

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.

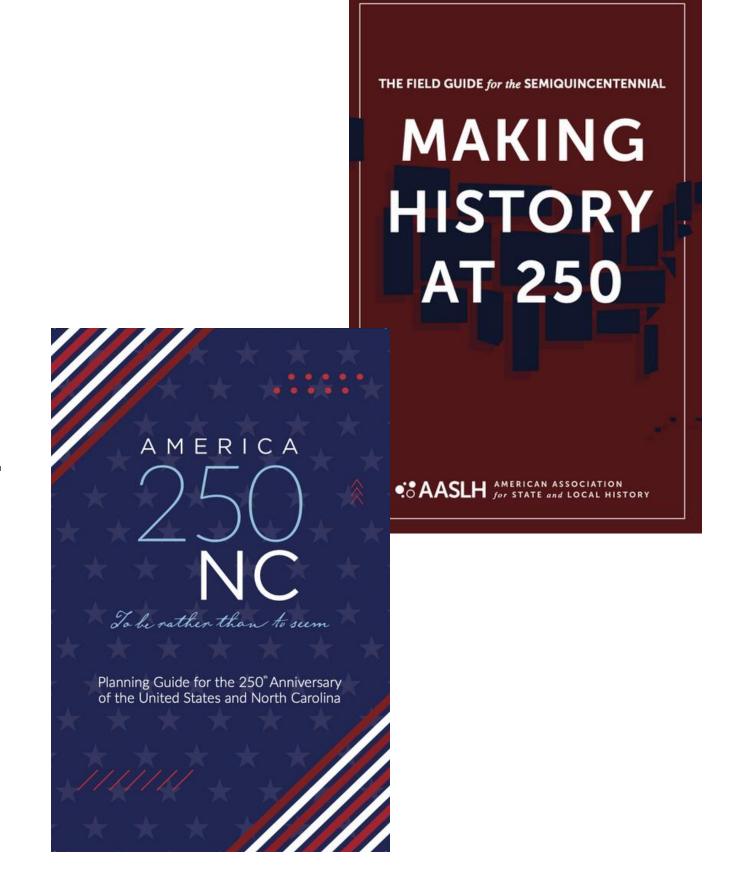
Mecklenburg 250

Mission:

To empower and support Mecklenburg County organizations to tell inclusive history through inperson 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.

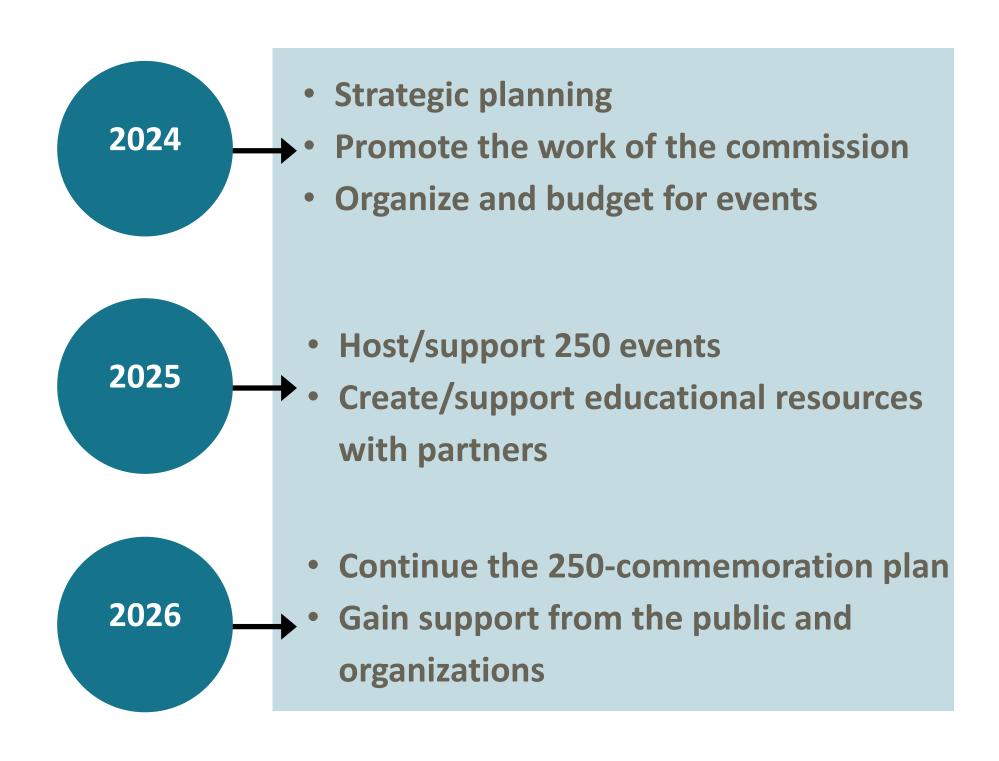


Mecklenburg 250

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

Three

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- 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

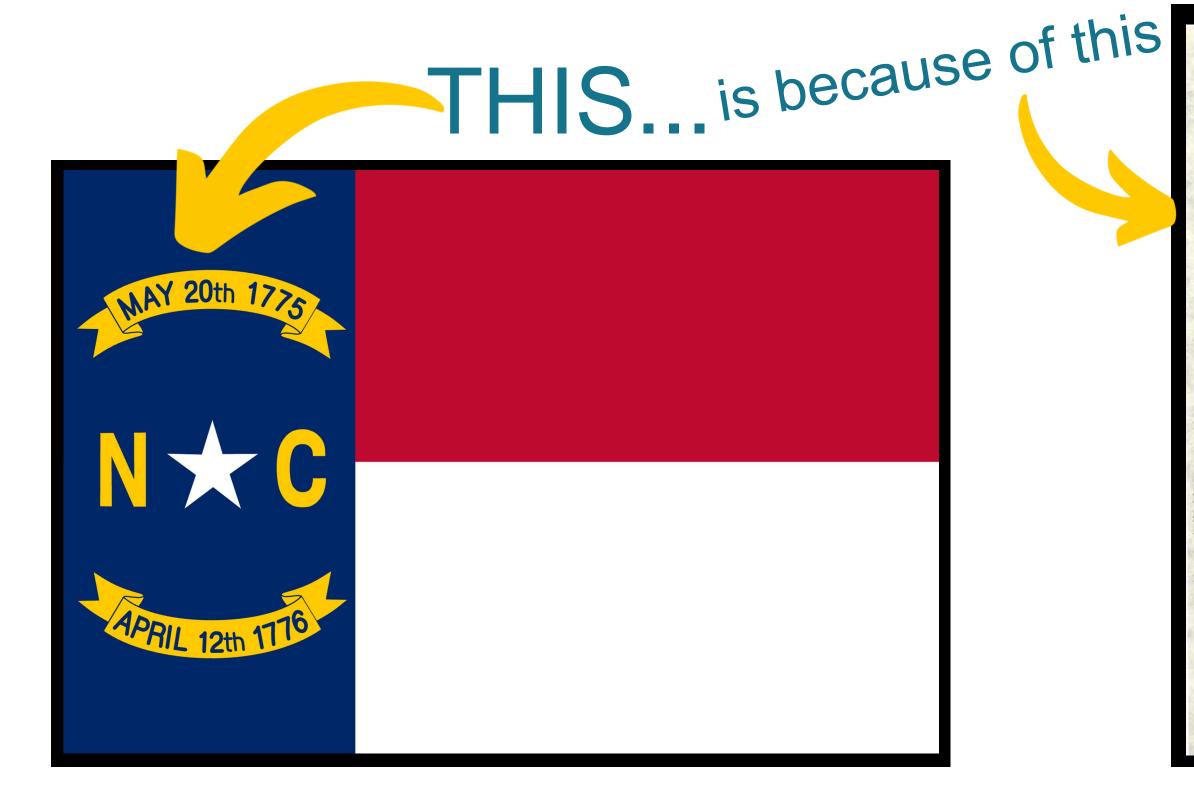








In Conclusion: Mecklenburg County Has History



The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independences
May 202 1775

Resolved — That whosever directly or indirectly abels or in any way form or manner, countenances the invasion of our rights, as altempted by the Parliament of Great Britain, is an enemy to his country to America, and the rights of man.

Resolved — That we the citizens of Mechlenburg county do hereby dissolve the political bunds which have connected us with the mother country, and absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British crown abjuring all political connection with a nation that has wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanty shed the innocent blood of Americans at Lexinoton.

Resolved — That we do hereby declare overselves a free and independent people, that we are and of right ought to be a sovereign and self-governing people under the power of God and the general Congress, to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mulval cooperation our times, our fortunes and our most sacred honor. Hesolved — That we do hereby ordain and adopt as roles of conductall and each other towns and the crops of Great first air cappal be considered bereatter as hildren

former laws, and the crown of Great Britain cannol be considered hereafter as twiding any rights, privileges, or immunities amongst vs.

Resolved — That all officers both rivil and military in this covaly, be entitled to exercise the same powers and authorities as heretofore, that every member of this delegation shall henceforth be a civil officer, and exercise the powers of a justice of the peace issue process hear and determine controversies according to law, preserve peace, union and harmony in the county, and use every exertion to spread the love of liberty and of country, until a wore general and belier organized system of government be retablished.

Resolved — That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the president of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia to be laid before that body.

