



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



# 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)





This is Ohio's Time: America 250-Ohio  
as a way to bring people together.



# AMERICA 250-OHIO COMMISSION:

- 29 Appointed Commissioners and one ex-officio member
- Quarterly public meetings
- Co-chairs: Michael B. Coleman and Douglas J. Preisse



## KEY GOALS:

- Engagement - build public awareness and foster public participation.
- Connecting dots - across all levels of government and private organizations to include infrastructural improvements and projects or programs to welcome and encourage regional, national, and international tourists.
- Statewide - involve and showcase all **88** counties.
- Comprehensive - draw attention to the achievements, struggles, honors, innovations, and significance of all people in Ohio from before its founding to the present day.
- Resources – providing resources such as grants, expertise and promotional materials.



## 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 WILL TELL THE STORIES OF OHIO

## 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



# PROJECTS FOR 2023-2024



New website: [america250-ohio.org](http://america250-ohio.org)





# 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
  - Signage
  - Website listing on [America250-Ohio.org](http://America250-Ohio.org)
  - Social media support
- Access to resources
  - Toolkits
  - Online community platform
  - Opportunity to collaborate with other AM 250-OH communities.
- Simple to activate
  - Apply to become an AM 250-OH community
  - Pass a resolution to support
  - Form an AM 250-OH committee
  - Plan your events leading up to 2026!



# 250 OHIO'S FAVORITES PROMOTION



Social media promotion to engage Ohioans to share their favorites across a broad spectrum of topics to create an engaging way for Ohioans to share their favorites...

- Launched October 6, 2023
- Individuals, organizations, convention & visitors bureaus, government entities can submit ideas.
- Crowd-sourced and curated (not a contest)
- New topics every few weeks
- Post/share/like and participate on AM 250-OH social media sites.



# AMERICA 250-OHIO GRANTS PROGRAM



Grant funding pool of approximately \$1 million in FY 2024 in support of local and statewide programs and projects related to America 250-Ohio themes.

- The America 250-Ohio grants program launched on October 16, 2023
- Ohio Humanities is managing the grants application process on behalf of America 250-Ohio
- Two funding levels: up to \$5,000 and \$5,000-\$50,000
- Two separate cycles: October 2023 and January 2024



# NEXT GEN CITIZENS – Youth Engagement Program



- An activity passport program for youth grades 4-12<sup>th</sup>.
- Their exploration guide to explore Ohio's history and learn more about their families, neighborhood, and themselves.
- Summer 2024 – Pilot program with Columbus Metropolitan Libraries.



# BARNS, URBAN MURALS & PUBLIC ART



# FUTURE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES 2024 - 2025



4<sup>th</sup> Grade History Pass



Introduce first three statewide trails



Revolutionary War Veterans grave markers



Tree planting



Ohio Story Hub



Ohio statewide film festival



# FUTURE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES – 2026

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

We are creating monthly themes for 2026 that celebrate different aspects of Ohio's contribution. Each monthly theme can include events, experiences, content highlights, and more.

January – Ohio Firsts & Originals

February – Inventions, Innovation, Business & Work

March – Music & Entertainment

April – Transportation: Planes, trains & automobiles (and more!)

May – Arts & Culture and Movies

June – Natural Resources

July – The Ohio statewide picnic & homecoming

August – The Ohio state fair and county fairs

September – Sports

October – Agriculture

November – Veterans and First Responders

December – Future Ohio



# STAY INFORMED – FOLLOW US!



@America 250-Ohio



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#America250Ohio



<https://america250-ohio.org>



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THIS IS OHIO'S TIME: JOIN US  
TO CONNECT AND CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

