



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

America 250 North Carolina

Mecklenburg Committee

Mecklenburg County Government

Charlotte Trail of History

Kendall Kendrick
Executive Director

Introduction

Kendall Kendrick, Executive Director
Charlotte Trail of History



- Founder and Organizer of Mecklenburg 250
- America 250 NC partner
- Member of the Mecklenburg County Historic Latta Reimagined Stakeholder Committee
- Member of the Huntersville Public Arts Commission
- Event Manager with 30 Years Experience

Goal

Adopt a resolution establishing an America 250
North Carolina **Mecklenburg County**
Committee

America 250 North Carolina has recommended that each county develop a county-wide committee with representatives from the city and county, cultural heritage institutions, civic groups, travel and tourism representatives, and others as needed to represent the whole of each county.



Background

America 250 is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country.



The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is the statewide entity charged by Governor Cooper with the leadership of the commemoration for North Carolina.

Background

Under the guidance of America 250 NC, the Mecklenburg 250 stakeholders committee was established in June 2023.

Past attendees include representatives from:

- Mecklenburg County
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library
- City of Charlotte
- City of Huntersville
- Charlotte Center City Partners
- Charlotte Regional Business Alliance
- President James K Polk State Historic Site
- Charlotte Museum of History
- Historic Rosedale
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP
- Catawba Cultural Center
- Metrolina Native American Association
- UNC Charlotte Special Collections
- Central Piedmont Community College

Mecklenburg County 1975 - 1976

In 1974, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners resolved to create the Charlotte Mecklenburg Bicentennial Committee and designated Festival in the Park Founder, A. Grant Whitney as Chairperson.



May 20, 1975: President Ford addressed a crowd of 103,000 from the bandshell at Freedom Park, the largest crowd ever assembled in Mecklenburg County at the time.



The Horizons 1976 project purchased and preserved land areas for future public parks and recreational facilities.



The Committee held hundreds of events and activities over the two-year commemoration period engaging the community of 406,000 people.

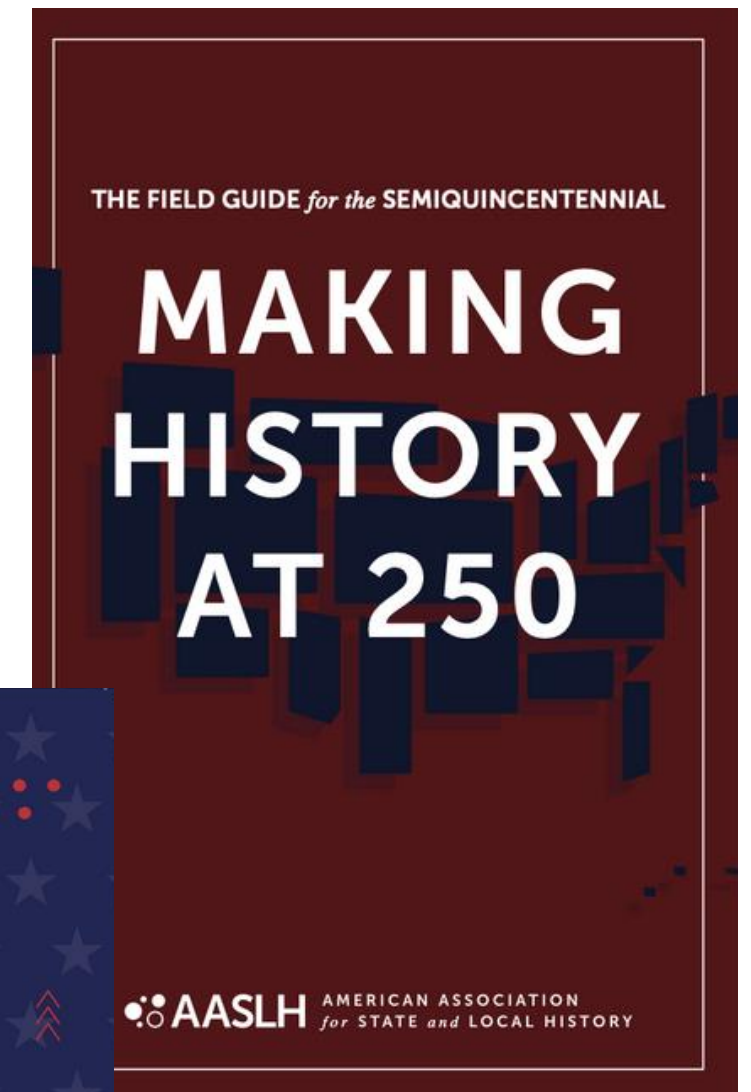
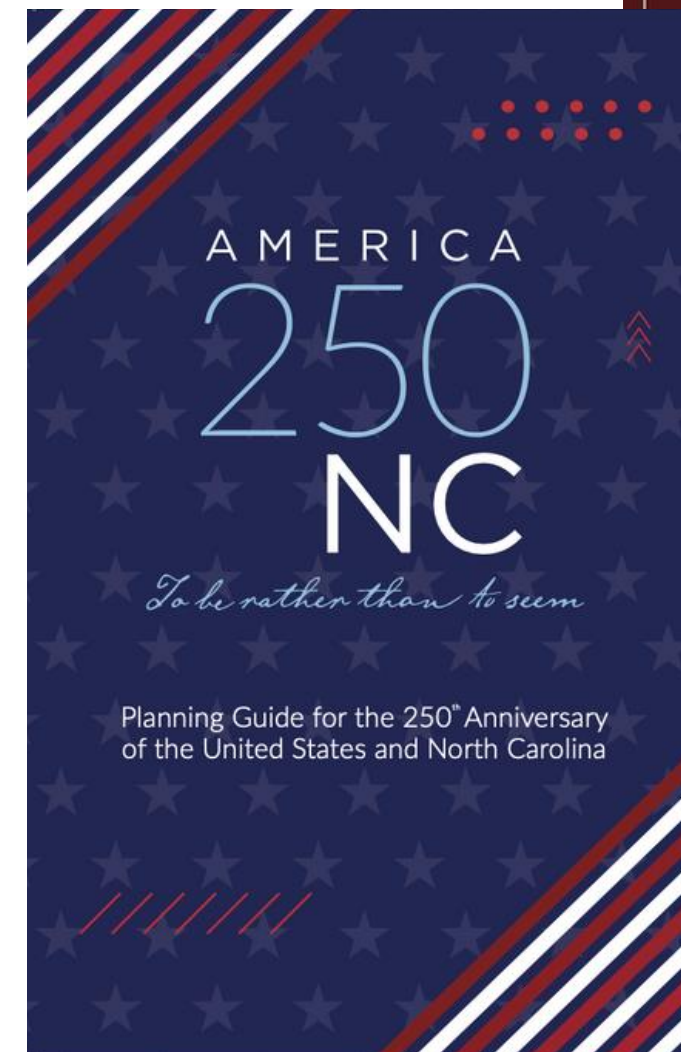
Mecklenburg 250

Mission:

To empower and support Mecklenburg County organizations to tell inclusive history through in-person and online programming, partnerships, and education that is aligned with the North Carolina and U.S. Semiquincentennial initiatives.

Vision:

- Become a city who knows their history.
- Give people a connection to place.
- Tell the inclusive story.



Mecklenburg 250

S.L. 2023-134 page 405

AMERICA'S 250TH LOCAL GRANTS

SECTION 14.9.(b) The Department shall use up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in fiscal year 2023- 2024 for grants of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) each to county governments whose **county commissioners have adopted a resolution creating a commemoration committee** or otherwise designated a group to ensure North Carolina's commemoration of the semiquincentennial occurs in their county.



Mecklenburg 250

How can we make a difference?

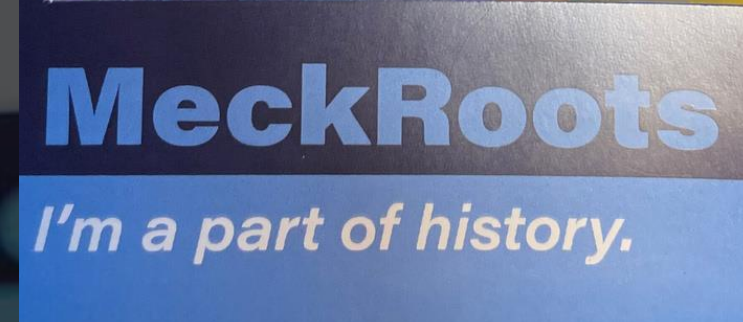
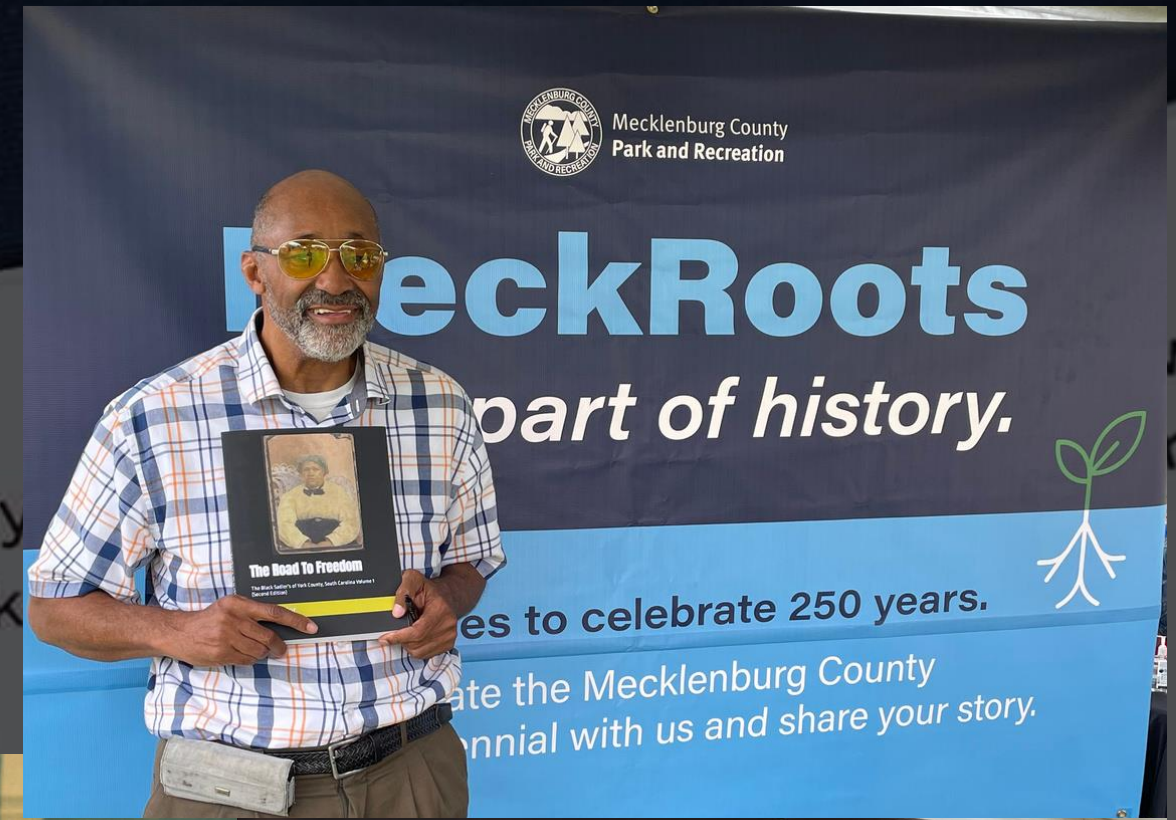
- Be intentional
- Help foster buy-in from county residents
- Add value to replace what's been taken away (torn down historic structures)
- Empower organizations
- Create networking opportunities

Timeline



MeckRoots

- County-sponsored oral history project
- Part of the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation's Untold Stories initiative.
- The goal is to collect stories from 250 residents by 2026, in commemoration of the American Semiquincentennial (#250for250).



This Is Meck: Mecklenburg 250 Kickoff Event

Hosted by Park and Recreation in partnership with Trail of History

Independence Park
Saturday, April 20, 2024
10 am to 2 pm



In Conclusion: Mecklenburg County Has History

THIS... is because of this

