America250 NC

Buncombe County 250th Committee

Program Update – Spring 2026

Glenn Stach, RLA, ASLA – Program Director

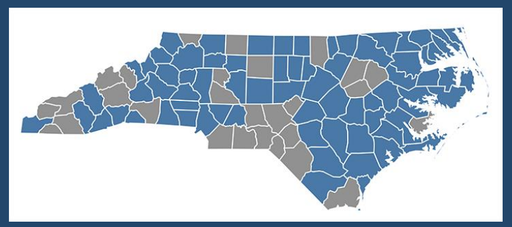
Jason Hyatt, Dir. Buncombe County Public Libraries – Ex Officio Program Sponsor

America250 NC

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources oversees the state's resources for the arts, history, libraries and nature. Divisions within DNCR include State Historic Sites, Museums, State Parks, Zoos, Aquariums, and more!

Through America250 NC, DNCR has several resources for counties throughout the state to commemorate the semiquincentennial. Those resources include…





America250 NC

Grant Programs

- Buncombe County received $10,000 to fund America 250 commemorative projects and activities

Traveling Exhibits

- People of Colonial North Carolina
- When Are We Us?
- Making Our Voices Heard
- One Day Wonders
- And several digital exhibits!

Primary Sources and Resources for Educators and Researches



A250 NC Event Calendar

NOV 13



Tot Time: Christmas in the...

10:00 am
Location
Museum of the Albemarle

NOV 13

Join the Conversation: Commemorating the Nation's 250th Anniversary in Buncombe County

Come hear about the status of the America 250 NC initiative and share how you would like to commemorate the anniversary.

Community Listening Session

6:00 pm
Location
GracePoint Church

NOV 15



Dedication Ceremony

11:00 am
Location
Colonel Andrew Balfour Cemetery

NOV 15



Revolutionary War Patriots...

11:00 am
Location
Colonel Andrew Balfour Cemetery

NOV 15 - NOV 15



Wreath Laying in Honor of...

11:00 am
Location
Gov. Richard Caswell Memorial, 2612 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, NC 28504

NOV 16



Statia Day Commemoration

2:00 pm
Location
Union Point Park

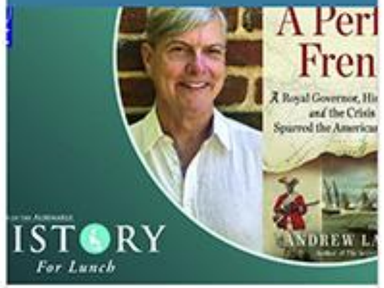
NOV 18

Preservation Durham
al Awards & Preservatio
uesday, November 18th 20
6-8 pm @ ReCity Netwo
.preservationdurham.com/

Preservation Durham Annual...

6:00 pm
Location
ReCity Network

NOV 19



History for Lunch: A...

12:00 pm
Location
Museum of the Albemarle

Buncombe County

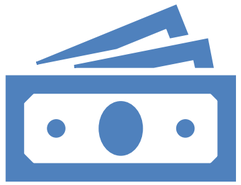
A250 Committee

NC DNCR – America250 NC “Ex Officio Sponsor”/ Glenn Stach - STACH pllc “Project Director” Anne Chesky, Dir. - Friends of WNC Museum of Culture and History “Project Fiscal Agent”
Jason Hyatt, Dir. Buncombe County Libraries ”County Liaison”



Organize

Committee



Grant Submission

Listening Sessions Across Buncombe County



Raise Awareness

& Build Partners



Encourage, Highlight

Programs

America250 NC
Buncombe County Libraries

Buncombe County Libraries

- Hosted “When are we US” Symposium on February 27
- Hosting “Making Our Voices Heard” exhibit at Pack Memorial Library through April 28

Explore Buncombe 250 Exhibits (6 Libraries)

- Pack Memorial Library
- East Asheville Library
- Fairview Library
- North Asheville Library
- South Buncombe Library
- West Asheville Library

Primary Sources and Resources for Educators and Researches

America250 NC

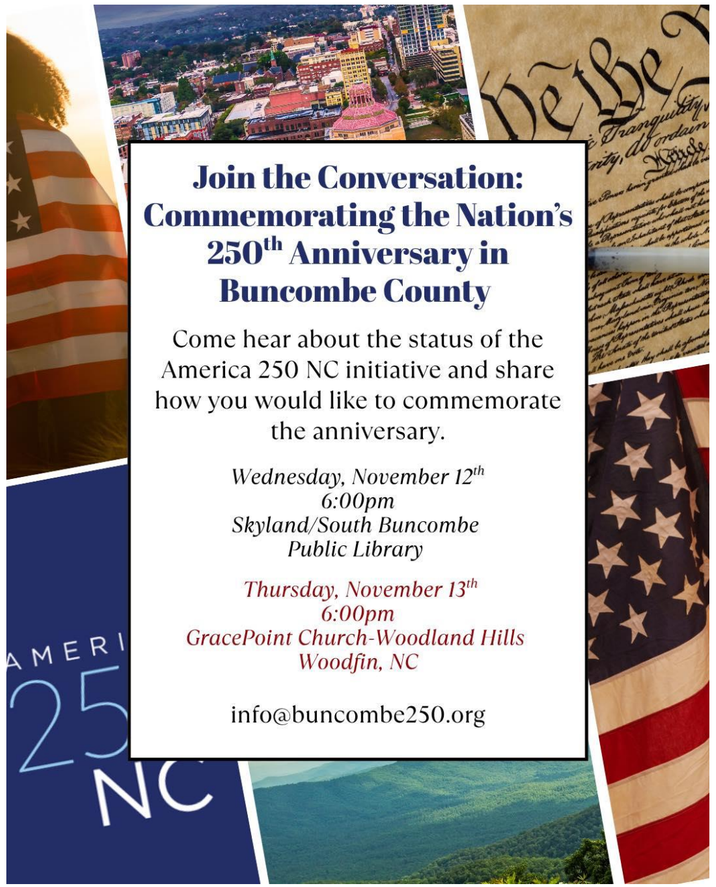
Buncombe County 250th Committee

Program Prospectus

Glenn Stach, RLA, ASLA – Program Director

America250 NC

Buncombe County LISTENING SESSIONS Fall 2025



Stated Areas of Interest

- **Liberty Tree/Beyond the Liberty Tree**: commemorative trees and WNC reforestation
- **Educational Programs**: school resources, civics, history
- **July Fourth Events**: Promote celebrations, traditions, and new ways to honor Independence Day
- **The Great American Potluck:** July 5th
- **Art:** Public art, RAD, performances, music, and creative interpretations of history
- **Tourism**: Showcasing Buncombe’s heritage, local businesses, historic sites, and regional culture

Stated Areas of Interest

- **Faith Communities**: Multicultural celebrations, observances of prayer, serving others
- **Countywide Day of Service Projects**: Coordinate among the area's many service partners for a goal of service for every resident
- **Library Exhibits and Speaker Series**
- **Main Street America:** Merchant window display (in July)
- **Food Events**: Promote local chefs include foods from our region and the different cuisines we celebrate

America250 NC

“BEYOND THE LIBERTY TREE”



AMERICA
250
NC
BUNCOMBE
COUNTY

BEYOND THE LIBERTY TREE

COMMEMORATING LIBERTY, RESTORING THE ENVIROMENT, EDUCATING THE FUTURE.

ROOTED IN HISTORY

The Liberty Tree was an iconic rallying point of the American Revolution and a hallmark of community and commemorative anniversaries from 1776 to the present. Through this Semiquincentennial program titled "Beyond the Liberty Tree" we seek to commemorate our nation's history and its "promise of liberty" through education and by placing a commemorative tree on North Carolina's civic spaces and increase ecological and environmental awareness through reforestation programs across areas devastated by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina.

100 Landmark Commemorative Trees (At least one in every NC County)

1:250

25,000 Reforestation Plantings in WNC (250 for every Landmark tree)

'Landmark' Tree Recommendations

Beyond the Liberty Tree - America250 NC Commemorative Tree Plantings



Dogwood | Carolina Silverbell | White Oak | Fringe Tree | Longleaf Pine | Live Oak



Source: NCpedia.org

Recommended Commemorative "Landmark' Tree Species By Eco Region:

Quercus virginiana - Southern Live Oak

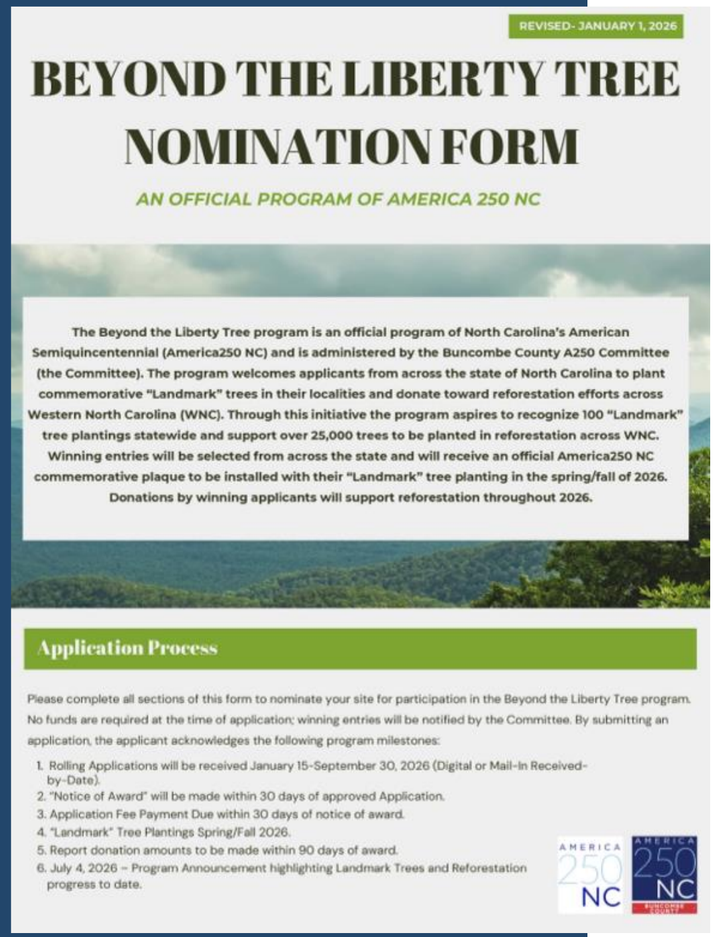
Pinus palustris - Longleaf Pine

Quercus alba - White Oak

Amelanchier arborea - White Fringe Tree

Halesia carolina - Carolina Silverbell (tree form)

Cornus florida 'Appalachian Spring' - Flowering Dogwood (or other anthracnose resistant varieties)



REVISED- JANUARY 1, 2026

BEYOND THE LIBERTY TREE NOMINATION FORM

AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF AMERICA 250 NC

The Beyond the Liberty Tree program is an official program of North Carolina's American Semiquincentennial (America250 NC) and is administered by the Buncombe County A250 Committee (the Committee). The program welcomes applicants from across the state of North Carolina to plant commemorative "Landmark" trees in their localities and donate toward reforestation efforts across Western North Carolina (WNC). Through this initiative the program aspires to recognize 100 "Landmark" tree plantings statewide and support over 25,000 trees to be planted in reforestation across WNC. Winning entries will be selected from across the state and will receive an official America250 NC commemorative plaque to be installed with their "Landmark" tree planting in the spring/fall of 2026. Donations by winning applicants will support reforestation throughout 2026.

Application Process

Please complete all sections of this form to nominate your site for participation in the Beyond the Liberty Tree program. No funds are required at the time of application; winning entries will be notified by the Committee. By submitting an application, the applicant acknowledges the following program milestones:

1. Rolling Applications will be received January 15-September 30, 2026 (Digital or Mail-In Received-by-Date).
2. "Notice of Award" will be made within 30 days of approved Application.
3. Application Fee Payment Due within 30 days of notice of award.
4. "Landmark" Tree Plantings Spring/Fall 2026.
5. Report donation amounts to be made within 90 days of award.
6. July 4, 2026 – Program Announcement highlighting Landmark Trees and Reforestation progress to date.

AMERICA 250 NC

AMERICA 250 NC BUNCOMBE COUNTY

1:250

The American Chestnut Foundation

A gift of $250 could cover the planting and care of roughly 50 open-pollinated wild chestnut trees. Learn more at: https://tacf.org

EcoForesters

A gift of $250 could buy 100 bare-root trees, or cover roughly one-acre of reforestation. Learn more at: https://www.ecoforesters.org

GreenWorks

A gift of $250 could buy roughly eight #3 gallon potted trees circulated directly to property owners. Learn more at: https://www.ashevillegreenworks.org

MountainTrue

A gift of $250 could buy 50 live-stake trees supporting reforestation. Learn more at: https://mountaintrue.org

RIVERLINK

A gift of $450 could restore roughly 150-200 linear feet of streambank including native riparian seed, lives stakes, and coir matting. Learn more at: https://riverlink.org





WWW.BUNCOMBECOUNTY250.ORG

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
JANUARY 15, 2026

ARTIST COMPETITION

CALLING ALL BUNCOMBE COUNTY ARTISTS — DESIGN A COMMEMORATIVE TREE PLAQUE

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary in Bunco County by creating a commemorative tree-plan plaque design that captures the spirit of North C and the resilience of the American spirit.

The America 250th NC Committee in Buncombe County invites local artists to bring their creativi the "Beyond the Liberty Tree" initiative — honor enduring legacy of liberty through tree planting across Buncombe County and beyond.

Submission Deadline: January 15, 2026

Questions?
Visit www.buncombecounty250.org or Email info@buncombe250.org



*America 250 NC is North Carolina's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of our state in the development of the United States. The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is the statewide entity charged with leadership of the commemoration for NC. The Buncombe County America250 NC Committee promotes engagement and involvment in America250 NC programs across Buncombe County NC.

America250 NC

EXPLORE BUNCOMBE 250



Explore 250

Explore Buncombe 250 Site Resources

Program Overview

The Explore Buncombe 250 program makes state resources available to the public by distributing materials created by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to participating locations and encouraging Buncombe County residents and visitors to visit local museums, libraries, and historic sites that reflect our shared history.

Participating historic sites and museums include the following locations:

- Buncombe County Libraries (Six Selected Locations)
- Dry Ridge Historical Museum
- Presbyterian Heritage Center
- Southern Highland Craft Guild – Folk Art Center
- Swannanoa Valley Museum
- Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site
- Vance Birthplace
- Western Regional Archives – DNCR Western Office
- YMI Cultural Center*
- Asheville Museum of History- Smith McDowell House*

**Sites still in coordination and development, awaiting approval.*

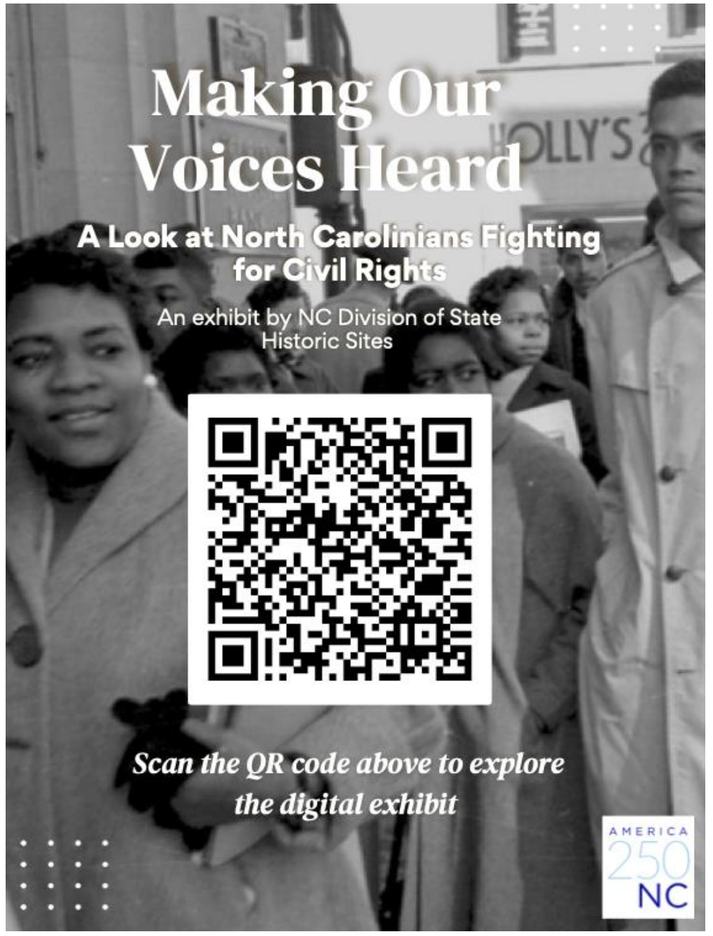
Through the America 250 NC grant received by the Buncombe County America 250 Committee and proceeds from the Beyond The Liberty Tree Program, select materials will be distributed to participating Explore Buncombe 250 sites to support community engagement and highlight the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States over the course of the commemorative period.

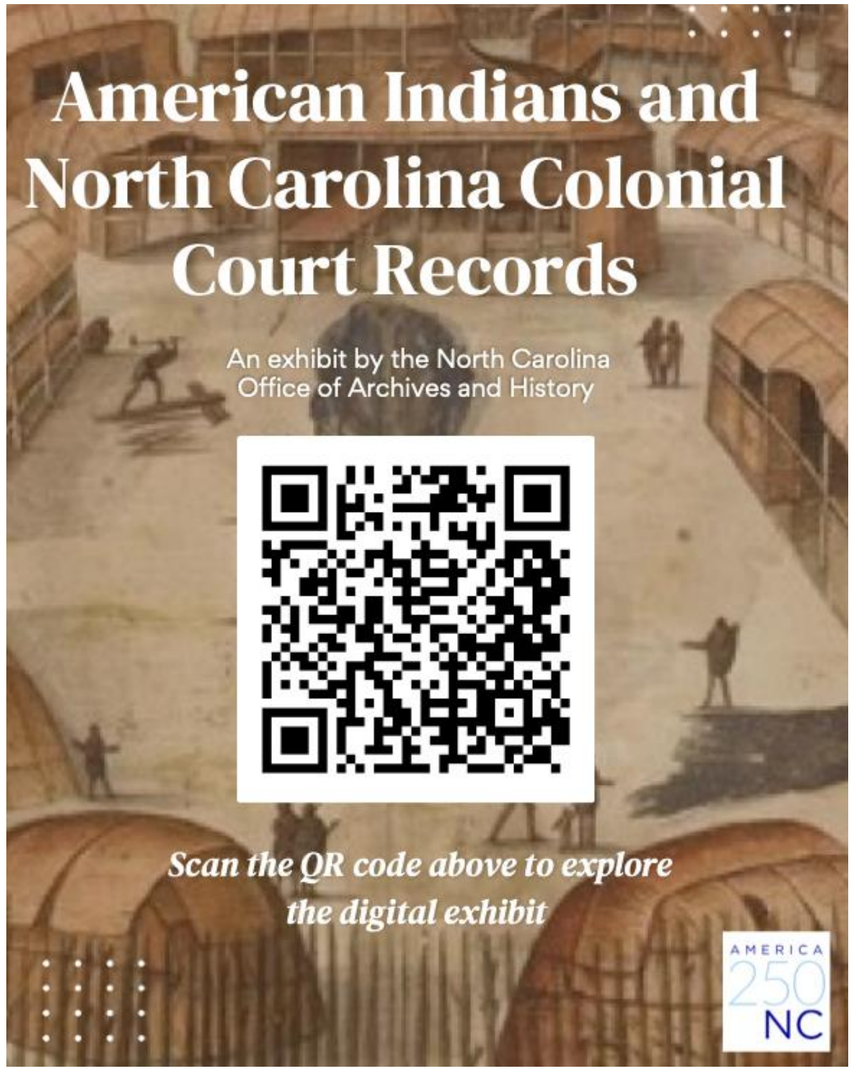
Materials Provided to Each Participating Site
Each participating location will receive the following America 250 NC branded materials, with a combined value of approximately $5,200 over all locations:



Explore 250


The Edenton Tea Party Resolves of 1774
An exhibit by the North Carolina Office of Archives and History
Scan the QR code above to explore the digital exhibit
AMERICA 250 NC


Making Our Voices Heard
A Look at North Carolinians Fighting for Civil Rights
An exhibit by NC Division of State Historic Sites
Scan the QR code above to explore the digital exhibit
AMERICA 250 NC


American Indians and North Carolina Colonial Court Records
An exhibit by the North Carolina Office of Archives and History
Scan the QR code above to explore the digital exhibit
AMERICA 250 NC

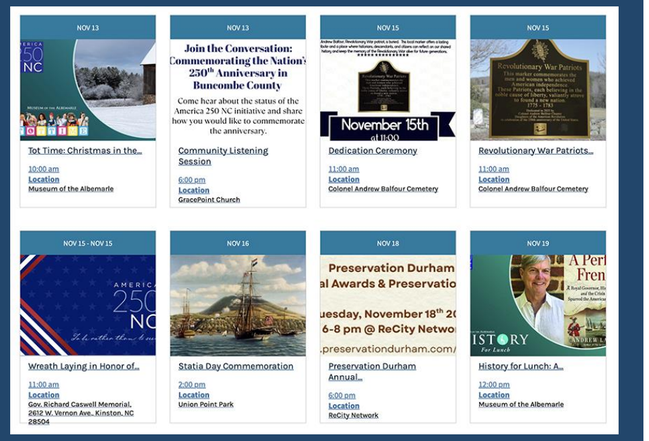
America250 NC

EXPERIENCE BUNCOMBE 250



Experience 250





April 24th - Arbor Day: Buncombe 250 will promote commemorative tree plantings made possible through the *Beyond the Liberty Tree* initiative.

May 7th - National Day of Prayer/Reflection: Faith communities and interested parties will be encouraged to host services and moments of reflection on our nation's past, present, and future.

July 4th: Buncombe 250 will encourage greater participation for events hosted by others on and surrounding the July 4th commemoration.

September 11th – National Day of Service: Buncombe 250 will encourage leading service organizations to host participation in a day of service on or by September 11, 2026 (Observance of the 25th anniversary 9/11).

September 17th - Constitution Day: Buncombe 250 will promote participation in Constitution Day programs hosted by local partners, including learning more about our founding documents at participating Explore Buncombe 250 sites.

November 11th - Veterans Day – Buncombe 250 will promote participation in programs by local partners to honor veterans.

How to Stay Involved

www.buncombe250.org

info@buncombe250.org