



The United States Semiquincentennial: America250KY

Presented by:
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Kentucky Historical Society

Founded in 1836, with full funding coming in 1906, the Kentucky Historical Society has been exploring the lives, cultures, and histories of Kentuckians for nearly 200 years. In April of 1999 KHS opened its doors at our current location – a 167,000 square foot museum, research library, event space, and repository for Kentucky history. We offer a variety of online and in person programs for hobbyists and historians from grade school to adulthood. Alongside our main campus we also manage the Old State Capitol and Kentucky Military History Museum, both of which offer tours and dedicated programming.



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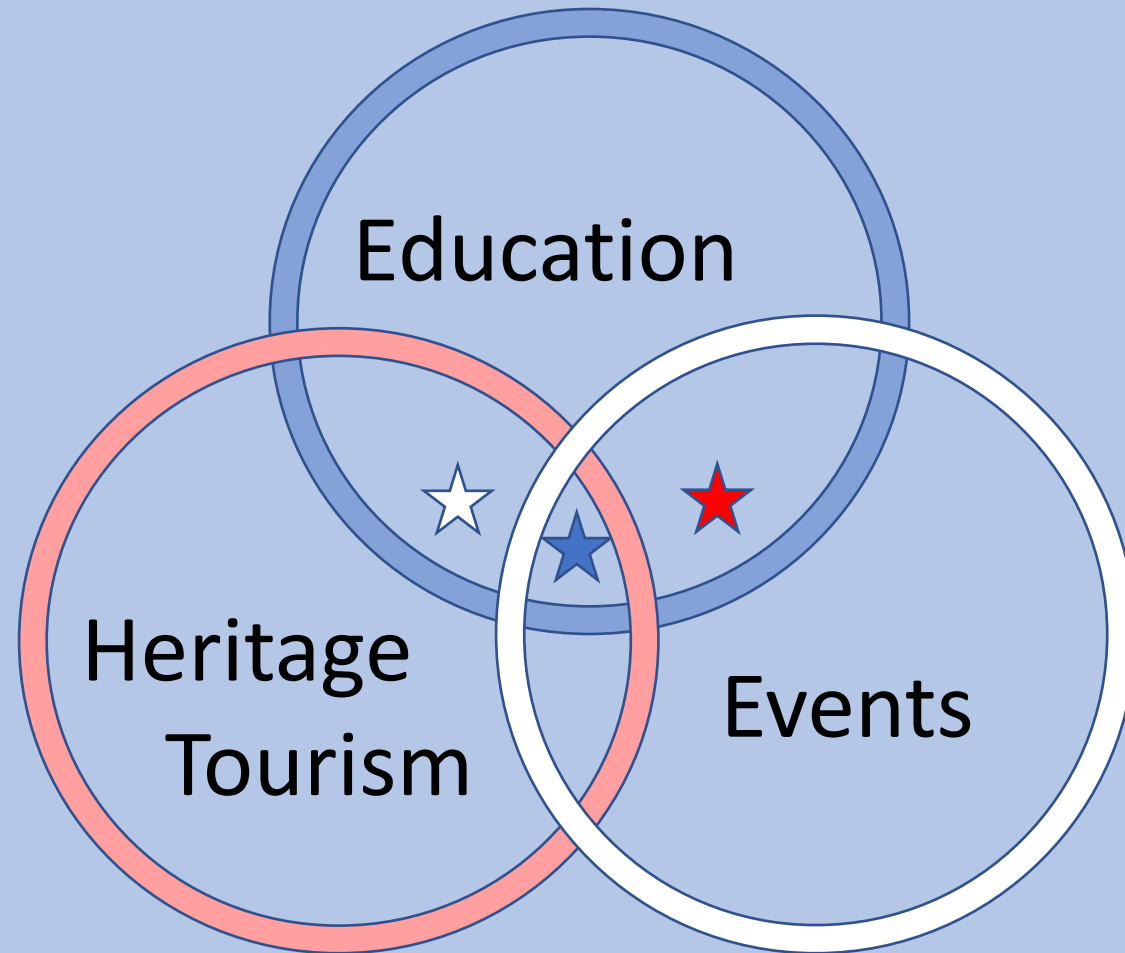
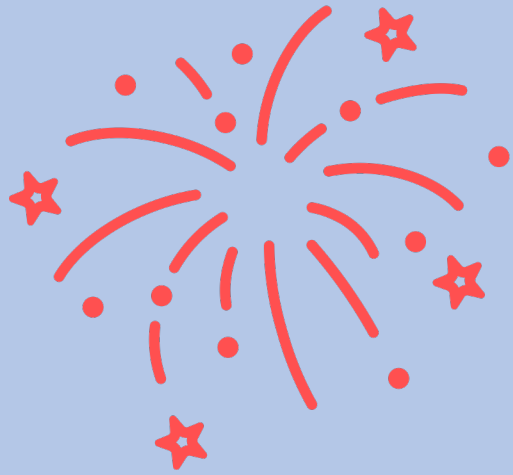
What is America250KY?

- In 2026 the United States celebrates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We are seeking to highlight a diverse and inclusive history about Kentucky's past that reflects on America at 250 years, not the America of 1776. By reflecting on our growth and changes as a Commonwealth we aim to educate, engage, and unite our citizenry around a shared history. This is a celebration of the American spirit with Kentucky's role in shaping the values that led to the founding and growth of a nation.
- A wide variety of projects with many possibilities. We are in the early stages of determining what it is and how it will look. Thinking about long term impact.



*Licking River, between Newport and Covington.
Cincinnati in the background.*

KHS' Major Focus Areas



Kentucky's Big Ideas and Culture

- Natural Features/Landscape
- Transportation
- Migration/Immigration
- Labor/Industry
- Art
- Foodways
- Legacy/Sense of Belonging
- Innovation/Notable Local People
- Resilience and Determination of “Good People”
- Unrecognized: Culture, Diversity, and Religion
- Disconnection and Identity Crisis in the Crossroads



What's Missing and Wanted?

- Black History
- Women's History
- Indigenous History
- Education and Youth
- Diverse Histories and Engagement



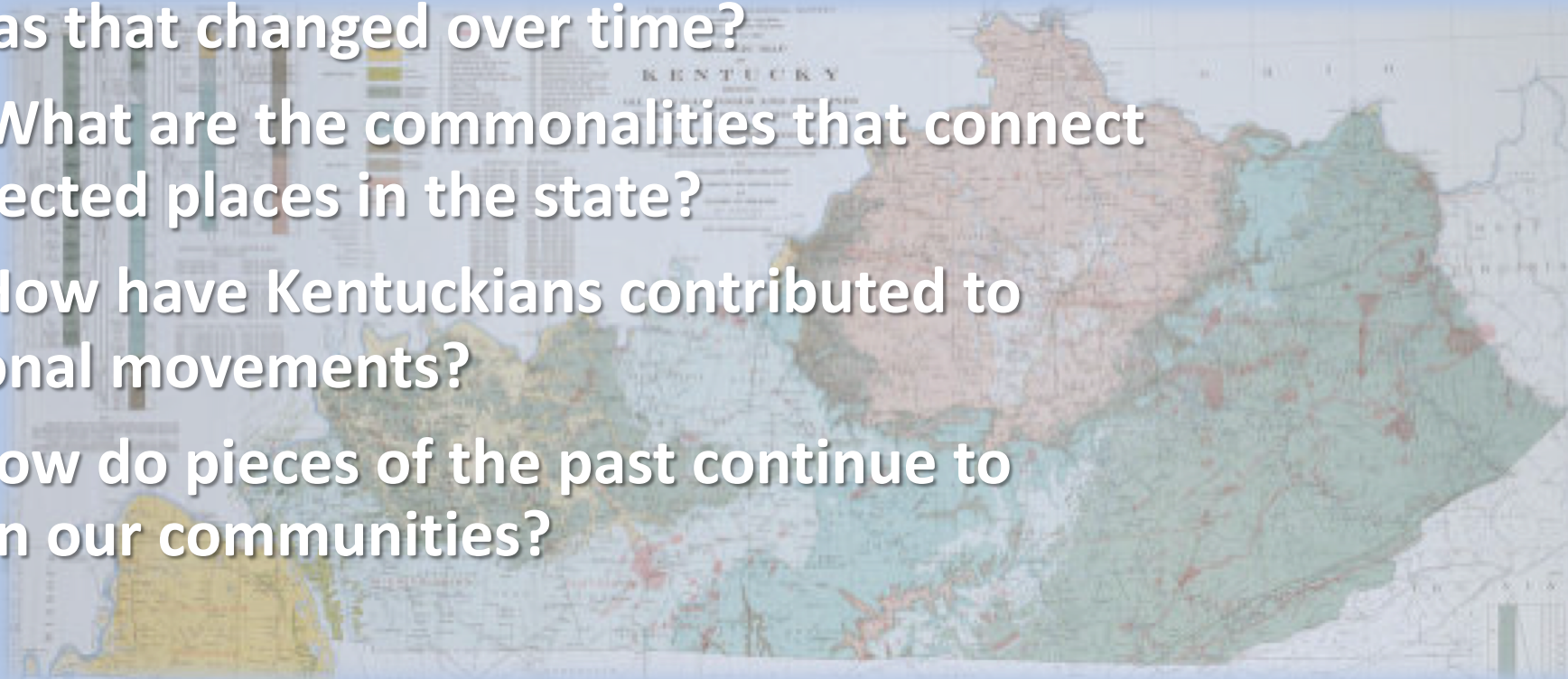
Themes: AASLH



- *Unfinished Revolutions...* Founding documents, along with how communities have pressed for liberty and equality.
- *Power of Place...* How our “places” change over time.
- *We The People...* How definitions of the people change over time.
- *American Experiment...* Origins of government, our democratic institutions.
- *Doing History...* Public engagement

Themes: Kentucky Specific

- *Testbed of Democracy...* How was Kentucky a testbed for the U.S. at large?
- *I, Too, am a Kentuckian...* What does it mean to be considered a Kentuckian and how has that changed over time?
- *Across Geographies...* What are the commonalities that connect us to different disconnected places in the state?
- *Amplified Influence...* How have Kentuckians contributed to larger regional or national movements?
- *The Past Is Present...* How do pieces of the past continue to influence the present in our communities?



Getting Started Locally

- Local Commissions and Advisory Boards
- Who are the players?
 - History
 - Government
 - Tourism
 - Businesses
 - Locals
 - Clubs
 - Extension
 - Youth
- Local assets: institutions, buildings, long term plans, big industry.
- Call (or email) us!



Things to Consider Moving Forward



- What makes your community significant?
- How do we identify as Kentuckians?
- How do we identify as U.S. citizens?
- Our lived experiences are all different.
- Our interests are all different.
- We are all peers, neighbors, passionate people, relatives, and ABOVE ALL Kentuckians.

THANK YOU!

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