



America250MI

Uncovering
our Past

Connecting
with our
Present

Inspiring
our Future



Round 2 History Grant



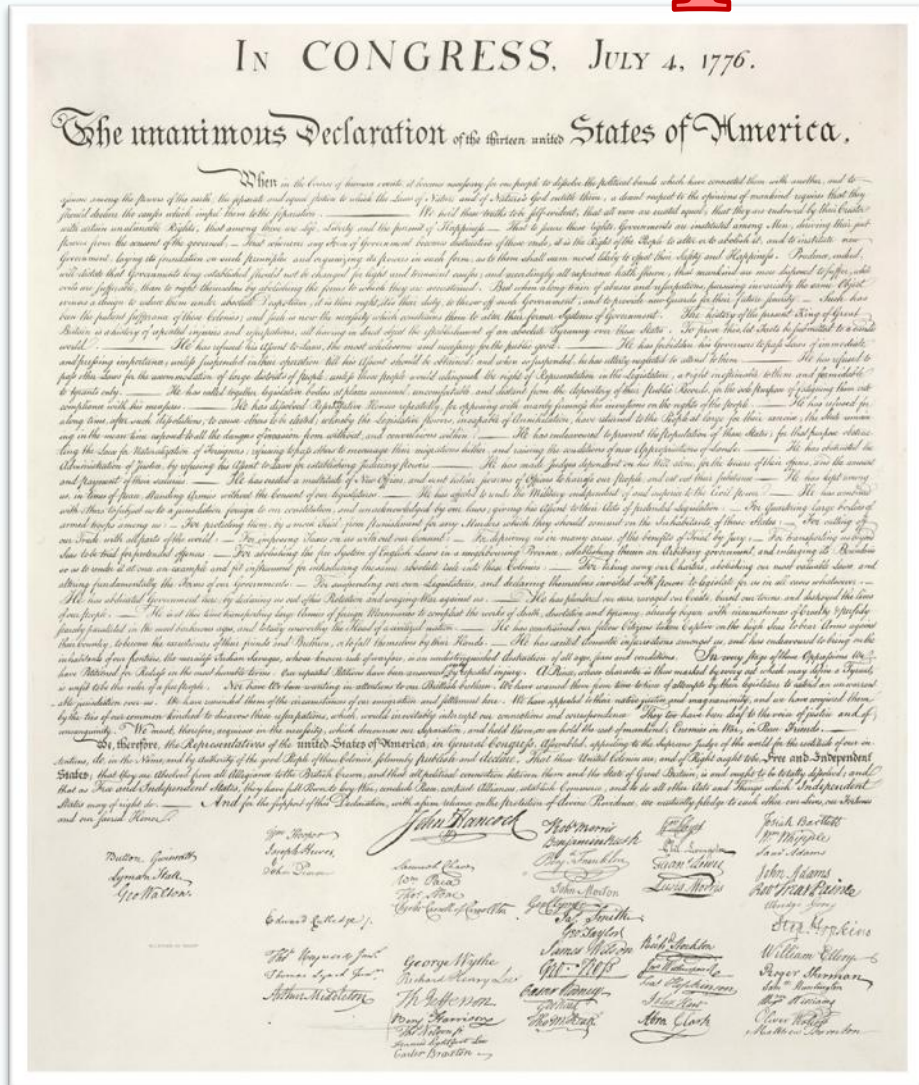
What is America250MI and how can the History Grant Program help my organization?

America250MI is Michigan's statewide committee tasked with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution's role in Michigan's history and the impact that these, and other 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 local government to work together to explore and preserve their history. Awarded projects will help preserve Michigan's stories that can guide us over the next 250 years.

But why are we all here?

Semiquincentennial



"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."



Our Mission-

America250MI will engage all Michiganders in exploring the legacy of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution (late 1700s), fostering collaboration to explore Michigan's history from that pivotal moment to today and build a more inclusive future.

Our Vision-

America250MI will unite Michigan communities to celebrate our shared heritage and significant contributions to the American story, uncovering unheard voices, fostering historical awareness and inspiring lasting civic pride.



Who can apply for an America250MI Grant?

- Organizations whose primary function is history or preservation.
- Organizations partnering with an organization whose primary function is history or preservation.
- Organizations must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit, local units of government (tribal, city, village or township) or have a similar fiscal agent.

Do organizations that are not focused on history need a partner that is focused on history?

Yes, the America250MI History Grant Program requires at least one of the project partners be an organization focused on history or preservation.

Application Requirements:



- Project Title
- Dollar amount Requested
- SIGMA ID#
- Applicant information
- Applicant Sponsor (if applicable)
- Narrative detail's part one (project description, scope, timeline and impact)
- Narrative detail's part two (connection to America250MI themes, partner collaborations, access)
- Communications Plan
- Budget
- For Tier 2 and Tier 3 Match Details
- IRS Determination Letter
- Additional information



All applicants are required to include their SIGMA ID in their grant application.

How do I get a SIGMA ID?

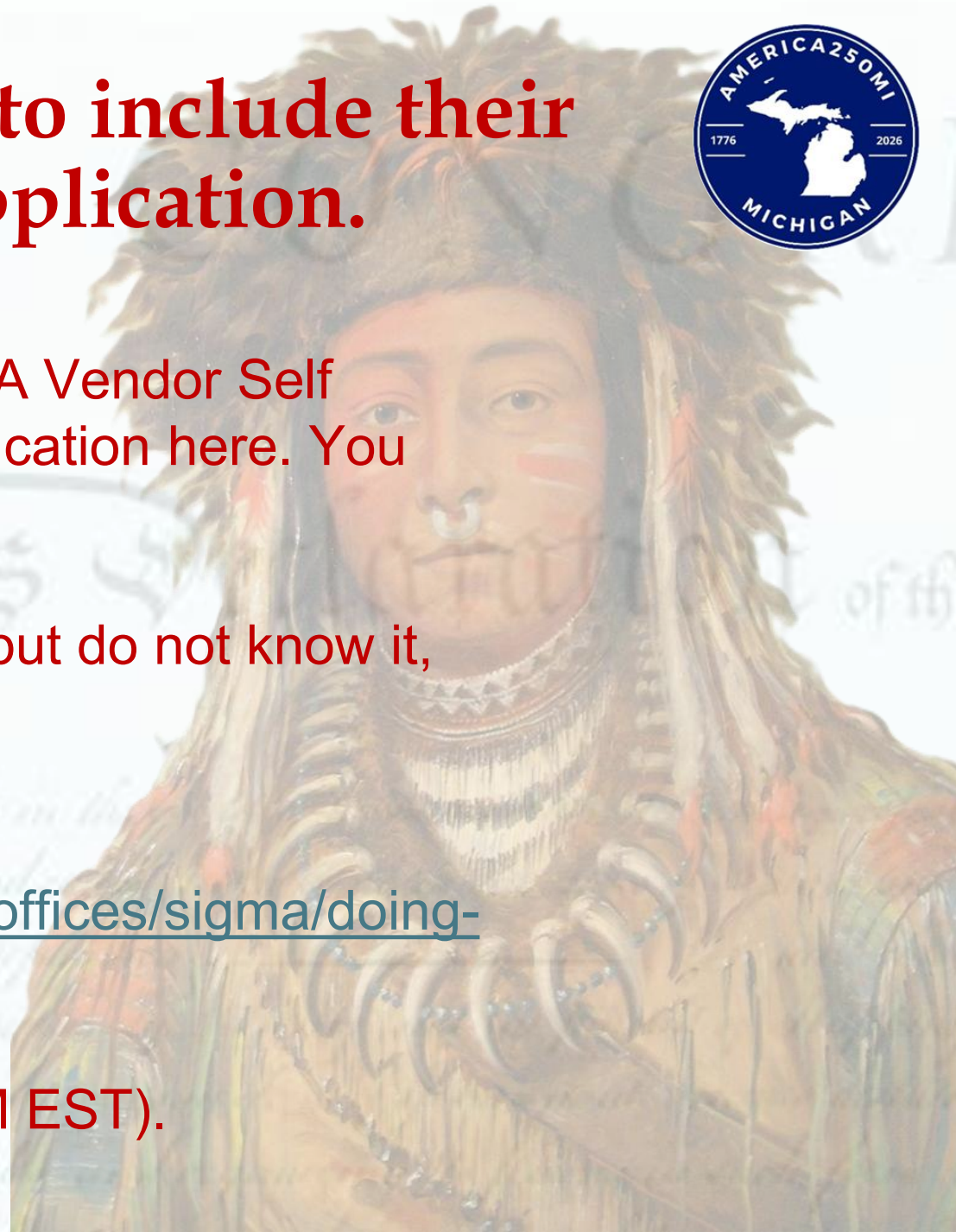
If you are not already registered for SIGMA Vendor Self Service, you can fill out an electronic application here. You will only have to do this process once.

If you already have a SIGMA ID number, but do not know it, follow these [follow these instructions](#).

For help with SIGMA VSS, visit

<https://www.michigan.gov/budget/budget-offices/sigma/doing-business-with-the-state>.

Or call 888-734-9749 (Mon.-Fri. 7AM-5PM EST).



Can I apply if I wasn't funded in Round 1?



Yes, applicants who did not receive grant funding in Round 1 can reapply with the same or a different project in Round 2.

Can I apply for Round 2 if I received a grant in Round 1?

Yes, successful grantees in Round 1 are eligible for Round 2 if the application is for a new project. Additional funding for projects that received grants in Round 1 is not available.



What are the funding amounts available?

There are three Grant Tier Levels:

Tier 1: \$2,500 to \$5,000

With no match

Tier 2: \$5,000 to \$25,000

With a 15% match

Tier 3: \$25,000 to \$50,000

With a 30% match





What is a Match?

A funding match is a financial contribution from your organization or partners that demonstrates commitment to the project. Eligible cash match may include partial cost of grant-funded items, separate contracts, purchase of equipment or supplies required to project completion.

Can staff time, volunteer hours, administrative overhead, or in-kind donations count towards the match for Tier 2 and Tier 3?

No, existing staff salaries, volunteer hours, administrative overhead, or in-kind donations cannot count towards the match for Tier 2 and Tier 3 projects.



What are the key factors that America250MI will consider in grant applications?

- 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 five 5 Guiding Themes.
- Collaborative partnerships with traditionally underrepresented communities are strongly encouraged.
- Projects must demonstrate originality and innovation.



What does interpret, preserve, or explore Michigan history mean?

- Interpret: Explain historical events, artifacts and narratives in a way that provides context and meaning to the public. This can include creating educational materials, developing exhibits, or facilitating discussions.
- Preserve: Safeguard and protect historical sites, artifacts, documents and traditions from deterioration or loss. This includes maintaining local museum practices.
- Explore: Investigate and study various aspects of Michigan's past. This can include researching historical events, collecting oral histories or cataloging collections.



What does lasting impact and enduring value mean?

Lasting impact and enduring value means a project that broadens people's understanding of Michigan history and our shared culture and delivers benefits that endure beyond the grant period. It should be outward-facing and widely beneficial to communities across Michigan, producing long-term significance such as lasting educational resources, ongoing programs, or preserved sites that continue to inform and engage people for years to come.



What are the America250MI 5 Guiding Themes?

The America250MI program is built on the 5 Guiding Themes that serve as a framework for exploring Michigan's rich history and the narratives that shape our identity.

These themes—*Unfinished Revolutions*, *Power of Place*, *We the People*, *American Experiment*, and *Doing History*—encourage us to dive into unheard stories, highlighting the experiences of marginalized communities and individuals throughout our state's journey.

By engaging with these themes, we not only celebrate our shared heritage but also foster a deeper understanding of the complexities in our past, paving the way for a better future.



What are the America250MI 5 Guiding Themes?

The American Experiment - How democracy has evolved and grown in Michigan

We the People - Celebrating the diverse voices that built our state

The Power of Place - Michigan's unique contributions to America through its geography, resources, and communities

Unfinished Revolutions - Our ongoing work toward equality and justice

Doing History - Preserving and sharing our stories for future generations

Successful applications will illustrate clearly how their project relates to the America250MI themes and the 250th anniversary.

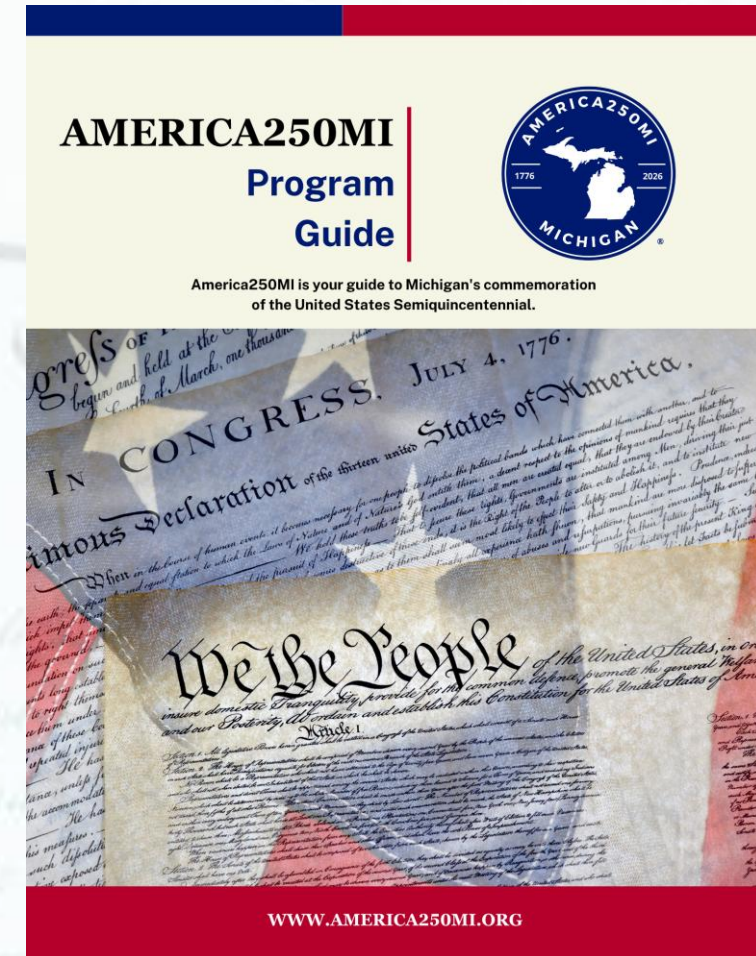
Where can I learn more about the 5 Guiding Themes?



America250MI Program Guide

This guide is your comprehensive resource for celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States right here in Michigan. Within this guide, you will find an in-depth exploration of our 5 Guiding Themes, which serve as the foundation of our celebration.

TIP: The 5 Guiding Themes will play a critical role in Round 2!





What does a collaborative partnership look like?

Projects should include partners wherever possible 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 with new community stakeholders should be central to collaborative projects.



What does an application look like that clearly defines partnerships and collaboration?

Projects should include partners and bring together stakeholders from across your community, especially with people or organizations you have never worked with before.

Successful applications will clearly define:

- The roles and expectations for each partner.
- Who is involved in the planning, development, and implementation of the project?
- What new partners are involved in the project?
- How will this project result in deeper relationships and long-term collaborations?
- TIP: Partnerships and collaboration will play a critical role in Round 2!



What are traditionally underrepresented communities?

Generally, underrepresented communities can be determined on a project-by-project basis. Typically, these are communities whose stories are not currently being told or can be told in a new way. These communities might lack access based on geography, economic conditions, cultural background, language, sociopolitical circumstances, ability, age or other factors. "Community" may refer to a group with common heritage or characteristics.

- Indigenous American Tribes - Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi
- African Americans and People of Color
- Arab Americans
- Women

- LGBTQ+
- People with Disabilities
- Rural Communities
- Low Income Communities
- Immigrant Communities
- Latinos and Hispanic Americans



What do originality and innovative mean?

Successful applicants will explain how their project is original for their organization, area of Michigan or the history field. Projects should include different perspectives with a finer nuance and complexity in interpretation.

Do projects have to be related to Michigan's history during the American Revolution?

No, projects are not required to be related to Michigan's history during the American Revolution (1700s), but they are required to be related to one or more of the America250MI 5 Guiding Themes and show new or deepening partnerships and collaboration.



What are some examples of projects that might be funded?

- A new exhibit or interpretive signs that focus on a story or community not yet represented at a museum or historic site.
- Buying equipment or storage materials for collections that will improve long-term preservation.
- Co-creating an educational curriculum with the community or group that the curriculum is focused on.
- Bricks and mortar work and/or conservation work on significant artifacts and historic sites.
- Purchasing software or hardware that will improve access to programs or collections.

What projects are NOT eligible for funding?



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





How will the timeline of the project be determined?

- Applicants must include a realistic timeline for the project as part of their application.
- After projects are selected for funding, grant officers will work with grantees to determine specific milestones based on the project scope and timeline proposed in the application.
- Expenses will be covered until December 30, 2026. Extensions due to project delays may be granted on a case-by-case basis.



How will I receive project funds?

- All funds will be distributed as reimbursements via SIGMA (Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Applications) Vendor Self Service monthly.
- SIGMA standardizes statewide budgeting processes, accounting activities, payment processing, bids and grant opportunities.
- Grantees will submit necessary receipts and documentation to the grant officers who will submit reimbursements in SIGMA.
- Until final completion of the project, 10% of the grant will be withheld for Tier 2 and 3.

Application Scoring

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



Tips from the Director



- If you are applying for Tier 2 or 3, do not forget to include your Match.
- Do not forget to submit your budget worksheet.
- Make sure that if you format your Excel budget worksheet into a PDF, that you check to make sure that your Match hasn't fallen off the page.
- If you are applying for tier 2 or 3, make sure that you fill out the correct application, and not the application for Tier 1.
- If you are part of larger organization, make sure that there is only one application submitted from that entire organization.

More Tips from the Director



- Be sure to include your 501(c)(3) letter from the IRS.
- Be sure that your finances add up.
- Make sure that your timeline is commensurate with your project.
- The 5 Guiding Themes, and Partnerships and Collaborations will play a critical role in Round 2!





In closing, what are we looking for?

Storytelling!

**2 Stories
Narrative
Work Plan and Finances**

5 Guiding Themes

**Unfinished Revolutions
Power of Place
We the People
American Experiment
Doing History**

Uncover Unheard Voices



In closing, what are we looking for?

Demonstrated ability to complete project

Outcomes, Impact and Access

Partnerships and collaboration

Originality and quality

Budget

Q & A

Newsletter and Social Media Campaign



VOICES OF MICHIGAN

The America250MI® Chronicle

Volume I - Issue I

Commemorating the Enduring Significance
of the Declaration of Independence

From 1776 to Present Day

Stay connected by signing up for our newsletter, where you'll receive the latest updates, stories, and insights about our ongoing efforts and upcoming events. Additionally, participate in our social media campaign to share your thoughts, experiences, and celebrations related to Michigan's rich history.



Thank you!

Co-Chairs

Amy Bradfield, Historical Society of Michigan

Jillian Reese, Michigan History Center



Project Director

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America250MI



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Office Hours: Located on Grant Portal