



RESOLUTION 2023 – 09

OF THE

Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial

September 14, 2023

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly pursuant to Revised Code Section 149.309 established the Ohio Commission for the United States 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;” and

WHEREAS, in establishing the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, the Ohio General Assembly empowered the Commission to do any of the following: (1) Coordinate with all federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations on infrastructural improvements and projects or programs to welcome and encourage regional, national, and international tourists (2) Give due consideration to related plans and programs developed by federal, other state, local, and private groups (3) Aim to involve and showcase all counties in this state; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial is further charged in the Ohio Revised Code to “conduct extensive public engagement throughout this state to develop programs of its own or with or by other agencies, communities, or organizations that may take place to mark the semiquincentennial by December 31, 2026”; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial delivered a 28-page report, “Recommendations to the People of Ohio,” in 2022 to the Governor and General Assembly that included, in part, that “The State of Ohio should invest in the work of America 250 by making the appropriate financial investments, including tiered grant funds for local organizations to carry out statewide and local initiatives”; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Concurrent Resolution 5 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 unanimously in 2023 expressing that the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate are “committed to supporting the work of the Ohio Commission of the U.S. Semiquincentennial and participating fully and enthusiastically in the nation's 250th anniversary, which culminates on July 4, 2026;” and

WHEREAS, Ohio Humanities is Ohio’s state-based nonprofit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities with a mission focused on storytelling and grantmaking with more than 50 years of experience providing grants of tens of millions of dollars throughout Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Humanities has the staff expertise, relationships and technical infrastructure to implement a comprehensive, equitable, timely and transparent statewide grant program in partnership with the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial hereby authorizes the Executive Director, with approval from the Co-Chairs of the Commission, to establish a grant program and process in partnership with Ohio Humanities; and

RESOLVED, that Ohio Humanities will administer the grant program and process by contract not to exceed \$48,600 in FY 2024; and

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director or his designee shall place the finalized grant program and call for proposals onto the Commission web site not later than October 2023; and

RESOLVED, that the Commission Co-Chairs will retain final authority to approve grant awards that will be selected by a screening committee. The Executive Director shall invite grant reviewers who do not have direct conflicts of interest with potential grant applicants; and

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director and the Co-Chairs of the Committee shall evaluate the effectiveness of the grant program and report results to the Commission no later than June 2024.

Adopted this 14th day of September 2023 at Cleveland, Ohio.