



250th | Semiquincentennial | 1776 - 2026

City of Middletown | Town of Portland

America 250 Committee



Eugene P. Nocera, Interim Mayor of Middletown (D)
Michael Pelton (R), First Selectman, Town of Portland
Councilwoman Jeanette Blackwell (D)
Councilwoman Linda Salafia (R)
Kisha McWilliams Michael (U), Arts & Culture Coordinator
Deborah Shapiro (D), City of Middletown Historian
Johanna Bond (R), Middlesex Chamber of Commerce President & CEO
Kenneth McClellan (R), U.S. Military Veteran
Dominick DeMartino (U), Business Owner
Barbara Knoll Peterson (D), Chief of Staff and Acting Public Works Director
Christine Marques (U), Economic Development Director
Sandra Driska (U), Downtown Business District, Manager
Rev. Robyn Anderson Turner (D), Clergy
Robert Santangelo (D), Middletown-community representative
A representative from the Connecticut Department of Transportation



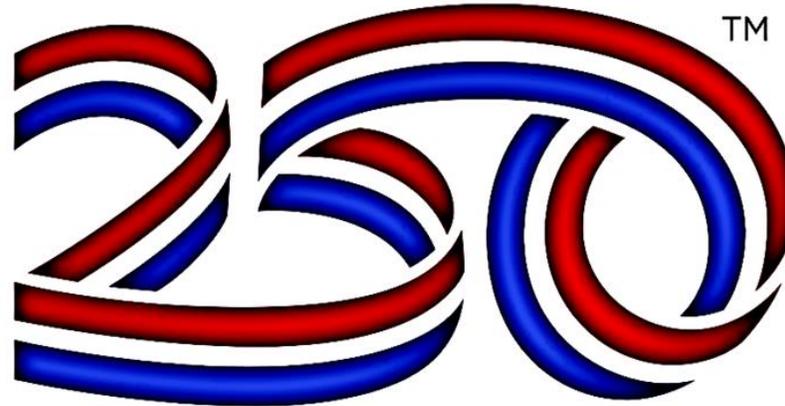
WHAT DO YOU CALL THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

National Commission

Established by Congress in 2016

AMERICA



INITIATIVES

1. America Gives - Volunteerism

2. Our American Story - oral history & storytelling

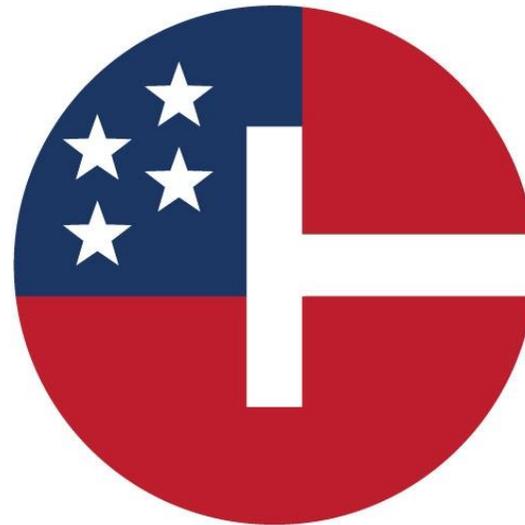
3. America's Field Trip - a contest
kids ages 3-12 are asked to explain
"What does America mean to you?"



CThumanities

America 250 | CT Commission

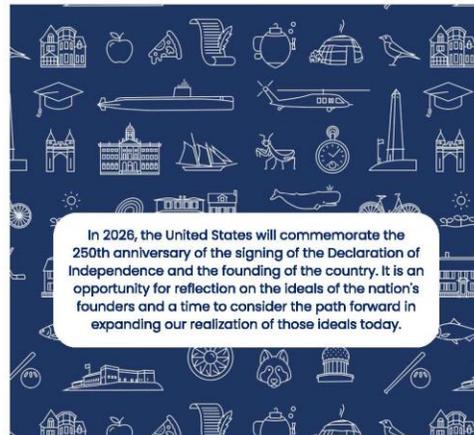
Established July 1, 2022



Guidance



AMERICA 250 CONNECTICUT PLANNING GUIDE



In 2026, the United States will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the country. It is an opportunity for reflection on the ideals of the nation's founders and a time to consider the path forward in expanding our realization of those ideals today.

Commission Meetings

AMERICA 250 CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM
Community Room
Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Old Lyme, CT
Agenda

- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 5 min. | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of Minutes from July 16, 2025 Meeting | D. Merrill |
| 10 min. | National/Regional Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Update on National ConveningNortheast Regional Group | J. Mancini, R. Gonzalez
C. Tolosa |
| 15 min. | Funding Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">State of ConnecticutCorporate/FoundationNEH & CTH Funding | D. Merrill
J. Mancini
J. Mancini |
| 30 min. | Recaps and Upcoming Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none">Statewide ExhibitGive 250 ConnecticutJuly 4, 2026Proposed Calendar | C. Tolosa, E. Wiley
C. Tolosa
C. Tolosa
D. Merrill, J. Mancini |
| 45 min. | Subcommittee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">Governance<ul style="list-style-type: none">Annual Report to the GovernorAffiliates: Goal of 250<ul style="list-style-type: none">Spread the WordCommission Demographics PollingCommunity & Organizational Engagement<ul style="list-style-type: none">Town CommitteesCommunity CalendarCode of ConductProgramming SurveyEducation<ul style="list-style-type: none">CurriculumLocal History Project | A. Orozco

A. Williams

S. Armstrong |
| 15 min. | Public Comment | |

Next Meeting: TBD - January 2026
Location TBD (Hartford area)

INITIATIVES



1. Tell Inclusive Stories

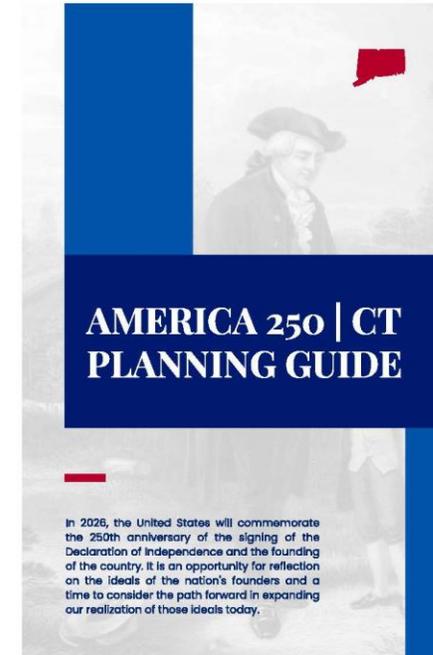
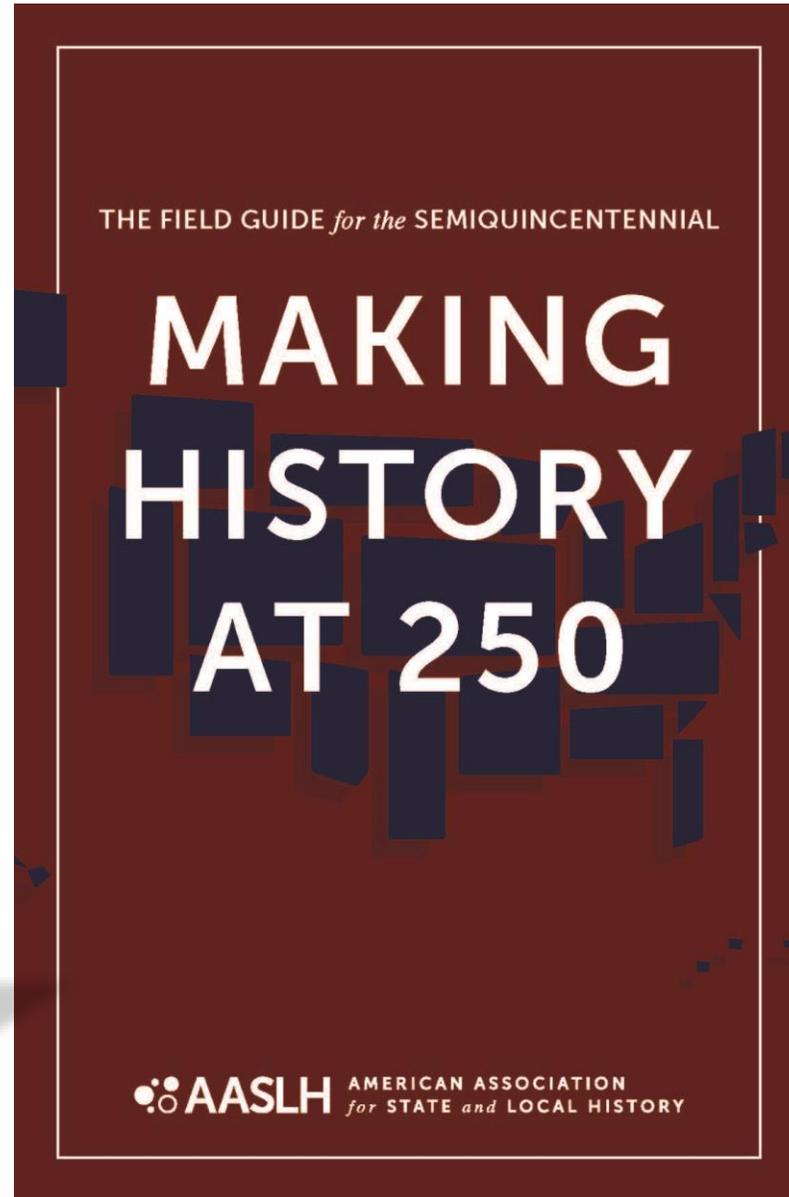
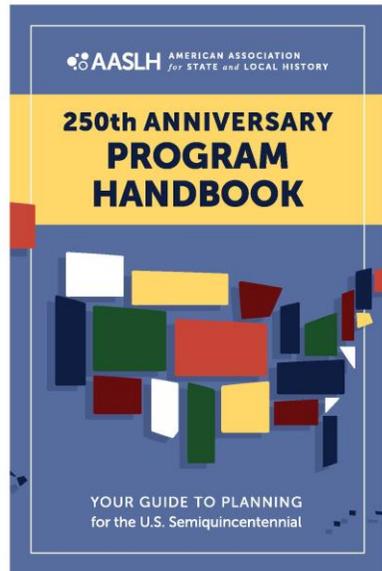
2. Power of Place

3. Doing History

4. For the Common Good

<https://www.give250ct.org/info/faq>

<https://ct250.org/get-involved/affiliate-program/>



INITIATIVES



COMBINING THE EFFORTS OF TWO CITIES ADJOINED BY THE HISTORIC ARIGONI BRIDGE



[Group Discussion Topics](#)

WHAT INITIATIVES ARE CURRENTLY HAPPENING?

HOW DO WE HELP SPARK THE CURRENT INITIATIVES AND IMPLEMENT ACTION IN OUR CITIES AND TOWNS?

HOW SWIFTLY (IN THE INTEREST OF TIME) CAN THE COMMITTEE IMPLEMENT ACTIONABLE RESULTS?

Bristol
CONNECTICUT
HONORING THE PAST
INSPIRING THE FUTURE

