1776-2026

NEW YORK

250

COMMEMORATION GUIDE

ERIE COUNTY, NY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction

2 Structure & Organization

3 Budget & Funding Procedure

4 Commemoration Tool Kit

6 Power of Place

7 Reflection & Resilience

8 Innovation & Progress

9 Unfinished Revolutions

10 “We the People...”

11 Maintaining Democracy

12 Rights & Responsibilities

13 Changing Interpretations of the Revolution

14 Community Builders

15 State & Local Resources

INTRODUCTION

As New York State approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding in 2026, Erie County has a unique opportunity to honor this milestone through a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking commemoration. **NYS 250 is more than a celebration of the past**—it is a chance to reflect on the full scope of the American experience, recognize the diversity of our stories, and reaffirm the shared values that bind us as a community and a nation.

In Erie County, we bring our own rich heritage and local legacy to this broader narrative—from the deep roots of Indigenous nations, to the role of the Erie Canal in shaping the country's economic trajectory, to the region's pivotal contributions to social justice, innovation, and civic life— **Erie County's history *is* America's history.**

This guide is designed to support organizations, educators, cultural institutions, municipalities, and residents in developing programs and events that reflect the key themes of NYS 250 in a way that is meaningful, community-driven, and uniquely Erie County. Built around a framework of nine core themes and guided by four foundational values—Inclusion Through Interconnection, History and Heritage, Individual Patriotism, and Nonpartisanship—**this commemoration seeks to elevate diverse voices, spark civic engagement, and inspire the next generation of community builders.**

The themes in this guide range from "Power of Place," which explores how geography and local identity shape history, to "Unfinished Revolutions," which urges us to examine the ongoing struggles for equity and justice. Other themes, such as "Community Builders," "Innovation and Progress," and "Changing Interpretations of the Revolution," invite both reflection and imagination, connecting the past to the possibilities of the future. Each section includes suggested programs, individual actions, and celebration ideas designed to be adaptable across institutions and audiences.

Ultimately, this guide is a call to action. It invites every person in Erie County—from students and elders to civic leaders and artists—to take part in a shared journey of remembering, learning, and imagining. **By commemorating 250 years of history through a lens that is inclusive, participatory, and locally grounded, we honor not only the nation's past but its ongoing evolution—and our vital role in shaping its future.**

-The Erie County Historical Commission NYS 250 Committee

STRUCTURE & ORGANIZATION

The Erie County Historical Commission's 250th initiative is structured to promote collaboration, inclusivity, and shared leadership across the region's public history community as it plans and implements activities for the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The ECHC 250 Steering Committee is leading the county's commemoration efforts by providing overall guidance, coordination, and vision. The steering committee is responsible for ensuring that the working groups have the support they need and that programs and projects align with the county's broader goals of civic engagement, inclusivity, and historical reflection.

WORKING GROUPS

Working under the steering committee are nine thematic working groups, each aligned with one of the official Erie County 250 themes. Each working group focuses on developing programs, partnerships, and events tied to its theme, ensuring a balanced and community-driven approach across the commemoration.

Each of the nine working groups will have a designated chair who facilitates the group's meetings, coordinates collaborative projects, and serves as the main point of contact with the 250 Steering Committee. Chairs will meet regularly with the steering committee to share updates, align plans, and identify opportunities for collaboration across themes. This structure ensures that all thematic efforts remain connected, efficient, and strategically consistent across Erie County.

MEMBERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Working groups are composed of members from the Heritage Partners & Collaborations Subcommittee of the ECHC, along with representatives from museums, archives, cultural organizations, educational institutions, and independent historians. Participation is open to anyone engaged in history and heritage work within Erie County, reflecting the inclusive and cooperative spirit of the 250 effort.

IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION

Active participation in the working groups is vital to the success of the 250 initiative. The county's commemoration depends on broad collaboration to ensure diverse perspectives and shared ownership of the celebration. By working together—across institutions, disciplines, and communities—the working groups embody the very ideals of the 250th: unity, progress, and a shared commitment to understanding and preserving the complex history of Erie County and the United States

BUDGET & PROJECT FUNDING

ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUNDING ALLOCATION PROCEDURE

For fiscal year 2026, the Erie County Historical Commission will be the body recommending the distribution of New York State 250 funds, as well as Erie County funding for our community's 250 commemoration. All New York State and Erie County funding specifically for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence will be subject to the approval of the Office of the Erie County Executive and the Erie County Legislature.

In an effort to ensure all funds are used efficiently and in a timely manner, we are establishing procedures to create a memorable, impactful, and inclusive anniversary year. Each working group shall make recommendations to the Executive Office for public programs, exhibits, speaker series, panel discussions, events, parades, ceremonies, honorariums, signage, historic markers, history trails, re-enactments, and other activities that align with the goals of the 250th commemoration as laid out in the 250th Commemoration Guide.

Priority should be placed on initiatives that result in public events, educational experiences, and opportunities that engage large sections of our community.

A formal application process will take place in early 2026 for program funding. Other opportunities, such as microgrants or legacy projects, are also available to working groups. More information will be announced in the coming months.

COMMEMORATION TOOL KIT

While the themes shape our community-wide commemoration, four core values—Inclusion Through Interconnection, History and Heritage, Individual Patriotism, and Nonpartisanship—form the foundation of all programming. These principles, known as our Commemoration Tool Kit, ensure unity across events and create a celebration that reflects the full diversity of Erie County.

By centering these values, the 250th becomes more than a historical tribute—it becomes a catalyst for deeper civic engagement and a lasting sense of shared purpose. This approach encourages pride, reflection, and participation, helping build a stronger, more inclusive community for future generations.

HISTORY & HERITAGE

As the state and the country mark 250 years since their founding, understanding the events that shaped our identity becomes essential. History provides context for contemporary society, highlighting the struggles, triumphs, and values that have been passed down through generations. By revisiting critical moments, we can appreciate the sacrifices made for freedom and justice. This awareness fosters a sense of pride and responsibility, encouraging citizens to engage actively in preserving democratic ideals and social equity.

Heritage shapes both our national and local stories, reflecting the diverse cultures, traditions, and experiences that define the American experience. NYS 250 offers a chance to honor this diversity and recognize our strength in shared, multifaceted history. In Erie County, heritage also includes the unique elements of our regional identity—from food and traditions to sports and neighborhood pride. Understanding these roots fosters unity, deepens appreciation, and connects past to present. More than a historical reflection, this celebration is a call to action—to recognize our role in shaping a stronger, more inclusive future.

PATRIOTISM THROUGH INDIVIDUAL ACTION

The NYS 250 celebration offers a unique opportunity for individuals to express their patriotism through small, meaningful actions that contribute positively to their communities. Patriotism is not solely defined by grand gestures; it can also be demonstrated in everyday actions that strengthen social bonds and enhance the fabric of our neighborhoods.

Patriotism is powerfully expressed through everyday actions—volunteering, mentoring, supporting neighbors, or participating in civic efforts like voter registration. These acts of service embody our civic values and strengthen community bonds.

NYS 250 is a reminder that democracy thrives when individuals take part. Small acts of patriotism inspire others, creating a ripple effect of goodwill. By committing to service and engagement, we honor our nation's ideals and help build a more inclusive, respectful, and united society.

INCLUSION THROUGH INTERCONNECTION

The theme of Inclusion Through Interconnection invites us to view history as a shared, diverse, and interwoven narrative. Rather than isolated stories, our collective past is shaped by the experiences and contributions of Indigenous Peoples, African Americans, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and others—all of whom are essential to the nation's development.

NYS 250 offers a chance to honor these connections, recognizing how our histories intersect to create a rich mosaic of culture and identity. By uplifting diverse voices, we foster unity, resilience, and understanding across communities.

Through storytelling, cultural exchange, and community dialogue, this theme encourages reflection on how our shared past can inspire a more inclusive and equitable future—where every story is valued as part of the American journey.

We strongly encourage that programming, mapping, signage, exhibits, etc., which involve the stories, experiences, or ancestral and/or current lands of specific communities, including but not limited to Indigenous, Black, LGBTQ+, and other communities, working groups should seek participation and guidance to ensure these communities are collaborators, not subjects.

NONPARTISANSHIP

The themes of history, heritage, and community engagement in the NYS 250 celebration can be implemented in nonpartisan and apolitical ways by fostering an inclusive environment that encourages all individuals to participate in meaningful discussions and activities. By focusing on shared values such as respect, collaboration, and appreciation for diversity, planners can create opportunities for citizens to explore their collective narratives without political bias. Educational initiatives can emphasize storytelling, cultural expressions, and collaborative projects that highlight the richness of the community's history and heritage. Additionally, creating platforms for dialogue and community-building encourages individuals from various backgrounds to connect and collaborate on initiatives that celebrate their shared experiences and aspirations. This approach not only strengthens community ties but also cultivates a sense of belonging that transcends political affiliations, reaffirming the foundational ideals that unite all Americans.

POWER OF PLACE

Political boundaries, geographic boundaries, and the natural world impact the course of historical events. This region has been home to a diverse group of people across time whose relationship with the natural environment has shaped their story. From the Indigenous communities who first called these lands home to the establishment of Buffalo as a transshipment center, the power of place has been central to our story.

Erie County's identity is shaped by its geography—bordering the Great Lakes and straddling the cultural divide between the Midwest and Northeast. Its landscapes have influenced conflict, economy, and community growth. The 250th offers a chance to reflect on how people and place are connected, encouraging us to revisit the history held in our natural and built environments and uncover a shared past through the spaces that define us. It also provides the opportunity to explore how the preservation of space, particularly space in which an important event took place, reflects social values and community memory.

THE GOAL: Reflect on Erie County's cultural, civic, and historical landscape while celebrating our multi-ethnic, multi-generational past and encouraging connection to place.

ORGANIZATIONS

- "Roots of Erie" Local History Series: Monthly panels featuring historians, elders, and cultural leaders covering Indigenous histories, immigrant journeys, and industrial growth, and how they physically shaped our communities.
- Identify locations that still need historic markers or signage to highlight their historical significance.
- School-based mapping activities highlighting Buffalo Creek, Niagara River, Lake Erie, and historic population patterns.
- Exhibits that incorporate historic maps, oral histories, and artwork showcasing the evolution of land use over time.
- Exploration of local place names (e.g., Scajaquada, Tonawanda) and their origins.
- Development of a Trail of History to connect locations that influenced migration to Erie County and highlight Indigenous communities.

INDIVIDUALS

- Adopt a Historic Site initiative: maintain, research, or help support a local landmark.
- Share photos and short captions of meaningful local places on social media under a shared hashtag #MyErieCo250.
- Explore the history of the places that are meaningful in your own life.
- Beautify the places that matter to you by organizing community clean-up efforts or volunteering on restoration projects.

REFLECTION & RESILIENCE

Reflection allows us to look back on the country's tumultuous history, acknowledging both triumphs and tribulations. It invites us to examine the diverse narratives that have shaped our national identity, from the founding ideals of liberty and justice to the ongoing struggles for equality and civil rights. This introspection is crucial for understanding the complexities of America's past.

Resilience, on the other hand, speaks to the enduring spirit of the American people. Throughout history, challenges such as wars, economic crises, and social injustices have tested the nation, yet time and again, people have risen to the occasion, demonstrating remarkable strength and adaptability. As we honor 250 years of American history, it is vital to recognize that resilience is not just about bouncing back from adversity but about building a more robust foundation for the future. This celebration serves as a reminder of our capacity to overcome challenges and innovate, reinforcing the belief that while we are shaped by our past, our future is forged through determination, creativity, and unity.

OUR GOAL:

Encourage a balanced remembrance of historical challenges and how our communities have persevered.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Coordinate a Resilience Through Time public forum series on civil rights, economic shifts, community emergencies, health crises, and environmental disasters.
- Commission public art installations that honor the resilience of our local communities.
- Utilize partnerships with Genealogy societies, cemeteries, and other local groups to share records, tell stories, and preserve family history.
- Scanning days to save family records with mobile digitization centers
- Oral history gathering to seek out stories that may not be preserved in museums.
- Digital Timeline of Local Resilience: Archive major events such as economic downturns, civil rights milestones, and pandemic response with first-person accounts.

INDIVIDUALS

- Contribute your oral history about lived experiences during past and present periods of resilience.
- Facilitate or attend healing spaces like vigils, storytelling circles, or restorative justice workshops.
- Document and preserve the stories of resilience within your family or community.
- Connect more deeply with your family history through genealogy and learning more about the events your ancestors lived through.

INNOVATION & PROGRESS

As the country marks its 250th anniversary, innovation and progress stand out as defining themes of our local and national journey. From the Erie Canal to everyday technological breakthroughs, Erie County has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's advancement in engineering, governance, and social change.

The 250th is a chance to honor the diverse innovators—scientists, artists, educators, and activists—whose forward-thinking has driven national growth. It also highlights how progress is rooted in the lived experiences of communities across the country. Erie County's stories of resilience and ingenuity reflect the broader American spirit.

This milestone invites reflection on past achievements and dialogue about the future. As we confront challenges like climate change, healthcare, and social equity, the 250th calls on new voices to shape a more inclusive and adaptive path forward—ensuring the promise of innovation continues for generations to come.

THE GOAL: Honor Erie County's contributions to American ingenuity and cultivate future change makers.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Curate exhibits spotlighting inventors, social entrepreneurs, and artists.
- Erie Futures Lab: a STEM innovation fair where youth design solutions to challenges tied to Erie County's future, such as climate change, infrastructure, and the future of industry.
- Recognize historic and contemporary Erie County residents whose work changed their field.
- Partner with current industry leaders located within Erie County to highlight the important role they continue to play in everyday life.
- Inspire the next generation of inventors, engineers, and scientists through the stories of people just like them in our community.
- Create opportunities for hands-on innovation by allowing students to experience the before & after of major innovations.

INDIVIDUALS

- Share stories of family inventions or innovations.
- Explore the region's rich industrial, technological, and scientific history.
- Work with friends or community groups to identify a local problem and brainstorm solutions you could implement.

UNFINISHED REVOLUTIONS

The Founders declared "all men are created equal" with unalienable rights to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness," yet at the nation's founding, these rights only applied to certain people. Women, enslaved people, Indigenous Peoples, and the poor were excluded, and New York remained a slave state until 1827. The Constitution's amendability has since allowed progress toward greater equality.

Over 250 years, Erie County has been a battleground for freedom and justice—from Indigenous sovereignty and emancipation to women's suffrage, the Underground Railroad, workers' rights, civil rights, and environmental activism. Recognizing these movements alongside the Revolution broadens commemoration beyond battles and political elites, engaging communities often left out of traditional narratives.

THE GOAL: Highlight ongoing struggles for justice and equality and broaden the narrative of American freedom.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Host a "Local Revolutions" exhibit**:** Curate displays on lesser-known local activists and movements—women's suffrage leaders, Indigenous advocates, abolitionists, labor organizers, civil rights activists, and environmental pioneers from your area.
- Partner with schools to create a Living History Project on civil rights activism in Erie County.
- Democracy Amplified Fellowship: Engage youth and community leaders to propose modern "unfinished revolutions" and create policy or public awareness campaigns.
- Oral History Collection Project: Record and archive interviews with community members who have participated in social justice movements, labor struggles, or environmental advocacy.
- Public Forum Series Continuing the Revolution**,** panel discussions featuring historians, community leaders, and activists to connect historical struggles for equality with ongoing local issues.
- Freedom Film Festival to screen documentaries and films about various revolutionary movements, followed by facilitated discussions on their local relevance.

INDIVIDUALS

- Participate in or organize advocacy events related to civil rights or equity.
- Volunteer with Local Advocacy Groups or commit time to organizations working on current social justice, environmental, or community equity issues.
- Organize or join intergenerational story exchanges where community members share first-hand accounts of lived experiences and participants discuss today's movements.

WE THE PEOPLE...

"We the People of the United States…" So begins the 1787 Constitution, rooted in Revolutionary ideals yet authored by wealthy white men. While its promises excluded many, its principles inspired ongoing struggles to broaden citizenship. The definition of "citizen" has changed throughout history, as has what it means to be an American.

For the past 250 years, many have fought to expand the meaning of citizenship to incorporate people of diverse backgrounds more fully into the political, economic, and cultural life of the nation. While there is more work to be done, great progress has been made. This anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the diverse cultures that contributed to Erie County's history, recognizing the contributions of various groups and the influence they have had on the region's development. It is also an opportunity to discuss the further efforts required to ensure "We the People…" means all the people.

THE GOAL: Examine how American identity has evolved, who constitutes the American people, and what does citizenship mean today?

ORGANIZATIONS

- Portraits of Belonging: A multimedia installation celebrating the faces and stories of Erie County citizens—from refugees to veterans, artists to teachers.
- Community Quilt or Banner-invite groups to create squares or panels representing their heritage and contributions to the region, assembling them into a public art piece.
- Hold an Immigrant Heritage Festival event featuring food, music, and storytelling from the different cultural groups that have influenced Erie County's development.
- Interactive Settlement Map- create a digital map that shows how different areas in our community were settled by different immigrant groups. Explore how that shaped the community culture in each of those areas.
- Panel discussion and/or pop-up genealogy with area genealogical societies to help individuals better understand their own history.
- Partner with local cemeteries to hold events that explore the final resting places of the people who built our communities.

INDIVIDUALS

- Trace your roots, explore the cultural heritage of your family, and learn more about their American experience.
- Participate in Oral History Interviews with local museums to record your memories of community traditions.
- Participate in Heritage Celebrations and learn more about the cultures represented in Erie County.

We the People
ERIE COUNTY. NY

MAINTAINING DEMOCRACY

The 250th is a pivotal moment to reflect on democracy's past and future, reminding us that it thrives through civic participation. As we mark 250 years of history, this anniversary highlights both the achievements of our democracy and the responsibility of citizens to sustain it. Voting, community involvement, and public dialogue ensure that our founding values endure and that rights are protected.

This commemoration also emphasizes the need for a strong civic culture to secure a vibrant future. It can inspire citizens—especially younger generations—to recognize their role in shaping policy and community life. Democracy is not a static inheritance but a living process that demands ongoing dedication. By engaging during this anniversary, we reaffirm that democracy flourishes when everyone contributes their voice and effort.

THE GOAL: Reinforce civic engagement as a foundation of democracy through participation and education.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Living Document Project - Workshops that partner with educators to help students and adults examine Constitutional amendments and landmark cases through interactive activities.
- Host a Youth Civics Institute to train young people in advocacy, public speaking, and local government engagement, tying lessons to historical examples.
- Host a panel discussion with local elected officials and policymakers to discuss the legislative process.
- Establish a Civics Conservation Corps where teens and college students can work on civic outreach and voter engagement projects.
- Host nonpartisan voter registration and education drives.
- Hold a Constitution Day (September 17th) program to continue the conversation about maintaining our democracy.
- Offer Civic Skills Workshops (e.g., how to write to a representative, organize an event, or attend a public hearing).

INDIVIDUALS

- Register to vote and help neighbors do the same.
- Learn about your voting options and make a plan to vote through a mail-in ballot, at any early voting location, or on election day at your designated polling place.
- Take young family members to vote at an Erie County KidsVoting location.
- Attend town halls, school board meetings, or budget hearings
- Help register voters and assist with transportation or information drives.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The theme of Rights and Responsibilities reflects the core of our nation's founding principles. The 250th invites us to reflect on the rights secured through sacrifice and service, and to honor those—especially veterans and public servants—who fought to protect them. These rights, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, remind us of our duty to uphold and extend them for all.

This anniversary is also a call to embrace our responsibilities: voting, community service, military service, activism, and civic participation. By engaging in these duties, we safeguard the freedoms we value and strengthen our democracy. The dual focus on rights and responsibilities honors our past while inspiring a renewed commitment to a more inclusive and equitable future.

THE GOAL: Highlight ongoing struggles for justice and equality and broaden the narrative of American freedom.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Veteran & Public Servant Story Archive: Record oral histories from service members, teachers, judges, and local officials.
- Organize a tour or field trip to see a courthouse, jail, county building, legislature, etc, to show students the chambers and how our government works.
- Host an event to honor veterans and/or first responders to thank those who protect rights through service.
- Rights & Responsibilities Civic Fair- Partner with nonprofits and public agencies to host a community fair featuring voter registration, volunteer opportunities, and civic education booths.
- Organize community-wide service days where individuals can contribute to projects that strengthen community life.
- Toward a More Perfect Union Exhibit- Create a museum or library exhibit showing how rights have expanded over time, paired with stories of those who fought to secure them.

INDIVIDUALS

- Volunteer locally by committing time to schools, shelters, food banks, or neighborhood clean-up efforts as an expression of civic responsibility.
- Know Your Rights by learning about the Bill of Rights, amendments, and local laws, then share this knowledge with others.
- Reread our nation's foundational documents like the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights.
- Participate in the Erie County 250 Medal of Service program by logging 250 hours of community service in 2026. Participants will be recognized for their service.

CHANGING INTERPRETATIONS OF THE REVOLUTION

The 250th is an opportunity for local government historians, academics, historical sites, museums, and social studies teachers to renew public engagement in the field and practice of history. It presents an opportunity to explain to our audiences what historians do and how we do it. It offers the chance to illustrate how interpretations of history evolve over time as new sources and perspectives emerge.

The 250th allows us to illustrate to our audiences how and why these interpretations evolve and the complexity of the historian's task in interpreting evidence and crafting a narrative of the past. This can be an opportunity to engage with those who believe the history we teach now is different from what they learned in school. By exploring the way historians add to the narrative, we can begin to bridge the divide.

THE GOAL: To help the public understand how new sources, perspectives, and methods continually reshape our understanding of history.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Hold behind-the-scenes exhibit tours with the historians who wrote the content and ask them to discuss the process of writing the narrative.
- History of History Exhibit: Display past textbooks, museum labels, novels, movies, images, or historical pamphlets to reveal how revolutionary stories were told in 1876, 1926, 1976, and today to illustrate changing perspectives.
- Host a Bridge Building Forum to discuss the way different historical topics have been taught over time, allowing historians and the public to explore evolving interpretations together.
- What We Thought We Knew Speaker Series: Host programs where scholars present once-accepted "facts" now re-evaluated or myths that have been overturned.
- Teacher Workshops: Offer professional development for educators on how to teach historical interpretation as an evolving process rather than a fixed story.

INDIVIDUALS

- Host or join book clubs or discussion groups, reading different biographies of the same figure to compare perspectives.
- Attend a program that explores how our understanding of history evolves over time.
- Continue your own historical education by visiting museums or reading recent historical publications.

Changing Interpretations of Erie County, NY 250 The Revolution

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

As Erie County celebrates this 250-year milestone, the theme of "Community Builders" emerges as a vital element in fostering a sense of shared identity, empowerment, and collective progress. These individuals and groups play an essential role in strengthening the social fabric of the community, making their contributions pivotal for this commemoration.

Community builders include a diverse range of individuals—from local leaders, activists, and educators to volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to enhancing the welfare of their communities. By showcasing prominent figures in Erie County who have dedicated themselves to community improvement, the celebration can illustrate the power of grassroots efforts in creating lasting change and the ability of individuals to change the course of history.

THE GOAL: To honor those whose leadership, service, contributions, and grassroots efforts have strengthened Erie County's social fabric and advanced collective progress.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Community Builders: Establish a diverse group of 250 individuals who contributed to the development of Erie County and beyond.
- Develop an interactive digital or physical Local Heroes Story Map that marks locations connected to community builders—schools, churches, nonprofits, parks, or neighborhood centers.
- Wall of Builders- temporary or permanent public display (physical or digital) honoring those nominated as community builders.
- Collaboration with local faith-based institutions to host a Faith & Service Week to highlight their role as community builders through service projects and storytelling.
- Partner with local historians and community members to offer guided tours or a doors open event that highlights grassroots change-makers and the spaces important to their work.
- Establish a Community Builders Trail of permanent interpretive signage across neighborhoods, marking sites of civic importance and grassroots leadership.

INDIVIDUALS

- Nominate a Community Builder by submitting the names and stories of local individuals who deserve recognition for their work strengthening Erie County.
- Take small steps like checking in on a neighbor, supporting local businesses, or welcoming new residents, that strengthen bonds in your community.
- Post a short essay, poem, or social media tribute honoring a neighbor, teacher, or volunteer who made a difference in your life.

NEW YORK STATE
250TH COMMISSION

The New York State 250th Commemoration Commission was established under the New York State 250th Commemoration Act, Section 14.12 (Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (PAR) CHAPTER 36-B, TITLE C, Article 14).

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ERIE COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Erie County Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of Erie County, NY. Our mission is to honor the stories of our community, its people, and its legacy by creating opportunities for engagement through historical events, commemorations, and educational initiatives.

We aim to inspire an appreciation for our shared past and its impact on the present by connecting residents and visitors with the milestones and narratives that shaped our county.

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ERIE COUNTY RESOURCES

Erie County Arts & Cultural Funding

The Department of Environment and Planning's Division of Planning provides financial assistance and strategic focus and direction to Erie County's cultural sector to promote the economic and cultural benefits of the County's tourism, arts, culture, and heritage industry.

Erie County Parks

The system is comprised of 40 sites throughout the County, and provides for recreational sports fields, lawns, green spaces, buildings, and shelters that can be used for programs and events.

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Get extra help and support with RSVP, a program that partners with local businesses and organizations to create amazing opportunities for people 55 and over to make a difference in their community through volunteer service.

University Express

List your speaker or panel programs as part of University Express. The program promotes and offers free educational classes for older adults in Erie County. Eligible topics include current affairs, history, humanities, finance and medicine.

ERIE COUNTY

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AMERICA 250

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1776 - 2026

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL