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America 250-Ohio Announces Statewide Grants for Storytelling and Education Programs

Columbus, OH (April 16, 2025)— [America 250-Ohio](#), the official state commission responsible for spearheading Ohio's celebrations and commemorations around America's semiquincentennial in 2026, announced today that it awarded grants of up to \$5,000 each to 57 organizations across the state of Ohio, for a total of \$278,834. These grants are dedicated to funding programs and initiatives commemorating Ohio's important contribution to American history. The \$5,000 grant is meant to help awardees plan, organize and implement a program or event that aligns with America 250-Ohio initiatives in two broad categories: Storytelling and Education (Next Generation Citizens).

In order to qualify for the grants, applicants needed to either be designated an official "[America 250-Ohio Community](#)," and/or have a letter of support from that local government entity. These community-focused grants are aimed at funding local experiences that supplement the programs that America 250-Ohio is producing statewide, and that further the reach of America 250-Ohio-related educational programming statewide.

This is the third and final round of grants awarded by America 250-Ohio since its inception. The first funding cycle, announced in January 2024, awarded nearly \$400,000 in grants to 23 communities and organizations for projects with significant [statewide or regional impacts](#), as well as smaller, [local activations](#). The second funding cycle, announced in June 2024, [awarded \\$600,000 to 61 recipients](#). Grants for the first two rounds funded community-based projects and initiatives ranging from exhibitions to public events to digital and documentary media projects. All three rounds of grants have been administered, in part, by [Ohio Humanities](#).

"We wanted to use this third grant cycle to recognize and support the work of America 250-Ohio communities across the state," said Todd Kleismit, executive director of America 250-

Ohio. “From big cities to small towns, Ohioans are making plans for the semiquincentennial in 2026, and this new round of grants will help provide them with opportunities to learn and to celebrate our state and our nation.”

A full list of grant recipients can be found at www.america250-ohio.org.

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About America 250-Ohio:

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its semiquincentennial, which is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Each state has been encouraged to create a celebration and commemoration of this anniversary to reflect the unique character and contributions of each state to the nation over the past 250 years. Ohio is fully embracing this opportunity. The Ohio Commission for the Semiquincentennial (aka America 250-Ohio Commission or AM250-OH) was created by the Ohio legislature and launched on March 1, 2022. The charge of the AM250-OH Commission is “...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). More information can be found at America250-Ohio.org.