

America 250 Oregon Commission

September 15, 2025



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America 250 Oregon Agenda

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Washington D.C. Convening Updates, and AASLH Conference
3. Budget Updates and Oregon 250 Grants
4. America 250/Oregon 250 Programs and Partnerships
5. Calendar of Events highlights
6. Oregon Humanities, *Beyond 250*
7. Open Discussion
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment



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Washington D.C. Convening Updates



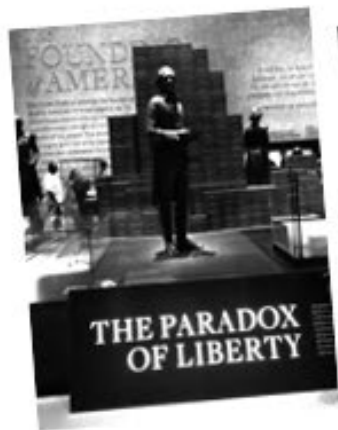
The national gathering was a three-day working session with representatives of state and territory commissions, federal agencies, and key partners to lay the groundwork for the final sprint to 2026.



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Reflections on America 250 (Parker)



Budget Updates and Grant Program

Budget Update

- 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.
- **Total spent May 2024 – August 2025: \$157,719.47.**
- This does not include any contracted or allocated amounts.



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Budget Updates and Grant Program

Grant projects for 2025/2026, Oregon Heritage/America 250 Oregon/OHS

The America 250 Oregon Commission has allocated \$100,000 of the funding provided by the Oregon State Legislature toward this grant program.

- Awards will be up to \$5,000 each.
- 50% of the funds are slated to be awarded to organizations in rural communities. For the purposes of this grant a rural community is under 30,000 in population and outside the Portland Metro urban growth boundary.

There will be two grant application periods:

- Cycle 1: September 15 – November 1, 2025
- Cycle 2: January 1 – March 1, 2026

Projects must support the America 250 Oregon mission and align with one of the guideposts that best fits your project.



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America 250 Funding/Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities Celebrate America! Grant

Accepting and reviewing applications on a rolling basis throughout 2025.

In honor of the 250th anniversary of American Independence, the National Endowment for the Humanities is issuing a call for proposals for Celebrate America!, a new initiative to recognize the nation's semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026. Through this program, NEH will award 250 challenge grants of up to \$25,000 each for projects that focus on the founding of the American nation, key historical figures, and milestones that reflect the exceptional achievements of the United States.

Awards will be made using federal matching funds. As part of your application, you will need to certify that your organization has secured third-party, nonfederal gifts equal to the amount requested from NEH.

For more information visit: <https://www.neh.gov/program/celebrate-america>



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Oregon 250/ America 250 Programs and Partnerships



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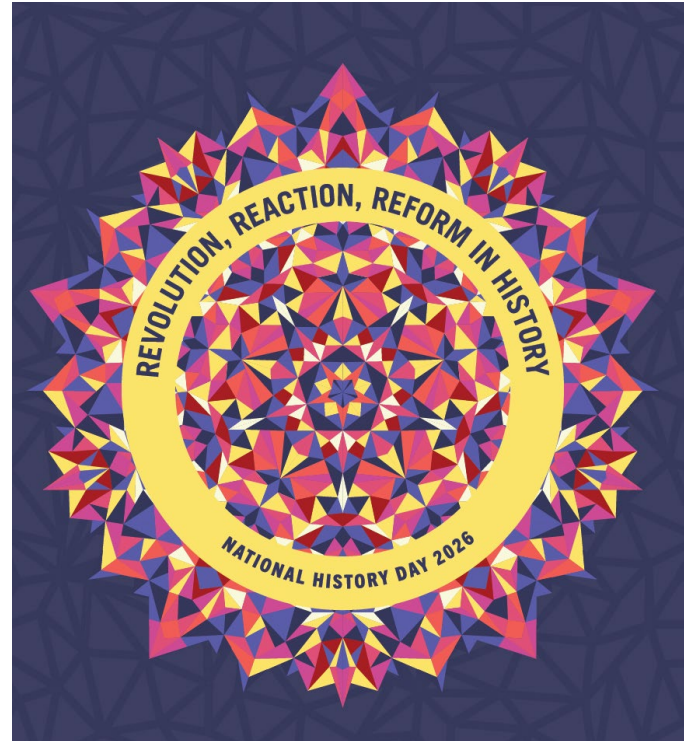


OHS Programs & Events

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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Oregon 250/America 250 Programs and Partnerships



The Power of Place & The Pursuit of Happiness

Traveling Exhibitions

Available to rent at no cost in 2025 and 2026!

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: ohs.org/travelingexhibits

New Materials:

- Oregon 250 trifold brochure
- Logo stickers

Let Tara know if you'd like some for your organizations!



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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 the end of 2025, with files available to print in early 2026.



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	



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America 250 U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

Our American Story is a year-long cross-country journey to collect thousands of recorded interviews. Each tour stop will feature local activation events, media opportunities, and community engagement activities.

Our American Story is a storytelling project to collect and preserve our nation's unique stories with the goal to collect the largest archive of American stories ever created.

For more information, to nominate a story, and see the current tour stops, visit: <https://america250.org/our-american-story/>



Rosie Rios, Chair of America250 Commission



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America 250 U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

America Gives is an initiative that challenges businesses, non-profits, schools, youth groups, faith-based networks, and organizations to commit to increasing their level of volunteering and impact starting on January 1, 2026.

Together, we will build on America's legacy of giving back and inspire a renewed culture of service for years to come.

For more information, and to pledge to volunteer in 2026, visit: <https://america250.org/america-gives/>



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America 250 U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

Coming Soon!

America's Performance: This concert series will unite audiences through the rhythm, diversity, and soul of American music.

America Waves: An initiative designed to create moments for all Americans to come together with their communities to wave their American flags.

America Innovates: A traveling tech expo that will display America's greatest innovations as well as our aspirations for the future.

The Great American State Fair: In July 2026, Washington D.C. will host a state fair. Every U.S. state and territory will bring a unique spirit, traditions, and pride to the capital, creating a dynamic celebration of our national heritage, innovation and culture.

Time Capsule: A collaboration between America250, Library of Congress, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the National Park Service, to collect items for a time capsule to be installed at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia on July 4, 2026.



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Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Project. Volunteer as a Citizen Archivist!

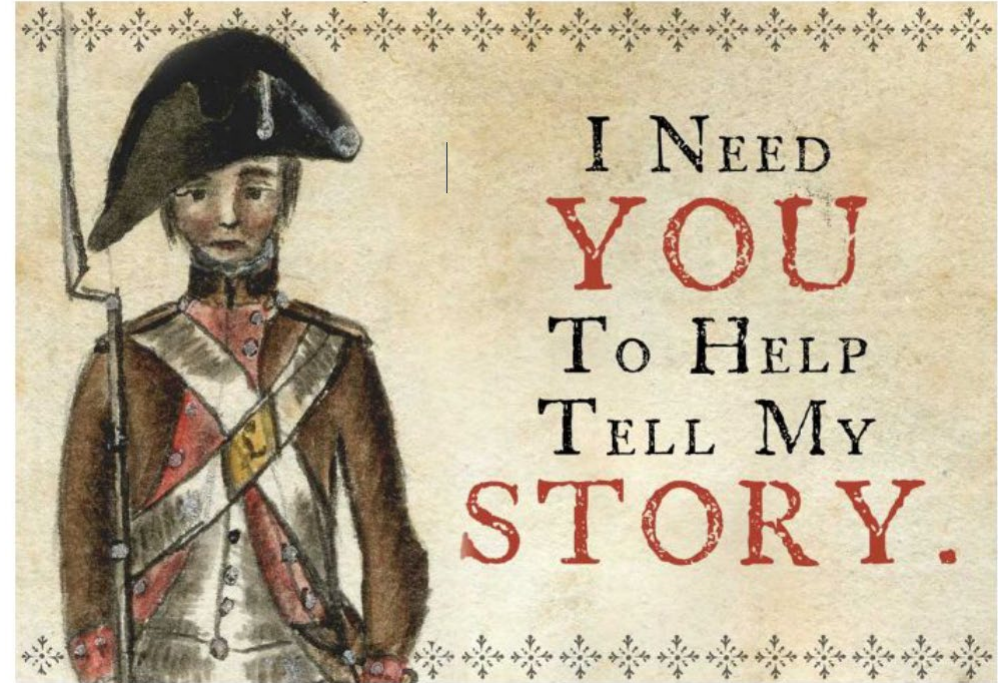
The National Park Service and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) are collaborating on a special project to transcribe the pension records of more than 80,000 of America's first veterans and their widows.

Not only could you be the first person in 200 years to learn their stories, but your efforts will make a permanent contribution to the historical record in time for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution!

Register as a volunteer with the National Archives and show your support for the National Park Service by adding "NPS" to the beginning of your username (Example: NPSNatalieM).

For more information visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/americanrevolution/revolutionary-war-pension-project.htm>



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Oregon 250 Website, Calendar of Events

Consider This: Equality and the Constitution with Akhil Reed Amar

October 27, 2025 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Alberta Rose Theatre

Oregon Humanities

Revolutionary War Memorial, Dedication in Beaverton Veterans Memorial Park

April 19, 2026 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Lewis & Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

Bridge of the Gods Centennial Celebration

September 18, 2026 – September 20, 2026

10am – 6pm

Port of Cascade Locks



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Oregon 250 Website, Calendar of Events

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



oregon250.org



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Oregon 250 Partnerships – FOX 12



On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate 250 years of independence—a milestone marked by community, tradition, and the moments that bring generations together.

FOX 12's **America 250 NW** shines a light on the Northwest's rich and diverse history— amplifying the stories, voices, and milestones that have shaped our region and nation.

Watch FOX 12 News for weekly in-depth stories and our daily “This Day in History” feature as we count down to the 250th anniversary of America's founding.

We proudly acknowledge the support of **America 250 Oregon** in this important campaign.



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Oregon 250 Partnerships – Oregon Humanities

Welcome Jennifer Alkezweeny
Program Director, Oregon Humanities

Oregon Humanities invites you to join a statewide reflection on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Through library trainings, public conversations, letter-writing projects and more, *Beyond 250* offers ways to explore our shared past and imagine a collection future.

Visit Beyond 250 for resources, toolkits, and community-driven dialogues spanning 2025 and 2026.



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America 250 Oregon Commission Discussion



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We write on behalf of the America 250 Oregon Commission to update you on our progress and to ensure that you and your tribal citizens are aware of the opportunity to provide counsel to the Commission.

The enclosed legislation creating the Commission was passed by the Oregon State Legislature in March 2024 and signed into law by Governor Kotek. It entrusted the Commission with “coordinating, providing guidance, and ensuring that Oregon’s official observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States on July 4, 1776, is inclusive and shared the histories of the Indigenous peoples who have resided here since time immemorial.”

The legislation also established a subcommittee, consisting of one member from each of Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes. Members of this subcommittee are appointed by the Executive Officer of the Commission on Indian Services, who also has the duty of “communicating the positions of the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon to the America 250 Oregon Commission in order to uplift the tribes’ histories and stories.”

More information about the work of the America 250 Oregon Commission can be found at the official website, oregon250.org. The website includes links to the websites of Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes, so that interested visitors can learn more about the history of the Indigenous peoples of Oregon.

It is our hope and the hope of the America 250 Oregon Commission that all of Oregon’s tribal nations are aware of the opportunity to share thoughts and recommendations on how tribal histories and stories can be uplifted and highlighted in the months to come.

Best regards,



Kerry Tymchuk
Chair, American 250 Oregon Commission



Amiee Kotek Wilson
First Lady of Oregon
Member, America 250 Oregon Commission

Letter sent to all Tribal
Chairs, updating them on
the Oregon 250
Commission progress and to
bring awareness to the
commemoration in 2026.



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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



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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 America 250 public listserv



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Thank you!



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