

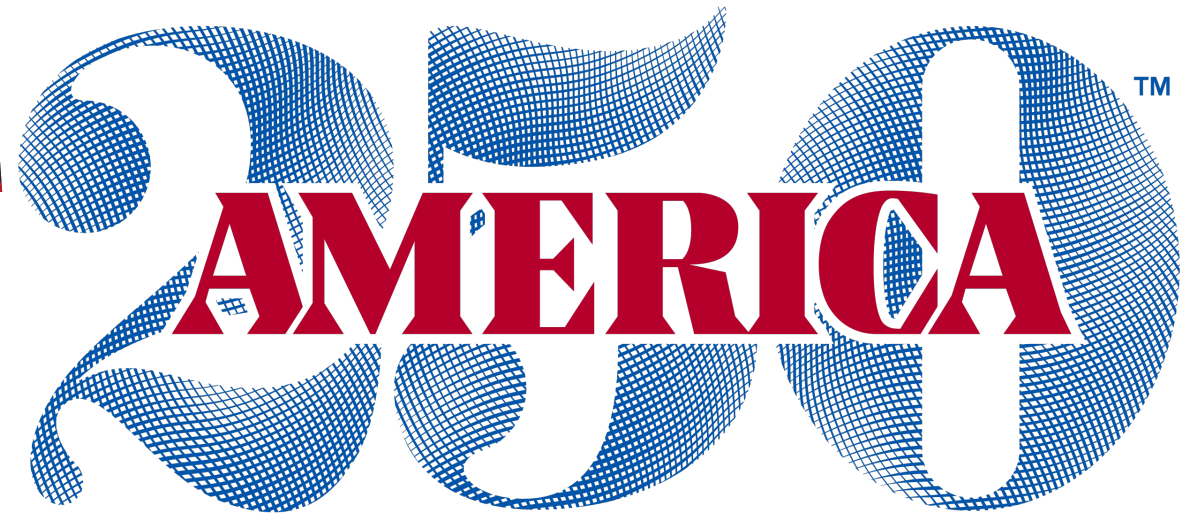
Opportunities of the Semiquincentennial

A Common Cause to All
Williamsburg, Virginia
March 10, 2023

John Dichtl
President & CEO, American Association for State and Local History

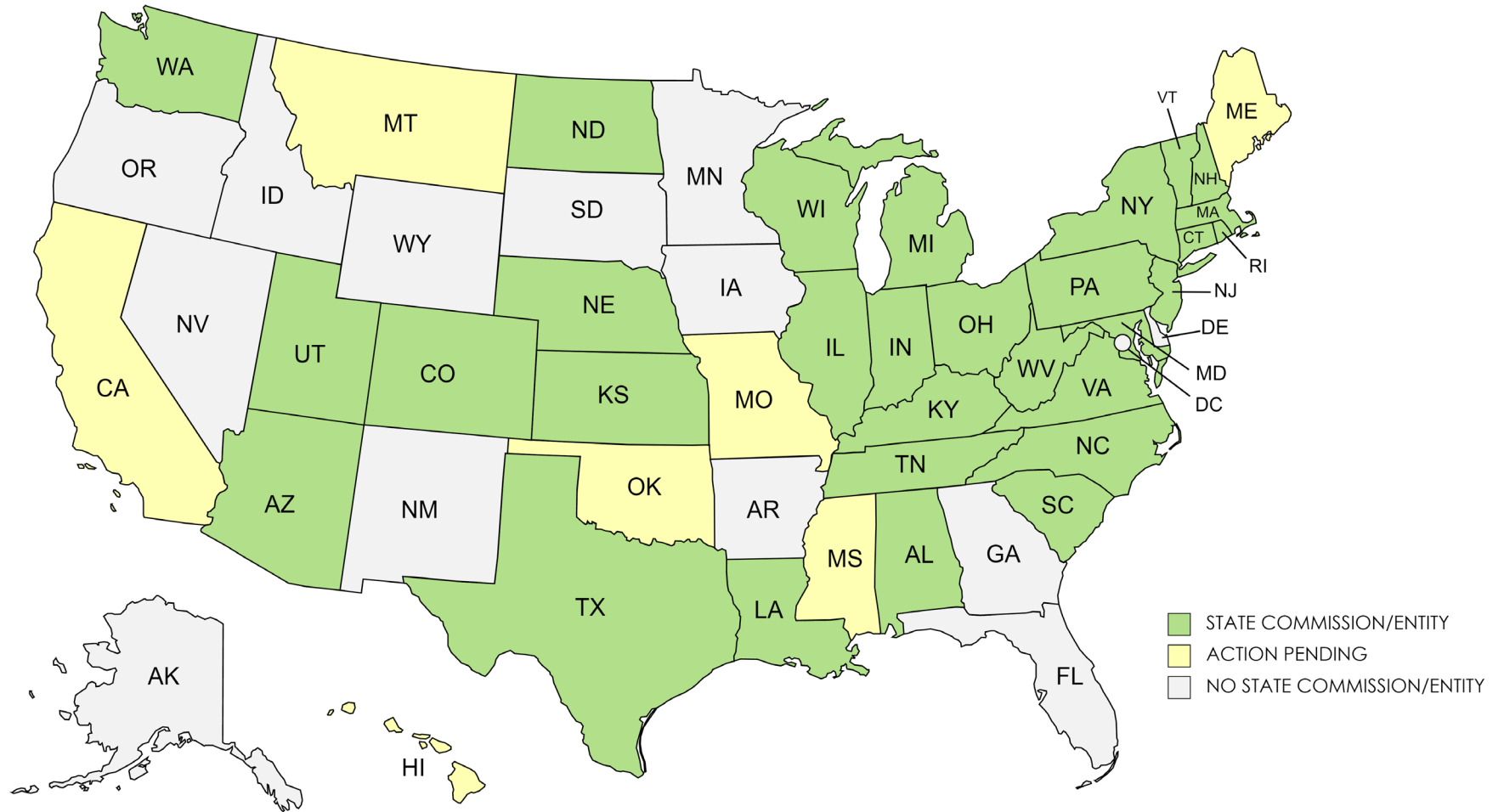


Federal-Level Planning



America 250 Foundation is the nonprofit administrative arm of the
U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

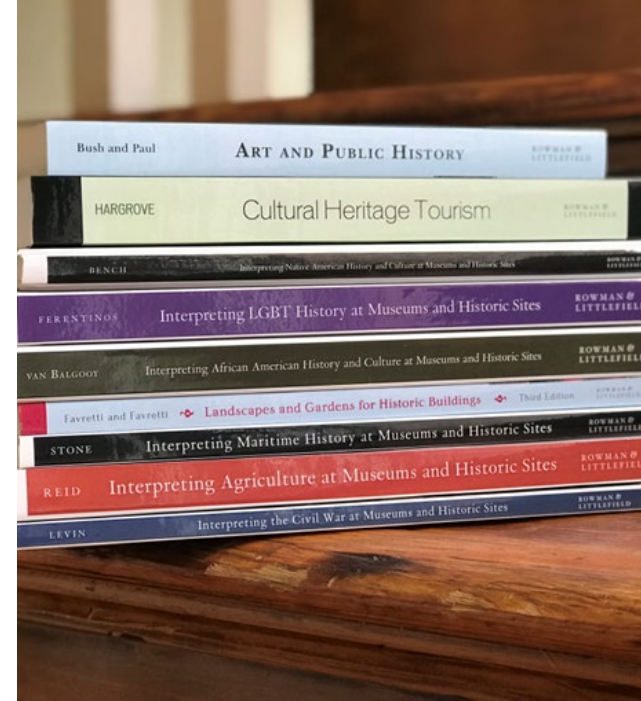
State-Level Planning



Vision for
the 250th

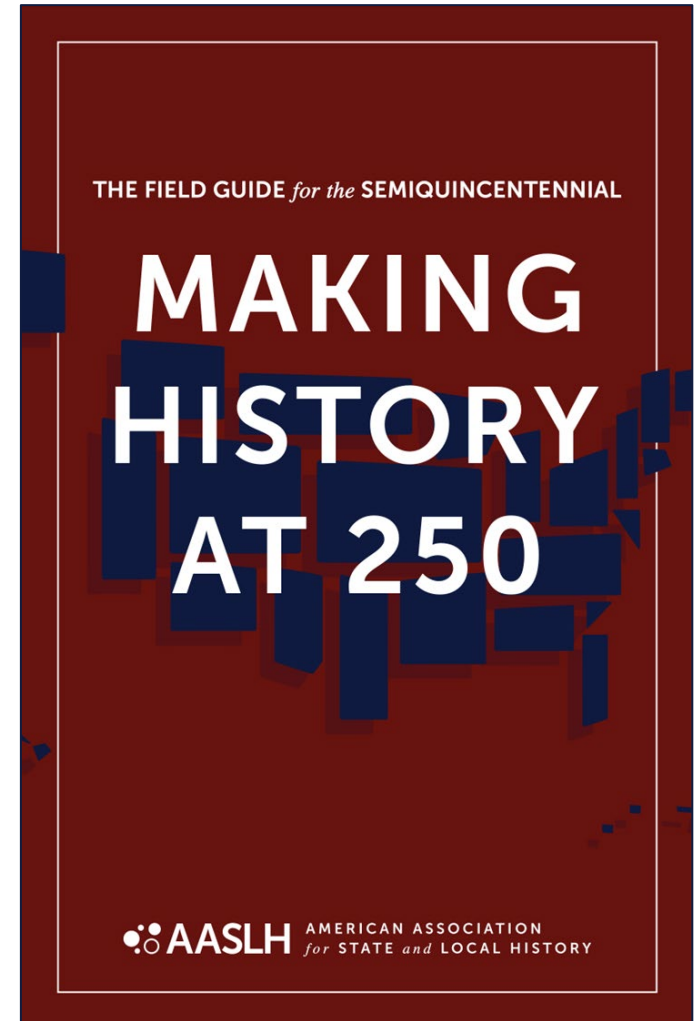
...to help American society
progress towards justice through an inclusive
approach to history and to
strengthen the history field by attracting
interest and investment.

Background on AASLH



Field Guide Themes

1. Unfinished Revolutions
2. Power of Place
3. We the People
4. The American Experiment
5. Doing History



Field Guide Themes

1. Unfinished Revolutions
2. Power of Place
3. We the People
4. The American Experiment
5. Doing History

Long history to... and
after Independence

Advancements and
setbacks since 1776

Other revolutionary
moments

Advancements and
setbacks

Liberty and equality in
your community

Field Guide Themes

1. Unfinished Revolutions
2. Power of Place
3. We the People
4. The American Experiment
5. Doing History

Connection to land

Who came before

Access to resources,
waterways, food

Empire and colonization

Changes in your
community

Preservation of
landscapes and buildings

Field Guide Themes

1. Unfinished Revolutions
2. Power of Place
3. **We the People**
4. The American Experiment
5. Doing History

Who were considered
“the people”?

Exclusion and inclusion
of groups

Expansion of citizenship

What is an “American”?

Field Guide Themes

1. Unfinished Revolutions
2. Power of Place
3. We the People
4. The American Experiment
5. Doing History

Founders did not have
all the answers

Toward a more perfect
union

Civic action

Engagement in the
present

AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ARTS & SCIENCES

OUR COMMON PURPOSE

REINVENTING
AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY
FOR THE 21ST
CENTURY

COMMISSION ON THE PRACTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

STRATEGY 1: Achieve Equality of Voice and Representation

RECOMMENDATION 1.1
Substantive legislative conversation about policy areas under consideration.

STRATEGY 4: Dramatically Expand Civic Bridging Capacity

RECOMMENDATION 4.1
Establish a National Trust for Civic Infrastructure to scale up social, civic, and democratic infrastructure. Fund the Trust with a major nationwide investment campaign that bridges private enterprise and philanthropic seed funding. This might later be sustained through annual appropriations from Congress on the model of the National Endowment for Democracy.

RECOMMENDATION 4.2
Activate a range of funders to invest in the leadership capacity of the so-called civic one million: the catalytic leaders who drive civic renewal in communities around the country. Use this funding to encourage these leaders to support innovations in bridge-building and participatory constitutional democracy.

STRATEGY 5: Build Civic Information Architecture that Supports Common Purpose

RECOMMENDATION 5.1
Form a high-level working group to articulate and measure social media's civic obligations and incorporate those defined metrics in the Democratic Engagement Project, described in Recommendation 5.5.

RECOMMENDATION 5.2
Through state and/or federal legislation, subsidize innovation to reinvent the public functions that social media have displaced: for instance, with a tax on digital advertising that could be deployed in a public media fund that would support experimental approaches to public social media platforms as well as local and regional investigative journalism.

Field Guide Themes

1. Unfinished Revolutions
2. Power of Place
3. We the People
4. The American Experiment
5. Doing History

Invite public into the
process of doing history

Transparency,
uncertainty

What counts as
evidence

Using different kinds of
sources

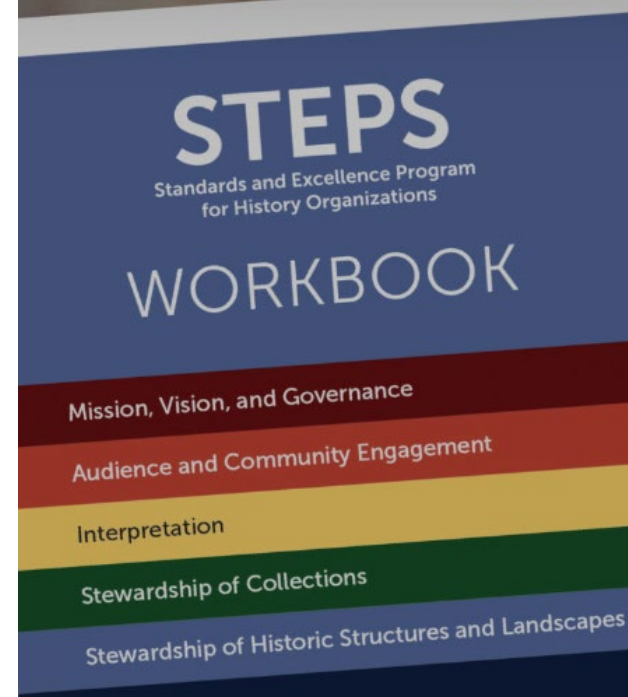
Multiple perspectives

EDUCATING FOR
AMERICAN
★ **DEMOCRACY**

Institutional & Social Transformation	Our Changing Landscapes	We the People	Civic Participation A New Government & Constitution Contemporary Debates & Possibilities		A People in the World
Unfinished Revolutions	Power of Place	We the People	The American Experiment	Doing History	

**MAKING
HISTORY
AT 250**

Other AASLH Resources



Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1976



December 2022

Defusing the History Wars: Finding Common Ground in Teaching America's National Story



THIS AMERICA



THE CASE
FOR THE NATION

JILL LEPORE

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING
AUTHOR OF *THESE TRUTHS*

THANK YOU!

A Common Cause to All
Williamsburg, Virginia
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