

Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
600 E. 4th Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

February 5, 2024

Dear County Manager Diorio,

I am writing on behalf of the America 250 NC commemoration team, led by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The commemoration is aimed at marking the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in meaningful ways across the state. It will involve a range of activities across several years, starting on April 12, 2024, focusing on the year 2026. We aim to encourage North Carolinians to remember our past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a promising future.

As part of the event, we suggest each county create a county-wide committee. This committee should consist of representatives from the city and county, cultural and heritage institutions, civic groups, travel and tourism representatives, and other relevant stakeholders. The purpose of the committee is to ensure that the whole county is represented in the commemorative activities. Counties with an official county-wide committee will also be eligible to apply for a local grant to support their efforts to plan commemoration activities and programming.

We would like to bring to your attention Kendall Kendrick, who has shown interest and initiative in creating a Mecklenburg County 250 committee. She has attended the state-led quarterly meetings of American 250 NC stakeholders and worked directly with us to learn more about the commemoration planning in NC. She recently attended the American Association for State and Local History conference in Boise, Idaho where she participated in a workshop on strategic planning for the commemoration. We have been pleased to connect with her to foster commemoration planning in Mecklenburg County and hope you find her a key resource as you consider starting an official county committee.

Additional information on the commemoration planning can be found on our website america250.nc.org. We are sponsoring a variety of programming tools to assist county commemoration committees in their work including educational and online resources and traveling exhibits. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions regarding America 250 NC and how you can connect your county's deep history with the commemoration.

Sincerely,



Sarah E. Koonts

Director, Division of Archives and Records

America 250 NC Lead

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES