



## America250MI History Grant Program Booklet

**We recommend reviewing the Grant Booklet, FAQ and Grant Application before starting your History Grant Program application.**

America250MI is Michigan's statewide committee tasked with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, the American Revolution's role in Michigan's history and the impact that these, and various historical events, had on the people of Michigan's past, present and future.

The History Grant Program is an investment in Michigan's history and an opportunity for history organizations, communities and tribal and local government to work together to explore and preserve their history. Awarded projects will help preserve Michigan stories that can guide us over the next 250 years.

### **Round 2: \$1,000,000**

- Application Open: November 1, 2025
- Application Deadline: January 15, 2026
- Recipient Announcement: March 1-15, 2026

### **Applicant Eligibility**

- Organizations whose primary function is history or preservation or organizations partnering with an organization whose primary function is history or preservation. Organizations must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit, local unit of government ( city, village or township), a tribal government or have a similar fiscal agent.
- An eligible financial match of 30% of the granted amount of the total project is required for grants of \$25,001-\$50,000 and 15% of the granted amount of the total project is required for grants of \$5,001-\$25,000. No match is required for grants of \$2,500-\$5,000.
- Projects that were not funded in round one.
- All applicants must have a SIGMA ID number to apply. To register for SIGMA Vendor Self Service visit: [AdvantageVSS - SIGMA VSS](#)

## **Project Eligibility**

- Projects must interpret, preserve or explore Michigan's rich and diverse history.
- Projects must have a lasting impact and enduring value.
- Projects must focus on one or more of America250MI's 5 Guiding Themes.
- Collaborative partnerships with traditionally underrepresented communities are strongly encouraged.
- Funds may be used for activities such as, but not limited to, planning, research, education, collections management, programs, exhibits, interpretive signage, digital, capital improvements, publications, preservation, technology/software and access.

## **Ineligible projects**

- Projects not related to Michigan history
- Land acquisitions
- Projects without an external focus
- Purchasing collections
- Parades, ribbon cutting
- Fundraising events
- Trailheads
- Public art projects

## **Financial Details**

- Tier 3: \$25,001-\$50,000, with a 30% match
- Tier 2: \$5,001-\$25,000, with a 15% match
- Tier 1: \$2,500-\$5,000, no match required

Tier 3 will comprise no more than 50% of funded projects.

## **Matching funds**

Eligible cash match may include partial cost of grant-funded items, separate contracts, purchase of equipment or supplies required to project completion.

**Salaries of permanent full- or part-time staff, volunteer hours or in-kind donations cannot count towards match.**

## **Eligible Costs**

- If a project is selected for funding, the grantee's eligible expenses include only costs directly related to project completion.

- All grant funds are reimbursements.
- Grant funds will be paid in disbursements tied to grant deliverables. The reporting dates will be provided at the time that the grant agreement is signed and will be tied to your application timeline summary and established benchmarks.
- Expenses incurred prior to project timeline will not be eligible.
- Round 2 grant cycle will only cover expenses incurred after the representatives for the grantees and the Department of Natural Resources sign the project agreement and ending on December 30, 2026. Fundable projects may be associated with, or part of an established project started at an earlier date.
- Grantees will provide adequate documentation of expenses, including all applicable copies of invoices, checks, payment sheets, change orders, documentation of labor and equipment, and documentation of donated labor and/or materials.
- Until final completion of the project including expenditure of match funds, 10% of the grant will be withheld for Tier 2 and 3.

### **Ineligible costs**

- Maintenance outside of the grant period
- Tuition and fees, conferences, travel, lodging, meals, group meals and mileage unrelated to project completion
- Costs incurred outside project timeline
- Indirect costs
- Salaries/fringes of permanent full- or part-time staff
- Food, alcohol, parties, parades, ribbon cuttings, receptions
- Contingency funds
- Administrative overhead
- Admission reimbursements

### **Project Considerations**

Successful applications will explain how their project will address the following areas in their application narrative:

America250MI Themes: Projects that tell Michigan history through one or more of the America250MI 5 Guiding Themes: Unfinished Revolutions, Power of Place, We the People, American Experiment and Doing History. Preference for projects that would not be happening without the History Grant Program funding and the 250th anniversary. Projects do not have to be related to the Revolutionary War era. To learn more about the America250MI 5 Guiding Themes and review the program guide visit <https://www.america250mi.org/guide>.

Impact and Enduring Value: Projects should have a lasting impact and enduring value for the public. Grantees can illustrate impact by showing clear goals for the project, how the project might affect your organization or community in the future and how it expands our

understanding of Michigan history. These projects should be outwardly focused with clear measurements for success. Grantees should identify the intended lifespan of the project and maintenance plan if needed.

Collaboration: Projects should include partners and bring together stakeholders from across your community. Collaboration is especially important when telling new or underrepresented stories. Grantees should engage these communities in the design, development and implementation of projects with clear roles and deliverables for each partner. Building and deepening relationships among community stakeholders should be central to collaborative projects.

Audience Access: Projects should demonstrate a commitment to broadening access and accessibility. Organizations should cultivate a welcoming environment. Access includes activities and standards related to the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure everyone can participate regardless of ability. Access also includes creating multiple avenues for participation for the public, including free days or digital elements.

Project Completion: Receiving grant assistance requires the project be completed in a timely manner. The grantee must begin the project as soon as the grant agreement is executed. Projects should have clear and specific deliverables that are accomplishable within the project timeline and organization's capacity. Grantees will provide all required documentation and reporting at the end of the grant period.

### **Application Scoring**

- Relevance of project to the five America250MI themes (30%)
- Demonstrated ability to complete project (20%)
- Outcomes, Impact and Access (20%)
- Partnerships and collaboration (20%)
- Originality and innovation (5%)
- Budget (5%)

### **Application Requirements**

- Project Title, Request Amount, SIGMA ID, Applicant information, Applicant Sponsor (if applicable)
- Narrative details part one (project description, scope, timeline and impact)
- Narrative details part two (connection to America250MI themes, partner collaborations, access)
- Communications Plan
- Budget and Tier 2 and Tier 3 Match Details
- IRS Determination Letter
- Additional information

**For questions about the grant application contact:**

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**Live Office Hours:**

Provides participants with an opportunity to ask questions and receive personalized guidance on their History Grant Application. Visit our [Grant Portal](#) to sign up for 30-minute time slots to discuss your grant application starting November 1, 2025.

**You must sign up for live office hours.**

November 3, 2025, through December 22, 2025\*

Mondays 8:00A.M. - 10:00A.M.

Wednesdays 2:00P.M. - 4:00P.M.

Fridays 12:00P.M. - 2:00P.M.

*\*Updated office hours will be listed on the Grant Portal starting January 6.*

**History Grant Program Webinar**

An informative session that reviews each step of the History Grant Program application, shares examples of successful applications from Round 1 and provides essential tips to enhance submissions. The webinar will provide attendees with the necessary skills for success.

Visit our [Grant Portal](#) to sign up for a grant webinar starting November 1, 2025. A Zoom link will be sent to you a week before and the day of the grant webinar.