

America 250 - Oregon Commission

June 20, 2025



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America 250 – Oregon Agenda

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Budget Updates
3. Oregon 250 Website Updates
4. Preview of Washington D.C. Convening
5. Updates on Oregon Historical Society 250 Programs and Events
6. Discussion: Immigrant Story Proposal
7. Open Discussion
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment



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America 250 - Oregon

For America 250 - Oregon updates, recording, and planning resources:

- Oregon250.org
- Email: Oregon.250@ohs.org
- Public Listserv: bit.ly/oregon250email



Scan the QR code to sign up for the Oregon AM250 public listserv



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Budget Updates

BUDGET UPDATE

Oregon 250 Commission
June 17, 2025



*SB 1531 appropriated \$250,000 in funding to the Oregon Historical Society “to expend and allocate” to carry out the Commission’s responsibilities. OHS also received \$10,000 from the federal commission.

*Allocated and Spent Funds as of June 17 2025

*Website design, accessibility, and post-launch support: NTE \$87,990

*Digital and Traveling Exhibitions: \$76,200, includes shipping in 2025

*OHS Staff Time and Expenses: \$51,827.47

*AM250 Con \$315

TOTAL: \$216,332.47.

Remaining: \$43,667.57



Oregon 250 Website

The official Oregon 250 website launched earlier this year. Since then, new resources have been added including:

- Statewide calendar of events with event submission form
- Resources:
 - Decorative Arts Trust's Collection250 resource
 - Tribal information under "We, the First people"
 - For Educators "George Washington and the Founding of America" information
 - News and Press section

Coming Soon:

- Additional Educator resources
- ODVA information
- Resources for heritage organizations

<https://www.oregon250.org/>



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Oregon 250 Website – Submit an Event

Submit an event:

- List view, month view, map view
- Approved events will receive the America 250 Oregon “official event” logo for use
- The event must align with at least one of the America 250 Oregon guideposts
- Let Tara know if you want to be on the Community Events Advisory Panel to review event submissions. Your help will be invaluable!



<https://www.oregon250.org/>



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Washington D.C. State and Territory convening

Three-day working session with representatives from all State and Territory commissions, federal agencies, and key partners.

Monday, July 28

Tuesday, July 29

Wednesday, July 30

Attending this year is Tara Cole and Brad Parker



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Oregon Historical Society 250 Programs and Events



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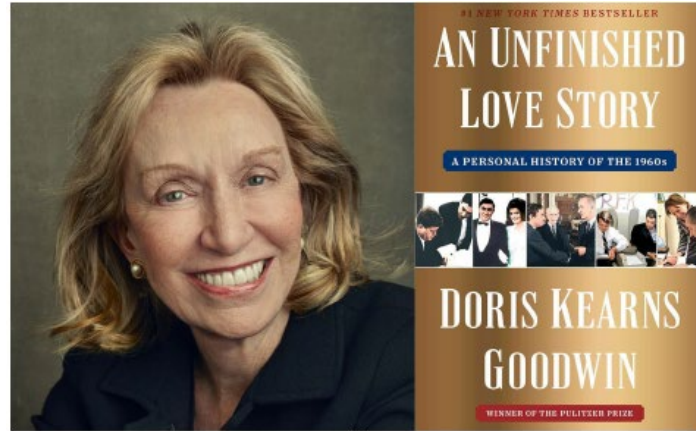
Oregon Historical Society Program & Events

Hatfield Lecture Series

For over 25 years, the Oregon Historical Society has presented the Mark O. Hatfield Lecture Series, bringing together the nation's top historians and award-winning authors for thought-provoking evenings of history.

Tickets and more information:

<https://www.ohs.org/events/hatfield-lecture-series.cfm>



SERIES KICK-OFF EVENT

Doris Kearns Goodwin

*An Unfinished Love Story:
A Personal History of the 1960s*

September 9, 2025

2026 SERIES SPEAKERS

Keisha N. Blain

*Without Fear: Black Women and the
Making of Human Rights*

February 17, 2026

Michael Luo

*Strangers in the Land: Exclusion,
Belonging, and the Epic Story of the
Chinese in America*

March 10, 2026

Megan Kate Nelson

The Westerners

April 14, 2026

Rick Atkinson

*The Fate of the Day: The War for
America, Fort Ticonderoga to
Charleston, 1777–1780*

May 12, 2026



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Oregon Historical Society Program & Events

The Yasui Family: An American Story

June 13, 2025 – September 6, 2026

The exhibition tells the complex cultural history of Japanese Americans in Oregon through the lens of the Yasui family. The Yasui family owned a store in Hood River, Oregon, among other businesses. They were forced to close permanently after President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 in February 1942, which removed all Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans from the West Coast to incarceration camps.

The exhibition features family papers, business records, and other materials donated by the Yasui family to OHS museum and library, and explores themes like immigration, citizenship, democracy, incarceration, and resilience.



Oregon Historical Society Program & Events

Bills flag on display at the Oregon Historical Society

June 30, 2025 – July 10, 2026

This flag was sewn by Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Bills in 1861, and is believed to be the first US flag raised in Portland after Oregon became a state. Ann and her husband, Cincinnati Bills, traveled from Indiana to Oregon in 1853. Mr. Bills started Portland's first hauling business, which became the Oregon Transfer Company. Donated to OHS by Mrs. Marion Steveson in 1961.

The accession file notes:

"As July 4, 1861 approached, Thomas Stafford, an employee of Mr. Bills, was anxious to see an American flag raised to celebrate Independence Day. Stafford suggested to Mrs. Bills that she make a flag, and he assisted her in securing the material. Mr. Stafford and Mr. Bills went to the Sellwood area and cut down a young fir tree, from which they carved the staff for the flag. Mrs. Bills would later remember "Flags were not easily secured in those days, but I saw one was badly needed here, so I went right to work to supply the want. It was hard work, but with every stitch I grew more anxious to finish the task I had undertaken." The completion and unfurling of the flag was celebrated with a barbecue picnic at Fourth Street, between Burnside and Ankeny, and was attended by dozens of people from miles around."



Oregon Historical Society Program & Events

National History Day[®]

2026

Each year, NHD uses a theme to provide a lens through which students can examine history.

2026 Theme: Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History



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America 250 Oregon Upcoming Programs and Events

Oregon 250 Program & Events

The Power of Place & The Pursuit of Happiness Traveling Exhibitions
Available to rent at no cost!

Rental details include:

- **Insurance:** Coverage of \$4,000 is required.
- **Shipping:** Exhibit may be picked up and dropped off at the Oregon Historical Society or shipped by courier. The exhibit ships in a single plastic case that measures 37.5 x 27.13 x 14.37 inches. The total weight is approximately 100 lbs. Case has wheels.
- **Size:** The exhibit contains 22 reproductions with 21 labels and an introductory panel. The exhibit is approximately 673 linear feet if single hung, or 366 linear feet if double hung.

Interested in booking *The Pursuit of Happiness* or *The Power of Place*? Please email traveling.exhibits@ohs.org or call 503.306.5223 for rental inquiries.

More information at: <https://www.ohs.org/museum/exhibits/index.cfm>



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Oregon 250 Program & Events

Moments That Made Us

A free customizable, print-on demand exhibition exploring the ideals at the heart of the Declaration of Independence through moments in our history that have defined their meaning.

Developed through a multi-state collaboration, this exhibition will feature 21 ready to use panels which can be expanded with additional customized panels from participating state partners and local host venues. The panels will be modular, so organizations can choose to display some or all the panels.

More information by fall 2025, with files available to print in early 2026.



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Oregon 250 Program & Events

Ken Burns Live in Portland: The American Revolution

Revolution Hall

Tuesday, July 15, 7pm

\$22 per ticket

Join OPB and Ken Burns for an expansive look at the virtues and contradictions of the Revolutionary War and the birth of the United State of America with Burns' new film "The American Revolution." Following dozens of figures from various backgrounds and individual stories, viewers experience the war through the memories of the men and women who lived through it.

The event will feature selections from the documentary, a behind-the-scenes conversation hosted by OPB's Geoff Norcross with Burns, David Schmidt, and historian Alan Taylor who worked on the film. Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt directed the six-part, 12-hour documentary series, which premieres on OPB TV November 16, 2025, and explores the country's founding struggle and its eight-year War for Independence.

"The American Revolution" documentary series is set to premiere on OPB TV Nov. 16, 2025.



Oregon 250 Program & Events

Sharing the Spirit of America

Simultaneous Reading of the Declaration of Independence Across America
July 8, 2026

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence inside the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

Four days later, on July 8, 1776, after the Declaration was printed and distributed, the citizens of Philadelphia were summoned to the State House Yard by the bells of the city. Then, Colonel John Nixon publicly read the Declaration of Independence.

Just as the Declaration of Independence was read to the people on July 8, 1776, now, 250-years later, Americans in all 50 States and 16 Territories of the United States will read the Declaration of Independence 'together'. Each would start at the 'same' time, based on our respective local times.



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Oregon 250 Program & Events



America's Potluck is an opportunity for neighbors to join with one another to share a fun, communal meal, creating a sense of connection and belonging and fostering interactions among people from all walks of life. More information to come

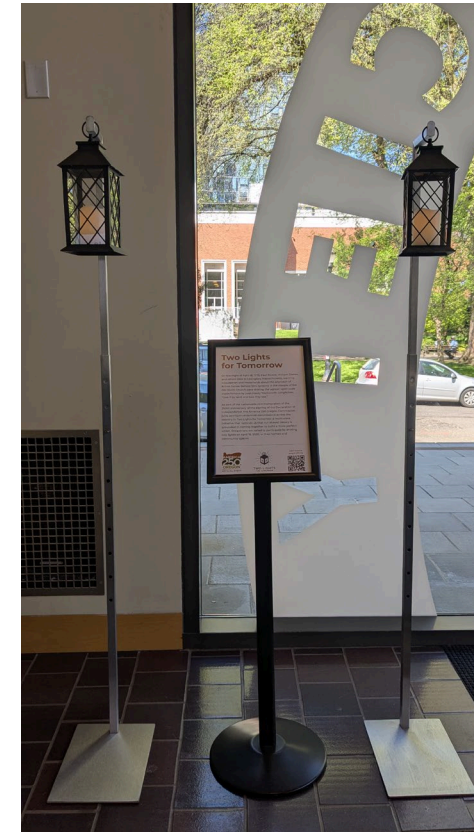
Participating state 250 commissions:

Oregon	Maine	Hawaii
Colorado	Montana	Wyoming
Idaho	Virginia	Utah
Texas	New Mexico	
Kansas	Nevada	



Oregon 250 Program & Events

Two Lights for Tomorrow Recap



America 250 Oregon Proposals

The Immigrant Story Proposal

The 250th presents a pivotal opportunity to reflect on the nation's foundational ideas of equity and liberty. In recognition of this milestone, The Immigrant Story is launching a groundbreaking initiative to research, collect, and archive the powerful yet often-overlooked narratives of Oregon's Indigenous, Black, Japanese American, and Hispanic communities.



Proposal:

- Over the course of two years, collect, document, and preserve the oral histories of cultural leaders who have served as stewards of their communities' histories and traditions.
- Multimedia impact

Key Elements:

- Oral History Archival
- Indigenous and Diaspora Narratives
- I Am An American Live
- Storytelling Podcasts
- Exhibition



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America 250 Oregon Commission Discussion

Oregon 250 Guideposts

America 250 Oregon Mission

The mission of the America 250 Oregon Commission is to coordinate, provide guidance, and ensure that Oregon's official observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States is inclusive and shares the histories of Oregon's diverse populations, including the histories of the Indigenous peoples who have resided here since time immemorial.



Guideposts

- To inspire Oregonians to participate in the work of forming a more perfect union.
- To highlight the importance of civics and history education in building a better future.
- To highlight the work of Oregon's many history and heritage organizations.
- To encourage a robust, thorough, and honest examination of our collective history.
- To celebrate the unique traditions, arts, and cultures of communities throughout Oregon,
- To honor the service and sacrifice made by Oregon's veterans.
- To celebrate the power of place through Oregon's remarkable landscapes and scenic beauty.



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Public Comments

Thank you!



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