

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

About the America 250 | CT Commission

Created pursuant to Executive Order No. 22-2, which includes:

- Commission will promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historic resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the semiquincentennial period
- Assist in ensuring that any observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution is inclusive and appropriately recognizes the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the events surrounding the American Revolution
- Encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, arts and other organizations throughout the state to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Revolution
- Collaborate with state and local tourism agencies to promote the state as a prominent cultural and heritage tourism destination for American Revolution history

Other big ideas include:

- By recognizing this moment in our history, the nation has the opportunity to lay the groundwork for a reawakening of civic engagement by encouraging the participation of all residents.
- The Commission is committed to providing guidance for how to make this inclusive of all people in Connecticut and accessible to anyone who wants to participate
- Although we are commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, the Commission goes beyond that to reflect on the last 250 years of history and consider and shape the next 250 years

America 250 | CT Themes

Tell Inclusive Stories:

- Share stories that represent all of Connecticut's people, past and present
- Tell previously untold stories to enable everyone to find a place in our nation's narrative

Power of Place:

- Creation of a community-based structure will allow each of Connecticut's towns and cities to define their own programs and ideas about how they can engage their citizens
- Commission will ensure the alignment between Connecticut's 250th activities and those of the greater region and nation, building relevance and aligning the state with other areas

Doing History:

- Public must be invited to participate in the process of doing history
- Inviting audiences to engage with the historical method can help them become more comfortable with the ambiguous, contested, and always-evolving nature of history
- Focus on the role of Connecticut within the national narrative

For the Common Good:

- Discussions about our democracy and civic intuitions can help strengthen understanding, inspire action, and reveal ways that all of us can participate in and shape our democracy
- Reconsider the origins of our government, democratic institutions, and broader civic life, and a chance to reflect on the ways we have changed them over time