



# AMERICA

## MADE IN VIRGINIA

**VA**★**250**

**Full Commission Meeting**  
January 8, 2026



# Development Report

Ben Dendy, President, Virginia Commemorations, Inc.





# **Advisory Council Updates**

**Ben Dendy**, President, Virginia Commemorations, Inc.



# **VTC-VA250 Tourism Marketing Grant Recommendations (RD 7)**

Staci Martin, Grant Director, Virginia Tourism Corporation



Virginia Tourism Corporation

# VA250 Grant Program

- Managed by Virginia Tourism Corporation
- Designed to drive visitation to exhibits, events, destinations
- Programs must connect with VA250 Themes and include visitor marketing
- Programs must incorporate Virginia is for History Lovers/Virginia is for Lovers and the VA250 Commission Logo

**Round 7 (Final Round)**

# **Award Recommendations**

Applications Received: **38**

Applications Awarded: **38**

Recommended Awards: **\$244,040**

Match: **\$496,936**

*Total of \$740,976 focused on visitor marketing against the backdrop of VA250 through July 2027.*



## Round 7 Highlights

# Creative Connections to History

### Agritourism: Founding Foragers

Multiple applications focused on agritourism, farming, and provisioning of the Continental Army.

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Includes applications from **Nelson County, Highland County, Shenandoah County.**

### Arts & Culture: Music, Exhibits & Performances

Multiple applications incorporating historic themes and music into exhibits and performances.

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**Norfolk:** Attucks Theater and African American cultural themes including Crispus Attucks role in Boston Massacre

**VMFA:** Three different history focused exhibits

### Events: Lectures & Festivals

Multiple applications focused on driving visitation through history themed events and lectures.

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**Northern Neck:** Discovery Symposium

**Washington County:** LibertyFest activating Main Street and Barter Theater.

# Overall Program Information

Total Funding from VA250: **\$700,00**

Rounds: **7**

Applications Funded: **91**

Total Awards: **\$699,972**

Total Match: **\$1.134M**







## Final Reporting

- Programs in spend down until mid-2027
- Final reports and final accounting to be provided to VA250 Commission in late 2027/early 2028
- Continued opportunities to apply to other VTC grants through 2031



# **Update: Give Me Liberty: Virginia and the Forging of a Nation**

Jamie Bosket, Virginia Museum of History & Culture  
Christy Coleman, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

# At VMHC

Exhibition Period: **Mar 22, 2025–Jan 4, 2026**

Total Visitors: **~110,000**

## Traveling Version

- Richmond International Airport Exhibition Period: July 4, 2025–July 4, 2026
- Richmond International Airport Total Visitors (as of Jan 2026): ~2.75M
- Total Venues (past, present, and future): 60
- List of venues in Commission Board packet

## Publication

- Number of catalog copies printed: 2,000



# Program Updates

Cheryl Wilson

# Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

- Cover here
- News coming from Cheryl to sync photos
- Common Cause
- Commemorative Partners
- Passport
- VA250 Quiz
- etc



Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

# A Common Cause to All



Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions





Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# Virginia 250 Mobile Museum Launch





Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty" Speech





Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

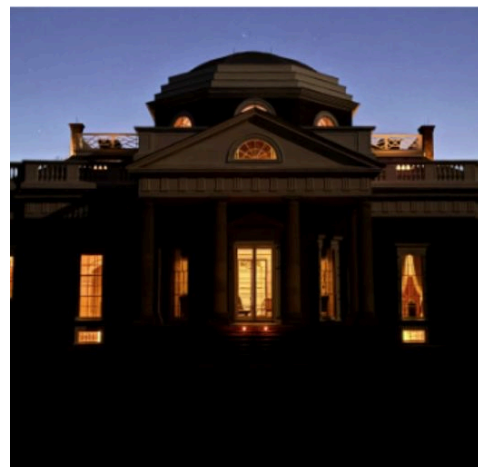
# "The American Revolution" Film Premier





Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# Two Lights for Tomorrow





Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

# **“Fourth at the Fort”**





Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

# **"Fourth at the Fort"**





Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# "Fourth at the Fort"





Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

# **"Fourth at the Fort"**





# Highlights of the Year



## Total Followers

On all social media platforms

22,750

5,395 in 2024

## Total Reach

estimated

46.19+ million

## Total Engagement

noted limitations in calculating on X and Threads

641,017+

## Link Clicks

noted limitations on stats from Youtube, X, and Threads

393,922+



Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# "Fourth at the Fort"





Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# "Fourth at the Fort"



Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

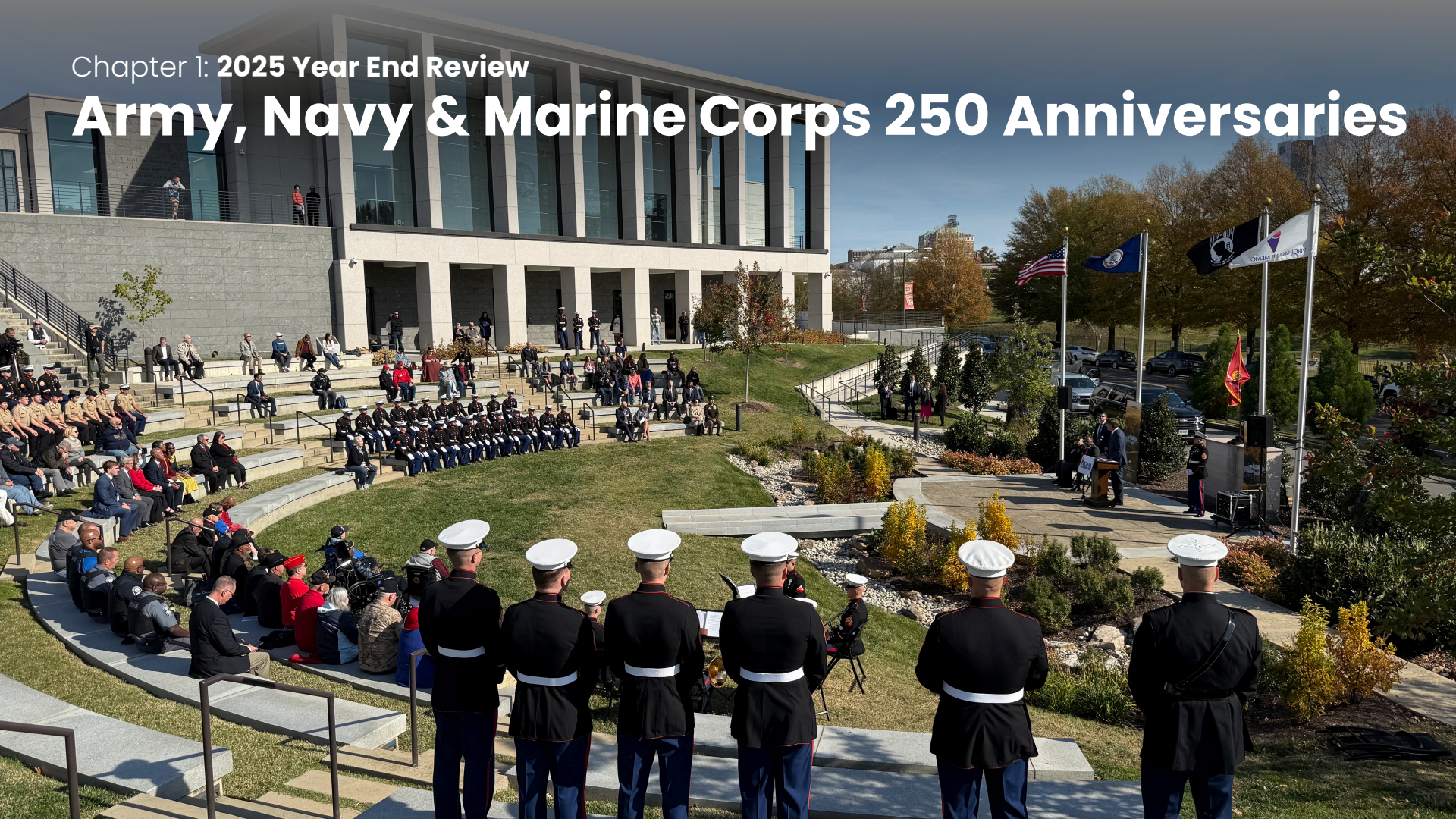
# "Fourth at the Fort"





Chapter I: 2025 Year End Review

# Army, Navy & Marine Corps 250 Anniversaries





Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# Army, Navy & Marine Corps 250 Anniversaries





Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

# **Army, Navy & Marine Corps 250 Anniversaries**



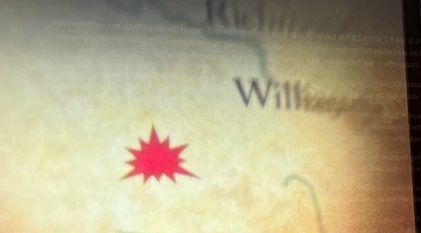


Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review



**BATTLES**  
REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Tarleton's Southside Raid



**NO CLEAR RESULT!**  
Ward's Tavern, present-day Nottoway County, Virginia  
July 9-24 1781

Great Britain

**PARTICIPANTS**  
Portugal's Units

**COI**  
+ 10

**FORCE**  
240

**KILLED, WOUNDED, OR CAPTURED**  
1-3

Charles Cornwallis' army encamped at Port...

clear orders from his superiors on how to...

Cornwallis sent Banastre Tarleton on a 400-m...

Banastre Tarleton's main obj...

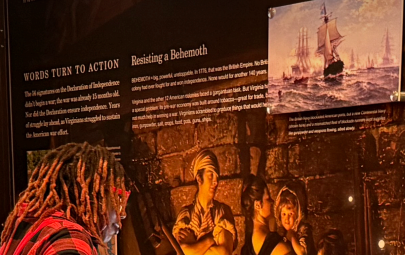
Greene's American army in North and...

supplies had already been transported...

**AT WAR**  
a patriot"



**VIRGINIA GOES TO WAR**  
...THAT TREASONERY PLEDGES TO FURNISH WILL BE PUNISHED WITH INSTANT FIRE AND SWORD.

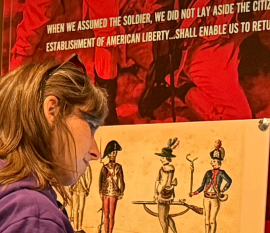


Resisting a Behemoth

WORDS TURN TO ACTION

...THAT TREASONERY PLEDGES TO FURNISH WILL BE PUNISHED WITH INSTANT FIRE AND SWORD.

**BECOMING SOLDIERS**



WHEN WE ASSUMED THE SOLDIER, WE DID NOT LAY ASIDE THE CITIZEN, & WE SHALL MOST SINCERELY REJOICE WITH YOU IN THAT HAPPY HOUR, WHEN WE SHALL ESTABLISH A NATIONAL ARMY. FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE FIRST, & PEACE, & HAPPY CONSEQUENCES AFTER.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Address to the New York Provincial Congress, June 11, 1775

BACKGROUND IMAGE COURTESY NATIONAL GUARD HERITAGE

Before forming a national government, the colonies were not a national army. Freedom and independence first, & peace, & happy consequences after.

Virginia had long had local militias—part-time soldiers called to duty when domestic conflict or local unrest threatened peace. In May 1775, the Virginia Convention called for 16 districts across Virginia to raise and train a battalion of men "to march at a moment's notice"—Minutemen.

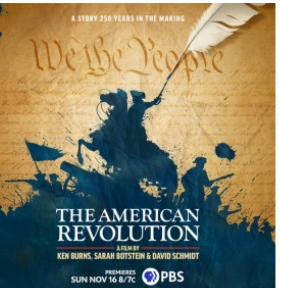
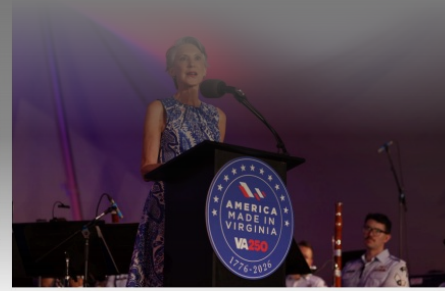
But eight years of the war needed more than part-time soldiers. More than 50,000 Virginia men served in the Continental Army. The cause of independence—in the navy, intermittent battles in the new Continental Army.

**INDIGENOUS SOLDIERS**

...of a continued battle in the war of the Revolutionary War...



# Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

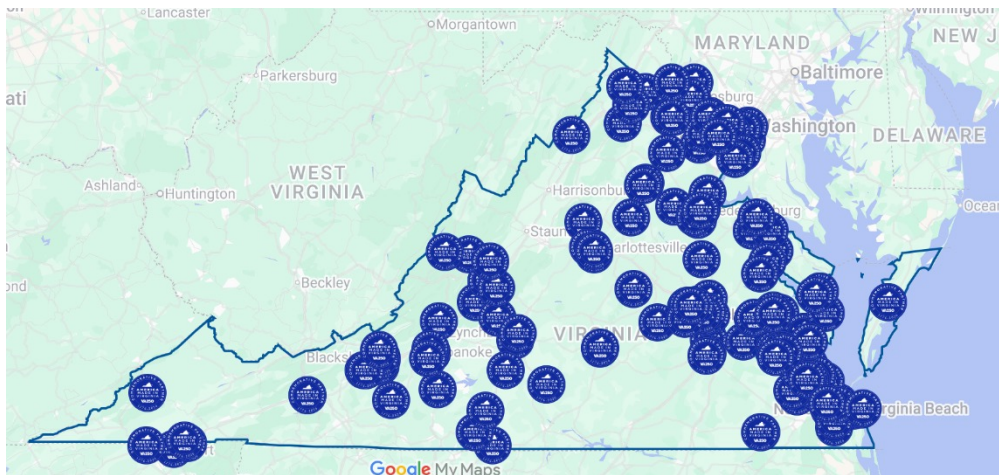


## Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# Commemorative Partners

Commemorative Partners: **382**

(reference Kat's slides from 1/5/26 and map from website)





Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

# Statewide Engagement



Culper Coffee  
Revolutionary Roast



James River Chocolate Co.  
Blue Ridge Bark



Williamsburg Winery  
250th Commemorative  
Collection



Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**

# Statewide Engagement



Vienna, VA Holiday Ornament



Roanoke Holiday Lights Tour



Order your commemorative license plate today!  
Preorders accepted at [montva.com/mcva250](https://montva.com/mcva250)



License plate: \$10  
Additional Personalization: \$10

Montgomery County License Plates

## Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

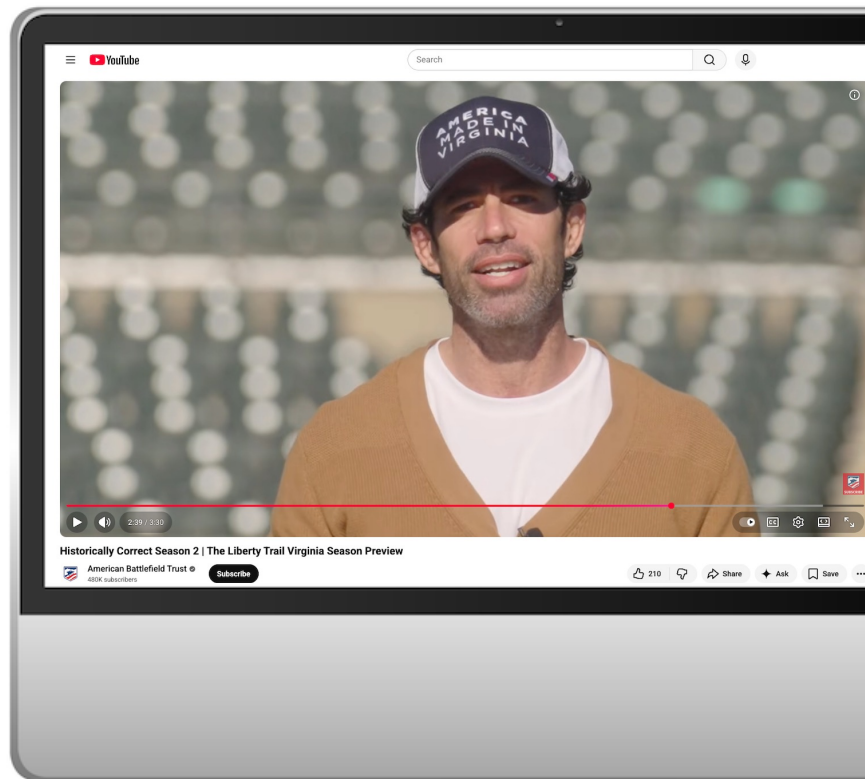
# VA250 Passport



## Chapter 1: 2025 Year End Review

# “Historically Correct” with Nicholas Ferroni

- **Four (4)** “How well do you know” series videos + trailer
- Promoted on The American Battlefield Trust YouTube page with **480K subscribers**
- Showcasing Green Spring, Scotchtown, Norfolk, Williamsburg and Richmond
- **186,700K views** of these five videos





Chapter 1: **2025 Year End Review**



# Chapter 2: America Made in Virginia Signature Events

Events Slated in 2026: **12**

Events Q1-Q2: **8**



## Chapter 2: **America Made in Virginia Signature Events**

### **Q1-Q2 Events** (continued)



#### **Honoring Indigenous Peoples: A Tribal Nations Celebration at Jamestown Settlement**

April 25, 2026

*Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation*



#### **From Pen to Paper: Thomas Jefferson and the Drafting of the Declaration of Independence**

Saturday, May 2, 2026

*Thomas Jefferson's Monticello*



#### **The Flame of Revolution: 250th Anniversary of the 5th Virginia Convention**

Friday, May 15, 2026 - Saturday, May 16, 2026

*Colonial Williamsburg*

## Chapter 2: **America Made in Virginia Signature Events**

# **Q1-Q2 Events** (continued)



### **Virginia Resolved: A Commemoration of Independence: 250th Anniversary of the Lee Resolution for Independence**

Sunday, June 7, 2026

*Stratford Hall*



### **In the Eyes of the World: Celebrating 250 Years of American Independence**

Thursday, June 11, 2026

*George Washington's Mount Vernon*



### **Freedom Flows on the Potomac: Celebrating 250 Years of the Virginia Declaration of Rights**

Friday, June 12, 2026 - Sunday, June 14, 2026

*George Mason's Gunston Hall & Old Town Alexandria*



Chapter 2: America Made in Virginia Signature Events

Q1-Q2 Events (continued)



Sail250® Virginia: Goodwill Tour with International Fleet of Tall Ships

Friday, June 12 - Sunday, June 14, 2026  
*Yorktown, Hampton, Richmond, Onancock, Smithfield, & Alexandria*

Friday, June 19 - Tuesday, June 23, 2026  
*Cape Charles, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Norfolk*



Juneteenth

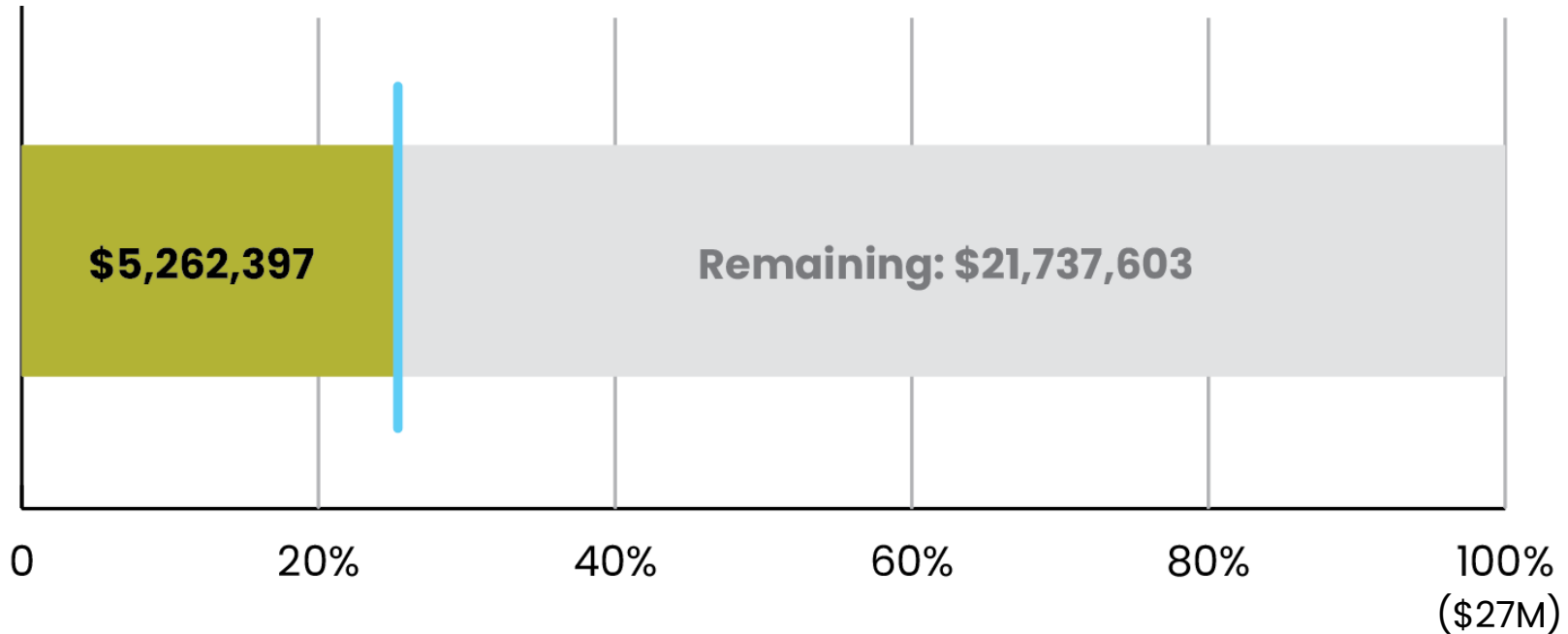
June 2026  
*Events occurring statewide*

## Chapter 3: Mobile Museum



## Chapter 4: Budget Review

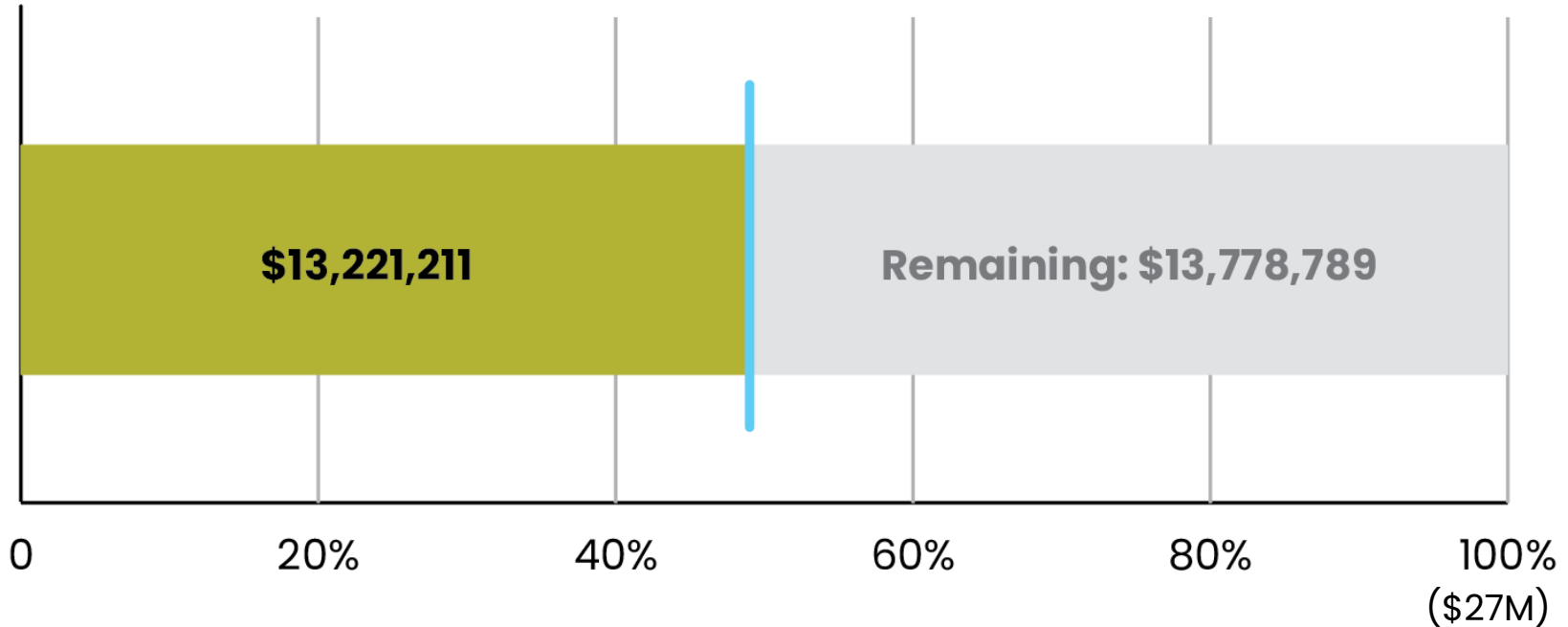
# Budget Utilization (2021 through *July 1, 2025*)





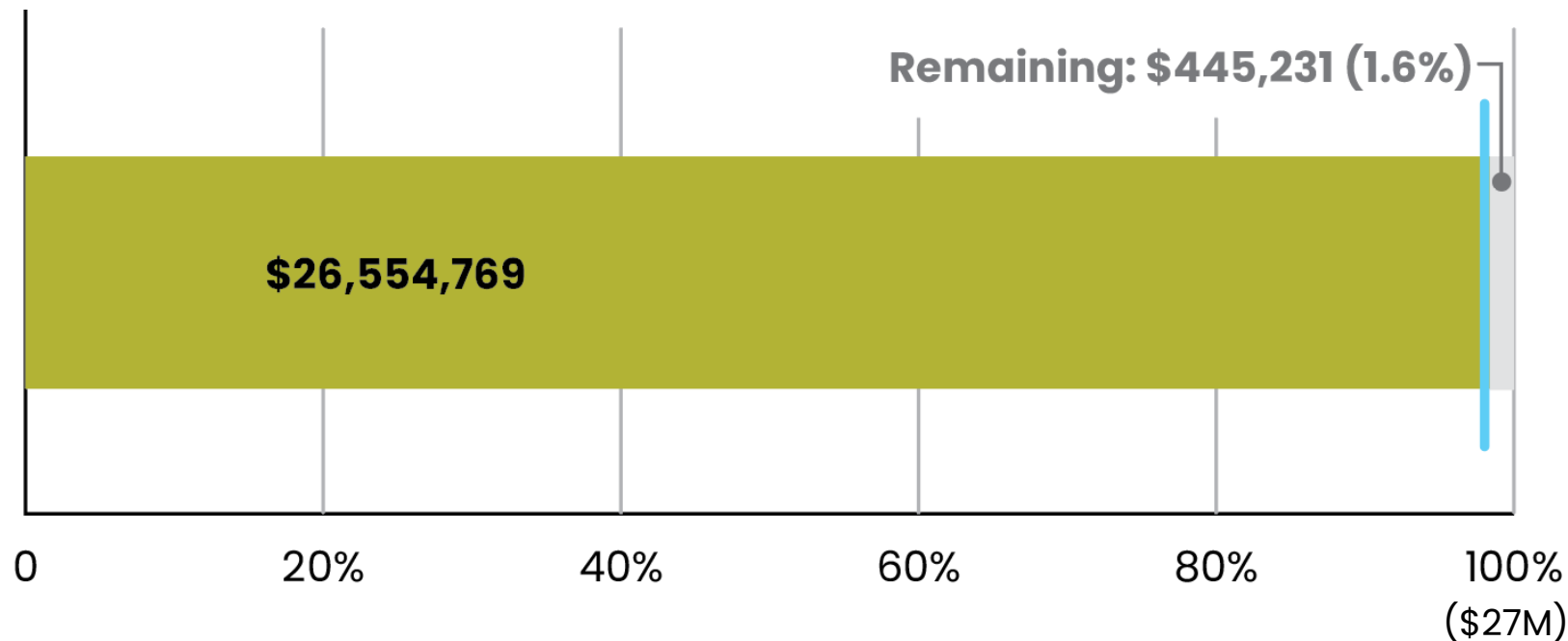
## Chapter 4: Budget Review

# Budget Utilization (2021 through *Dec 31, 2025*)



## Chapter 4: Budget Review

# Projected Remaining Funds (by end of *FY27*)







# **Proposed 2026 Full Commission Meeting Dates**



## Proposed 2026 Full Commission Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 10:00 am
- Thursday, January 7, 2027, 10:00 am



**VA★250**

**America.  
Made in Virginia.**