

THE PEOPLE'S COMMEMORATION - BY THE PEOPLE FOR ALL PEOPLE

In 2026, all eyes will be on Philadelphia, the birthplace of American democracy. The *People's Commemoration* is a new kind of milestone commemoration in which every Philadelphian feels included and 250th programs create lasting civic and social impact. From stoops to stadiums, people-powered programs inspire civic action and showcase our cultural, science, history, and arts organizations; place-based neighborhood experiences highlight our treasured cultural places and public spaces; and purpose-driven legacy projects strengthen Philadelphia through 2026 and beyond.

NO OTHER CITY IN AMERICA WILL HAVE A MORE INCLUSIVE OR TRANSFORMATIONAL 250TH THAN PHILADELPHIA.

PROGRAMS



Citywide civic engagement, storytelling, and cultural programs by and for all people

People's Programs for the 250th A community of diverse program organizers whose robust calendar of 250th-themed citywide cultural programs at small and large venues are promoted through a public campaign.

The Declaration Station

An eye-catching mobile resource traveling across the City promoting civic conversation and inspiring people to be agents of change. The information collected will reflect the collective vision of Philadelphians and offer a blueprint for civic initiatives.

Share Your Stories

An inclusive storytelling program, that expands our knowledge of Philadelphia's diverse past by amplifying the voices of underrepresented people and communities.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Inspirational 2026 events to recognize our many partners, set the stage for what is to come, and celebrate the collective impact of the 250^{th.}

PLACES



Shared neighborhood experiences at our treasured places and public spaces

Neighborhood Gateways

Cultural locations in every City Council District which will be sites for: a rotating schedule of 250ththemed and specialty tours; visits from the *Declaration Station*, neighborhood storytellers sharing each neighborhood's unique history and culture, and *Public Art Legacy Projects*, created by community members and artists to explore the meaning of liberty and legacy. *Neighborhood Gateway* programs will be coordinated with annual festivals and other 2026 programming.

Stoop and Porch Parade

A nontraditional, citywide celebration of Philadelphia's neighborhoods with self-decorated stoops and porches in honor of the 250th during July 2026.

PURPOSE



Enduring legacy projects that address critical needs in our city

Legacy Community

A community of local organizations who pledge to implement a new initiative, or accelerate the reach of an existing program, that will result in positive civic and social impact by 2026.

Equity Impact Projects

Projects that increase equity in challenged communities through investments in public space, civic engagement, diverse businesses, and Black historic sites.

Legacies for the 250th

Three publicly-proposed legacy projects selected to present to the City in 2026.

- <u>Our Market</u>, a storytelling and cultural preservation program focused on immigrant communities in South Philadelphia's 9th Street Market
- <u>Cities of Inclusion</u>, an initiative by Special Olympics Pennsylvania to increase services and expand access for the disabled community in Philadelphia
- <u>Revolutionary Action Figures</u>, uses the power of play to teach children about local BIPOC leaders



PHILADELPHIA250 is leading the people's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of American independence in Philadelphia in 2026.



TIMELINE



The People's Commemoration Activities in 2026



LEADERSHIP

PHILADELPHIA250, an independent nonprofit, is led by President and CEO Danielle DiLeo Kim, AIA; Board Chair, The Honorable Edward G. Rendell; and a diverse and distinguished board of directors. Additional business, community, and civic leaders support the organization in various advisory capacities. PHILADELPHIA250 serves as the main point of contact between state (America250-PA) and national (America250) 250th planning partners for their respective anniversary activities in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA250 is a founding member of a collective roundtable of stakeholders that have come together to communicate, collaborate, and coordinate planning efforts for major events and activities taking place in Philadelphia in 2026.

