

MOMENTS THAT MADE US

Our story was never inevitable. We shaped it at every turn.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE



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Introduction

What is Moments That Made US?

Moments That Made US is a free, print-on-demand exhibition that explores the ideals at the heart of the Declaration of Independence through moments from our nation’s 250 years that have defined their meaning. Developed through a multi-state collaboration using material from an exhibition of the same name created by History Colorado, *Moments that Made US* features a user-friendly format that organizations can adapt, afford, and make their own.

How Does it Work?

The kit includes digital files for 23 ready-to-use exhibit panels. There is one introductory panel, a panel featuring an image of the Declaration of Independence, five “thematic” panels, and three “historic moments” panels for each theme. Some additional panels featuring “historic moments” related to your state or region may be available from statewide partners.

Planners have intentionally designed this exhibition to allow organizations to consider their space and audience, and display as many or as few of the provided panels as desired. Templates will also be available for users to add their own local stories and content. Because the digital files will be free to use, printing and mounting are the only out-of-pocket expenses to participating organizations.

Statewide Partners

Thank you to our statewide partners who are committed to helping facilitate this opportunity in their state by helping with distribution of the files and designating a statewide point-of-contact for questions or inquiries from the public. *See the directory at the end of this guide for contact information.*

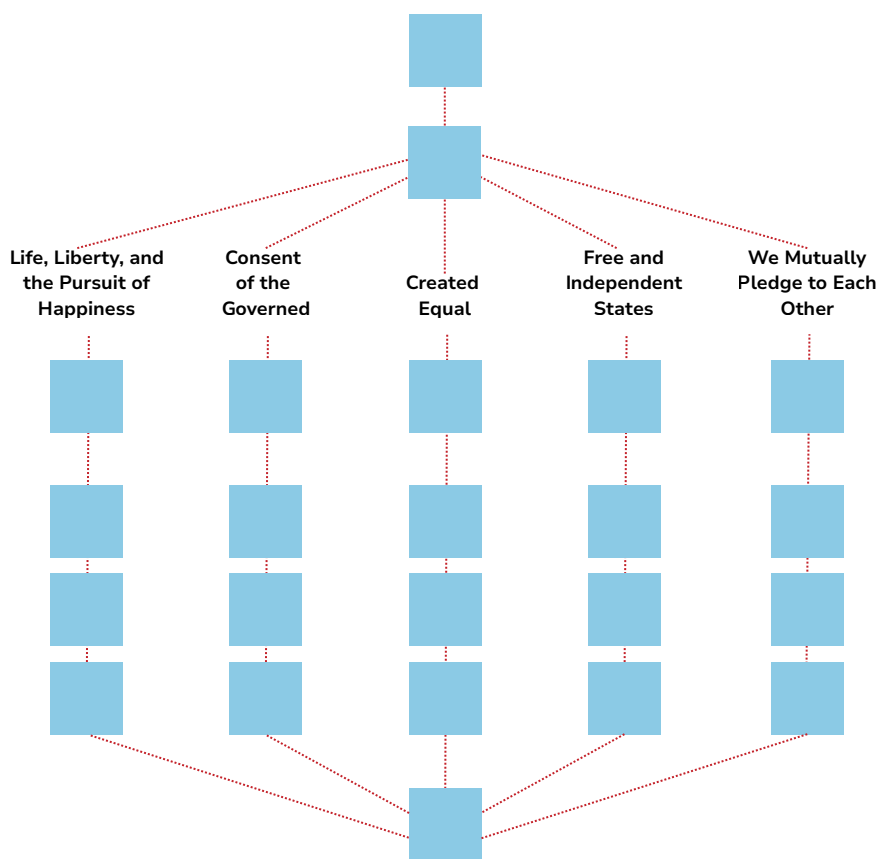
Any community in any state can access the ready-to-use content and create their own customizations. whether their state is a participating partner or not.



Core Panel Kit

The exhibit is completely modular, meaning each of the core panels is designed to stand on its own so users can mix-and-match any combination of panels. **All provided content is optional to use.** The core 23 panels will not be editable by user organizations, but blank templates will be provided for users to create additional panels to add their own content to their version of the exhibition.

Core panels will be designed to be printed at a scale of 24" wide by 36" tall allowing for easy production through self-service printing stores.



*An **opening** panel will introduce the exhibition and the five themes selected from the Declaration of Independence*

*The **Declaration** panel will feature an image of the Declaration of Independence document*

*Each **theme** will have its own establishing panel*

*Three "**moments**" panels under each theme will interpret our nation's history through a Western states lens*

*A **reflection** panel will provide audience questions with an option to add an oral history component*

Content Selection

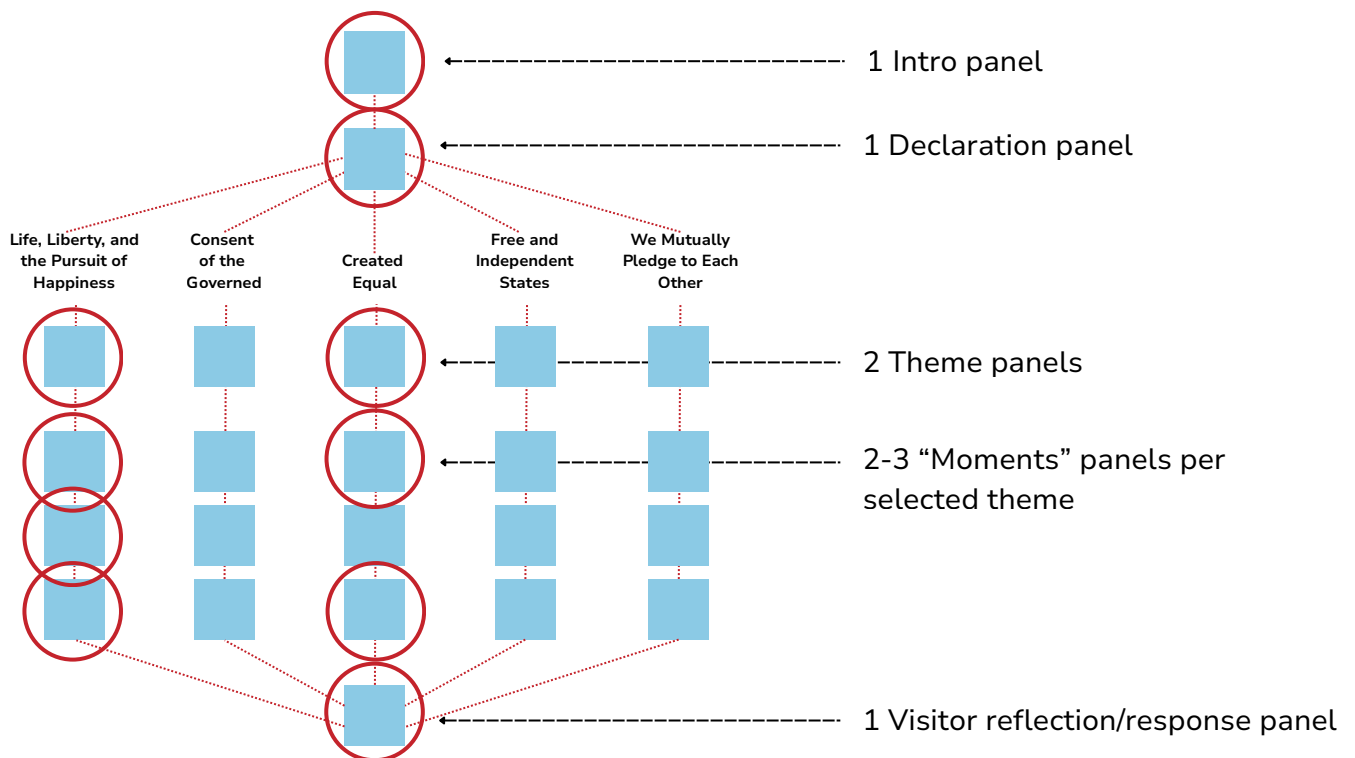
This exhibit is designed to be customized in three primary ways:

1. **Mix-and-match** the ready-to-use content to create your own version of the core exhibition, large or small.
2. **Add content from a statewide partner.** Some participating states are enhancing the exhibition by providing other ready-to-use regional or state “moments” panels that further illustrate each Declaration theme. Users from any state can add this material if desired.
3. **Add your own content.** Locally generated content or adaptations can come in many forms: use the provided templates to add “moments” from local history; add nationally or regionally significant “moments” you think are missing; come up with your own reflection questions; exhibit objects from your collection alongside the exhibition panels . . . and/or create other complementary exhibition content we haven’t thought of!

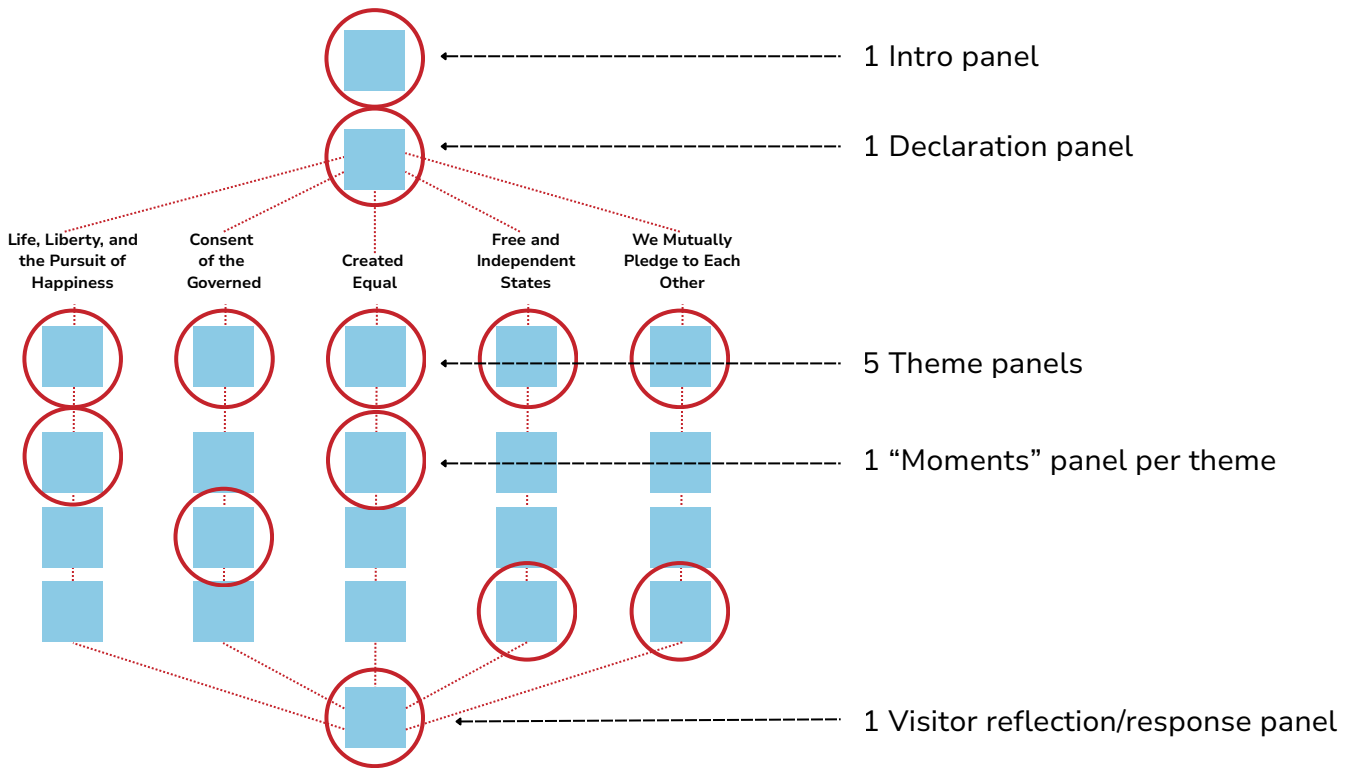
Layout Ideas

MTMU is designed to be scaled to fit your organization’s needs. With the number of panels provided, we anticipate that most users will display only some of the content. **We recommend including a minimum of 8 panels for a comprehensive experience.**

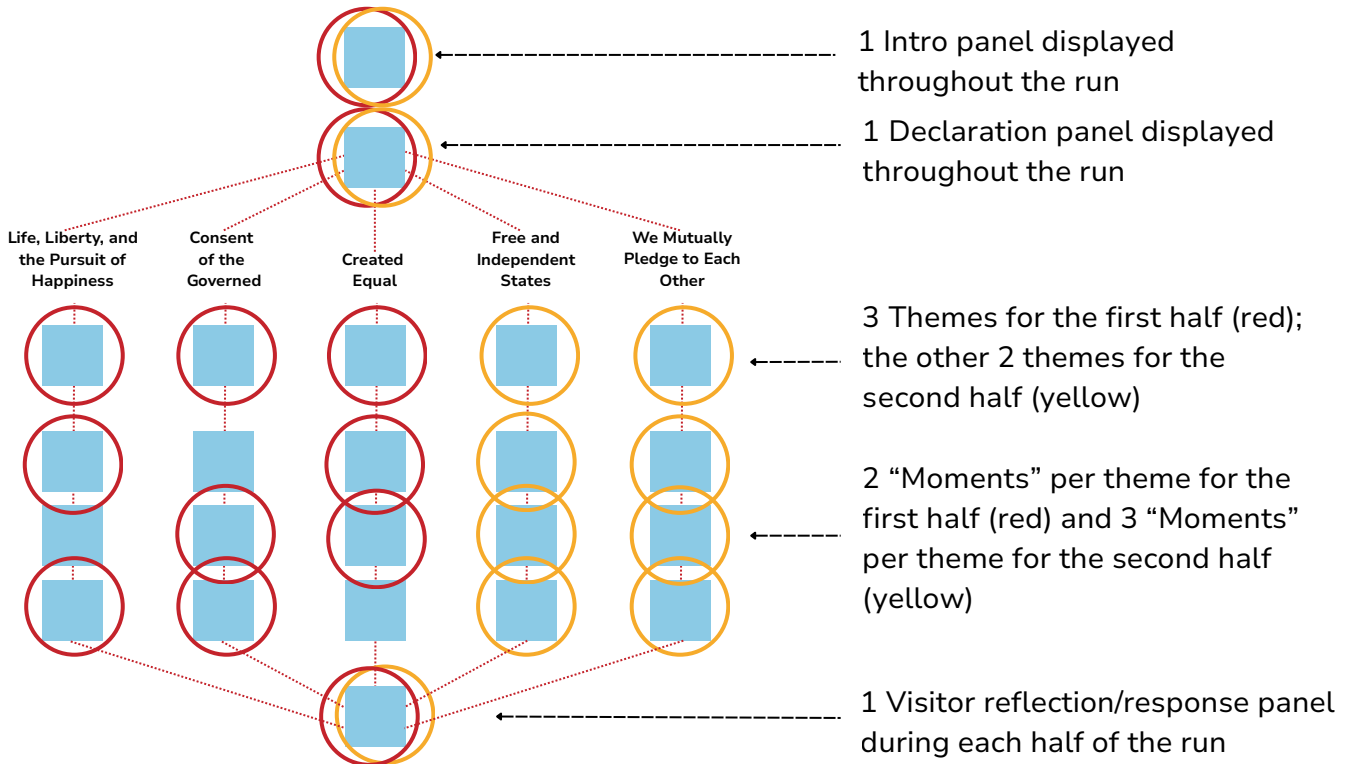
Example 1: Choose fewer themes with more “moments” featured per theme



Example 2: Use all the themes but with fewer “moments” per theme



Example 3: Rotate the content throughout the year



Ready-to-Use Panels



Two hundred and fifty years ago, delegates from the thirteen self-proclaimed United States of America signed the Declaration of Independence and changed the world. The signers gambled their lives on the future of a new nation, uncertain of what would follow as the ink dried.

The newly free and independent states proclaimed their right to break from an unjust ruler and formed a government based on the consent of the governed, not a king. Their statement that all men are created equal introduced a new idea of freedom and argued that governments exist to protect natural rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The founders pledged to each other their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor, beginning a national experiment that each generation of Americans has carried forward, writing our story one moment at a time. The ink is still drying.

Moments That Made US explores these founding principles and shares multiple perspectives from some of the United States's most significant moments. They show how the nation has advanced the founders' ideals, and when we've fallen short, inviting us to reflect on what it means to be American.

They show us that our story was never inevitable. We shaped it at every turn.

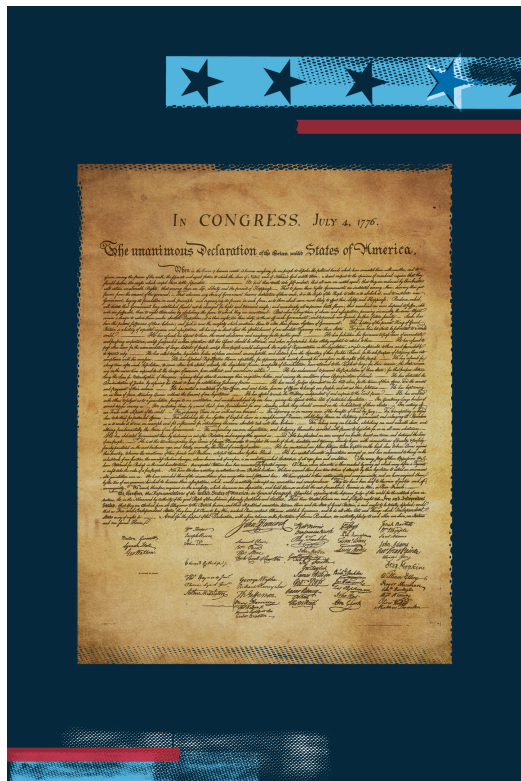


Introduction Panel

This panel sets the stage and references all five themes that are featured in the exhibition. We recommend that all users include this panel in their version of the exhibition.

This item is designed to be printed and displayed as-is.

✘ Do NOT modify, edit, or otherwise alter



Declaration Panel

A high-resolution graphic of the Declaration will be available for those wishing to display it alongside their exhibition.

✘ Do NOT modify, edit, or otherwise alter

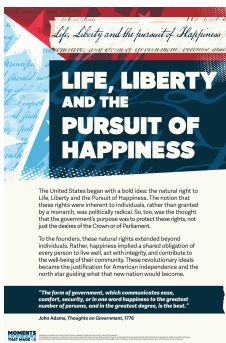
Theme Panels

These panels draw five concepts directly from the text of the Declaration of Independence and use them as organizing principles for the exhibition content. Use as many or as few as works for your space and the specific content you want to display.

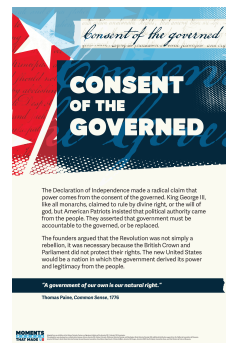
These items are designed to be printed and displayed as-is.

✗ Do NOT modify, edit, or otherwise alter

✓ DO customize your exhibition by selecting all or some of these panels



“Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” addresses the balance between individual liberty and civic obligation. Use this panel to explore how Americans have exercised and defended their inalienable rights throughout history.



“Consent of the Governed” discusses how the Revolution shifted power from a monarch to the people. Use this panel to explore how Americans have used civic participation to shape their communities, states, and the nation.



“Created Equal” discusses how the concept of equality has changed over time. Use this panel to explore who has been included and who has been excluded in the idea of “We the people” throughout history.



“Free and Independent States” addresses the balance between federal and state power. Use this panel to explore how the identities and priorities of each state has affected the development of the nation and its laws.



“We Mutually Pledge to Each Other” discusses how the Revolution would not have been possible without a shared sense of purpose and responsibility. Use this panel to explore the continuous work of democracy and community building.

"Moments" Panels

The fifteen "moment" panels feature significant events from U.S. history. The "moments" were selected to cover a wide variety of dates and historical topics. Each panel provides a summary, an image of a related artifact, and three different perspectives on that "moment."

These items are designed to be printed and displayed as-is.

- ✘ Do NOT modify, edit, or otherwise alter
- ✘ Do NOT extract images for use in other contexts
- ✔ DO customize your exhibition by selecting all or some of these panels

Life, Liberty,
and the
Pursuit of
Happiness

Consent of
the Governed

Created
Equal

Free and
Independent
States

We Mutually
Pledge to
Each Other

1607 ENGLISH COLONIZATION

John Rolfe makes the American economy dependent on tobacco. He introduces the crop to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1611. Tobacco becomes the primary cash crop for the colonies.

John Rolfe's Tobacco

"Tobacco, which grows there so sweetly blue, and by the art of tanning and drying it, may grow rich, but many more."

A First Harvest | **Tobacco** | **Enslaved Africans**

John Rolfe's tobacco plantation, Jamestown, Virginia, 1611. The first harvest of tobacco in the Americas was a major event in the history of the colony.

1676 BACON'S REBELLION

Resistance to colonial rule led to a revolt in Virginia. Nathaniel Bacon led a group of settlers against Governor William Berkeley. The rebellion ended in Bacon's death.

"We cannot do without Berkeley as a governor, and we cannot do without Bacon as a leader."

Nathaniel Bacon | **The 17th Century** | **Colonial and War**

Nathaniel Bacon's rebellion in Virginia, 1676. The rebellion was a significant event in the history of the colony.

1870 FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT

Constitutional amendments granted African American men the right to vote. The amendment was passed in 1870.

"And we want to do more. By 1870 we had the Fifteenth Amendment. The year was 1870, the year of the Reconstruction era."

Universal Suffrage | **Right to Vote** | **Repeal Black Codes**

The Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1870. The amendment granted African American men the right to vote.

1787 CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

One of the most important events in American history. The Constitution was signed in 1787.

"I cannot, Sir, in this Declaration, express my respect for the Constitution. It is not the best."

The First Amendment | **Thomas Jefferson** | **The Moment That Made the US**

The signing of the U.S. Constitution, 1787. The Constitution is the foundation of the United States.

1776 AMERICAN REVOLUTION

George Washington's army of patriots took the British out of the colonies. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.

"As the British were the last British to be on the first long list, which they thought there are many others."

Out of Many, One | **George Washington** | **Declaration of Independence**

The signing of the Declaration of Independence, 1776. The Declaration is the birth of the United States.

1849 GOLD RUSHES

Following James Wadsworth's discovery of gold in California, thousands of people flocked to the gold fields. The gold rush led to the development of the West.

"The gold rush was a great time of opportunity for the nation. It was a time when the nation was growing and expanding."

Gold Rush | **James Wadsworth** | **Gold in California**

The gold rush in California, 1849. The gold rush led to the development of the West.

1773 BOSTON TEA PARTY

Colonists protested against British taxation by dumping tea into the harbor. The event led to the American Revolution.

"The tea party was a great time of opportunity for the nation. It was a time when the nation was growing and expanding."

The Boston Tea Party | **Protest** | **The World Turned Upside Down**

The Boston Tea Party, 1773. The event led to the American Revolution.

1914 LABOR WARS

Workers fought for better conditions and wages. The event led to the creation of labor unions.

"We were so afraid we would not get our money back. We were so afraid we would not get our money back."

Workers' Struggle | **The 1910s** | **Union for Change**

Labor wars in the United States, 1914. The event led to the creation of labor unions.

1850 FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT

Passed by Congress, it required citizens to assist in the capture of runaway slaves. The act was a major step in the fight against slavery.

"This was the beginning of a long fight for the colored population."

Slavery | **Opposition** | **Nonviolent**

The Fugitive Slave Act, 1850. The act was a major step in the fight against slavery.

1863 EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all slaves were free. The proclamation was a major step in the fight against slavery.

"We are all freed by this proclamation."

Fighting for Freedom | **President Lincoln** | **Slaves and Freedom**

The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863. The proclamation was a major step in the fight against slavery.

1956 INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

Highways paved the way for the American dream. The Interstate Highway System was created in 1956.

"Thank you, yes, like the highway."

A City for Progress | **Driving a Way of Life** | **Home and Home**

The Interstate Highway System, 1956. The system paved the way for the American dream.

1846 WAR WITH MEXICO

The Mexican American War led to the acquisition of California and other territories. The war was a major event in the history of the United States.

"There are still people in the old territories who are the survivors of the people who were considered to be citizens of the United States."

American Expansion | **A New Border** | **Protecting Our Homelands**

The Mexican American War, 1846. The war led to the acquisition of California and other territories.

1990 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Disability rights activists won a major victory. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990.

"Disability rights activists won a major victory. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990."

The Day of It | **Real Progress** | **A Leap of Faith**

The Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990. The act was a major victory for disability rights.

1920 WOMEN'S VOTE

Women won the right to vote. The Nineteenth Amendment was passed in 1920.

"The vote is an individual's something that is the most important of all. It is the vote that is the most important of all."

Black Women's Suffrage | **Out of Many** | **Leading the Way**

The Nineteenth Amendment, 1920. The amendment granted women the right to vote.

1944 D-DAY

A massive military operation led to the liberation of France. D-Day was a major event in the history of the United States.

"We all know what we mean when we say 'D-Day'."

Black Soldiers | **Black Soldiers** | **A Personal Fight for a Better Future**

D-Day, 1944. The operation led to the liberation of France.

PNW “Moments” Panels

These ten additional “moment” panels feature ten topics and corresponding significant events from Pacific Northwest history. This content was selected to complement the core “moment” panels and cover additional historical topics. Each panel provides an introduction, an image of a related artifact, and one story each from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

These items are designed to be printed and displayed as-is.

- ✘ Do NOT modify, edit, or otherwise alter
- ✘ Do NOT extract images for use in other contexts
- ✔ DO customize your exhibition by selecting all or some of these panels

Life, Liberty,
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Reflection Panel

TheirStory, the platform for oral history, is sponsoring a nationwide testimonial integration with the *Moments That Made US* exhibition. This integration is designed to capture real-time visitor reflections and lived experiences, allowing every *Moments That Made US* user site across the country to collect and share community voices.

Patrons can scan these codes to record audio or video reflections, instantly contributing their stories to a growing archive of content that users can access to promote their site, the exhibition, and the broader goals of commemoration, celebration, and civic engagement for America's 250th.

This item is designed to be printed and displayed as-is; the QR code is specific to your state

✘ Do NOT modify, edit, or otherwise alter



TheirStory

TheirStory provides web-based software solutions to capture, transcribe, edit, and preserve stories, including oral histories. Serving communities, libraries, archives, and cultural institutions, TheirStory helps users create and manage storytelling projects.

Participating organizations will receive access to the captured testimonial content through the email address provided when requesting access to the *Moments that Made US* files. For questions about this integration please email mtmu@theirstory.io.

Templates and Assets

Customizable Panel Templates

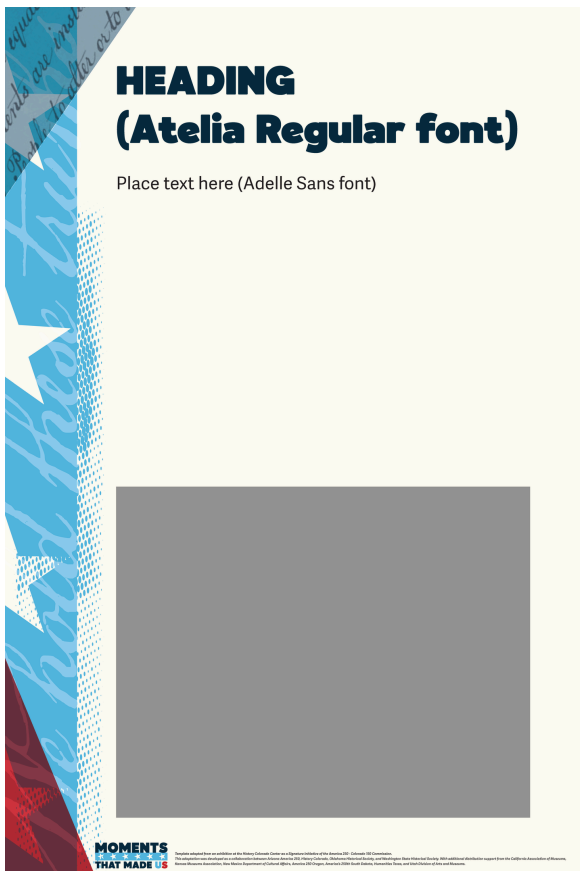
The customizable panel templates are provided for local organizations to add their own content and stories. These templates will be available in two ways:

Adobe Illustrator/Acrobat - For those with access to Adobe Illustrator, Illustrator compatible PDF versions of these two templates will be available in the files provided by your statewide partner. The templates can also be edited with a PDF editor such as Adobe Acrobat.

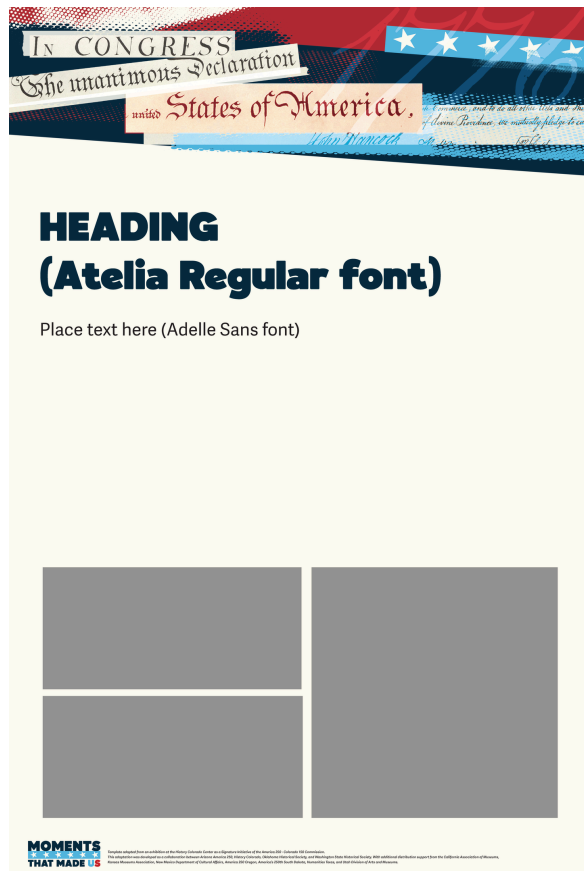
Canva - A version of these templates are also available in Canva, a FREE, easy-to-use online graphic design platform. Create a free Canva account, and then use the links below to import a these templates into your account.

These items are designed to be modified and customized by your organization.

- ✓ DO modify, edit, and add your own stories, images, and information
- ✓ DO change the layout to fit your content
- ✓ DO design your own panels in keeping with the exhibition style
- ✗ Don't change the fonts or colors



[\(Open template in Canva\)](#)



[\(Open template in Canva\)](#)

Object/Item Label Template

While there are no objects traveling with this exhibition, you can use these object panel templates to add items from your collection to the exhibition if desired. Object/item labels typically contain the following information. Make sure you are being consistent in format across your exhibition.

- Object name
- Date the object was created or produced
- Creator name (artist or culture)
- Description
- Owner/collection name
- Accession or catalog number

A template for this object label is available through Canva, a FREE, easy-to-use online graphic design platform. Create a free Canva account, and then use the links in this guide to import a these templates into your account.

This item is designed to be modified and customized by your organization.

✓ DO modify, edit, and add your own information and citations

General George Washington's spurs

1775

Silver, steel, and leather

During the army's grueling winter encampment at Valley Forge, Washington inspired his men through simple gestures. These included giving the spurs on his boots to Lieutenant Thomas Lamb, who volunteered to ride to Boston to request supplies.

Loan, The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

IL.2025.2.1

[\(Open template in Canva\)](#)

Publicity Templates

Sample Press Release

Use this sample press release language to craft a version that fits your organization's exhibition, content, and community.

[YOUR LOGO(S) HERE]

[Name of Entity or Organization] Announces Moments That Made US, New Community Print-on-Demand Exhibition for America 250 Commemoration

Press Contacts:

[Fill in appropriate contact information for media inquiries]

[Location and Date] — [Name of Entity or Organization] announced today that it will be hosting *Moments That Made US*, a special exhibition during the America 250 commemoration that explores how generations of Americans have given meaning to the ideals set out in the Declaration of Independence.

The exhibition looks back across centuries and highlights both challenging and celebratory times from the colonial era to more recent generations. The exhibition explores five themes drawn directly from the Declaration of Independence: *Created Equal; Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; Free and Independent States; Consent of the Governed; and We Mutually Pledge*. The featured moments from American history inspire curiosity about the events that shaped the nation. They remind us that our story was never inevitable, we shaped it at every turn.

The exhibition was developed through a multi-state collaboration to ensure that Americans throughout the nation would have the opportunity to meaningfully engage in the nation's 250th anniversary. It adapts the acclaimed *Moments That Made US* exhibition created by History Colorado and currently on view at the History Colorado Center in Denver into a format that allows host venues to customize it for their audiences and connect local history to the nation's story.

[Insert description of local stories added to the core exhibit, if applicable]

[Insert locally appropriate quote here; or the one below is also available for use]

“As we mark 250 years of American independence, *Moments That Made US* will remind visitors that every generation in all parts of the nation faced consequential moments,” said Jason Hanson, History Colorado’s Chief Creative Officer and a member of the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission, who helped develop the exhibition. “I hope it will inspire us to see that, like those who came before us, we are empowered to chart our own course toward a more perfect union, guided by empathy for our fellow Americans as we work together to realize the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence: equality, security, freedom, and happiness.”

Moments That Made US is [or will be] on view at [organization] from [dates of exhibition].

About [Your Organization]

[Include a short paragraph overview of your organization]

About History Colorado

History Colorado developed the original *Moments That Made US* exhibition, from which the community print-on-demand version was adapted. The state historical society and a Smithsonian Affiliate, History Colorado is a 146-year-old institution that operates eleven museums and historic sites, a free public research center, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation which provides technical assistance, educational opportunities, and other access to archaeology and historic preservation, and the History Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF). Visit HistoryColorado.org, or call 303-HISTORY, for more information. #HistoryColorado

The print-on-demand version of *Moments That Made US* was developed in collaboration with Arizona America 250, History Colorado, Oklahoma Historical Society and Washington State Historical Society. Additional distribution support was provided by California Association of Museums, Kansas Museums Association, New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, America 250 Oregon, America’s 250th South Dakota, Humanities Texas, and Utah Division of Arts and Museums.

###

Sample Social Media Materials

Use these sample social media posts or craft your own.

Social media sample text option 1:

We are pleased to announce a new exhibition called *Moments that Made US* coming to [LOCATION] from [DATE] to [DATE].

On July 4, 2026, our nation will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. *Moments That Made US* is a exhibition exploring the ideals at the heart of the Declaration of Independence through moments in our history that have defined their meaning.

We're bringing this nation-wide conversation right to [our community]! Join us at [LOCATION] to learn more about founding principles like "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," "Consent of the Governed," "Created Equal," "Free and Independent States," and "We Mutually Pledge to Each Other." We explore how local histories and stories were shaped by these founding principles through *Moments that Made Us*.

Don't miss this exhibition that explores how generations of Americans have given meaning to the ideals set out in the Declaration of Independence.

Social media sample text option 2:

We are pleased to announce a new exhibition called *Moments that Made US* coming to [LOCATION] from [DATE] to [DATE].

On July 4, 2026, our nation will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. *Moments That Made US* is a exhibition exploring the ideals at the heart of the Declaration of Independence through moments in our history that have defined their meaning.

Come explore how local histories and stories have been shaped by these founding principles through *Moments that Made Us*.

Sample Social Media Graphics

These templates are available through Canva, a FREE, easy-to-use online graphic design platform. Create a free Canva account, and then use the links below to import a these templates into your account.

These items are designed to be modified and customized by your organization.

- ✓ DO modify, edit, and add your own exhibit/event information
- ✓ DO coordinate with your statewide partner for permission to use their logo



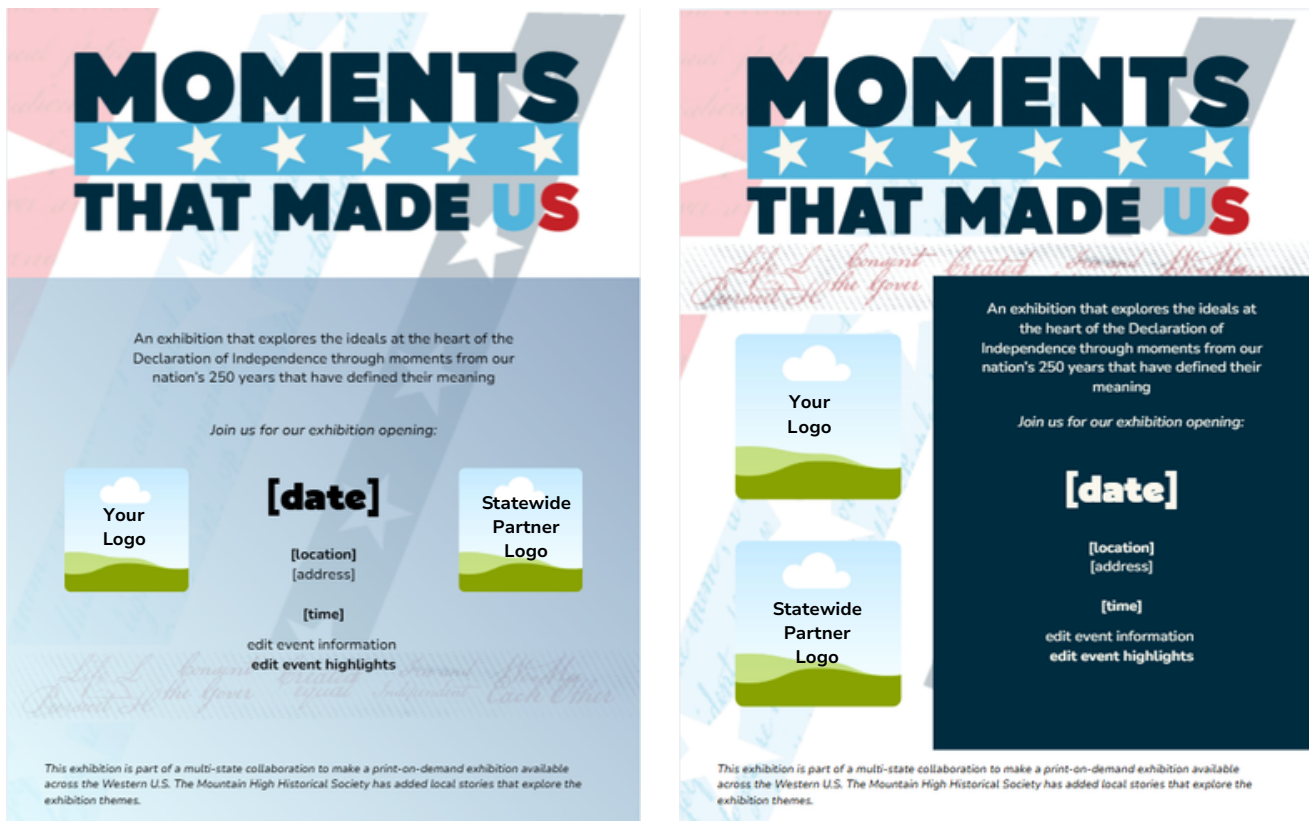
[\(Open template in Canva\)](#)

Sample Event Poster / Flyer

These templates are available through Canva, a FREE, easy-to-use online graphic design platform. Create a free Canva account, and then use the links below to import a these templates into your account. Use these sample flyers or craft your own!

These items are designed to be modified and customized by your organization.

- ✓ DO modify, edit, and add your own exhibit/event information
- ✓ DO coordinate with your statewide partner for permission to use their logo



[\(Open template in Canva\)](#)

Style and Branding Guidance

Fonts

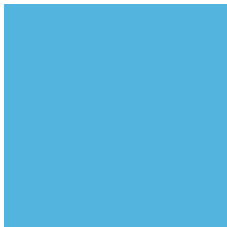
Atelia Regular (headers)

120pt recommended for headers on 24 x 36 poster

Adelle Sans (body text)

No smaller than 30pt font recommended on a 24 x 36 poster

Colors



Big Sky Blue

Hex: #53B5DE

RGB: 83, 181, 222

CMYK: 63, 18, 0, 13

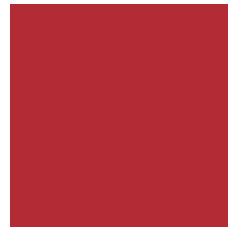


Midnight Blue

Hex: #002C40

RGB: 0, 44, 64

CMYK: 100, 31, 0, 75

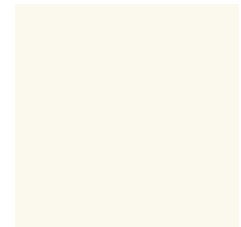


Brick Red

Hex: #B32C35

RGB: 179, 44, 53

CMYK: 0, 75, 70, 30



Parchment

Hex: #FBF8EE

RGB: 251, 248, 238

CMYK: 0, 1, 5, 2

Downloading the Materials

In order to access the digital files, you must sign a use agreement with History Colorado attesting that you will use the exhibition materials only as intended. This includes not altering any of the text or content on the ready-to-use panels created by the design team. This content was carefully drafted and vetted by participating organizations and must remain in its original format.

Once the agreement is signed, an email the domain “@alchemer.com” will be automatically sent to you with a link and further instructions for downloading the files. Look out for the email subject line: “File Access to the Moments That Made US Print-On-Demand Exhibition.”

Cost Estimates

Matte paper poster print

Estimated at \$25-\$31/panel

- \$250 total for a small exhibition (minimum of 8 panels)
- \$555 total for a large exhibition (all 23 panels)

Glossy photo paper poster print

Estimated at \$36-\$46/panel

- \$365 total for a small exhibition (minimum of 8 panels)
- \$820 total for a large exhibition (all 23 panels)

Laminated matte paper poster print

Estimated at \$42-\$49/panel

- \$395 total for a small exhibition (minimum of 8 panels)
- \$975 total for a large exhibition (all 23 panels)

Matte paper mounted on foamcore

Estimated at \$49-\$63/panel

- \$505 total for a small exhibition (minimum of 8 panels)
- \$1,130 total for a large exhibition (all 23 panels)

Matte paper mounted on gatorboard

Estimated at \$60-\$67/panel

- \$540 total for a small exhibition (minimum of 8 panels)
- \$1,385 total for a large exhibition (all 23 panels)

Installation Tips

Printing and Mounting

Find a local shop: Most print shops will be able to print and mount standard 24" x 36" signs on gatorboard/foamboard or coroplast.

Print online: There are a variety of self-service printing options online that will allow you to print and pick up (or have delivered) paper posters or paper posters mounted to foamboard or gatorboard.

Do it yourself: If you want to save some money, you can print the signs as posters and mount them yourself. Check out [this tutorial](#) for a demonstration for mounting signs using spray adhesive.

Hanging Your Panels

Height

- For hanging signs flat against a wall, aim for the center of the panel to be about 54" - 60" from the ground.
- For displaying signs at a 60 angle (such as on an easel), about 40" from the floor to the center of the panel.

Method

- For lightweight wall mounting, you can use damage-free adhesive strips such as 3M Command Strips to adhere directly to the wall.
 - *Tip: You can place painter's tape directly to the wall, then mount the signs with double-sided/poster tape directly to the painter's tape to minimize paint damage when removing signs.*
- If you are mounting your panels to foamboard or posterboard, you can display them on tabletop or freestanding easels for maximum flexibility.
- If all else fails, hanging with some foamboard or sawtooth hangers on nails can get the job done.

Interaction and Accessibility

Including elements such as interactives, hands-on materials, audio-visual components, translations into common languages in your region, and more are great ways to make the exhibit accessible to a wider audience. You can view the Smithsonian's Guidebook on [Accessible Exhibition Design](#) for more ideas.



Foamboard hangers

Using Local Stories and Collections

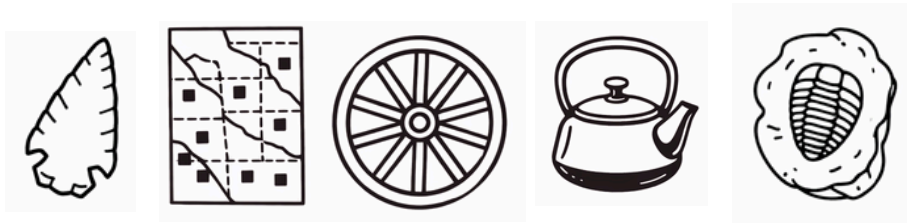
The topics selected for this exhibition were purposefully chosen to resonate with communities in the Western United States. Use the prompts below to think about stories you can tell from your communities that fit with the exhibition themes and the objects, photographs, and documents from your collection that will illustrate those stories.

These prompts and topics are suggestions only to get your creative ideas flowing.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

The stories selected for this theme in the core panels demonstrate ways Americans have worked to build better lives for themselves and their communities. As you think of stories from your community where people have pursued their inalienable rights of life, liberty, and happiness, be sure to consider those actions from multiple perspectives.

What are the oldest items from your town that you have in your collection? Do any of them reflect how settlement impacted groups in your region differently? What founding stories might benefit from a retelling with additional perspectives?



What industries in your town or region led to major population growth? What items do you have that tell the story of the people who came to work in those industries, or the impacts those industries had on the landscape and the people already living in the area?



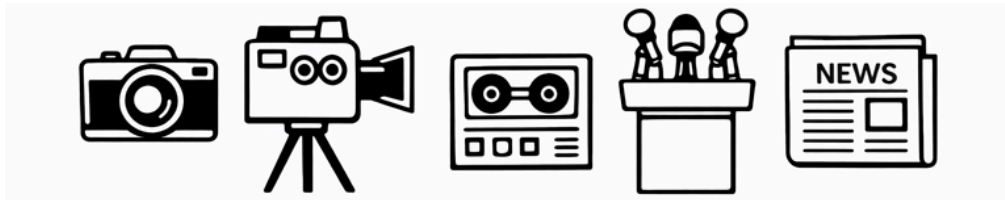
Which events or individuals have shaped the way your community has developed and changed over time? Consider major infrastructure projects such as dams, bridges, railroads, or housing developments. What construction artifacts, design drawings, promotional, or permitting documents from those projects do you have? Do you have anything that tells the story of how those projects impacted the landscape and the people?



Consent of the Governed

The stories selected for this theme in the core panels demonstrate ways collective action or civic engagement have shaped the laws and governance of our nation. As you think of stories from your community that reflect how people have expressed, challenged, or granted consent to those who govern them, be sure to consider those actions from multiple perspectives.

Local news outlets have been a vital check on government since the Revolutionary era. What artifacts or documents do you have that speak to the importance of local newspapers to your community? Are there examples of a time when local journalism held people in power accountable?



Does your community have stories of citizen-led initiatives or ballot measures that had a big impact? What was the issue, and what was its journey to the ballot box? Which leaders in your community supported or opposed the initiatives?



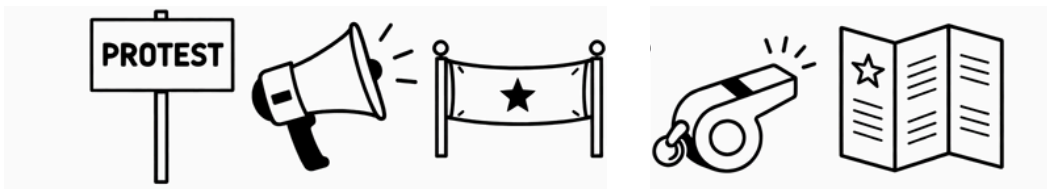
Civic clubs and associations have long had influence over how local communities are shaped. What organizations—such as women’s clubs, fraternal orders, service leagues, or agricultural societies—played a role in shaping civic life in your community? Do you have artifacts such as meeting minutes, membership rolls, newsletters, or event programs that help tell the stories of these groups?



Created Equal

The stories selected for this theme in the core panels demonstrate how the concept of equality has changed over time. As you think of stories from your community that explore who has been included and who has been excluded in the idea of “We the people” throughout history, be sure to consider those actions from multiple perspectives.

Every community has been impacted by demands for social justice and civil rights. These movements have taken many forms over time, including struggles for racial equality, women’s rights, labor rights, voting access, and economic justice. What artifacts do you have that illustrate local civil rights movements? What items do you have that tell the story of local civil rights leaders?



Laws, policies, and court decisions have often defined who is treated equally—and who is not—at the local level. How have local ordinances, housing practices, or employment rules shaped access to opportunity in your community? What documents, photographs, or firsthand accounts help illustrate how equality has been debated, denied, or advanced in your community?



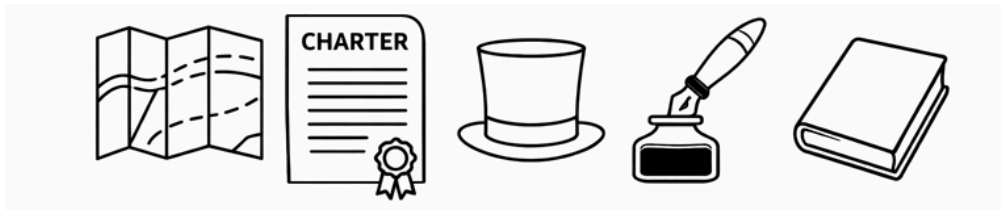
How have labor practices in your community changed over time? Are there stories of workers’ strikes for fair wages, safe working conditions, or the right to organize? Do you have union charters, strike flyers, photographs of workers, or oral histories that document how workers have stood up for their rights?



Free and Independent States

The stories selected for this theme in the core panels explore the balance between federal and state powers. In a similar way, there is a balance between local and state governments also. As you think of stories from your community that relate to your state's identity and priorities, be sure to consider those actions from multiple perspectives.

Many towns and counties were established under territorial law, before states were created. How did your town or county factor into the creation of your state? What personal objects do you have from early local or state leaders? What maps, town records, or early documents help show how local communities influenced your state's formation?



Courts have played an important role in defining the balance of governmental power. Have legal cases from your community reached the state supreme court and changed how state laws are interpreted or enforced? What issues were involved, and how did the decisions affect people beyond your community? Do you have court records, news coverage, or photographs in your collection that document these cases?



Federal programs have had direct and lasting effects on states and local communities. How have specific programs—such as the New Deal programs, the GI Bill, or military facilities—shaped your community? How did state and local governments work with federal agencies to carry out these projects? What documents or images help show the local impact of federal involvement?



We Mutually Pledge to Each Other

The stories selected for this theme in the core panels demonstrate how Americans have had shared senses of purpose and responsibility. As you think of stories from your community about people working together toward a common goal, be sure to consider those actions from multiple perspectives.

Service to others is a core value of American democracy. What artifacts do you have in your collection that speak to military service? What does community service look like in your town or region? What images or artifacts do you have that honor volunteerism in your community?



Communities often come together in times of crisis or need. How have people in your area worked collectively during natural disasters, public health emergencies, or other challenges? What photographs, newspaper articles, or personal accounts document how your community responded together?



How have people in your community worked together on projects that improve local life or address shared needs, such as schools, parks, libraries, or cultural organizations? How did people organize, fund, and carry out these projects? What meeting notes, newsletters, photographs, or other items help show how community members collaborated to make a difference?



Ideas for Programming

The themes and moments covered in the *Moments that Made US* exhibit allow for a wide variety of programming, curriculum, and gallery activities to accompany the display. Here are some ideas of where to get started:

General Program Ideas

- [250th Anniversary Program Handbook](#) - American Association of State and Local History (AASLH): The AASLH programming guide provides examples and ideas for a wide range of programs for the semiquincentennial.

Youth

- **Early Learners:** Reach out to your local library to co-host story times with children's books about national or local "moments."
- **School tours:** Use existing curriculum and activities that focus on the Declaration of Independence, civics, and/or local historical events you are highlighting, such as:
 - *Declaration of Independence:* You can find activities and lesson plans from organizations such as [The National Archives Foundation](#), [The Library of Congress](#), and [Monticello](#).
 - *Civics:* Organizations such as [Educating for American Democracy](#), [The National Constitution Center](#), and the [Center for Civic Education](#) share curriculum focused on civics.
 - Reach out to your state's Department of Education/Instruction for curriculum related to state and local history content.
- Partner with your [local History Day affiliate](#) to host an event for History Day contestants, and/or display History Day projects at your location.
- Host a *Moments that Made US* challenge for local high school students to research and design a panel about local historical events related to one of the five themes.

Adult Programs

- Reach out to your state's humanities council about opportunities to bring in public speakers.
- Invite a trained facilitator through organizations like [Braver Angels](#) to host a dialogue around important moments in your community today.
- Host an Open Archives event featuring items from your collection or a local museum or archive that illustrate defining moments in the history of your community (See AASLH's [250th Anniversary Program Handbook](#), pg. 14).
- Host a Memories Roadshow that invites community members to bring in a photo or other item that represents moments in their family or personal history related to the exhibits themes (See AASLH's [250th Anniversary Program Handbook](#), pg. 14).

Hands-on and Immersive

- Work with local living history interpreters to facilitate an experience of a historical moment related to the themes discussed in the exhibit.
- Work with teaching artists and craftspeople who can about traditional arts and crafts from one of the time periods featured and how these are being practiced today.

In-gallery / Asynchronous Activities

- Use the TheirStory QR code option to collect oral histories from your visitors.
- Host a [Wish Wall](#) inviting visitors to share their wish for America's future.
- Partner with local community members to create a community-curated space to highlight historical moments that they see connected to the themes highlighted in the exhibit.

FAQ

What if I don't think my community will be interested in some of the stories and content provided?

The exhibition is designed for you to leave some content out. Some of the exhibit themes or specific stories may resonate with your community more than others. Display just the themes and/or moments that feel most relevant. We also encourage you to use the template panels to share local “moments” that connect to the exhibition’s themes that resonate with your audience.

How come you didn't include [insert significant historical moment here]?

There are just too many significant moments from our nation's history to be able to include all of them in one exhibition. If there are other moments from local, state, regional, or national history you think are essential, we encourage you to add them using the customizable templates.

Can I move the “moment” panels around to different themes?

Yes! If you think a particular “moment” in the exhibition fits better under a different theme, you are welcome to move it. All panels are designed to be completely modular, displayed in any order/configuration, and even stand on their own.

Will the materials be provided in a language other than English?

The intro, theme, national moment, and reflection panels will be available in both English and Spanish. If you would like to translate additional panels or languages, we recommend professional translation services where possible. The American Translator Association provides a directory to find translators in your area: atanet.org/directory.

Apps such as Google Translate, DeepL, and Microsoft Translator may provide some basic accommodations for non-English speakers and are free for visitors to download and use. However, these translations vary in their accuracy. You may wish to publish a disclaimer to notify visitors when information has been translated using these machine-translation services.

Interest Form

Fill out the interest form to get connected with your statewide partner and access the *Moments that Made US* print-on-demand exhibition files!

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8338681/250-Moments-that-Made-US-Interest-Form>



Statewide Partner Directory

Arizona

Office of the Arizona Secretary of State

america250az.org

Laura Terech, lterech@azsos.gov

California

California Museum Association

calmuseums.org

Jennifer Caballero, cam@calmuseums.org

Colorado

History Colorado

am250co150.org

Leah Androne, leah.androne@state.co.us

Kansas

Kansas Museum Association

ksmuseums.org

Cori Sherman North, corinorth@gmail.com

New Mexico

New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs

newmexicoculture.org

Jesse Greenspan,
jessie.greenspan@dca.nm.gov

Oklahoma

Oklahoma State Historical Society

okhistory.org

Nicole Harvey, nicole.harvey@history.ok.gov

Oregon

Oregon Historical Society

oregon250.org

Tara Cole, oregon.250@ohs.org

South Dakota

South Dakota Historical Society

americas250th.sd.gov

David Grabitske,
david.grabitske@state.sd.us

Texas

Humanities Texas

humanitiestexas.org

Andrew Ross, aross@humanitiestexas.org

Utah

Utah Division of Arts and Museums

artsandmuseums.utah.gov

Fletcher Booth, fbooth@utah.gov

Washington

Washington State Historical Society

america250wa.org

Jay Baersten, jay.baersten@wshs.wa.gov