai County Committee
- City and County of Honolulu Committee
- Maui County Committee
- Hawai'i County Committee

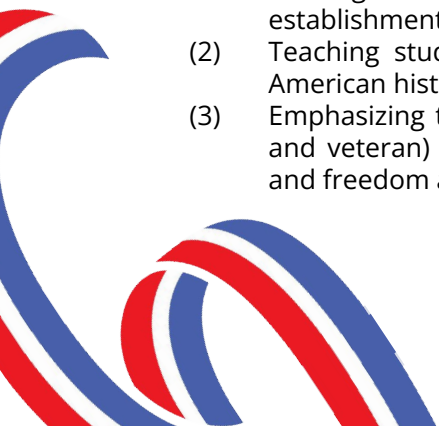
There are two 'Honorary Advisors' (retired Army and National Guard Generals) that will serve as the 'face' of the Commission for media interviews, public presentations, etc.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

The Commission was just recently formed; Committees are being activated, populated, and starting to meet.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

- (1) Awareness and understanding of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, of the winning of American independence in the American Revolutionary War, and of the establishment of America's system of constitutional self-government;
- (2) Teaching students and increasing public knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history and the centuries-long quest for 'liberty and justice for all';
- (3) Emphasizing the service and sacrifices of the military (those in active duty, reserve, guard, and veteran) of all generations who have secured and preserved American independence and freedom and encouraging others to honor them.





# Hawai'i Commission Factsheet

## Get In Touch

*We have requested [Hawaii@america250.org](mailto:Hawaii@america250.org)*

### Best Point of Contact for following up

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## Talk to us about...

1. Advice on what we can get the legislature, and Mayors to do for events they plan on their own.
2. Lists of national organizations whose State or local units are planning events so that we can find their Hawaii organization to follow their example.
3. Fund-raising ideas.

# Idaho Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

America250 in Idaho Task Force

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

- Chair: Janet Gallimore, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Idaho State Historical Society
- Vice Chair: HannaLore Hein, Idaho State Historian, Idaho State Historical Society
- Executive Directors of other key stakeholder agencies.

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Proclamation (signed, but embargoed until July 3rd, pending formal announcement).

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

- Mission: To advance the ideals of the American Revolution - equality, liberty, and justice – through meaningful community engagement and recognize, appreciate, and commemorate Idaho's journey in America's legacy.
- Vision: To celebrate American history and the invaluable contributions of Idahoans to our region, nation, and world.
- Values: The following values reflect the core principles and ethics of the America250 in Idaho commemoration. The America250 in Idaho Advisory Council encourages all partners to use these values in guiding local initiatives.
  - o Heritage: Honoring and amplifying Idaho's unique historical significance, natural beauty, and cultural heritage within the broader American story.
  - o Education: Fostering opportunities through historical and educational resources and events.
  - o Respect: Honoring and respecting the various perspectives, experiences, and contributions of individuals and communities across Idaho.
  - o Resilience: Highlighting stories of perseverance, self-governance, civic responsibility, and resilience that have contributed to the state and nation's progress.
  - o Patriotism: Fostering a deep sense of patriotism and honor by emphasizing Idaho values and the ideals of the American Revolution—equality, liberty, and justice.

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## Objectives:

1. Community Engagement and Participation:
  - a. Objective: Foster widespread community involvement and participation in America250 in Idaho events and initiatives, aiming for attendance at events and programs.
2. Enhance Educational Outreach and Access:
  - a. Objective: Develop educational outreach efforts through various mediums to ensure accessibility, aiming for engagement for learners of all ages.
3. Promote Statewide Collaboration and Respect:
  - a. Objective: Strengthen the sense of community and respect in Idaho communities by fostering collaboration and including constituents from across the state in planning and execution.
4. Showcase Idaho and Share Idaho Values:
  - a. Objective: Elevate Idaho's image and community values by engaging media outlets in a sustainable earned media strategy through 2026.
5. Increase Visitation:
  - a. Objective: Develop plans to increase visitation at historical sites, museums, parks, and other America250 in Idaho destinations during the commemorative year in 2026.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

- Legacy projects (requiring appropriation) are approved and executed beginning after July 1.
- Still figuring out how to liaise/network across the state and provide support to municipal organizations and nonprofits in their work.

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

- 1) Statewide Oral History Initiative: Access for qualified users from across the state to capture the stories of all Idahoans using TheirStory® oral history software. ISHS and relevant partners shall approve users and oral history projects. Appropriation: \$60,000.
- 2) ISHS History Grants: These grants fund projects that enhance history, culture, literacy, records management and preservation practices, economic development, the arts, and civic dialogue. ISHS offers grants via two rounds, one each fiscal year, with twelve recipients eligible for up to \$25,000 each round. Appropriation: \$600,000.00

# Idaho Commission Factsheet

- 3) Institute for Advancing American Values, Boise State University:
- a) Civics Education: The Institute for Advancing American Values at Boise State University will develop a one-credit workshop as an introduction to Idaho and American history and civic values. Further, the Institute will develop a three-credit course as an in-depth, comprehensive study of American history and civic values with potential for future collaboration with the sister four-year universities. Appropriation: \$500,000.00
  - b) Civics Education: The Institute would further provide stipends to faculty to integrate American examination of values, history, and civics into their current coursework or to develop new courses for widespread use to combat the declining knowledge of the expression of American values through civics and history. Appropriation: \$150,000.00

## Get In Touch

<https://america250.idaho.gov/>

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** HannaLore Hein

**Email:** Hannalore.hein@ishs.idaho.gov

**Phone #:** 208-514-2311

## Talk to us about...

Stakeholder engagement and how you are holding partners accountable.  
Managing priorities (existing projects on top of A250 work).

# Indiana Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Co-chairs of the Commission are the representatives from Indiana DAR and Indiana SAR

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission was established by legislation passed in Spring of 2022. Twenty-three members are on the Commission as stated in the Legislation. They include the Governor, Lt. Governor, Adjutant General of the IN National Guard, Director of VA, 2 State Senators, 2 State Representatives, representatives from American Revolutionary Reenactors, Civil War Reenactors, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Indiana War Memorial, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution, Indiana Sons of the American Revolution, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Indiana Historical Society, Indiana Association of Museums, Indiana Council of Social Studies, Indiana Humanities Council, and Native American Council.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

Mission: To commemorate in Indiana, the United States of America's 250th Anniversary

Vision:

By commemorating the USA's 250th Anniversary we intend to renew patriotism, honor diversity, strengthen service to community, state and country with the intention to enhance belief in the world's oldest continually existing Constitutional Republic and its future.

Objectives:

1. To involve all Hoosiers in the celebration of America 250.
2. To emphasize the strength of Hoosiers ideas, hopes, and dreams.
3. To achieve a 250th Commemoration on which Hoosiers can reflect as a positive achievement at this time in Indiana's and America's history

# Indiana Commission Factsheet



## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

We have taken steps necessary to become a non-profit.

We have established and are now functioning with six committees for Commission members: Financial, Communications/website, Fund Raising, Education/History, County Connect, and State Events

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. State Event at the Indiana War Memorial - July 4, 2026
2. Light Up Indiana – Program of Light Displays on Monument Circle in Indianapolis and with light displays in Indiana counties
3. Torch Relay from Indiana's first county – Knox through all counties and arriving in Marion County – Indianapolis on July 4, 2026, where an historical marker and "Liberty Tree" will be dedicated.

## Get In Touch

<https://www.in.gov/usa250/>

### Best Point of Contact for following up

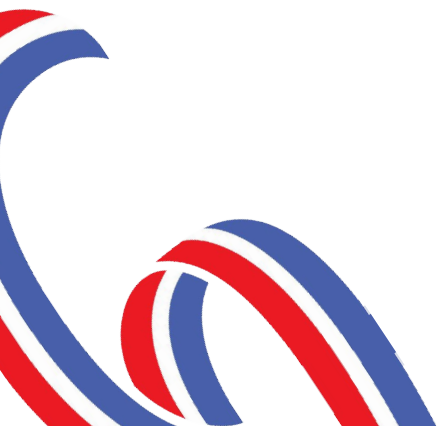
**Name:** Charlotte Blair

**Email:** csblair06@gmail.com

**Phone #:** 260-229-0908

## Talk to us about...

Gaining financial support



# Iowa Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Iowa America 250 Committee

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Leo Landis, State Curator, State Historical Society of Iowa

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Gov. Kim Reynolds of Iowa directed the State Historical Society of Iowa to lead Iowa's America 250 efforts through executive action.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

The committee's role is to advise and assist with:

1. A state of Iowa celebration and state activities
2. Approve/recognize county committees
3. Suggest ideas for counties and communities commemorating the Semiquincentennial of the United States
4. Create a marketing and promotional toolkit for counties and communities
5. Offer additional opportunities for America 250 partnerships and guidance to counties
6. Fundraising for state activities, possibly assist with funding for counties
7. Foster collaboration
8. Advocacy for Iowa America 250 Celebrations

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

We are early in our organizational process but intend to be fully underway in planning and coordination by September 1, 2024.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. A state of Iowa celebration in Des Moines in late June/early July 2026
2. Creation and coordination of county committee structure
3. An America 250 exhibit template for Iowa communities

# Iowa Commission Factsheet



## Get In Touch

[history.iowa.gov/history/iowaA250](https://history.iowa.gov/history/iowaA250)



@iowahistory



facebook.com/IowaHistory/

### Best Point of Contact for following up

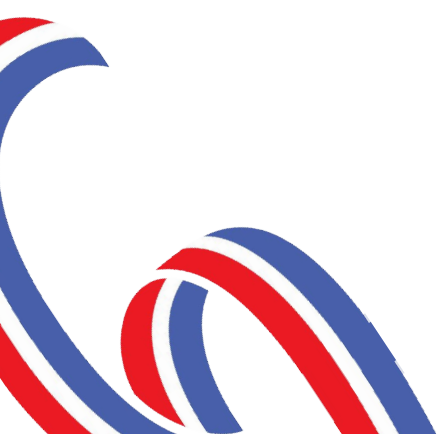
**Name:** Leo Landis

**Email:** leo.landis@iowa.gov

**Phone #:** 515.393.8324

## Talk to us about...

(What should other convening attendees ask you about or offer advice on?)





# Kansas Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Kansas 250 Commission

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Representative Susan Estes - Chair of Kansas 250  
Rosa Cavazos

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Kansas Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Act (Act). [Note: The U.S. Semiquincentennial, on July 4, 2026, will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the country.]

The bill designates the 20 voting members of the Commission including:

- The Secretary of Commerce or designee;
- The Executive Director of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission or designee;
- The Executive Director of the Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission or designee;
- The Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society or designee;
- Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Majority Leader, and the House Minority Leader, respectively; Kansas Legislative Research Department 1 2022 Summary of Legislation
- Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, the Senator Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader, respectively;
- The State Regent of the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution or designee;
- The President of the Kansas Society Sons of the American Revolution or designee;
- The President of the Kansas Historical Foundation or designee;
- One professor of American history from a Kansas institution of higher education appointed by the President of the State Board of Regents;
- One teacher of American history from a public school appointed by the State Board of Education;
- One representative appointed by the Kansas Native American Affairs Office;
- The Commander of the Kansas American Legion or designee;
- The Commander of the Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars or designee;
- The President of the Sunflower Sampler Foundation or designee; and
- The Chairperson of the Kansas State Fair Board or designee.

The bill authorizes Commission members to be appointed for the duration of the Commission, but members will serve only for as long as such members remain in the position that originally qualified the member for appointment.

A separate Kansas 250 Corporation has been formed as a 501(c)(3) called Kansas 250 to handle all financial needs for the commemoration.



# Kansas Commission Factsheet

The Kansas Department of Commerce in Tourism is taking on the day-to-day operations along with social media. This is being overseen by project coordinator, Rosa Cavazos.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

The Commission within and as a part of the Department of Commerce (Department) will plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and will recognize the impact of this event on the people of Kansas and the nation's past, present, and future. The Commission will cooperate with the United States Semiquincentennial Commission (U.S. Commission) and various state agencies, boards, commissions, departments, and political subdivisions to execute commemorative events and implement education activities, events, and celebrations related to the semiquincentennial of the United States.

The Commission has adopted as its guiding theme "Per Aspera, taken from the state's motto, "Ad Aspera per Aspera" or "to the stars, through difficulties." Mush is made of the beginning, "Ad Astra." It is ambitious and forward-thinking. The phrase invokes victories and celebrations. We at Kansas 250 embrace that aspirational message as we gather stories of those who settled in our state. Here we find a reoccurring theme-living in Kansas has involved difficulties. It did not matter to the land or the climate if one was of Indigenous, European, African, Asian or Latin decent, Kansas was a great equalizer.

From the era of Bleeding Kansas in the 1850s through today, the story of Kansas is one of people who endured and persevered through many challenges.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

Hiring the project coordinator was a key part of the Kansas 250 Commission.

The Kansas 250 website is close to going live in the next 30 days.

The first event is being held July 11th - 15th, 2024.

Kansas 250 will host a booth at the Kansas State Fair in September.

The Kansas 250 Commission also has approved a logo.

The Commission is still working on a signature commemorative effort or event.

Various members of the Commission are participating in professional discussions such as at AASLH and the A250 West Working group.

Committees have been created by the Commission that include:

- Fundraising
- Marketing
- Grassroots Outreach
- Projects & Events
- Reflecting on the potential to connect with related events such as the 250th with the 50th anniversary of the Bicentennial, the World Cup in Kansas City in 2026, or the 100th anniversary of Route 66.

# Kansas Commission Factsheet



**Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

1. Educational Tool Kit for Teachers
2. Partnering with Read Across America
3. Kansas State Fair and other Statewide venues

## Get In Touch

[travelks.com/kansas-250](https://travelks.com/kansas-250)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

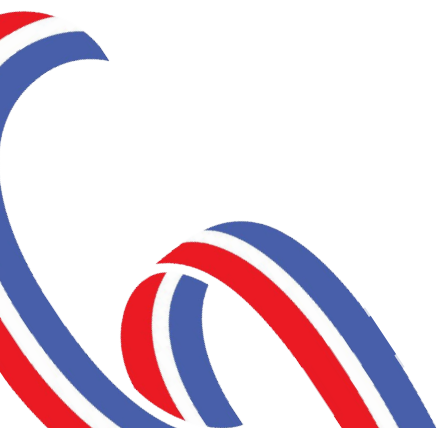
**Name:** Rosa R. Cavazos

**Email:** Rosa.Cavazos@KS.Gov

**Phone #:** 785-670-0139

## Talk to us about...

- Timely Communication suggestions
- Engagement and Coordination as part of a commission instead of a single agency.
- Fundraising and Development
- Navigating the tensions between those who want to celebrate a patriotic event and those who want to wrestle with difficult and contentious histories, especially in the context of the 2024 election.



# Kentucky Commission Factsheet



## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission, administered by the Kentucky Historical Society

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Edwin Clark

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

The Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission was established by the Kentucky General Assembly and consists of 13 members representing the following:

Education & Workforce Development Cabinet  
Kentucky Historical Society  
Kentucky Heritage Council  
Kentucky Humanities Council  
Kentucky Department of Parks  
Friends of Boone Trace, Inc.  
Fort Boonesborough Foundation, Inc.  
Kentucky African American Heritage Commission  
Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission  
Citizen members appointed by the Governor of Kentucky

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

The Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission was established to plan and implement events leading up to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 2026.

Kentucky commissioners consult on the multi-faceted statewide commemorations reflecting Kentucky's role in the United States of America's first 250 years. Within this advisory role, commissioners will connect, advocate, and advise for the direction of this commemoration.



# Kentucky Commission Factsheet

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

Having received nearly \$3.8 million in funding from the Kentucky General Assembly, the Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission is working to fund programs and activities across the Bluegrass State that meet our guiding pillars of education, heritage tourism, events, and legacy projects. The Kentucky Historical Society, which administers the Kentucky Commission, is preparing to release a grant program that will fund museums, local history organizations, and tourism agencies to help them implement plans and make long-term improvements to their organizations as they prepare for America250.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. Educating Kentuckians, including K-12 students, about civics and Kentucky history.
2. Planning and promoting events across the Commonwealth commemorating 250 years of American history.
3. Increasing visitation and engagement at museums and historic sites across the commonwealth.

## Get In Touch

<https://history.ky.gov/participate/america250ky>



@kentuckyhistoricalsociety



Kentucky Historical Society



@KyHistSoc



Kentucky Historical Society

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Ashley Spenneberg-Perkins

**Email:** ashley.spenneberg@ky.gov

**Phone #:** 502-782-3337

## Talk to us about...

Ask us about our new America250KY grant program!  
Offer us advice on unique events and the benefits of having a mascot. Do they work?



# Maine Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Maine Semiquincentennial Commission

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Shenna Bellows, Maine Secretary of State

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Housed within the Maine Department of the Secretary of State, Chapter Resolve 126 states the Commission "shall develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, referred to in this resolve as "the commemoration," through educational and historical events, activities and programs throughout the State."

Appointed members of the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission currently include:

- Ekhlal Ahmed, Co-Director of Cultural Alliance of Maine
- Shenna Bellows, Maine Secretary of State
- Kelli A. Deveaux, Educator
- Lori Fisher, Maine State Librarian
- Bernard Fishman, Director of the Maine State Museum
- Julia Gray, Executive Director of Wilson Museum
- Richard LaBelle, Norridgewock Town Manager
- Abbe Levin, Cultural/Heritage Tourism Contractor
- Kate McBrien, Maine State Archivist
- Peter Merrill, Chair of the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council
- Marcia Minter, Co-Founder & Chief Officer of Strategic Growth and Innovation of Indigo Arts Alliance
- Kirk Mohney, Director of Maine Historic Preservation Commission
- Earle Shettleworth, Maine State Historian
- Robin Talbot, Associate Director of the Stonecoast MFA Program at USM
- Governor Janet T. Mills, Ex-Officio Member
- Senate President Troy Jackson, Ex-Officio Member
- House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Ex-Officio Member

# Maine Commission Factsheet

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

The Commission has identified several major themes that will be the focus of much of the programming and collaboration for Maine's celebration of America's Semiquincentennial, including storytelling, the relationship of people to place, and revealing and embracing our hard history.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

The Commission has been meeting regularly since December 2023, and was joined in June 2024 by Sarah Hansen, newly hired to help lead and coordinate Maine's commemoration of America 250.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

The Commission has identified three pillars that will guide the development of programs and initiatives moving forward: Engage, Connect, Learn.

## Get In Touch

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/about/advisorysemiquin.html>

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Sarah Hansen, Director of Special Projects

**Email:** sarah.e.hansen@maine.gov

**Phone #:** 207.446.6587

## Talk to us about...

We are hoping to hear more information on current and future federal funding opportunities that will help support state's programs and initiatives throughout 2026. We also welcome more insight from other states on how they are collaborating with partners to identify and challenge historic narratives that have not been inclusive.

# Maryland Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Maryland Two Fifty Commission

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Chair: Former Governor Parris Glendening

Vice Chair: Former First Lady and Retired Judge, Catherine (Katie) Curran O'Malley

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

- The Maryland Two Fifty Commission was established by Governor Wes Moore via Executive Order, July 3, 2023,
- 33 Commissioners are named in the Executive Order: Lt. Governor, eight cabinet Sec. (Budget and Management, Commerce, General Services, Natural Resources, Planning, Service and Civic Innovation, State, and Veterans Affairs), State Superintendent of Schools, State Archivist, State Historic Preservation Officer, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, Executive Director of Maryland State Arts Council, Administrative Director of Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, Executive Director of Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, Director of Maryland Commission for Women, up to five members of the public, two members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, and up to three nonprofit representatives.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

- Develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive statewide observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, with three themes: history, civics, and service, and:
  - Invite broad-based public input on the meaning, significance, and opportunities of the 250th that will inform development of commemoration activities, programs, and events
  - Acknowledge that the confiscation of Indigenous land and displacement of Indigenous people is central to the US' origin story and recognize the persistence and contributions of these communities today.
  - Honor the legacy of both free and enslaved African Americans in the making of Maryland and the nation, whose untold stories of heroism and perseverance are critical to the understanding of our shared past and present.
  - Support the identification and enhancement of cultural assets that tell the story of who we are as Marylanders and promote place-based visitor experiences for residents and visitors alike.
  - Engage youth, new Americans, and lifelong learners in programs designed to encourage the search for meaning behind America and deepen engagement in civic life.



# Maryland Commission Factsheet

- Celebrate service to country and community, and create opportunities that promote social responsibility, compassion and understanding that will unite and strengthen Maryland's diverse communities for the benefit of all.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

The first Commission meeting was in December 2023, so we are really just getting started. We are focused on building awareness and engagement through the creation of a statewide network of partners, have given many presentations, and tabled at major events and conferences such as the Maryland Municipal League, Maryland Association of Counties, Frederick County 275 Jubilee, and the Chestertown Tea Party. We are actively encouraging local Commissions or committees to launch, and:

- Have a professionally designed logo, website, and tagline: "Maryland's Story is America's Story", social media with our first campaign "today in Maryland history", a rack card, and a monthly newsletter.
  - Have bylaws, a public comment policy, a land acknowledgement statement which is read at the start of each Commission meeting and event, working groups on history, civics, and service, and a communications, fundraising, and events committee.
  - Offer technical assistance via statewide virtual convenings every six weeks and monthly virtual office hours.
  - Have a list of programmatic and administrative recommendations which have been approved by the Commission.
- On May 23, 2024, we co-sponsored the Chestertown Tea Party 250 reception, where we tabled and two of our Commissioners spoke.
  - Our June 22, 2024 kickoff event, Looking Back to Look Ahead: George Washington, Frederick Douglass, and America at 250, commemorated Frederick Douglass' 1874 visit to Annapolis.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. Maryland Two Fifty small grants program with grants for (1) counties and towns to launch citizen academies with the goal of citizen information and engagement, (2) inclusive history grants to support inclusive, community-centered research, events, programs, projects, or exhibitions at museums, heritage areas, history organizations and sites, other nonprofits, and state, county, municipal and tribal entities, and (3) Maryland Two Fifty Fellows grants to support paid inclusive history and civics undergraduate and graduate internships with mentor stipend.
2. Partner on events commemorating anniversaries of historical significance, including the 250th anniversary of the US Military.
3. Partner on regional Maryland Two Fifty festivals.
4. Endorse and promote the Maryland Mosaic project documenting national firsts that happened in Maryland.

# Maryland Commission Factsheet



## Get In Touch

<https://mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/>



@MDTwoFifty



<https://www.facebook.com/MDTwoFifty/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/mdtwofifty>

### Best Point of Contact for following up

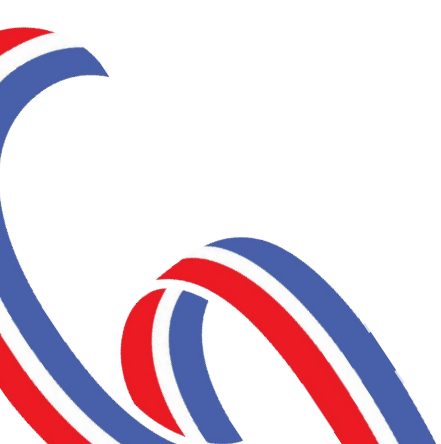
**Name:** Michele W. Johnson

**Email:** Michele.Johnson1@Maryland.gov

**Phone #:** 443-452-7806

## Talk to us about...

- We need advice on fundraising!
- Happy to discuss our themes – history, civics, and service; partnerships; or advise Commissions just getting started.



# Massachusetts Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution in Massachusetts

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Representative Mindy Domb and Senator Paul Marks, Co-Chairs

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution in Massachusetts. This commission was established by the legislature and a majority of the members were appointed by the Governor and all have been sworn in by the Governor.

The Commission includes:

**Senate** : Paul W. Mark – Co-Chair, Ryan C. Fattman, Michael J. Barrett, Edward J. Kennedy. **House**: Mindy Domb – Co-Chair, David T. Viera, Jeffrey N. Roy. **Other**: James F. Hollister, Abigail B. Chandler, PhD, Kenneth B. Hiscoe III, Irene Barbara Krauthamer, PhD, David O'Donnell, Susanne Taylor, Kerima M. Lewis, Thomas J. Moreau, Keiko M. Orrall, Michael Quinlin, Michael S. Creasey, Paula P. Renkas, Brain Boyles, Brona Simon, Casey Cullen, David (Dave) Slattery, Erin Kelly Miranda, Gavin Kleespies, John Peters, Jr., Kristin Karl Carnahan, Kyera Singleton, Lieut. Col. Geoffrey E. Love, Michael Comeau, Michael Lawson, Paul Sacco, Ray Anthony Shepard, Ryan J. Woods, Scott E. Casper, Suzanne (Suzie) Barry, Councilor David Weeden, Kate Fox, Sheila Green

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

The purpose of the Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution in Massachusetts is to be the umbrella to bring together the entire state in commemorating, honoring, creating and sharing the revolutionary history in Massachusetts.

The number one priority is to be inclusive, embrace our history, share little known and untold stories, look at the many firsts and innovations from the last 250 years, and bring the entire state together.

Sub committees include:

- Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution in Massachusetts Marketing Committee.
- Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution in Massachusetts Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

# Massachusetts Commission Factsheet

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

We are traveling across the state to learn what communities are doing to recognize the semiquincentennial. We are working closely with our Regional Tourism Councils to embrace all their members and communities that represent the tourism industry.

We are working with the National Parks Service, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Historical Societies, schools and libraries to engage in the MA themes of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. In Massachusetts we are focused on 2025. Commemorations and reenactments of the many battles that took place in MA in 1775. We are creating Revolutionary Weekends.
2. We are working on statewide initiatives to bring communities and towns together to broaden visitor experience and engage in MA250. We are creating tours and trails that explore and showcase our history. We are incorporating the contemporary stories of revolutionary Massachusetts. We will also host a big commemorative public event in 2025.
3. In 2026 we will embrace the reenactment of the Gen. Henry Knox Cannon Trail which impacted 28 communities from the Berkshires to Boston and we will commemorate and celebrate Evacuation Day – the day the British evacuated Boston and opened Boston Harbor. We are embracing the hundreds of firsts and innovations in Massachusetts.

## Get In Touch

[www.massachusetts250.org](http://www.massachusetts250.org)



@Massachusetts.com



Massachusetts 250



Massachusetts 250

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Sheila Green

**Email:** Sheila.green@mass.gov

**Phone #:** (857) 408-0060

## Talk to us about...

We would love to learn more about: How states are pulling together statewide initiatives, funding for statewide programs.



# Michigan Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

America250MI

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Amy Bradfield and Jillian Reese

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

We were established by an executive order as a committee. We currently have 18 people on the committee from a variety of organizations, museums, and universities. Funding has been proposed that may shift the committee into a commission and change the current structure. We are holding off on some of our initiatives and hiring as we await the passing of the budget.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

Our mission is to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, the American Revolution's role in Michigan's history, and the impact these, and other historic events had on the people of Michigan's past, present, and future.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

We've created and shared a program guide on our website to help organizations and individuals plan local commemorations. We are officially recognizing events around the state to provide our official branding as well as to publicize and share those events through our website and social media.

# Michigan Commission Factsheet



## Get In Touch

[www.america250mi.org](http://www.america250mi.org)



America250MI



America250MI



America250MI

### Best Point of Contact for following up

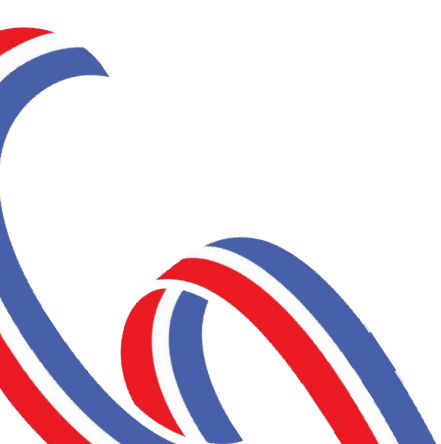
**Name:** Amy Bradfield

**Email:** america250mi@gmail.com

**Phone #:** 517-324-1828

## Talk to us about...

We have questions about granting programs for local organizations.



# Minnesota Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Governor's Committee on Minnesota America 250

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

William (Bill) Von Bank; Briana Joyner

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

The Governor's Committee on Minnesota America 250 was established by Executive Order by Governor Tim Walz.

The Committee consists of up to 15 members, including two co-chairs and eight members appointed by the Governor as well as four legislative members (bi-partisan members from the House and Senate) and an appointee by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

The Committee's charge is to:

- a. Develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and subsequent historic events in American history through civic, cultural, and historical education and programming for all Minnesotans.
- b. Encourage civic, historical, educational, business, and other organizations throughout Minnesota to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the American Revolution and subsequent historic events.
- c. Coordinate with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, as well as state and local commissions and private and public organizations and partners, in planning and carrying out this work.
- d. Provide assistance to nonprofit organizations and governmental units in the development of programs, projects, and activities pertaining to the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution that have lasting educational value within the state.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

The Governor's Committee is in its start-up phase, getting meetings organized, and soliciting ideas from committee members and the public.

# Minnesota Commission Factsheet



## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. Delivery of quality history and civic education programs to increase understanding of the impact of the events of the Revolutionary War period. We will accomplish this by examining the way Minnesotans have participated in American democracy and challenged the principles laid out in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and other founding documents.
2. Organization of celebratory events to mark the promise of the founding of the United States of America
3. Deepening understanding of the history of the last 250 years in the area now known as Minnesota, including contributions of Native American people and subsequent arrivals to the North Star state.

## Get In Touch

[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** David Kelliher, Kevin Maijala

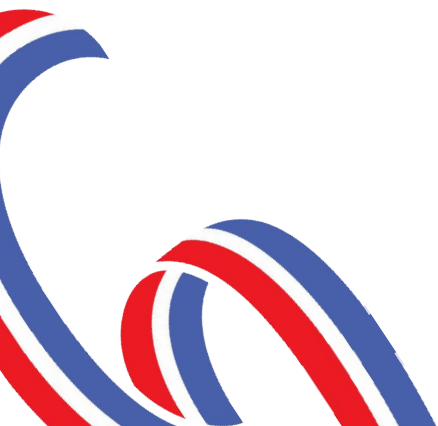
**Email:** [david.kelliher@mnhs.org](mailto:david.kelliher@mnhs.org),

[kevin.maijala@mnhs.org](mailto:kevin.maijala@mnhs.org)

**Phone #:** 651.259.3103, 651.259.3442

## Talk to us about...

- Federal funding opportunities (NEH, etc)
- Commission start-up lessons learned
- Commemorations vs. celebrations





# Mississippi Commission Factsheet



## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Mississippi USA Semiquincentennial Commission

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

First Lady Elee Reeves Lt. Governor designee, Speaker of the House designee, three members appointed by the Governor, two members appointed by the Lt. Governor, one member appointed by the Speaker of the House, Director of Tourism, Director of the Mississippi Tourism Association, Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History ,Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

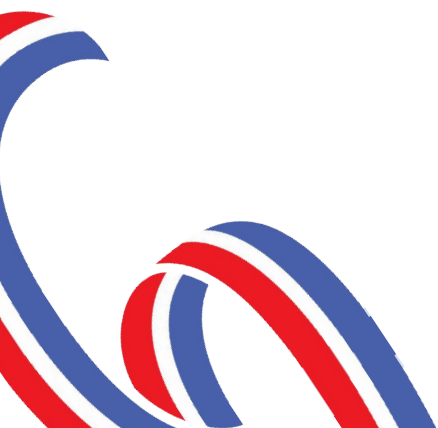
The Commission and its nonprofit partner, the America250 Foundation, to collaborate with affiliates at the local, territorial, state, tribal, regional, national and international levels to educate, engage and unite Americans throughout a commemorative period beginning in 2020 to officially conclude in 2027, culminating in the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, and of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

We have been organized, we have had our first quarterly meeting, a Director of Development has been hired, Committees are being designated, with a committee chairman, and a foundation is being established.

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

1. To create engaging content
2. To utilize multiple channels
3. Celebrate Mississippi history, state heroes, celebrate artists, industries, agriculture, and historic sites.



# Mississippi Commission Factsheet

## Get In Touch

[www.america250.ms](http://www.america250.ms)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Nancy Luke Carpenter

**Email:** ncarpenter@mississippi.org

**Phone #:** 662-574-2036

## Talk to us about...

We need advice on funding sources, and amount and whether a foundation has been established as a source of raising money!

# Montana Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Montana 250th Commission

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Molly Stockdale, Chris Averill

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

The 2023 Montana Legislature passed House Bill 0377, establishing the Montana 250th Commission to coordinate statewide efforts to commemorate the United States Semiquincentennial.

The following eleven commission members were appointed per the stipulations of the enacting legislation: Emily Arendt, PhD, Christopher Averill, Marietta Croft, Jane Lee Hamman, Mike Jetty, Molly Kruckenberg, Deena Mansour, Senator Shannon O'Brien, Representative Linda Reksten, Hal Stearns, Molly Stockdale

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

The objectives of this commission are to promote civic engagement and increase public awareness of United States and Montana government and history, including the history of Tribal nations. The eleven-member commission will work with partners to:

- Increase participation in the United States civics test, as well as youth proficiency in United States and Montana government and history and in the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians through Indian Education for All (IEFA);
- Recognize schools for outstanding achievement in civics and proficiency in history, government, and IEFA;
- Plan, coordinate, and implement an overall program to build public awareness of and foster public participation in celebrating and commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence and founding of the United States;
- Draw attention to the achievements, honors, innovations, and significance of the people in this state and recommend ways for this state to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence and founding of the United States;
- Recognize the vibrant Indigenous cultures living in this place in 1776;
- Emphasize the service and sacrifices of veterans who have secured and preserved American independence and freedom;
- And celebrate and commemorate with events and activities throughout this state.

# Montana Commission Factsheet

The Montana 250 Commission has chosen as its overarching theme Mitakuye Oyasin, a Lakota phrase signifying the interconnectedness of all forms of life: we are all related. This underscores the importance not only of the people to shaping the history of Montana, but also the landscape, the mountain ranges, the rivers, and the wildlife. At a program level, we chose to coordinate our focus activities with several of the AASLH guidebook themes for America 250: Power of Place; The Ongoing American Experiment; and Doing History.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

Nearing Commission approval of a slate of programs (some discussed below) and corresponding fundraising. Additional resources, if appropriated by the 2025 Legislature, will help further bolster existing programming to ensure the maximum possible impact. Communications is ongoing, with several OpEds planned and a media kickoff event to be coordinated around our Montana Historical Society's Montana History Conference in September.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

- 1. Regrant Program:** The purpose of the Mitakuye Oyasin Montana 250 Grant Program is to support towns, cities, tribal nations, schools, museums, libraries, non-profit organizations, historic sites, heritage groups, and other similar groups in developing programs or other public-facing ventures that help to commemorate the 250th anniversary for Montanans and Montana's visitors from May 26, 2025 (Memorial Day) through Nov 26, 2026 (Thanksgiving Day).
- 2. Community Engagement and Outreach:** To reach across Montana's vast and diverse landscape, Montana 250 will create and share resources that will be accessible to communities throughout the state. Website content and links, a traveling exhibit, and a guidebook for developing local history tours, for example, will bring Montana 250 into rural communities and even individual households. Montana 250 will raise the profile of local and state-wide events through an online calendar, a series of op-ed pieces in local papers, radio and television interviews, etc.
- 3. Improve Civics education and recognize student achievement:** The Montana 250 Commission is tasked with recognizing schools for outstanding achievement and proficiency in U.S., Montana, and Tribal history and government. We plan to utilize a vast network of resources, through the Montana Historical Society, Office for Public Instruction (including its Indian Education for All team), Board of Public Education, and other advocates to carry out this objective. In addition, Montana 250 will promote civics education for students and adults by creating a web portal for the National Civics Test and other resources. Students who complete the test will receive a certificate from the Commission.

# Montana Commission Factsheet

## Get In Touch

<https://www.america250mt.org/>

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Devon Malizia

**Email:** devon.malizia@mt.gov

**Phone #:** 406-444-4767

## Talk to us about...

### Ask Us About

- How we are working with Tribal Nations to talk about the west in 1776
- One of our themes - Ongoing American Experiment - and how it is woven into our programming

### Offer Advice On

- How non-original 13 colony states (i.e. Western states) are balancing the clear objective of commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary while also weaving a focus on state history into their work (sometimes it seems our work becomes very Montana-heavy; looking for ideas to better incorporate colonial/revolutionary period history)

# Nevada Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

America250 | Nevada

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Staff are Francine Burge and Brenda Scolari. Chair of the commission is to be determined.

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

The executive order was signed in late June establishing a commission. We are currently recruiting for these slots. The commission will be the public facing group charged with fundraising. We anticipate having the group of 7-10 business and stakeholder leaders to be in place by September to be approved then placed by the governor.

We currently have a planning or advising committee. In this committee of 40 members, we have state agencies, stakeholder group reps, historians, non-profit organizations, and others. We're tasked by developing with the plan for programs and initiatives.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

1. Showcase the daily relevance of the Constitution and foster community pride.
2. Engage Nevadans through civic participation, voting registration, and volunteerism.
3. Celebrate the concepts that unite us.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

We are currently developing our initiatives, setting budget and fundraising goals, editing the National Themes to reflect the state's residents and relationship to the constitution and history.

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

1. A Mobile Museum to act as an engagement hub during the celebration months throughout the state to enact our programs to educate, celebrate and engage with projects and initiatives;
2. State-wide storytelling and gathering -- in-person and online to connect our past to our future;
3. Volunteer Projects to demonstrate the ability to work together towards commonly shared goals;
4. Creating a Speakers' Bureau to tap into our deep well of knowledge of history, art/culture, and technology for inspiration for our shared vision;
5. Development of a scholarship program;
6. Inviting the public to showcase their own celebrations, programs, and activities.

# Nevada Commission Factsheet

## Get In Touch

<https://nvmuseums.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/NevadaStateMuseumCC>

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** M. Francine Burge

**Email:** [fburge@dtca.nv.gov](mailto:fburge@dtca.nv.gov)

**Phone #:** 775-230-5258

## Talk to us about...

I am considering the AASLH conference in Mobile in September.

I am interested in seeing other states' ideas.

Need to know about funds available either to us or to groups in the state like NV Humanities and Nevada Arts Council.

# New Jersey Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

RevolutionNJ

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Dr. Maxine N. Lurie, New Jersey Historic Commission  
Sarah Kerney Lane, Crossroads of the American Revolution

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Established by legislation in 2018, RevolutionNJ is a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

RevolutionNJ will advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism, and scholarship in New Jersey. Through a series of initiatives that explore the history of the American Revolution, its context, and its legacy, RevolutionNJ seeks to galvanize diverse audiences statewide into embracing the enduring value and relevance of history. For more information about RevolutionNJ's mission and goals, visit [revnj.org/about](http://revnj.org/about).

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

After several years of careful planning and data collection, RevolutionNJ began launching programs and initiatives in 2022 and is now entering a broader outreach and engagement phase.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. History Happened Here: A research-based history program for middle and high school students.
2. Revolutionary Lives: Living the American Experiment Then and Now: A free traveling exhibit which will be hosted in locations across the state.
3. RevolutionNJ Proud Partners and Communities: A statewide initiative to engage historical sites, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and municipalities in the 250<sup>th</sup> commemoration.



# New Jersey Commission Factsheet

## Get In Touch

<https://www.revnj.org/>



@revolutionnj



www.facebook.com/RevolutionNJ

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Marc Lorenc

**Email:** marc.lorenc@sos.nj.gov

**Phone #:** 609-633-0776

## Talk to us about...

- Creating 250<sup>th</sup> programming that is bottom-up and inclusive
- Heritage Tourism and the 250<sup>th</sup>
- Forming public/private partnerships
- Developing school-based programming
- Strategic planning for the 250<sup>th</sup>
- Ideas for non-Revolutionary War programming

# New Mexico Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

New Mexico Semiquincentennial Commission

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Gov Lujan Grisham, honorary chair of the commission  
Chairs will be selected as commissions convenes

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

- (1) Gov Lujan Grisham, as the honorary chair of the commission;
- (2) Lt Gov Morales or designee;
- (3) Sen Stewart - president pro tempore or designee;
- (4) Rep Javier Martinez - speaker of the house of representatives or designee;
- (5) Sec Garcia y Griego or DCA designee;
- (6) Sec Rodriguez or HED designee;
- (7) Sec Monette or IAD designee;
- (8) Sec Romero or PED designee;
- (9) Sec Adams or Tourism designee;
- (10) Major General Miguel Aguilar or adjutant general of the New Mexico national guard designee;
- (11) State Historian Robert Martinez shall convene the first meeting; and
- (12) four public members appointed by the governor.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

Mission: The "semiquincentennial commission" is created in the cultural affairs department to plan, promote and implement public celebrations and commemorations of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of independence and the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States of America on July 4, 2026.

### Priorities:

The commission shall promote and encourage as part of its celebratory events, electronic media, printed media, symposia and educational outreach:

- 1) awareness and understanding of the principles of the declaration of independence, the United States' winning of the Revolutionary War and the establishment of the United States' system of constitutional self-government;
- 2) the advancement of the cause of liberty and American self-government through promoting civic knowledge and practice and the constitutional features of self-government that emphasize the roles of active and engaged citizens; and

# New Mexico Commission Factsheet



- 1) an increase in public knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history and the long quest to live up to the ideals put forth in the declaration of independence and the United States constitution.
- C. The commission may:
- 1) designate advisory and honorary boards and special committees to assist with planning, developing and coordinating specific activities;
  - 2) enter into contracts and accept donations, gifts, grants and other things of value, including real or personal property and personal services; and
  - 3) do other things consistent with the purposes of this act to carry out the provisions of this act.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

New Mexico is still in the process of establishing its commission. Once public members are appointed by the Governor, the commission will begin planning activities based on priorities and mission.

Currently, there are 2 planned DAR Patriots Markers; one in Tucumcari off Route 66, and another in Santa Fe at the New Mexico Military Museum

## Get In Touch

### Best Point of Contact for following up

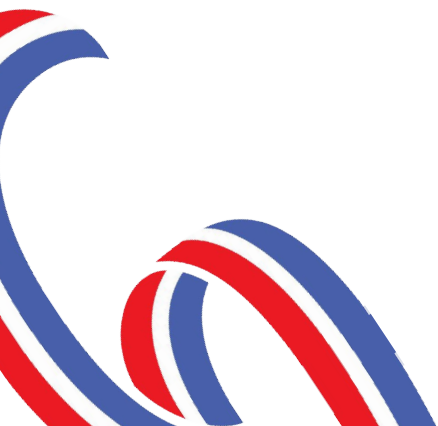
**Name:** Jessie Greenspan

**Email:** [Jessie.Greenspan@dca.nm.gov](mailto:Jessie.Greenspan@dca.nm.gov)

**Phone #:** (505) 690-9946

## Talk to us about...

Lessons learned from establishing a new quincentennial commission!



# New York Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

The New York State 250th Commemoration Commission

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

The Commission is co-chaired by Commissioner of Education Dr. Betty Rosa, and Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Randy Simons

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

The NYS 250<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission was created through an act of the NYS Legislature and consists of 21 members. These include the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Commissioner of Education, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Empire State Development, The Commissioner of the Office of General Services, the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Council for the Arts, and the Director of the Canal Corporation (or their designees) as well as four members appointed by the governor, three appointed by the temporary president of the Senate, three appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly, and the New York State Historian. The majority of the members that make up the commission shall have a professional background in the fields of local government historian, academic historian, museum professional, social studies teacher or professor, tourism professional, archeologist, anthropologist, or other field of New York State history or historic preservation, or volunteer fundraising experience.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

The powers, functions, and duties of the New York State 250th Commemoration Commission include:

- Develop plans to promote and coordinate activities to commemorate the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution
- Include heritage organizations as the focal points for the commemoration;
- Coordinate forums across the state to seek ideas from the public on the commemoration including how New Yorkers, American and those from other countries may celebrate the anniversary;
- Coordinate activities with civic, educational and heritage organizations to develop public interest and involvement in the planning and development of the commemoration;
- Promote and encourage educational outreach programs using media and technology including electronic communications to achieve national and international impact
- Coordinate the planning of commemorative events for all interest communities throughout the state;
- Invite other interested states and nations to participate in programs and events for the commemoration;

# New York Commission Factsheet

- Coordinate and promote the holdings of meetings, conference, seminars and conventions in interested communities using such anniversary as an attraction and theme;
- Coordinate and promote the holding of community engagement and educational events in interested communities using such anniversary as an attraction and theme;
- Seek funding from private individuals, foundations and corporations to support capital improvements, preservation and conservation needs associated with events and sites commemorating such anniversary;
- Coordinate and cooperate with state entities and tourist promotion agencies;
- Coordinate and cooperate with local, state and federal entities including those relating to heritage are promotion and any federal commission created to participate in planning and development of the anniversary;
- Set goals and benchmarks for the work of the commission.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

The NYS 250th Commission had their inaugural meeting on May 15, 2024 at the New York State Museum in Albany. The commission is in the process of developing a strategic plan.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. The New York State Museum will be installing a new exhibit, *Revolutionary NY*, which will open in June of 2026.
2. Sail4th 250 - To celebrate America's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026, the largest fleet of the world's most magnificent tall ships and gray hull ships will sail into New York Harbor, pass in Presidential review, and salute the Statue of Liberty. For more information, visit [sail4th.org](http://sail4th.org)
3. The Office of State History partnered with the Association of Public Historians of New York State to produce the NYS 250 Commemoration Field Guide which focuses on providing broad interpretive themes that can be used to guide commemorations in communities across New York State.

## Get In Touch

[www.nysm.nysed.gov/revolutionaryny250](http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/revolutionaryny250)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Devin Lander

**Email:** [devin.lander@nysed.gov](mailto:devin.lander@nysed.gov)

**Phone #:** 518-474-0206

# North Carolina Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

America 250 NC Statewide Stakeholders

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

- Sarah Koonts-chair (State Archivist of NC and America 250 NC director)
- LeRae Umfleet-America 250 NC programming (Historic Sites Operations Manager)
- Dan Brosz-America 250 NC programming (Program Coordinator)

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Established through executive action by Governor Roy Cooper in 2019, the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) was directed to provide leadership for the statewide commemoration through a committee of stakeholders interested in fostering planning efforts in NC.

The committee is an informal one in that there are no established seats or positions. Cultural resources professionals in museums, sites, and institutions across the state participate, as do leaders from heritage organizations, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution. The committee also includes leaders from local county commemoration committees, local travel and tourism staff, staff from National Park Service institutions in NC, and members of statewide commissions, such as the NC American Indian Heritage Commission and NC African American Heritage Commission. The committee meets quarterly via Zoom.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

Through the leadership of DNCR and its numerous museums, sites, parks, and other cultural heritage assets, the committee seeks to foster wide ranging commemoration activities in all 100 counties across a multi-year commemoration. It aims to foster commemoration programming where all feel included and welcome to engage with the rich and complex history and culture of our state and nation.

DNCR developed two frameworks for its commemoration programming. "Revolutionary NC" explores the important history of our state's involvement in this period. "When Are We US?" provides the opportunity for the engagement of stories and individuals across our history who have provided visions of freedom and sought to expand the ideals of the Revolution. Priority activities for DNCR commemoration programming include expansion of K-12 educational resources, resources to support and foster local programming, and a robust series of programs and events that highlight the important history and rich culture of NC.

# North Carolina Commission Factsheet

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

The NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has an expansive plan for programming, special events, and educational resources already rolling out. This includes a program to foster collaboration with K-12 teachers called “Freedom Fellows,” classroom educational resources, a series of children’s books based on period stories from NC, online resources, and traveling panel exhibits and children’s activity kits for use in local libraries, museums, and other institutions. DNCR sites are planning multiple special programs, including a whole series of events around the commemoration framework of “When Are We US?” This framework allows us to engage our full 250 years of history and explore when we have, or have not, lived up to the ideals from the Revolution.

The NC General Assembly appropriated \$2.1 million during the 2023-2025 biennium to support local commemoration programs and county commemoration committees through a grant program. The first round of grant applications has closed, and grant awards are starting. The second round of applications opens in the summer. These grants provide support for local events, exhibits, and county committee planning. The grant program has provided a major boost to local commemoration planning. Some regions are starting to plan for multi-county activities, such as the First in Freedom Festival to be hosted across 6 southeastern counties in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge.

The state also has provided support for key capital investments related to sites with connections to the period. That support includes funding renovations or construction of visitors’ centers at Historic Halifax and the House in the Horseshoe, site of a key Revolutionary War skirmish in the state, as well as the renovation of the William R. Davie House in Halifax. Additionally, support for the acquisition of the Hayes property in Edenton, the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin, the preservation of Cherokee mounds in Macon County, as well as funding for the Overmountain Victory State Trail represent important efforts to preserve properties and land with significant connections to the history of the state in the Revolutionary War period. Hayes Farm is a historic plantation that belonged to Samuel Johnston who served as governor of NC from 1787-1789 and later served as one of the first US Senators from the state. Shallow Ford, a rock-bottomed crossing point on the Yadkin River, was the site of several important events, including when General Cornwallis camped there and crossed the river in his pursuit of General Greene in the “Race to the Dan” campaign in 1781.

Additionally, the structure for the promotion of events and programs across the state is being expanded and includes a statewide social media campaign, marketing tool kit for local commemoration partners, events calendar, and monthly newsletter. DNCR also has developed a branded airstream travel trailer that is being used to promote the commemoration across the state. The trailer includes promotional materials and swag, kids’ activities, and information on the commemoration.

# North Carolina Commission Factsheet



## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. Continued promotion and expansion of the America 250 NC Local Grants program.
2. Support of key local events, particularly those that include 250<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, such as the First in Freedom Festival for the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge (the "Lexington and Concord of the South") and the Halifax Resolves Day anniversary (the first formal colonial action calling for independence).
3. Continued expansion of coordinated marketing and outreach for online, social media, and in-person commemoration events and resources. Outreach will also include advocacy to all 100 counties to foster local commemoration planning.

## Get In Touch

[www.america250nc.gov](http://www.america250nc.gov)



@america250nc



<https://www.facebook.com/america250nc/>



@america250nc

### Best Point of Contact for following up

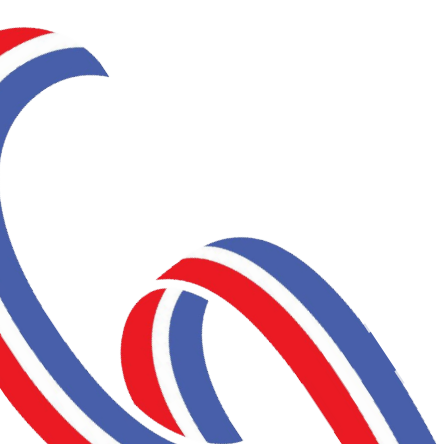
**Name:** Sarah Koonts

**Email:** america250nc@dncr.nc.gov or  
sarah.koonts@dncr.nc.gov

**Phone #:** 919-814-6840

## Talk to us about...

We would be happy to discuss our educational products, including the teaching fellows program, children's book series, DocsBox (primary source-based lesson plan kits), and other K-12 or educator resources.





# Ohio Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Commission Co-Chairs: Doug Preisse & Michael B. Coleman; Executive Director: Todd Kleismit

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

The America 250-OH commission was established in the Ohio Revised Code (Section 149.309). The commission consists of 29 members and a staff of 6 FTE's.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

To engage all 88 counties to tell the stories of Ohio's contributions to the US in the past 250+ years and create a sense of pride about the impact that Ohioans have had on the state, nation, and the world.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

Ohio has launched several initiatives and is continuing to build momentum leading up to 2026.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. Ohio Goes to the Movies! – 100 day film festival in 2026 highlighting Ohio connections to movies
2. Trails & Tales- Six thematic statewide tourism trails that focused on Ohio's impact and national influence
3. Recognizing the more than 7,000 Revolutionary War veterans that are buried in Ohio.

## Get In Touch

<https://america250-ohio.org/>



@am250ohio



<https://www.facebook.com/america250ohio/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/america-250-ohio-commission>

## Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Chris Hurtubise

**Email:** [hello@america250-Ohio.org](mailto:hello@america250-Ohio.org)

**Phone #:** (614) 324-9954



# Pennsylvania Commission Factsheet



## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

America250PA

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Patrick Burns, Chairman  
Cassandra Coleman, Executive Director

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) is comprised of current and past leaders of Pennsylvania, private citizens, and industry leaders, celebrating the rich history and diversity of the state.

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Act of 2018 by legislation established America250PA to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present and future.

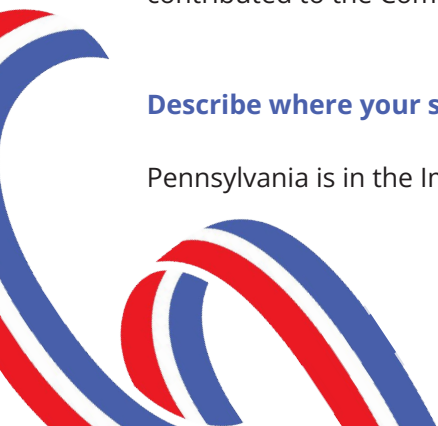
America250PA Commission is made up of current and past leaders of Pennsylvania, private citizens, and industry leaders, celebrating the rich history and diversity of the state.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

America250PA hopes to engage all citizens of the Commonwealth, from all 67 counties, bring the Commonwealth's history into the conversation so Pennsylvanians can better understand the origins and multiple perspectives of issues facing our Commonwealth & nation today, use history to encourage and inspire future leaders, celebrate the contributions of Pennsylvanians to our Commonwealth's history but also to our Nation's history, leave a lasting impact on the next generation and to spark an interest in which will ignite the drive for them to appreciate all the triumphs, trials and tribulations to which contributed to the Commonwealth for which they are now writing their own history.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

Pennsylvania is in the Implementation stage of our Signature Programs and Projects



# Pennsylvania Commission Factsheet

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. The Liberty Tree Project - Project in which a descendant from the first Liberty Tree will be planted in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties by 2026
2. Keystone Classroom Initiative - A storytelling and visitation program for pre-K through fourth grade classrooms, children's hospitals and youth camps across the Commonwealth. This initiative plans to reach 50,000 children across Pennsylvania by 2026.
3. Direct Effect Innovation Challenge - A three round marketing challenge that provides students from universities and colleges across the Commonwealth the opportunity to design and launch integrated marketing campaigns for America250PA

## Get In Touch

<https://america250pa.org>



@america250\_pa



<https://www.facebook.com/America250PA/>



@america250\_pa



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/america250pa>

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Cassandra Coleman

**Email:** ccoleman@america250pa.org

**Phone:** 570-430-5013

# Rhode Island Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Rhode Island Semiquincentennial Commission

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

RI Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore - Chair

RI Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission Executive Director, Jeffrey Emidy - Vice  
Chair

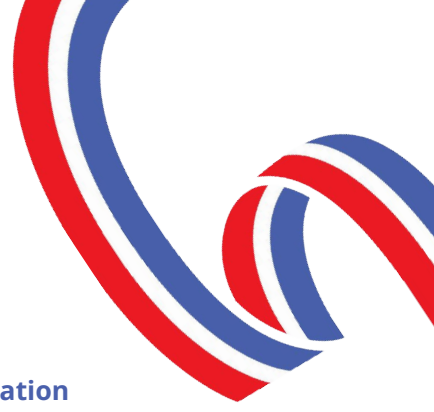
## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

The RI250 Commission was created by the General Assembly through a Joint Resolution in 2021. The Commission consists of thirty appointed members with representation from the Department of Education, the Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts, the Executive Office of Commerce, the Historian Laureate, and public members appointed by elected State leaders.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

The Rhode Island 250th Commission's mission is to commemorate Rhode Island's significant role in shaping American ideals of freedom, equality, and independence through educational programs, community engagement initiatives, and historical events. Our priorities include fostering civic pride, enhancing historical education, and leveraging partnerships to ensure a lasting impact on Rhode Island's cultural and economic landscape well beyond the Semiquincentennial. We strive to unite Rhode Islanders in honoring our state's rich heritage and inspiring future generations to appreciate and preserve our historical legacy.

# Rhode Island Commission Factsheet



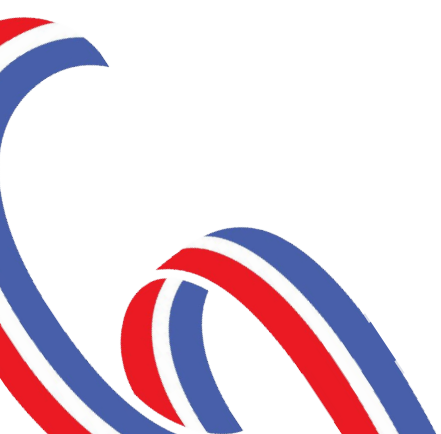
## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

Rhode Island is actively engaged in planning and implementing a comprehensive series of events and educational initiatives leading up to the Semiquincentennial celebration in 2026. Our state has established local 250th committees across all of our

municipalities, expanded educational outreach through innovative programs such as educational sails aboard the HMS Oliver Hazard Perry, the planting of commemorative Liberty Trees (our State tree, Red Maple) across all thirty-nine municipalities, and fostered partnerships to enhance historical tourism and community engagement. With robust support from Secretary Gregg M. Amore and collaborative efforts with local stakeholders, Rhode Island is poised to commemorate its pivotal role in American history with enthusiasm and inclusivity.

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

1. Community Engagement Initiatives
2. Expansion of Educational Outreach
3. Historical Preservation and Legacy Projects



# South Carolina Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

The South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250)

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

MG Will Grimsley (Ret)- Chair, Mr. Bill Davies- Vice Chair, Mr. Brett Bennett- Treasurer, Ms. Dianne Culbertson-Chaplin, Ms. Pam Cazel- Marketing Chair, Mr. Ken Scarlett, Mr. Ben Zeigler, Ms. Laurie Thunderburk, Mr. A.V. Huff, Mr. Duanne Parrish- SCPRT, Sen. Darrell Jackson, Rep. Neal Collins

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Established by State Legislation in 2018. Appointed: 4 by Governor, 4 Speaker of the House, 4 President of the Senate, Chairman sits in the Governor's Seat. At least one African American must be appointed by each.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

Chartered by the SC General Assembly in 2018 ... "which shall have the authority and responsibility to plan and execute, insofar as authorized and funded by the General Assembly, a proper observance of the Sestercentennial of the American Revolution in South Carolina, and in cooperation with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust; a national organization, if any; and other similar commemorative organizations in other states. This proper observance of the Sestercentennial must include the role of persons of African-American descent in the Revolutionary War."

### *Mission*

To celebrate and promote South Carolina's role in the American Revolution by educating, engaging, and inspiring South Carolinians and visitors.

### *Strategic Goals*

- Discover and celebrate South Carolina's Revolutionary Era, its significant people, places, principles, and events.
- Interpret, preserve, and make accessible Revolutionary scholarship and sites. • Educate South Carolinians and the world about South Carolina's roles in the American Revolution.
- Support and promote research and cultural heritage tourism telling South Carolina's stories from many points of view.
- Support and promote local 250th anniversary commemorative events, arts, preservation, heritage tourism infrastructure, and corresponding economic development.

# South Carolina Commission Factsheet



SC 250<sup>th</sup> Commission's Statutory Partners:

- [South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism](#)
- [South Carolina Department of Archives and History](#)
- [South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust](#)

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

After bringing all 46 counties on board with their own local 250 groups, building a grant system, we have allocated over 7M in funding going directly back to the counties for the work. We have just entered Phase 2 which is focused on 2026 and then prioritizing the work until we sunset in 2033. We have formed a Trust which will take over the work in 2033. Perpetuity and economic development are our goals.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

We will go beyond 2026 to 2033, but these are 2026

1. Each county will have a visible Site and Story to tell
2. Statewide Carolina Days in 2026 (Jun 28- July 4)
3. National Coverage of the FIRST tea party in the US- It happened in Charleston. We celebrated the 250 in December 2023 but want it to be national.

## Get In Touch

*www.celebratesc250.com and www.southcarolina250.com (will be merging and building new site in August)*



@SouthCarolina250



@southcarolina250



@scamrev250



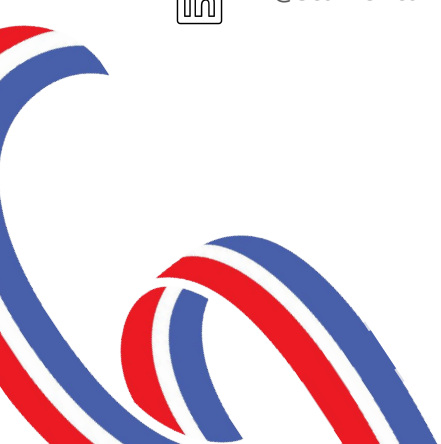
@scamericanrevolution250com2

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Molly Fortune

**Email:** Mfortune@Southcarolina250.com

**Phone #:** 803-445-3181



# South Dakota Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

America's 250th South Dakota Commission

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Benjamin F. Jones, Chair

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Established by Executive Order 2023-11, July 2023. Chaired by Historical Society Director with state cabinet secretaries from Veterans Affairs, Tourism, Tribal Relations, GameFish&Parks, State Library, Board of Regents, SD Historical Society Foundation, A representatives of local museums, two members from the State Legislature, and three members from the public geographically spread around the state.

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

Our goal in 2024 and 2025 is creating awareness among various communities. To do that we are signing up partners and statewide organizations. We will be kicking off our first public campaign this month with, "Walk 250 for America 250." We are in talks with the state universities about events on campus this fall.

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

No clear event plans at this point. We are hoping to hear from NEH, NPS, US ED and other federal departments and agencies about their grants or ways they hope to provide resources.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. A state-level event on July 4th
2. Educational programming in K-12, universities, local libraries, via SD Humanities Council
3. Local museum, civic groups, and library programming in communities in 2026.



# South Dakota Commission Factsheet



## Get In Touch

*In development - [www.Americas250th.sd.gov](http://www.Americas250th.sd.gov) Goes live soon!*



[www.facebook.com/America250SD](http://www.facebook.com/America250SD)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

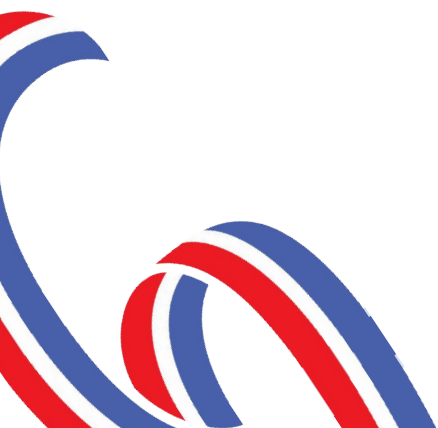
**Name:** Benjamin F. Jones, Jamie Hageman

**Email:** [ben.jones@state.sd.us](mailto:ben.jones@state.sd.us),  
[jamie.hageman@state.sd.us](mailto:jamie.hageman@state.sd.us)

**Phone #:** (605)773-6002, (605)773-3458

## Talk to us about...

We'd love to hear how states west of the Mississippi are building public awareness and energy behind 2026.



# Texas Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Texas America250

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Margaret Koch

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Established by 87<sup>th</sup> Texas state Legislature Joint Resolution, Designated Commission members by the agencies named in the Legislation:

- Rodney Franklin, Director of Parks, TPWD
  - Jelain Chubb, State Archivist & Director, TSLAC
  - Tim Fennel, Director, Travel Texas, Economic Development and Tourism, Gov's Office
  - Pat Hardy, Texas State Board of Education
  - Margaret Koch, Bullock Museum Director; Chair of Commission
- Current Advisory Committee Members: (invited; expanding to include all seven geographic regions of Texas)
- Laura Casey, Director of Museum Services, Texas Historical Commission (THC)
  - Lynn Forney Young, America250 Commission Member from TX
  - Brittany Petrilli, Executive Director, Texas Association of Museums
  - Kelsi Tyler, Humanities Texas
  - Ali James, Curator of the Capitol, State Preservation Board
  - Rebeka Dobrasko, Section Director, TxDOT
  - James Harkins, Deputy Director of Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office
  - Kierstan Schwab, Executive Director, Austin PBS
  - Monte Monroe, State Historian (term up in Oct)
  - Nathan Jones, Curator, Alamo Trust
  - Emily Hermans, Historic Sites, THC
  - Rayanna Hoeft, Museum Services, THC
  - Ellen Cone Busch, THC
  - Jacquelin Walker, Secretary of State

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

Early stages; we have operating procedures in place, are in legal review of the agreement with America250 Commission, and planning for an public awareness campaign.

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Margaret Koch

**Email:** [margaret.koch@thetoryoftexas.com](mailto:margaret.koch@thetoryoftexas.com)

**Phone #:** (512) 936-2125



# Utah Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

America250 Utah Commission

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Ron Fox, co-chair; public historian, author, The Fox Group president  
Mindy Benson, co-chair; president of Southern Utah University  
Christine Durham, co-chair; lawyer and former Utah Supreme Court Justice Nicole Handy, Executive Director

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

The America250 Utah Commission was established by legislation and appointed its members in June 2023. America250 Utah is led by the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement with active involvement from the America250 Utah Commission and support from the Governor's office and the Utah Legislature. The America250 Utah Commission represents a geographically diverse range of historians, philanthropists, educators, as well as business and community leaders.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

The mission of America250 Utah is to honor our nation's past, celebrate our present, and inspire a future that upholds the values that define us as a nation and state. Statewide America250 activities and celebrations will generate a wider appreciation of history's

relevance to contemporary challenges and inspire Americans to take well-informed, good-faith steps to improve our communities, state, and nation.

We are dedicated to creating initiatives in the areas of education, unity, and engagement through the strength of our partnerships, work with cities and communities, and input from young people who will carry the torch forward.

In the area of education, America250 Utah will work to reach students with teacher professional development and lesson plans. Historical exhibits will travel throughout the state to libraries, museums, and elementary schools.

# Utah

## Commission Factsheet

To engage with Utahns, America250 Utah is currently surveying cities and counties to understand what resources and ideas they have to engage in the commemoration. In addition to municipalities, we envision facilitating 250 service-oriented experiences for the 250th anniversary with partners and young leaders.

We plan to create unique, once-in-a-lifetime experiences and want to empower and amplify the gatherings that Utah cities, counties, nonprofits, and organizations are doing to promote common bonds and the American spirit.

### Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

The Commission has identified its major initiatives and created a timeline for implementation. We are currently working on outreach to local governments, state agencies, and communities to find ways to collaborate. We plan to launch our Community Planning and Programming Guide and an updated website later this summer.

### Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

- 1. Celebrate and Serve: 250 service projects throughout 2026** - Participating groups that organize a service project will receive a certificate and a running tally of projects and opportunities will be on the America250 Utah website.
- 2. Community Block Parties on July 5, 2026** - Neighborhoods and communities will come together for friendship, food, and fun to connect people and encourage conversations and the sharing of ideas and resources.
- 3. Promotional video throughout 2026** - A short video promoting the 250th anniversary not only as a pivotal moment in American history, but through the unique and rich lens of Utah's heritage and people to be aired through PSAs, at sporting events, community gatherings, and at the Salt Lake City International Airport.

# Utah Commission Factsheet



## Get In Touch

[www.america250.utah.gov](http://www.america250.utah.gov)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

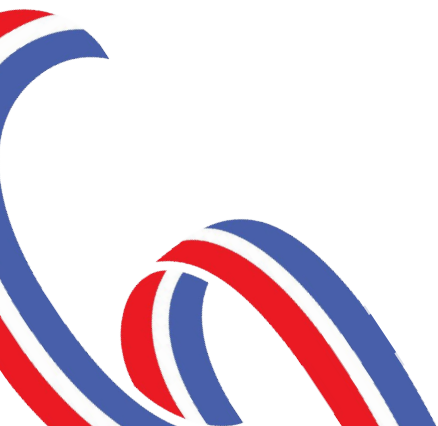
**Name:** Nicole Handy

**Email:** [nhandy@utah.gov](mailto:nhandy@utah.gov)

**Phone #:** 801-389-5084

## Talk to us about...

- The role of the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement and our approach to include its nine divisions in the planning process, including history, STEM, multicultural affairs, service, arts and museums, Indian affairs, libraries, and the Utah Athletic Commission.
- Our approach to working with state partners including the Utah Office of Tourism, Utah State Parks, Utah State Board of Education, Utah Education Network, Utah League of Cities and Towns, and Utah Association of Counties.
- Tactics and strategies for statewide outreach, sponsorships, and media partnerships.



# Vermont Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Laura V. Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer and 250th Anniversary Commission Chair

Jim Brangan, Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Coordinator and 250th Anniversary Commission vice chair

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

Established by Executive Order by Governor Phil Scott in 2020. Created 14 seats on the commission; three state employees, two appointed by the state historical society and University of Vermont, four appointed by the governor representing specific groups, and five appointed by the governor with interest in Vermont and American history.

1. Commissioner of Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing
2. State Historic Preservation Officer (designated as chair)
3. State Librarian
4. Representative from Vermont Historical Society
5. Representative from University of Vermont appointed by UVM president
6. Revolutionary War historian (governor appointed)
7. Member of Revolutionary War reenactment group (governor appointed)
8. Representative of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs (governor appointed)
9. Representative of a Vermont history museum (governor appointed)

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

Vermont's 250th Anniversary Commission will inspire all Vermonters to learn from the history, legacy, and context of the past to build strong Vermont communities for the future. Through collaborative local and statewide initiatives that explore an inclusive history of the American Revolution, Vermont 250 will support and encourage the preparation, planning, and execution of programs and events that examine a formative period of our nation and how it continues to shape our culture and values.

# Vermont Commission Factsheet

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission seeks to support communities, educational facilities, and organizations in the commemoration; the commission itself is not planning or implementing any activities or programs currently.

To that end we have community planning grants now available to all 252 villages, towns, and cities for planning purposes, including lectures, parades, signage, engagement of students, roadside markers, exhibits, publications, art displays, digital availability of historic archives, bus tours, and Colonial-themed party. The State Historic Sites will be offering boosted special events related to the Revolutionary War and its commemoration, Vermont-born presidents, and the founding of the Vermont Constitution on July 8, 1777.

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. Implementation funding for communities, artists, humanities, organizations
2. Prepared educational materials for teachers and students K-12, college and post degrees
3. Boosted reenactment of Hubbardton Battle, the only battle fought in what was to become Vermont, and community sponsored events at the Bennington Battle Monument, constructed in 1891 to commemorate the New York battle, and new exhibit at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site addressing how the ideals of the Revolutionary War and founding fathers carried over to the presidency of Calvin Coolidge, whose ancestors fought in the war.

## Get In Touch

<https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/partners/historic-preservation-partners/american-revolution-250th>

Website in design stage: [250Vermont.gov](http://250Vermont.gov)

## Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Megan Albert

**Email:** [Megan.albert@partner.vermont.gov](mailto:Megan.albert@partner.vermont.gov)

**Phone #:** 650-271-9991

## Talk to us about...

Ask Vermont about out:

- Town Resolution Program
- Vermont Department of Libraries Revolutionary War Book Collection (audio, eBooks, and actual books for lending)
- Community 250th Planning Grants

Vermont would like ideas for event/activity implementation funding



# Virginia Commission Factsheet



## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250)

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Delegate Terry Austin, Chair  
Senator Mamie Locke, Vice Chair  
Carly Fiorina, VA250 National Honorary Chair

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

Established by legislation in 2020, VA250 is a legislative branch agency. Commission members are composed of legislative leadership, representatives of historic homes and museums, tourism partners, state agency representatives, and experts in the field.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

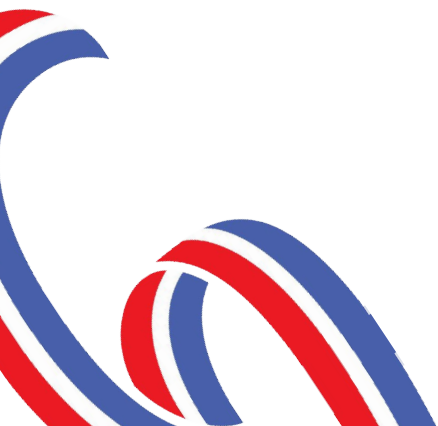
Educate, Engage, and Involve through a series of robust national and local programs

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

Advanced. Several large-scale events have been completed, with dozens more on the horizon through 2026. After, the Commission continues through 2032, marking Virginia's participation in the Revolutionary War and culminating in the 250th anniversary of the Surrender at Yorktown (October 2032)

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

1. Statewide July 4 programming
2. Sail250 Virginia
3. National speech and debate tournament





# Washington Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Washington State Semiquincentennial Committee

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck serves as chair of the committee with support from the Director of the Washington State Historical Society.

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

The Washington State Semiquincentennial Committee was established by legislative action in March of 2022. The Lieutenant Governor was appointed chair of the committee with the Washington State Historical Society serving as the administrative and fiscal agent of the committee. The committee is composed of one appointee from each of the following state entities:

- Washington State Senate Democrats
- Washington State Senate Republicans
- Washington State House of Representatives Democrats
- Washington State House of Representatives Republicans
- Lieutenant Governor's Office
- Washington State Historical Society
- Secretary of State's Office
- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Eastern Washington State Historical Society (Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture)
- Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- Washington State Parks
- Department of Commerce
- Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)
- Commission on African American Affairs
- Commission on Asian American Affairs
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- LGBTQ Commission
- Women's Commission
- Humanities Washington

# Washington Commission Factsheet

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

The committee was founded provide guidance for Washington's official observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The committee established the following outcomes for commemorative activities:

1. All Washingtonians feel more connected to their history and to democracy, empowering them to engage in productive dialogue that builds stronger communities
2. All Washingtonians have a better understanding of the foundational principles, structure, and purpose of our democratic system
3. The public will understand the sovereignty of Tribal Nations as well as their presence and impact, since time immemorial, on the land that is now Washington
4. State and local history organizations will have the necessary resources to preserve and interpret relevant and inclusive histories
5. Washingtonians are able to recognize, preserve, and better interpret important places that represent relevant and inclusive histories
6. History and civics educators will feel supported and empowered to teach the skills required to think critically about the past as a way to better understand the present

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

The committee has established a framework of three guiding themes and six objectives to guide their work. They also established four working groups that meet independently around specific topics. The Washington State Historical Society secured an initial allocation from the legislature in the FY25 budget to support a project coordinator position as well as the development of marketing materials, a website, a historical panel exhibit, targeted toolkits, and education materials. The committee is currently planning to make a second, significantly larger request of the legislature in the upcoming biennial 2025-2027 budget to support commemorative activities. Funding for official committee activities will be included in the Washington State Historical Society's budget request and the following committee members will be requesting funding in their budgets for related commemorative activities: the Arts Commission, the Secretary of State's Office, Humanities Washington, and the Eastern Washington State Historical Society.

# Washington Commission Factsheet

## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. A permanent operating grant for history museums and organizations
2. Investment in educational resources related to history and civics
3. "This is Native Land," a new permanent exhibit at the Washington State History Museum

## Get In Touch

<https://www.washingtonhistory.org/250>



@America250WA



@America250WA



@America250WA



@America250WA

## Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Jay Baersten

**Email:** 250@wshs.wa.gov

**Phone #:** 253-244-1683

# West Virginia Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

West Virginia Semiquincentennial Commission

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Randall Reid-Smith, Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

Established by House Bill 2916 on April 7, 2021.

## **Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:**

The West Virginia Semiquincentennial Commission was created by the West Virginia Legislature, through the passage of House Bill 2916 on April 7, 2021, to support the celebration of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. The Legislature finds that the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding is of such historical significance as to warrant its commemoration. The purpose of the Commission is to prepare for and commemorate the semiquincentennial.

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

We have long been in the planning process of upcoming events for the America 250 commemoration, with several events being held in 2024 such as the unveiling of new murals in our State Capitol and the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant. We are also holding student contests surrounding the Point Pleasant commemoration and hope to continue to engage students of all ages through a variety of educational events and activities throughout 2025 and 2026. We are working with representatives in each county in hopes of hosting events in every county across the state to maximize public engagement as much as possible.

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

1. Fourth of July events to be held across the state.
2. Special America 250 themed annual events (such as History Day at the Legislature and the Vandalia Gathering)
3. Engagement of students through educational activities and competitions.

# West Virginia Commission Factsheet

## Get In Touch

[america250wv.org](http://america250wv.org)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

**Name:** Aaron Parsons

**Email:** Aaron.p.parsons@wv.gov

**Phone #:** 304-558-0220 ext. 165

## Talk to us about...

1. The upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant, October 10, 2024.
2. Student engagement in commemorative events.
3. Social event ideas to engage crowds of all ages.
4. Museum exhibits
5. "Inspired" Art Series

# Wisconsin Commission Factsheet

## Formal Commission/committee Name:

Wisconsin Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission

## Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:

- Chair: Christopher Kolakowski, Director, Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- Vice Chair: Christian Øverland, Director, Wisconsin Historical Society

## Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):

Established by Legislation: 2021 Wisconsin Act 95; assigned to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) for administration. Commissioners are defined by by state statute and appointments were signed by the Governor.

The commission has a administrative workgroup that is comprised of several staff from WDVA of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The commission has established several committees to facilitate its work.

By statute, the commission sunsets on January 1, 2027

## Describe your Commission/committee's mission & priorities:

- Tracking educational opportunities for every school in the state during the academic year of 2025-2026
- Planning a program for July 4, 2026

## Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:

- Planning phase for programs beginning in Spring/Summer 2025.
- Structure is established and now the work truly begins.

# Wisconsin Commission Factsheet



## Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:

1. A public program/ceremony for the Armed Services birthday on June 14, 2025.
2. A program for the 250th birthday around July 4, 2026.
3. Educational information, events, and opportunities for use by public, private, and tribal elementary and secondary schools throughout the state.

## Get In Touch

[www.wisvetsmuseum.com/america250/](http://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/america250/)

### Best Point of Contact for following up

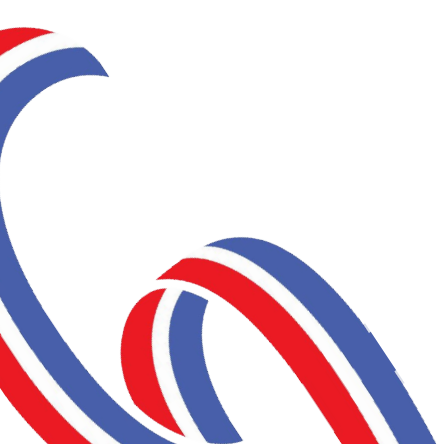
**Name:** Kevin Hampton

**Email:** Kevin.Hampton@dva.wisconsin.gov

**Phone #:** 608.690.0734

## Talk to us about...

Two Lights For Tomorrow national initiative on April 18, 2025



AMERICA  
250

# Wyoming Commission Factsheet

## **Formal Commission/committee Name:**

Wyoming Semiquincentennial Planning Task Force

## **Commission/committee Leadership/Co-chairs:**

Representative Sandy Newsome, Chair, Shawn Reese, Co-Chair

## **Briefly describe your structure (e.g. Established by legislation or executive order? Who sits on the commission?):**

Established by Governor's Executive Order 2023-03, June 30, 2023. Membership: Senator Wendy Schuler, Representative Sandy Newsome, Justice Kari Gray, Wyoming Supreme Court, Megan Degenfelder, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Councilwoman Teresa His Chase, Northern Arapaho Business Council Designee from Eastern Shoshone Business Council, Nick Neylon, Deputy Director, Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources Diane Shober, Director, Wyoming Office of Tourism, Dr. Paul Flesher, Director, University of Wyoming American Heritage Center, Greg Blikre, Wyoming Community College Commission, Cindy Brown, President, Wyoming Historical Society Executive Committee, Kevin Voyles, Wyoming Arts Council Board of Directors, Joanna Kail, Chief Executive Officer, Wyoming PBS, Shawn Reese, Executive Director and CEO, Wyoming Humanities Council, Rebecca West, Executive Director, Buffalo Bill Center of the West

## **Describe where your state or territory is in its planning and program implementation process:**

The task force has made great progress in planning, and hopes to begin program implementation soon.

## **Describe 3 of your state or territory's top initiatives/programs being planned for 2026:**

The Governor's three priorities for the task force are development of a K-12 curriculum component, creation of a guidebook for communities, and a coordination of a celebration at the Capitol on July 4, 2026.