



Utah's Commemoration and Celebration of

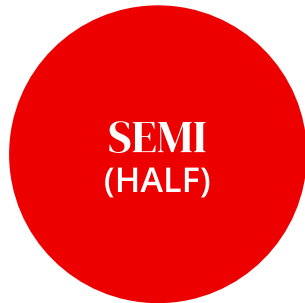
AMERICA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

Final Report

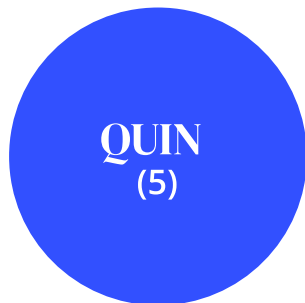
“Two hundred and fifty years ago, our nation began with an idea written on paper and tested in real life: that liberty comes with responsibility, self-government depends on us, and every person is created equal and deserves the opportunity to pursue a better life... As we celebrate America’s first 250 years, let us recommit ourselves to preserving those freedoms, caring for our neighbors, and passing the promise of America to the generations that follow.”

Letter from Gov. Cox
Celebrating 250 Years of America

Executive Summary



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In 2023, Governor Spencer J. Cox established the America250 Utah Commission, appointing leaders from across the state to serve as an advisory commission to plan Utah's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The commission was staffed by the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement and worked with the national America250 organization and commissions in all 50 states to coordinate the nation's semiquincentennial.

The commission's mission was to honor our nation's past, celebrate our present, and inspire a future that upholds the values that define us as both a nation and a state. Its vision was to create statewide America250 activities and celebrations that foster a deeper appreciation of history's relevance to contemporary challenges while inspiring Utahns to strengthen their communities, state, and nation through civic engagement and service.

Working with state agencies, local governments, museums, educators, libraries, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community partners, the commission developed programs that educated, engaged, and united Utahns. From statewide exhibits and educational initiatives to community service projects and neighborhood gatherings, America250 Utah created opportunities for every Utahn to participate in the nation's 250th anniversary.

To inspire participation across the state, six signature programs were developed to provide meaningful ways for individuals, communities, schools, and organizations to commemorate the nation's semiquincentennial.

2020

March

Legislature passes
H.C.R.1 acknowledging
Semiquincentennial

2023

June

America250 Utah Commission
created by Gov. Cox

2024

January

Civics education trainings for
anniversary began with UVU

July

National convening in DC

2025

April

Two Lights for Tomorrow

June

2025 America's Field Trip
winners announced

United in Service event in
Vernal

July

Kickoff Celebration; Year of
Celebration and Service begins

Municipal events begin

Walk250 starts

Dominguez-Escalante
Storymap launched

National convening in DC

August

The Pen Is Mightier traveling
exhibits begin touring

Speaker series begins

September

K-12 educational
materials launch

2026 America's Field Trip
contest announced

STEM Coin contest announced

Magnify Utah America250
Utah collection launch

United in Service event in
Clearfield

249th anniversary of
Dominguez-Escalante
Expedition

October

Read250 collection launched by
Utah State Library

November

Utah State Board of Education
America250 contest announced

2026 | 250th Anniversary Year

January

Legislature passes H.C.R. 12 celebrating the 250th

The Pen Is Mightier at Utah State Capitol opens

America Gives launches

Utah Division of Arts and Museum's Freedom 250 grants announced

MLK Day of Service at Thanksgiving Point

March

Poetry Out Loud Utah finalists selected

April

Utah National History Day finalists selected

Utah's Time Capsule sent to Washington DC

May

Utah recipes for America's Potluck launched

2026 America's Field Trip winners announced

USB E winners announced

America's Startup held in San Mateo, CA

June

Walk250 finishers participate in the Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games Opening Ceremonies

America's Potluck Utah food influencer event

First Lady hosts demonstration of America's Potluck

Museum of Utah opens to the public

The Great American State Fair opens in Washington, DC

Library booklet begins distribution

July

Independence Week

Utah Symphony concert at Utah State Capitol

Light to Unite at Utah State Capitol

Time Capsule buried in Philadelphia

Statewide municipal events

Statewide flyover

America's Potluck

Our American Story visits Eagle Mountain and Perry, Utah

STEM coin winners announced

August

Municipal and community events continue through the end of the year

September

25th anniversary of 9-11 events

Constitution Month events

Speaker series continues

250th anniversary of Dominguez-Escalante Expedition

December

America's Startup pitch weekend

The Pen Is Mightier: Writing a Revolution exhibit at the Utah State Capitol closes

Final Walk250 certificates awarded

Serving a Common Cause service hours tallied and certificates distributed



Commission and Sponsors

Utah's America250 Commission Members Commission members represented a geographically diverse range of historians, philanthropists, and educators, as well as business and community leaders. Their charge was to work with public and private entities to inspire Utahns to imagine our role in the country's next 250 years, while creating once-in-a-lifetime experiences to commemorate America's anniversary in 2026.

Governor Spencer J. Cox,
Honorary Chair

Mindy Benson, co-chair;
president of Southern Utah
University

Christine Durham, co-chair;
lawyer and former Utah Supreme
Court justice

Ron Fox, co-chair; public historian,
author, The Fox Group president

Kathryn Asay, vice president
general, National Society
Daughters of the American
Revolution

Barbara Jones Brown, historian,
author, and publisher

David Clark, consultant; former
chair, Utah Tech University Board
of Trustees; former Utah state
representative and House speaker

Andrea Clarke, co-founder, Labor
& Honor Foundation; community
advocate

Sanchaita Datta, president and
co-founder, FatPipe Networks

Brandon Fugal, real estate
executive and entrepreneur

Alan Hall, founder, former CEO,
Marketstar; philanthropist

Steve Handy, marketing
consultant; former Utah state
representative

Jani Iwamoto, former Utah state
senator and former Salt Lake
County Council member; honorary
consul of Japan in Salt Lake City

Luis Lopez, president, Latinos
United Promoting Education and
Civic Engagement; former Ogden
City Council member

Douglas McGregor, state
secretary/treasurer, Utah Sons of
the American Revolution

Darren Parry, Tribal leader,
historian, and author Kristy Pike,
writer and community leader

Kristy Pike, director, Washington
County Children's Justice Center

Byron Russell, marketing
consultant and community leader

Don Stirling, business leader

Brian L. Tarbet, chief civil deputy,
Office of the Utah Attorney
General; retired U.S. Army major
general

Kim Wilson, lawyer and
community leader

Donna Law, ex-officio; director,
Department of Cultural &
Community Engagement

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Founding Sponsors

LARRY H. & GAIL
MILLER
FAMILY FOUNDATION

ZIONS BANK.

 Intermountain
Health

 Department of Cultural
& Community Engagement

Gold Sponsors

 DANIELS FUND.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

K-12 Lesson Plans and 500 For our Future

With support from Daniels Fund





America250 Utah recognized the nation's 250th anniversary as a unique opportunity to strengthen civic education and create lasting resources to benefit Utah students. To accomplish this, the commission worked with educational partners to curate classroom resources that explored both the national story of the American Revolution and Utah's unique history during the founding era.

These lessons highlighted the 1776 expedition of Franciscan friars Atanasio Domínguez and Silvestre Vélez de Escalante through what is now Utah, helping students understand that significant events were unfolding across the continent at the same time the Declaration of Independence was being drafted and signed.

A digital storymap, pairing excerpts from the original Dominguez-Escalante Expedition journals with modern drone footage and photography, showed that much of the landscape in Utah remained remarkably unchanged over nearly 250 years.

In partnership with Utah Valley University Center for Constitutional Studies, America250 Utah funded classroom sets of the nationally recognized We the People curriculum. These classroom sets were awarded to 500 teachers ensuring that 70,000 students each year continue to benefit from high-quality civic education.

BY THE NUMBERS

500 classrooms sets of *We the People* curriculum delivered to social studies teachers statewide

70,000 students will continue benefit from high-quality civics education annually

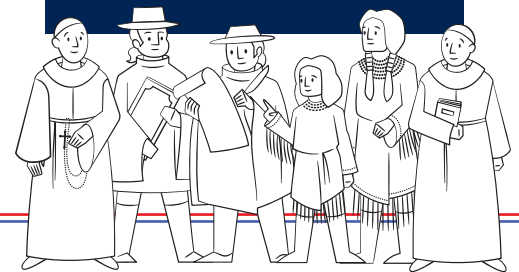
1,367 superintendents and principals received quarterly emails about educational resources

53 curriculum lessons and activities curated

33 new educational lessons created

1 “The Adventures of Friars Dominguez and Escalante” picture book published

3 original maps reflecting the American West in 1776



Outreach partners

BYU ARTS Partnership

National Constitution Center

Professional Outreach Programs in the Schools

Show Up, An Initiative of First Lady Abby Cox

Utah Council for the Social Studies

Utah Division of Indian Affairs

Utah Education Network

Utah Historical Society

Utah Law-Related Education

Utah Rural Schools Association

Utah School Superintendents Association

Utah State Board of Education

Utah State Historic Preservation Office

Utah Valley University Center for Constitutional Studies

The Pen Is Mightier: Writing a Revolution

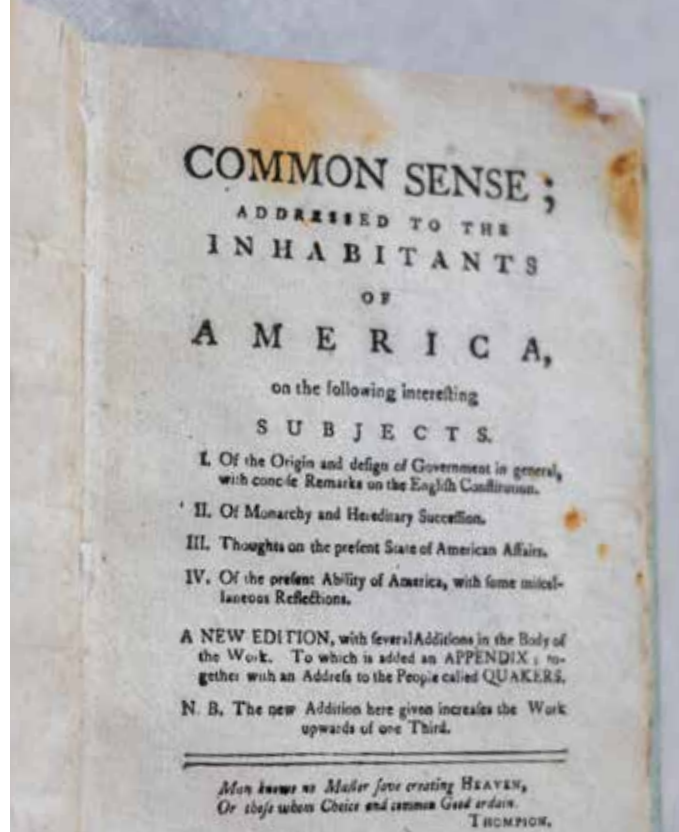
Sponsored by Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation



America250 Utah designed and installed “The Pen Is Mightier: Writing a Revolution,” an exhibit that explored the vital role communication played in the American Revolution. The exhibit was displayed on the fourth floor of the Utah State Capitol from January through December 2026.

The exhibit examined the ways ideas spread during the Revolutionary War era through written word, speeches, music, and visual signals. One of its featured artifacts was an original copy of Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*, loaned by the Special Collections Department at the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah. The exhibit traced Utah’s continued contributions to communication and innovation, showcasing advances ranging from the invention of television, gaming, and beyond.

To ensure the exhibit reached communities throughout Utah, the commission created several traveling versions of “The Pen Is Mightier.” During 2025 and 2026, these exhibits visited all 29 counties, appearing in



municipal buildings, libraries, schools, and other public spaces. The traveling exhibits allowed thousands of Utahns to experience the stories and themes in their own communities.

BY THE NUMBERS

15 artifacts in Utah State Capitol exhibit

42 traveling exhibit locations

“Visitors were especially drawn to the stories of the women of the Revolution—many encountering these perspectives for the first time.”

Holly Grierson, associate librarian, Orem Public Library

Outreach partners

Brent and Charlene Ashworth
Capitol Preservation Board
Ronald and Linda Fox
University of Utah, J. Willard Marriott Library

University of Utah Magazine
Utah Correctional Industries
Utah Division of Arts and Museums
Utah Historical Society

Utah Museums Association
Utah State University, Bringing War Home Project
Utah Valley University Center for Constitutional Studies

Walk250 Utah

Sponsored by Zions Bank





Walk250 participants were encouraged to submit photos.

Walk250 Utah challenged Utahns to move 250 miles between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2026, commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary while exploring Utah's diverse landscapes through trails, parks, and community paths. More than a fitness challenge, it celebrated the power of place and Utah's unique contribution to the American story.

To encourage participation, America250 Utah created a collectible Walk250 Utah sticker set distributed through Utah State Parks, public libraries, and Zions Bank branches statewide. Participants could track their miles independently or submit them online, and those who completed all 250 miles received a commemorative certificate.

Participants were also entered into drawings for weekend getaway packages organized by tourism partners in Salt Lake, Davis, Garfield, Iron, and Uintah Counties, encouraging them to continue exploring the state's history and natural beauty.

BY THE NUMBERS

25,000 *collectible
sticker sets distributed*

2,500+ *Utahns signed
up to participate**

140,000+ *miles
recorded**

618 *Utahns who reported
they completed all 250 miles**

60 *municipalities
incorporated Walk250 themes*

5 *weekend getaway packages
awarded*

Outreach partners

AllTrails

Bureau of Land Management Utah
State Office

Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City

Larry H. Miller Utah Summer
Games

National Ability Center

National Park Service
Intermountain Region Office

ParkRx Utah Coalition

Salt Lake City Public Lands
Department

Salt Lake County Health
Department

Trails Utah

Utah Avalanche Center

Utah Department of Health &
Human Services

Utah Department of
Transportation, Utah Trail Network

Utah Division of Outdoor
Recreation, Every Kid Outdoors

Utah Division of State Libraries

Utah Division of State Parks

Utah State Historic Preservation
Office

Utah State University College of
Education, Health, and Human
Sciences

* As of July 31, 2026

Serving a Common Cause

Sponsored by Intermountain Health



America250 Utah invited Utahns to commemorate the semiquincentennial by giving back to their communities through service and civic engagement. Individuals who completed five or more hours of service during the commemorative year received a certificate and a letter of recognition from the Lieutenant Governor.

The initiative complemented the national America Gives campaign, which encouraged Americans across the country to log volunteer hours with the goal of making the 250th anniversary the largest service effort in the nation's history.

To demonstrate volunteer opportunities across the state, America250 Utah partnered with UServeUtah to amplify United in Service events in Vernal, Clearfield, and Lehi for the Martin Luther King Jr. anniversary. A toolkit was developed to encourage universities, municipalities, and local organizations to recognize and honor the service of veterans and first responders.



"Helping people live the healthiest lives possible starts with strong, connected communities. We've seen firsthand how volunteering builds connection and supports well-being, and we're proud to join others across Utah in serving our communities together."

Lisa Nichols, vice president of community health at Intermountain Health.

BY THE NUMBERS

709,427⁺ hours recorded
by Utahns for America Gives

1,427 volunteers in United in
Service events

490 certificates sent*

Outreach partners

Honor365

JustServe

Lieutenant Governor
Deidre Henderson

Major Brent Taylor Foundation

Salt Lake Community College
Center for Student Life,
Leadership, and Community

Engagement

Show Up, An Initiative of First Lady
Abby Cox

Southern Utah University Student
Association

United Way of Salt Lake

United Service Organizations

University of Utah Bennion Center

UServeUtah

Utah Department of Veterans and
Military Affairs

Utah Nonprofits Association

Utah Tech University Student
Affairs

* As of July 31, 2026

Exploring the Declaration at 250 Speaker Series



America250 Utah hosted the Exploring the Declaration at 250 Speaker Series. While the series was originally envisioned as a discussion of the Declaration of Independence and the nation's founding, it quickly expanded to explore topics of both historical and contemporary interest, including Thomas Paine's Common Sense, religion and the American founding, the Constitution and civic engagement, and Utah's role in the American story.

Speaker events were held on university campuses throughout the state, making them accessible to students and the public. Each presentation was recorded and made available through PBS Utah's YouTube channel, and C-SPAN highlighted a lecture in their national coverage of the anniversary.



BY THE NUMBERS

21 lectures

75 minutes of
online master classes
created by Utah Valley
University Center for
Constitutional Studies

5 participating
institutions of higher
education

11 municipalities
incorporated speakers
into their programming

“So, what can we learn from this America at 250? We learn that coexistence is not assimilation. Difference is not a problem to be solved, it is a relationship to be honored... Not by going backward, but remembering forward. Not by erasing history, but by finding history, by finally listening to it.”

Darren Parry, America250 Utah commission member in America at 250, a special edition of the Deseret News Magazine.

Outreach partners

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham Young University,
Wheatley Institute

Davis Technical College

Dixie Technical College

Federal Bar Association

History That Doesn't Suck Podcast

PBS Utah

Southern Utah University, Eccles
A.P.E.X.

The National Museum of American
Religion

University of Utah, The Hinckley
Institute

Utah State Bar

Utah State University Uintah
Basin, Utah State University
Eastern, and Utah State University
Brigham City

Weber State University, Olene S.
Walker Institute of Politics & Public
Service

America's Potluck



America's Potluck Utah

Charged with uniting Utahns for the 250th anniversary, America250 Utah encouraged neighbors to gather around a shared meal and strengthen community connections on Sunday, July 5, for America's Potluck. The initiative was centered on a simple invitation: bring a dish, share a table, and get to know your neighbors.

To invite as many communities as possible to participate, America250 Utah created a task force with expertise to utilize regional interfaith groups, grocers, restaurants, local growers, and civic organizations. With their involvement, America250 Utah curated a Utah recipe collection and worked to ensure that those experiencing food insecurity were included in the program.



BY THE NUMBERS

30 *social media Utah culture influencers engaged in promotion"*

50 *Utah recipes collected*

115 *news and social mentions about America's Potluck in Utah*

29.2 *million media impressions about America's Potluck in Utah*

\$623,000 *in advertising value in Utah*

Outreach partners

Associated Food Stores

Center for Economic
Opportunity and Belonging

Chinese Railroad Worker
Descendent Association

Cottonwood Presbyterian Church

Gathering for Impact

JustServe

Larry H. & Gail Miller
Family Foundation

Lee's Marketplace

Mormon Women for
Ethical Government

Office of Governor Spencer J. Cox

Office of First Lady Abby Cox

PBS Utah

Red Acre Center

Sego Restaurant

Smith's Food & Drug

Standing Together

Swire Coca-Cola, USA

Utah's Own, Utah Department
of Agriculture & Food

Utah Department of Health
& Human Services

Utah Department of
Workforce Services

Utah Farm Bureau Federation

Utah Food Bank

Utah Food Industry Association

Utah Foster Care

Utah Restaurant Association



“At a time when technology often pulls us apart, gathering around a table and breaking bread together reminds us of a timeless truth: strong communities build strong states, and strong states build a strong America.”

Jennie Lloyd, board chair, Utah Global Diplomacy



Potlucks Across the Nation

What began as an America250 Utah idea quickly grew into a nationwide movement through partnerships with state and territory America250 commissions and hundreds of national partners. By July 5, 2026, all 50 states and Puerto Rico were participating, with communities hosting neighborhood potlucks and community meals.

Because of the grassroots nature of this initiative, the impact of America's Potluck will be measured in the generosity and recognition of our shared humanity through our continued one-on-one interactions with neighbors and new friends. The legacy of America's Potluck will be individuals who are more connected with their communities and involved in civic life for the years to come.



BY THE NUMBERS

51 *participating
state and
territory
commissions*

1,700+ *potlucks hosted
across the
country*

153,000 *unique website
sessions*

505 *news and
social mentions
about America's
Potluck*

1.2 billion *impressions
about America's
Potluck*

\$30.7 *million in
advertising
value*

Outreach partners

American Farm Bureau
Association

America's Test Kitchen

Associated Food Stores

Block Party USA

Break Bread World

Braver Angels

Community Plate

Dignity Index

Disagree Better

Everyday Democracy

Food Marketing Institute
Foundation

Interfaith America

JustServe

Listen First Project

Living Room Conversations

Longer Tables

Made by Us

Monticello

National Governors Association

National Grocers Association

National League of Cities

Public Broadcasting Service

Paths to Understanding

Search for Common Ground

The Big Lunch

The Together Project

U.S. Chamber of Connection

U.S. Conference of Mayors

US United

Welcoming America

Signature Events

While most America250 Utah celebrations were planned and hosted by local communities, the commission coordinated several signature events to mark the commemoration.

Two Lights for Tomorrow - April 18, 2025

The 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's ride was marked by a state-led initiative from Virginia to illuminate two lights on every statehouse, using the imagery of a shining light as a unifying call to commemorate and remind ourselves that our history is about working together for a better tomorrow. America250 Utah installed lights on the Utah State Capitol to participate in the nationwide initiative.

Kickoff Celebration - July 1, 2025

Utah's year-long celebration officially began on the south lawn of the Utah State Capitol with Governor Spencer J. Cox, Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson, and emcee Marie Osmond. The short program featured the One Voice Children's Choir, student readings from the Declaration of Independence, and a call for Utahns to spend the coming year celebrating, serving, and connecting with their communities.



Light to Unite – July 3-5, 2026

In partnership with the National Flag Foundation and Utah Capitol Preservation Board, the Utah State Capitol was illuminated in red, white, and blue July 3-5, 2026, along with other buildings across the county.

Utah Symphony & Utah Opera: Music Elevated Tour – July 3, 2026

A patriotic concert on the Utah State Capitol's south lawn celebrated America's musical heritage while highlighting Utah's unique history and culture through music. Before the performance America250 Utah invited visitors to share their hopes for America's future by writing messages and placing them on a collage of the American flag. The “Wishing Wall” exhibit encouraged reflection on the nation's next 250 years and became a meaningful expression of optimism and civic pride.

Statewide Military Flyover – July 4, 2026

The U.S. Air Force Reserve's 419th Fighter Wing and the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Wing conducted a statewide flyover, reaching communities across Utah in a powerful tribute to the nation's 250th anniversary. Through America250 Utah, an unprecedented number of Utah communities submitted flyover requests, and the flight route was designed to safely and efficiently reach as many requested locations as possible.



Municipal Engagement

Rather than creating a single statewide event, the commission partnered with 157 municipalities across Utah, resulting in hundreds of local events that celebrated each community's unique history, culture, and contributions to the American story. Participating cities and counties received an America250 Utah logo package, a planning stipend ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000, and joined monthly virtual meetings where local leaders shared ideas, resources, and best practices. This decentralized approach allowed communities to create celebrations that reflected their own local identity while contributing to a national commemoration. As a result, communities reported higher than average attendance at their events.



BY THE NUMBERS

157 municipalities
participated

402 events listed on Now
Playing Utah across the state

100+ events planned for
Independence Week

\$365,400 in funding
sent directly to municipalities

"We used America's big year to also amplify other milestones in our community including the 65th anniversary of the Utah Shakespeare Festival and the 10th anniversary of the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts at Southern Utah University. Each resident was encouraged to record 250 ways to explore the places, events, and experiences that make Iron County special."

Mindy Benson, president of Southern Utah University; co-chair of America250 Utah Commission

Participating Cities and Counties

Beaver

Beaver City
Milford City
Minersville Town

Box Elder

Brigham City
Deweyville Town
Elwood Town
Garland City
Mantua Town
Perry City

Cache

Hyde Park City
Hyrum City
Logan City
Providence City
Smithfield City

Carbon

Helper City
Price City

Daggett

Dutch John Town

Davis

Bountiful City
Centerville City
Clearfield City
Clinton City
Farmington City
Kaysville City
Layton City
North Salt Lake
Ogden City
Sunset City
Syracuse City
West Bountiful City
Woods Cross City

Duchesne

Duchesne City
Myton City

Emery

Garfield

Boulder Town
Bryce Canyon City
Cannonville Town
Escalante City
Panguitch City
Tropic Town

Grand

Moab City

Iron

Cedar City
Enoch City
Kanarraville Town
Parowan City

Juab

Mona City
Nephi City

Kane

Big Water Town

Millard

Delta City
Fillmore City
Meadow Town

Morgan

Piute

Circleville Town
Marysville City

Rich

Salt Lake

Bluffdale City
Cottonwood Heights City
Draper City
Herriman City
Holladay City
Millcreek City
Murray City
Riverton City
Salt Lake City
Sandy City

South Jordan City

Taylorsville
West Jordan City
West Valley City
White City

San Juan

Blanding City
Monticello City

Sanpete

Ephraim City
Gunnison City
Manti City
Moroni City
Mt. Pleasant City

Sevier

Annabella Town
Aurora City
Central Valley Town
Elsinore Town
Glenwood Town
Joseph Town
Monroe City
Redmond Town
Richfield City
Salina City
Sigurd Town

Summit

Oakley City
Park City

Tooele

Erda City
Grantsville City
Lake Point City
Tooele City
Vernon Town

Uintah

Vernal

Utah

Alpine City
American Fork City

Cedar Hills City

Eagle Mountain City
Fairfield Town
Genola Town
Highland City
Lehi City
Lindon City
Mapleton City
Orem City
Provo City
Salem City
Santaquin City
Saratoga Springs City
Spanish Fork City
Springville City
Vineyard City

Wasatch

Heber City
Midway City

Washington

Hurricane City
Ivins City
La Verkin City
New Harmony Town
Santa Clara City
Springdale Town
St. George City
Washington City

Wayne

Torrey Town

Weber

Farr West City
Harrisville City
Hooper City
Plain City
Riverdale City
Roy City
South Ogden City
West Haven City

America250 Utah

Municipal Events

The following events are a sample of the hundreds of events planned by cities and counties throughout Utah from July 2025 through July 2026 to celebrate and commemorate the anniversary.

Beaver County

Parades
Cornhole Tournament
Kids Carnival
Muddy Boots Community Dance
Free Swimming at City Pool
County-Wide America's
Potluck at Minersville Lake
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Box Elder County

"Cheers to 250 Years"
Children's Bike Parade
Dunk-A-Cop
Time Capsule Party
Softball Tournament
Home Run Derby
Drone Show
5K/Mile Fun Run
Car Show
Carnival in the Park
Paul Revere Reenactment Ride
Baby Lamb Day
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Cache County

Parades
Patriotic Splash N Spin
America250 Kickoff & Turkey Trot
Liberty Exhibit
Health Day Scholarship Pageant
America's Potluck
Cache Valley Cruise-In
Golf Tournament
Historical Flag Display
Storytelling with Glenn Rawson
Patriotic Concert
Cowboy Boot Races

Tree Planting
Concerts
Movies in the Park
USUO Music Elevated Tour
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Carbon County

Carbon County Fair
America's Potluck
Liberty Gala
Car Show
Music and Motocross
Concerts
Fireworks
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Daggett County

Flaming Gorge Resort Car Show
Freedom Festival
Cow County Rodeo
Tower Rock Run
America's Potluck
Pancake Breakfast
Fireworks
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Davis County

Freedom Festival
Paint the Bridge Event
Flag Raising Ceremony
Parades
America250 Blood Drive
America's Potluck
Heritage Days Parade
Youth Brigade
Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast
5K/Mile Fun Run
Movies in the Park

Voices of Liberty Patriotic Concert
Photo Contest
Nights Out NSL: America250
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Duchesne County

Myton Daze Fair and Rodeo
Parade
Pancake Breakfast
Dog Show
Ax Throwing
Concert
Cornhole Tournament
Talent Show
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Emery County

Echoes from the Past Production
Emery County Fair
Lamb Fry
Paul Revere's Midnight
Dash Obstacle Course
Concerts
Wiffleball Tournament
Fun Run Through the County
Lunch and Bingo
Scavenger Hunts
Sand Volleyball Tournament
Battle of the Ranches Rodeo
Watermelon Crawl
Car Show
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Garfield County

America's Potluck
6th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip
Wreaths Across America
America250 Quilt Contest





Bryce Canyon Half Marathon & 5K
America250 Apple Days
USUO Music Elevated Tour
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Grand County

Grand County Fair
Parades
Rodeo
Americana Costume Contest
Roller Derby Competition
Watermelon Eating Contest
Softball Tournament
Fireworks
Walk250 Challenge
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Iron County

Flag Photo Contest &
Traditions Calendar
Legacy of Liberty Time Capsule
A Sacred Celebration of
America250 Patriotic Program
Summer Jam with Uncle
Sam – Outdoor Dance
Let Freedom Shine Illuminate
Red, White, and Blue lights
on Municipal, Commercial,
and Private Homes
Scavenger Hunt
Movie Nights
Ice Cream Social
Parades
America's Potluck
Let Freedom Roll: Trail Dedication
America250 Utah Playlist
USUO Music Elevated Tour
Utah Summer Games
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Juab County

Juab Historical Jubilee
Historic First Baseball Game West
of the Missouri River Reenactment
5K Run
Cornhole Tournament
Essay Contest
Parades
Scavenger Hut

Demolition Derby
250 Ways to Celebrate
America250 Calendar
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Kane County

County Fair
Color Run
Firefighter Pancake Breakfast
Parades
America's Potluck
Wreaths Across America
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Millard County

Night at the Museums
Red White and Boom Jam Concert
Hawaiian Luau
Honoring All Veterans
4th of July Concert
USUO Music Elevated Tour
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Morgan County

Sunrise Breakfast
Parades
Freedom Run
Cardboard Boat Regatta
Our American History
Farmers Market
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Piute County

Main Street Parade
Butch Cassidy Days Rodeo
Cornhole Tournament
Car Show
Fishing Derby
Talent Show
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Rich County

Bear Lake Raspberry Days
Boat Light Parade at Bear Lake
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Salt Lake County

Old West Days Rodeo
Constitution Reading

Benjamin Franklin Kite Night
Dear America Letter Campaign
Field of Flags
Drone Shows
America's Potluck at
Millcreek Common
America250 CANstruction Project
Community Art Contest
5th Grade Mural Mosaic Tour
Branded Stickers
E Pluribus Unum Coin,
Pin and Mural Mosaic
America250 Patches
Art Show
Coloring and Activity Books
Tree Planting
Taylorsville Dayzz Parade
5K Fun Run & Walks
Car Parade and Park
USUO Music Elevated Tour
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

San Juan County

Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit
Community Book Club
America250 Spanish Trail Hike
America's Potluck
5K Run
Parades
Historical Games in the Park
Concerts

Sanpete County

Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit
Community Picnic &
Movie in the Park
Classic Car Show
Community Paints Freedom Night
County Fair

Sevier County

Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit
Art on Main
5K/Mile Fun Run
Parades
Money Dive Swim
America250 Potluck in Glenwood
Pioneer Days
Tennis Tournament

Field of Stars
Magician
Teen Dance
Horse Races

Summit County

Main Street Light Pole Banners
County Fair
Parades
Drone Shows
Rodeos
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Tooele County

Corn Hole Tournament & Dinner
Rodeos
Red, White, and Blue-tiful
Community Decorations
Karaoke Contest
Car Show
Movie Nights
5K Freedom Run
Sparkle and Splash Swim
America's Potluck
Pin Collecting and Trading
Community Challenges
Scavenger Hunts
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Uintah County

Field of Flags
Parades
5K/Mile Fun Run
Waterslide and Swim
Concerts
Drone Show
America's Potluck
Silent Disco
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Utah County

Patriotic Program
Drone Shows

Hot Air Balloon Festival
Historical Reenactments
Freedom Run
Fireworks
Concerts
Tools of Freedom Vehicle Display
Town Dinner & Magic Show
Hometown Market
America250 Day of Service
Freedom Essay & Art Contests
Fiesta Days Flag
Retirement Ceremony
We're the Kids in America: Youth
Artists Celebrating America250
Young Washington Movie Night
USUO Music Elevated Tour
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Wasatch County

Main to Main 5K & 10K
Banners on Mainstreet
Parade
Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest
Pie Eating Contest
Pickleball Tournament
Pancake Breakfast
UTV Freedom Ride
Cornhole Tournament
1776 The Musical
Pie Eating and Rootbeer
Guzzling Contest
Bi-Plane Flyover
USUO Music Elevated Tour
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Washington County

Patriot Day Celebration
with Patrick Henry
Parades
Uncle Sam 2K/5K
250 Timeline Walk
Flag Ceremony
Community Breakfasts

George Washington Plaza
Grand Opening
Monthly Speaker Series
Concerts
Face Painting
Karaoke
CrossFit Obstacle Races
Soap Box Derby
Liberty Village Activities
Red Rock Blue Sky Concert
Salute at Sunset
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit
Wreaths Across America

Wayne County

July 4 Parade, Dinner,
Program & Dance
5K Race for the Apple
Bingo Night
Carnival and Market
Star Party
Patriotic Program and Quilt Show
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit

Weber County

America's Potluck
Car, Truck, and Tractor Show
Art Stroll
Concerts
Blues, Brews, and BBQ
Parades
Sunrise Fun Run
Pickleball Tournament
Service Project Raffle
Painting Fire Hydrants
Ogden Pioneer Days Rodeo
Old Glory Days Sunrise Service
America250 Flag Display
Route 1776 Bike, Walk & Run
Pen Is Mightier Traveling Exhibit



Community Events

America250 Utah also encouraged community organizations and groups to find ways to celebrate and join in the planning. Nonprofits were encouraged to plan community events and projects celebrating the pillars of education, unity, and engagement. Organizations registered their event with America250 Utah, utilized the America250 Utah “Community Event” or “Community Project” logo, and were encouraged to post the program on Now Playing Utah. Some highlights include:

Shot Heard Round the World and Patriot’s Day recognition

April 19, 2025, Sons of the American Revolution, and Daughters of the American Revolution. Event at Utah State Capitol commemorating the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere’s ride.

The American Revolution: Ken Burns

November 4, 2025, PBS Utah. 200 guests attended a preview of the Ken Burns documentary with a question and answer session led by Dr. Greg Jackson, History That Doesn’t Suck Podcast.

Flag Sojourn 250

January 8, 2026, National Flag Foundation and National Sheriffs’ Association. The Salt Lake County Sheriff’s Office gathered to honor the country’s 250th anniversary by welcoming a special flag during its stop in Utah. Flag Sojourn 250 carried the American flag to every U.S. state and territory.

Boy Scouts of America America250 Gala

March 27, 2026. The Crossroads of the West Council also encouraged every unity to complete 250 hours of community service in 2026.

Veterans: Month of the Military Child and Purple Up

April 2026, Honor365. 250 backpacks with school supplies were filled and delivered to five different schools in Utah for military children. One of dozens of veteran and first responder events for the anniversary.

Big Boy No. 4014 Historic Coast-to-Coast Tour

April 2026, Union Pacific Steam Program. In a first-ever tour celebrating America’s 250th, the Big Boy No. 4014 made whistle stops in Morgan and Salt Lake City. More than 25,000 people attended a public display in Ogden.

Sharing Stories About America

May 21, 2026. Symposium organized by the Utah State Bar, the Federal Bar Association of Utah, and other legal groups.

Under One Sky: America250 Utah Awards Gala

May 21, 2026, Utah Chamber of Commerce.



Thanksgiving Point Imaginaria

June 1-August 22, 2026,
Thanksgiving Point. A 50-
acre festival experience
where imagination met the
American spirit with large
scale installations of America's
most beloved landmarks.

The United States of America at 250: Life, Religious Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

June 16, 2026, International
Center for Law and Religious
Studies at Brigham Young
University. A symposium
exploring religious freedom
in the United States, the
principles of pluralism, and
resolving differences.

Salt Lake Bees vs. Las Vegas Aviators

July 4, 2026, Larry H. Miller
Company. This themed evening
for America's 250th set a new
all-time high attendance record
in franchise history for a single
crowd. LHM promoted the
anniversary at other venues
including Megaplex Theaters
and Smith Entertainment
group played America
250 Utah's promotional
video at the 2025 and 2026
NBA Summer Leagues.

Ogden Pioneer Days Rodeo

July 18-24, 2026, Ogden
Pioneer Days. One of
dozens of rodeos in Utah
to commemorate the
anniversary as part of their
programming. Many also



played an America250
Utah promotional video.

Voices and Votes: Democracy in America

various dates and locations
in Utah in 2026, Utah
Humanities Council. A national
traveling exhibit from the
Smithsonian Institution

as part of its Museum on
Main Street program.

We Move Independence. We Move You.

Utah Transit Authority. 2026
summer campaign celebrating
the freedom that public transit
helps create every day.

Collaboration with National Organizing Bodies

America250 Utah was part of a nationwide planning effort that included states, territories, and America250™, the congressionally established organization leading the national semiquincentennial commemoration. America250™ developed a multiyear effort to engage, educate, and unite Americans from sea to shining sea through a series of national “tentpole” programs. In 2026, the Trump Administration also launched Freedom250, a federal initiative that promoted national celebrations and patriotic programming surrounding the anniversary. While the two organizations were distinct, their efforts complemented one another, and America250 Utah partnered with and participated in programs from both organizations to expand opportunities for Utahns to commemorate the nation’s 250th anniversary.

America Gives

Focused on making 2026 the largest record for volunteer hours and reinvigorating a culture of service in the United States. Utahns added more than 700,000 hours to the nation’s 40 million hour total in just six months. America250 Utah maintained a steady stream of communications highlighting the significance of the anniversary, Utah’s programming and unique 1776 history, and the broader relevance of the commemoration through opinion pieces.

America’s Field Trip

A national art and essay contest designed to engage America’s youth with the chance to earn a field trip experience at one of the nation’s most iconic landmarks. More than 100 Utah students participated and seven Utah students were recognized with first and second place prizes over the three years the competition was held.



Our American Story

A nationwide initiative to gather stories from people across the country and created the largest collection of oral histories for the 250th anniversary. Utah stories were collected online and also in a mobile airstream that visited Eagle Mountain and Perry in July, 2026.

America's Startup

A platform for student founders and early-stage innovators to pitch their ideas and potentially win non-dilutive grant funding to accelerate their ideas. University of Utah Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute graduate and founder of UV Sense, Kristina Schiffman, was a finalist in the event in San Mateo, California.

America's Time Capsule

Preserving a snapshot of the United States at 250, the capsule was ceremonially buried in Philadelphia on July 4, 2026, to be opened in 2276. Utah legislative leaders sent off the state's artifacts including signatures of current leaders, printed symbols of Utah's eight sovereign Tribal nations, and Olympic pins from 2002 and 2034.

The Great American State Fair June 25–July 10, 2026

Utah participated in Washington, D.C., with an interactive pavilion showcasing the state's landscapes, history, and culture. Funded by the Utah State Legislature and staffed by employees of the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement and volunteers, the exhibit received "Best in Show" among all 50 state exhibits.



Special Projects and Recognitions

Museum of Utah

A landmark cultural moment for the state on the 250th anniversary of the country, the opening Community Day of the Museum of Utah saw more than 6,500 guests. Guests could make a wish for the next 250 years of our country at America250 Utah's booth, explore galleries, and immerse themselves in the stories that shape our state.



Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud in Utah and across the country celebrated 250 years of historic American voices. This year the program focused on poems that celebrate the rich tapestry of American history and culture. Utah's Poetry Out Loud winner James Ware, of Olympus High School, traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the national finals in April.

Magnify Utah

The Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs curated stories from their collection, offering a lens through which those who chose to come to Utah as well as those who continue to choose Utah as their home can better understand what it means to be part of this American journey.

America250 Contest with Utah State Board of Education

In alignment with America's Field Trip, USBE held a similar contest for Utah students to remind them that America's story is shaped by every generation. The 2026 original essay and art contest winners in grades 5, 8, and 9-12 were awarded \$1,000 in scholarship funding.

STEM 3D Coin Design Contest

Utah's STEM Action Center invited all Utahns to design a 3D-printable commemorative coin inspired by one of Utah's 29 counties. With nearly 100 entries, winners in five different age categories were able to blend history, civic pride, and STEM skills to reflect on place, identity, and the future we are building together.



Arts and Cultural Leaders Celebrate 250th Anniversary

With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, matched with state funds, the Utah Division of Arts & Museums invested in projects in almost every county in Utah in recognition of the role the arts play in our lives, communities, and heritage. Institutions utilized funding to showcase local talent, from musical tributes and dance to patriotic-themed quilts and storytelling activities.

National History Day

Hundreds of Utah 4th-12th grade students, teachers, and their families participated in National History Day competitions in the state. The 2026 contest, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary, asked students to conduct real historical research and analysis to argue their case for revolutions, reactions, and reforms in U.S. history. Utah's top projects competed at nationals in Washington, D.C. in June.

Old Spanish Trail Archeological Survey

With the Bureau of Land Management's Color Country District, the State Historic Preservation Office leveraged federal funds to conduct the first-ever archaeological surveys of portions of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail in Iron and Garfield Counties. The route overlaps much of the same path of the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition in 1776.

Peoples of Utah Revisited

Through "Peoples of Utah Revisited," the Utah Historical Society worked to widen the lens on the state's history and share stories of the past through the present by collecting artifacts and gathering oral histories. This project was an update of the original publication created as part of Utah's bicentennial commemoration.



USA Turns 250 Library Booklet

America250 Utah and the Utah State Library developed a free activity booklet with coloring pages, word searches, and creative prompts like, "What might America look like in another 250 years?" to help little learners join the big celebration. Booklets were distributed to local libraries across the state in June.



Read250

The Utah State Library created a special collection of free eBooks and audiobooks via the Libby app of American history books for adults, young adults, and kids. Accessible with a valid library card, a select number of titles were available for instant access, without a waiting list, with options for every age.

Amplifying the America250 Utah Story

America250 Utah recognized early that to engage all Utahns in the 250th anniversary, a strong marketing and communications effort would need to be integrated into the programming. In early 2025, America250 Utah embarked on developing a robust website, social media presence, email strategy, and photography and video assets that could support the 18-month campaign for America's 250th across the state. Among the successes of this owned media strategy were the following:

Website: Developed a robust website with individual program pages, integrations with events on Now Playing Utah, email sign-up forms, and analytics. The website recorded 587,252 sessions and 325,421 active users successfully driving traffic to these pages.

Social media: Gained 6,000 social media followers on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn on three platforms for America250 Utah and America's Potluck. Top performing organic content received over 99,000 views on Instagram. Collaborations with 76 partners within Utah and 20 national partners for America's Potluck to expand the reach of messaging and programming.

Email: Delivered a monthly email newsletter to 6,781 subscribers and targeted emails to Walk250, America's Potluck, and education audiences. The emails had an above industry average open rate of 44.7%.

Photography: Documented programs and events with engaging photography that demonstrated and maintained momentum for the anniversary.

Video: Created a promotional video for America250 Utah using historical footage from the Utah Historical Society and other collections to document Utah's contributions to our American narrative. A video for America's Potluck visually showing the goals of the program to connect over a shared meal with neighbors. Both promotional videos were cut to various lengths and used on social media and paid campaigns.



Local Influences, Statewide Reach: Earned Media Strategy

America250 Utah maintained a steady stream of communications highlighting the significance of the anniversary, Utah's programming and unique 1776 history, and the broader relevance of the commemoration through opinion pieces. These pieces were strategically sent to reporters across the state with local story angles. The team also worked to garner interest with influencers by reaching out to those who might be interested in collaborating with specific programs, including Walk250 and America's Potluck. With the support of Associated Food Stores and Lee's Marketplace, the team held an influencer event with 30 food and culture influencers and a potluck hosted by First Lady Abby Cox to help promote America's Potluck.

Targeted Campaigns and a KSL Partnership Multiply America250 Utah's Reach

The majority of the multi-channel paid marketing for America250 Utah was allocated beginning in May 2026 and continued through the month of July. The majority of this spend was focused on encouraging the public to find an anniversary event in their community. In addition, the team's work with Boncom focused on building hyper-targeted audiences for America's Potluck, including Spanish-speaking audiences in the state.

The team selected to partner with KSL as a media partner. With additional underwriting secured by the station, the added value of TV, radio, and on-site digital exceeded America250 Utah's \$245,000 investment by more than \$177,000. KSL NewsRadio also hosted a special "Utah Unites: America250" town hall. The event was moderated by Doug Wright with special guests former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt, State Representative Brian King, and community activist Gabi Finlayson.

BY THE NUMBERS

Earned Media

108 handles messaged to social media influencers in Utah

639 news and social mentions about America250 Utah

1.4 billion earned media impressions

\$3.4 million in advertising value

Paid Media

20 million impressions served and 309,704 clicks on Google Demand Gen platform

3 million impressions served across social media and digital audio

12.5 million impressions served with KSL partnership and additional underwriting partner

30 million impressions served with out of home and digital billboards

55,695 accounts reached through two prominent cooking/hosting influencers



A Legacy for the Future

As we draw near to the conclusion of the United States' semiquincentennial, I look back on the two-plus years of involvement and accomplishments and reflect on what this anniversary will mean fifty, or even 250 years in the future. Our America250



Utah Commission and staff have encouraged the citizens of our state to look back with pride on the accomplishments of our founding fathers, their commitment to establishing a new nation and the sacrifices of the generations that followed to continue to shape our country. We worked with over 150 cities and counties to encourage the development of programs and events within their communities that reflected on the founding of our nation and Utah's unique stories in our country's history. School districts, colleges, and universities programs and curriculum so that schoolchildren and advanced learners could learn and debate these principles.

Over two and a half centuries, Native Americans and generations of immigrants have come to this land, striving for a multitude of freedoms and the ability to prosper. With the national America250 Commission, Utah established links to other states and organizations and led a 50-state effort for local communities to connect and share a meal for America's Potluck.

I wish to thank the Utah Legislature and its leadership, Governor Spencer Cox, and Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson for their support of this anniversary project. The Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement and its nine divisions, including the Utah Historical Society, made unique contributions to the commemoration that enabled all Utahns to see themselves in the anniversary. Additionally, I want to thank those who assisted our mission by making financial contributions to America250 Utah, thus enabling our programs to move forward; The Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation, Intermountain Health, Zion's Bank, Daniels Fund, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Finally, my Co-Chairs, the members of the Commission, and I wish to congratulate the America250 Utah staff. Thanks to their many hours of hard and diligent work, I can truly say that all parts of our state were brought together for this celebration. I hope this report and the subsequent archive of this initiative will assist the next organizing body charged in 50 years with celebrating our 300th anniversary as a nation.

Ronald L. Fox, Co-Chair America250 Utah Commission

Acknowledgements

America250 Utah was staffed by the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement. The commission extends its sincere gratitude to the department's divisions, staff, volunteers, sponsors, community partners, municipalities, counties, and countless individuals whose dedication, creativity, and service made America's 250th anniversary in Utah a truly memorable and meaningful celebration. *Go, America!*

Staff

Katherine Potter, commissioner, Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement

Donna Law, former commissioner, Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement

Mike Mower, Governor's liaison

Nicole Handy, executive director, America250 Utah

Chris Abbott, associate director, America250 Utah

Renée Leta, director of communications, America250 Utah

Jenny Duff, art director, America250 Utah and America's Potluck

Kathryn Peterson, communication specialist, America250 Utah

Liz Kinne, director of development, Utah Cultural & Community Engagement Foundation

Gail Griswold, writer/designer, The Pen Is Mightier: Writing a Revolution

Jami Van Huss, writer/curator, The Pen Is Mightier: Writing a Revolution

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Ellen Weist, former public information officer

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