



## *Building Momentum for 2026*



# OHIO REVISED CODE: THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL



*“...to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States and the impact of Ohioans on the nation’s past, present, and future.”*

Ohio Revised Code (149.309)



## OUR KEY MESSAGE

To tell the story of Ohio's contributions to the U.S. for the past 250+ years and create a sense of pride about the impact that Ohio and Ohioans have on the state, nation, and the world.



# AMERICA 250-OHIO INITIATIVES AND THEMES

- Celebrations and Signature Events
- Ohio Originals – Highlighting Ohio firsts, points of pride and unity
- Engaging Youth and Lifelong Learners – Developing educational touchpoints
- Inclusive Statewide Engagement – History, Arts, Culture, Museums, & People
- Telling Ohio's Stories – Highlighting under-told stories



## Past

Heritage  
Reflection  
Preservation

## Present

Interpretation  
Celebration  
Commemoration

## Future

Education  
Building for the next  
generation





# AMERICA 250-OHIO COMMUNITIES



Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival Queens – New Philadelphia  
First Town Days-2023

- A special designation for counties, cities, villages, and townships
- Opportunity for local leaders to network and coordinate AM 250-OH activities
- Recognition as an AM 250-OH community
- Access to resources
- Simple to activate
- More than 80 communities to-date
- Upcoming grants program for AM 250-OH Communities – To be announced October 2024



[america250-ohio.org/communities/](https://america250-ohio.org/communities/)



# AMERICA 250-OHIO COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM: 2024-2025



- Grants program specifically for locally-designated America 250-Ohio Communities
- Grants will assist with activities planned by AM 250-OH Communities
- Projects should align/support two broad categories:
  - Storytelling
  - Education (Next Generation Citizens)
- To be eligible, applicants need to be a registered AM 250-OH Community by December 31, 2024
- Grant awards will be up to \$5,000
- Period of performance: April 1, 2025-August 31, 2026
- One grant per AM 250-OH Community
- Matching fund are not required
- Timeline:
  - Grants announced/applications open – week of October 14, 2024
  - Grants webinar October 28, 2024 – Noon
  - Applications close – January 31, 2024
  - Grant Award Announcements – March 31, 2025



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



# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE HISTORY PASS PROGRAM



- Provides all Ohio 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students with free admission (with paid adult) to participating history-related sites and museums.
- Over 40 participating sites to-date
- Simple to join
  - Agree to offer free general admission for 4<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Complete an MOU
  - Inform admissions team
  - Accept the pass
  - Report on pass use quarterly



[america250-ohio.org/fourth-grade-pass](https://america250-ohio.org/fourth-grade-pass)





# TRAILS & TALES STATEWIDE TOURISM TRAILS



- Creating statewide trails focusing on unique “big picture” topics about Ohio
- Trails focus on telling stories of Ohioans that are part of that topic – leading to a place to visit to learn more.
- Topics:
  - Air & Space – Launched spring 2024 (over 30 sites)
  - Creativity – Early 2025
  - Lake Erie, Ohio River & Canals - Spring 2025
  - Changemakers & Leaders
  - Ohio Moves (Transportation)
  - Inventors & Innovation
- Audio tour to be added in 2025



[america250-ohio.org/trails-and-tales](https://america250-ohio.org/trails-and-tales)





# OHIO GOES TO THE MOVIES – STATEWIDE MOVIE SERIES



Coming to theaters  
throughout Ohio in  
2026

- Statewide Movie Series: Beginning Feb 14, 2026 – Fall 2026
- Featuring films with an Ohio connection
  - Director
  - Actor
  - Writer
  - Location
  - Topic
- Movies will be screened in all 88 counties
- Theaters of all sizes and types will participate
  - Stipends will be available for accepted venues
- “More than a movie” – events will feature guest speakers, etc.



[america250-ohio.org/ogttm](https://america250-ohio.org/ogttm)



# OHIO'S HOMECOMING & PICNIC



Presenting Sponsor:



- In July 2026, we are encouraging Ohioans to gather in groups to celebrate Ohio and U.S. history with a picnic.
- We'll provide a "homecoming kit" to help facilitate discussions & fun.
- Signature homecoming & picnic events will be held in each region
  - Lima
  - Toledo
  - Dublin
  - Selected Ohio History Connection sites
- Communities are encouraged to plan their own event to welcome their citizens to share a festive occasion together.

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



# FUTURE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES 2025-2026



## Heritage Tree planting

Beginning Spring 2025, America 250-Ohio in partnership with communities will plant an Ohio-native tree in each of the 88 counties.



## Under-told Stories

Telling the stories of Ohioans is a key goal and will be facilitated through a story-telling app – Memory Fox that will be used through many of America 250-Ohio's programs.



## Revolutionary War Veterans grave markers

We will create a searchable, online database with the location and details for as many of the more than 7,000 Revolutionary War Veterans that are buried in Ohio.





# FUTURE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES 2025-2026



## 250 Buckeye Train

In April 2026, a celebration of Ohio Transportation featuring a train ride from Columbus to Dennison, Ohio and a festival upon arrival featuring antique cars, planes, food trucks, and a USO show.



## Next Gen Citizens

Next Gen Citizens is the umbrella term for America 250-Ohio education initiatives which will include materials for educators, programs highlighting founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence and Northwest Ordinance and judicial workshops.



## Statewide Mural Recognition

The goal of the program is to honor, recognize and highlight Ohio's indispensable contributions to our nation's past, present and future through public works of art. Murals can be existing ones or newly created, including those that are soon to be completed.





# BARNES & PUBLIC ART



Fremont, Ohio



U.S. Route 250



American Nitrile Building, Grove City, Ohio



# PARTNER PROJECTS/COLLABORATIONS (examples)



America's River Roots  
Cincinnati Ohio  
October 9-12, 2025



COSI – America 250 American Innovation Hands-On Kits



# FUTURE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES – 2026

**Celebrating Ohio's Contributions to the U.S. for 250+ years...**



<https://america250-ohio.org/2026-celebration-themes/>



# THEME MONTHS ACTIVATION IDEAS FOR 2026

Each month we will celebrate a different aspect of how Ohio has contributed to the U.S. for 250+ years through experiences such as:

- Themed content shared by AM 250-OH and other organizations who have experiences/collections/content in the topic area.
- Encourage museums and non-profits to highlight existing content and experiences that align.
- Potential for experiences to be created to align.
- Library book displays
- Statewide trail(s)
- Lecture(s), panel discussions, or author-talks
- Themed video collection with the Ohio Channel
- Family days





# STAY INFORMED – FOLLOW US!



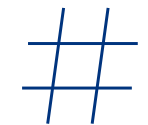
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#America250Ohio



<https://america250-ohio.org>



[hello@america250-ohio.org](mailto:hello@america250-ohio.org)



JOIN US!  
LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

