



America250PA Chester County (CC250) Commission  
 Government Services Center – Room 270  
 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Hybrid Meeting  
 May 7, 2026 – 4:00 pm

4:00 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chair's Welcome

*Michelle Kichline, Chair*

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

4:05 p.m. 3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2026.

*Action*

4:10 p.m. 4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

*Matt Edmond*

4:20 p.m. 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS, PLANS & BUDGETS

*Chair & Committee Officers*

- A. Heritage Sites Committee
- B. Education Committee
- C. Marketing and Communications Committee
- D. Fundraising Committee
- E. Partnerships Committee
  - 1) PA Day July 20<sup>th</sup>
  - 2) Flag & SWAG distribution update
- F. Technology Committee
- G. Executive Committee

5:00 p.m. 6. A250PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

*Chair & Matt Edmond*

- A. Website & Social Media Report
- B. Events Committee – update on interest
- C. Chester County Library System – 250<sup>th</sup> activities

*April Nickel*

5:30 p.m. 7. PARTNER WORK UPDATES

- A. Planning Commission
  - 1) Kiosks – Marshallton & Phoenixville upgrades
  - 2) HIN Brochure Design
  - 3) Town Tours Kickoff recap
  - 4) Flag project
- B. Community Partners
  - 1) Chester County Community Foundation
  - 2) Chester County Tourism

*Matt Edmond  
 Jeannine Speirs  
 David Blackburn  
 David Blackburn*

*Karen Simmons  
 Susan Hamley*



- 3) Chester County History Center
- 4) Chester County Parks Department
- 5) Keep Chester County Beautiful (KCCB)

*Conor Hepp  
Dave Stauffer  
Rachael Griffith*

5:55 p.m. 8. NEW BUSINESS

*Chair*

6:00 p.m. 9. ADJOURN

*Chair*

**Next monthly meeting – June 4th**

# Action Items





MINUTES: Chester County A250PA Commission Monthly Meeting  
Hybrid – Chester County Government Services Center, Room 171

April 2, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Jane Dorchester, Fernando Fonseca, Susan Hamley, Colin Hanna, Mark Slouf

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Sam Bissenbina, MarySue Boyle, James Christ, Adam Desch, Jennifer Green, Tim Hennessey, Conor Hepp, Michelle Kichline, MaryFrances McGarrity, Winifred Moran Sebastian, Bruce Mowday, Krystine Sipple, Randell Spackman, Dr. tonya thames-taylor (T3), Robert Williams

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: None

CCPC STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: Matt Edmond, David Blackburn, Carol Stauffer, Bronwen Barnett, Jeannine Speirs, Gene Huller

CCPC STAFF PRESENT VIA ZOOM: None

VISITORS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

VISITORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: None

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the Chester County A250PA Commission held in person at the Chester County Government Services Center and via Zoom audio/video on Thursday, April 2, 2026, was called to order at 4:08 P.M. by Michelle Kichline, Chair.

Michelle welcomed the newest member of the Commission, Colin Hanna, whose term began April 1<sup>st</sup>.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS MADE BY WINIFRED MORAN SEBASTIAN, SECONDED BY JANE DORCHESTER, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDED: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR MARCH 5, 2026, MEETING OF THE CHESTER COUNTY A250PA COMMISSION.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Matt Edmond presented a snapshot of the America250 Chester County Commission Charitable Fund (CC250) showing donations to date.
- The agreement to create a new area of deposit for future donations is in review at the Chester County Solicitor's office.
- Matt reviewed the financial reporting template tracking budget allocations, and expenditures across different funds.
  - Of note was the revised cost of the Metricool expense that included a \$4.80 for a foreign transaction fee.
  - A concern was raised about using a foreign company (Metricool). Sam Bissenbina explained that the selection was based on price, popularity and her experience with their product.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, PLANS & BUDGETS

Heritage Sites Committee – Mark Slouf

- Mark Slouf, Chair, has drafted a general outline for implementation of the kiosks that will also transition to a structural document of the overall Heritage Interpretive Network.
- He reviewed the elements of this plan, which includes tasks by consultant, template for content, specs to be put into RFP for solicitations of bids from Contractors, and concurrent tasks toward implementation and HIN structure.

Education Committee –David Blackburn on behalf of Beverly Sheppard

- Materials continue to be widely available for distribution to students.
- On April 26<sup>th</sup> the Chester County Concert Band is performing at Fugett Middle School at 2 pm. Fred Fonseca is coordinating Children of the America Revolution to perform a “Dare to Declare.”
- Michelle Kichline announced that Tredyffrin Easttown School District is incorporating the 250 themes into spring curriculum, events and fundraising. In addition, a bus tour had been organized of the Tredyffrin historic sites.
- Michelle asked that members report on their school districts activities that are focused on the 250 themes.

Marketing and Communication Committee – Jane Dorchester

- The first article - in celebration of Women's History Month theme - has been published on the website and will be up through April. In addition, an article for Keep Chester County Beautiful will be published at the end of April.
- A Logo Usage License & Agreement has been finalized and will be used when receiving requests for our logo use. These requests will be reviewed and approved by the MarCom Committee.
- Events for which we will be buying targeted ads and social media placement are under review.

- Magnets and stickers are ready for pickup, and we will have them in time for Susan Hamley's event on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 5,000 Bookmarks have been donated by Brandywine Valley Tourism, and some have already been distributed to the public libraries.
- A distribution system will be organized for the items. There is also ample supply for Commission members to place in workplaces, churches, and school libraries.
- These materials may also be promoted in our monthly newsletter.
- The Commission had a lengthy discussion on the purchase of street banners, increasing the quantities on CC250 flags and the printing of copies of the Declaration of Independence.
  - A MOTION TO NOT SPEND \$3,740 ON THE PURCHASE OF A STREET BANNER ON 2. NORTH HIGH STREET WAS MADE BY JANE DORCHESTER, SECONDED BY MARK SLOUF, AND PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.
  - A MOTION TO PURCHASE 150 FLAGS FROM THE COLONIAL FLAG COMPANY WAS MADE BY MARK SLOUF, SECONDED BY WINIFRED MORAN SEBASTIAN, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.
    - There are 73 municipalities, 9 State Representatives and 3 State Senators and 1 U.S. Representative in Chester County. Adding 12 School Districts, this equals 98, plus the County government should also be given flags for each major building.
    - If the municipalities would like a second flag, or if private businesses would like a flag, they would need to purchase. A suggestion was made to put a button on the website to purchase flags.
  - A MOTION TO ORDER 1,000 COPIES OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TO BE PRINTED IN-HOUSE BY CHESTER COUNTY FOR AN ESTIMATED \$.40/COPY WAS MADE BY SUSAN HAMLEY, SECONDED BY MARY SUE BOYLE, AND PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

#### Fundraising Committee – Winifred Moran Sebastian

- The Committee held a meeting this past month and discussed the possibility of law firms who do municipal work to purchase flags for their municipalities.
- An Events Committee being formed was discussed, most notably towards organizing a glamorous fundraiser.
- Mary Sue Boyle, Colin Hanna, Susan Hamley and Jim Christ provided ideas and updates on events proposed for our organization or those being planned by other organizations in the remainder of 2026 and into 2027.
  - A MOTION TO CREATE AN EVENTS PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE TO THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF MEMBERS

WHO ARE INTERESTED AND HAVE EXPERIENCE IN EVENT PLANNING, WAS MADE BY JANE DORCHESTER, SECONDED BY WINIFRED MORAN SEBASTIAN, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

- Michelle Kichline asked that members interested in serving on an Events Committee should submit their names to Bronwen Barnett.

#### Partnerships Committee – Michelle Kichline for Randell Spackman

- There is much discussion with the County and Brandywine Battlefield about events.
- The Committee is having a meeting next month to discuss the distribution of the flags and the support for library outreach for events.

#### Technology Committee – Sam Bissenbina

- A Volunteer Opportunities page is posted, and it connects to the organizations searching for volunteers.
- Sub-menus have been created.
- Links on the Heritage Themes to historical organizations are being created.
- Michelle Kichline requested outreach to municipalities requesting a link back to our site. Matt Edmond suggested this request be made in an email blast by CCPC staff.
- tanya taylor-thomas (t3) requested a report be provided monthly on the website analytics.

#### Executive Committee – Michelle Kichline

- Bucks County 250 have been provided with \$20,000 by the County supervisors and have created mini-grants. Michelle Kichline asked the members about an interest in creating these for CC250.
- A decision was made that although it was a wonderful idea, we don't currently have the excess funds to create this program. Should we obtain appropriate funds in the future this idea can be revisited.

#### A250PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

- Matt Edmond gave a final reminder to the Commission about the requirement to fill out the State of PA Ethics form for 2025.
- Historical bus tours were suggested last month for possible CC250 sponsored/organized events – if members want to discuss this further, Jeannine Speirs has information on past tour parameters and lessons learned.
- Colin Hanna discussed the June 25<sup>th</sup> event at Longwood by the Brandywine Symphony. An original composition will be performed with patriotic tunes. This composition could be an audio file played on continuous loop on the website. The copyright for this piece is not complete and so cannot be posted currently, but he will alert us when that is in place.

#### PARTNER WORK UPDATES

Chester County Planning Commission

- Kiosk software upgrades are being planned for Marshallton and Phoenixville and we are working with the county procurement office.

Community Partners

- Chester County Community Foundation – no verbal update as Karen Simmons was not present.
- Chester County Parks Department update (provided by David Blackburn on behalf of Dave Stauffer):
  - Forged in Freedom Traveling Exhibit will be at Springton Manor Farm in May, at Nottingham County Park in July, and Warwick County Park in September.
  - County Rangers are actively working to clean and update the Family Farm Museum located in the Great Barn at Springton Manor Farm with the goal of featuring the museum at this year’s Sheep + Wool Day Event to be held on 5/2/26 from 11am-3pm. The rain date for the event is 5/3/26.
  - Ranger Jay Erb is developing a “We the People” civic program with guest speakers to be held in July. This is anticipated to include a Chester County Community Foundation funding request to support videography and postproduction editing of video content for web and social media use.

NEW BUSINESS

- The first CC250 update to the County Commissioners is taking place at their April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Our website will be the focus of the update.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:09 PM WAS MADE BY MARYFRANCES MCGARRITY, SECONDED BY JANE DORCHESTER, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryFrances McGarrity, Secretary  
Chester County A250PA Commission

MM/brb

# Financial Report



# America 250 Chester County Commission Charitable Fund (CC250)

## Snapshot as of 4/28/2026

FUND SUMMARY

Fund  
America250 PA Chester County Commission

CREATE GRANT REQUEST

CONTRIBUTIONS

Fund Created  
12/15/2022

GRANTS

Current Balance  
51,407.67

GRANT REQUEST

Your CCCF Contact  
MS. KAREN SIMMONS  
610-696-8211  
karen@chescofc.org

VENDOR INVOICES

CEO

INVOICES

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

10

▼

entries per page

Search:

ID	Date	Contributor	Amount
100205	02/12/2026	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	40,000.00
99447	12/09/2025	CCCF America250 Let Freedom Ring DCED Promo - Provisional	10,000.00
99001	10/23/2025	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	1,000.00
98951	10/16/2025	Anonymous	2.50
96801	06/30/2025	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	650.00

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

« < 1 > »

DONATE

FUND SUMMARY

Fund  
America250 PA Chester County Commission

CREATE GRANT REQUEST

CONTRIBUTIONS

VOUCHERS

FILTER

EXPORT

GRANTS

10

▼

entries per page

Search:

ID	Date	Status	Profile	Amount
51457	03/10/2026	paid	U.S. Bank	244.80

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entry

« < 1 > »

VENDOR INVOICES

INVOICES

RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

DONATE

Committee	Budget Allocations	
Education		\$ -
		\$ -
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Heritage Sites	HSN Brochure	\$ 10,000.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
MarCom - Media Social	Targeted Ads	\$ 6,370.00
	Boosted Posts	\$ 1,230.00
	Large Print Media Buys	\$ 2,400.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
MarCom - Promotional	Stickers - 5,000 @ .14	\$ 700.00
	Magnets - 2500 @ .60	\$ 1,500.00
	Lapel Pins - 1,000 @ \$1.39	\$ 1,390.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 3,590.00</b>
Partnerships	1000 Pocket Declarations	\$ 160.00
	150 Flags @ \$93.50	\$ 14,025.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 14,185.00</b>
KIOSKS		\$ -
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Technology	Website Domain	\$ 33.00
	Jotform Bronze	\$ 240.00
	Tockify Premium	\$ 80.00
	Mailchimp	\$ 600.00
	*\$240 original estimate	
	Metricool Starter *	\$ 244.80
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 1,197.80</b>
<b>Total funds for Cmtes (excluding kiosks)</b>		<b>\$ 60,143.47</b>
Total allocated to date (excluding kiosks)		\$ 38,972.80
Amt remaining to be allocated (excluding kiosks)		\$ 21,170.67

REVENUES	KIOSK FUNDING			
	CC250 Charitable Fund	CCPC - General Fund	DCED Grants	Planning Commission
Starting balance Feb. 2026	\$ 51,652.47	\$ 8,491.00	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00
Totals:	\$ 51,652.47	\$ 8,491.00	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES				
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
Pending final invoice - stickers	\$ 700.00			
Pending final invoice - Magnets	\$ 1,500.00			
Pending final invoice - Pins @ \$1.06	\$ 1,060.00			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ 3,260.00			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
Feb. 2026 Metricool Starter	\$ 244.80			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ 244.80			
<b>BALANCE REMAINING</b>	<b>\$ 48,147.67</b>	<b>\$ 8,491.00</b>	<b>\$ 333,540.00</b>	<b>\$ 152,937.00</b>

# CC250 Business



## CC250 Social Media and Website stats - January through March 2026

### Newsletter

The newsletter, first released on February 11, 2026 and continuing monthly, has 642 subscribers (as of 4/1/26).

### Website

Total page views in **January** were 3,285 with the top 3 viewed pages being:

1. Home
2. Calendar of Events
3. Our Heritage

Total page views in **February** were 3,313 with the top 3 viewed pages being:

1. Home
2. Calendar of Events
3. The Commission

Total page views in **March** were 2,517 with the top 3 viewed pages being

1. Home
2. Calendar of Events
3. Events and Visits

Total page views **from January 1 through March 31** were 9,115. 35% of traffic was the result of searching, 33% was direct visits, and 30% was referred from another site. The top 3 viewed pages were:

1. Home
2. Events Calendar
3. Our Heritage

### Social Media

CC250 has accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

#### Facebook

Facebook currently has 921 followers which is an increase of 5.7% from January 1st.

In January, the most popular posts were the Kick-off event for the 250<sup>th</sup> in Chester County and signing up for the Newsletter.

In February, the most popular posts were submitting events to our calendar and a follow-up to the kick-off event.

In March, they were the Speaker Series-Charlotte Moore Sitterly and America250 at Goshen-Ned Donoghue.

### **LinkedIn**

LinkedIn currently has 37 followers which is an increase of 15.6% from January 1st.

In January, the most popular posts were the Kick-off event for the 250<sup>th</sup> in Chester County and Fighting for Philadelphia book presentation. In February, the most popular posts were CC250/KCCB cleanup campaign and America250 at Goshen-Noah Lewis. In March, they were Women in the Revolution Book Discussion and the Speaker Series-Charlotte Moore.

### **Instagram**

Instagram currently has 301 followers which is an increase of 18.5% from January 1st.

In January, the most popular posts were the Kick-off event for the 250<sup>th</sup> in Chester County and signing up for the Newsletter. In February the most popular posts were CC250/KCCB cleanup campaign and America250 at Goshen-Noah Lewis. In March they were Old Caln Historical Society-Women's Patriotism in Chester County and Speaker Series-John E Smith III.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



## 32nd Annual Town Tours and Village Walks Kicks off April 30th

Join us for the kickoff of this year's annual Town Tours and Village Walks program. The theme connects to America250: "13 Tours for 13 Colonies." The 32nd annual iteration of the program starts the season on Thursday, April 30th, at 5:30 pm in the historic Chester County Courthouse in West Chester.

The 2026 program features thirteen tours and three lectures in locations throughout Chester County, finishing the season on October 15th. All events are free and do not require reservations. Each program will explore a different facet of Chester County's rich history from the 1777 Philadelphia Campaign to the legacy of Iron & Steel to the Network to Freedom and more.

If you are interested in attending a program, you can find the 2026 listing on the [Chester County Planning Commission's Website](#).



## Springton Manor Farm: Showcasing Agriculture from the 1700s to Modern Day

The second in our article series features Springton Manor Farm! Open to the public year-round, this 300-acre demonstration farm in Glenmoore, Pennsylvania, is more than your typical county park. Springton not only offers hiking trails and scenic vistas, but it is also a working farm that brings the past 250 years of agricultural industry to life. [View Article](#)



## Need Volunteers? Searching for a volunteer opportunity? Check this out!

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity to help execute programming or activities for CC250? Do you represent a group, organization, or municipality that require volunteers to plan and run a program or event? You can now do both on the CC250 website.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

If you are seeking volunteers for an event or program, [your request](#) will be reviewed and added to the volunteer application and the list of organizations seeking volunteers once approved.

## Sign Up for the America250 PA Newsletter

Did someone forward this newsletter to you? If you'd like to receive this monthly newsletter, [sign up now!](#)



You are receiving this email because you opted in either through our website or a meeting.

[Unsubscribe](#) <<Email Address>> from this list.

Our mailing address is:

America250PA Chester County  
601 Westtown Rd Ste 270  
West Chester, PA 19382

[Add us to your address book](#)

**DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.**

Email [america250chesco@chesco.org](mailto:america250chesco@chesco.org) or call 610-344-6285 with inquiries.

Copyright (C) 2026 America250PA Chester County All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend  
[Update your profile](#)



February 13, 2026

On behalf of the Naturalization Committee of the Chester County Bar Association, in partnership with Founding Forward, I am writing to formally invite you to attend an upcoming Naturalization Ceremony held in conjunction with America 250 and Pennsylvania 250.

The ceremony will take place on **June 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** at Founding Forward 1601 Valley Forge Rd, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

This momentous occasion marks a once-in-a-lifetime milestone, during which individuals will take the Oath of Allegiance and be formally welcomed as citizens of the United States.

The presence of elected officials, dignitaries, and members of the judiciary adds distinction to this important observance, and we would be honored by your attendance should your schedule permit.

Please feel free to contact me to indicate your availability or to request additional information regarding the event.

Thank you for your continued service and support of our community.

We would be privileged to celebrate this meaningful occasion with you.

Respectfully,

Deb Leach

Member of the Naturalization Ceremony

610.344.6691 | 484.401.8778 | [dleach@chesco.org](mailto:dleach@chesco.org)

# Committee Reports



## Chester County America250 Committees

As of 4/28/2026

Executive Committee	Mar Com Committee	Technology Committee	Heritage Sites Committee
<i>Michelle Kichline, Chair</i>	<i>Jane Dorchester, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Sam Bissenbina, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Mark Slouf, Cmte Chair</i>
<i>Winifred Moran Sebastian, Vice Chair</i>	Nicole Flamer	Adam Desch	Mary Sue Boyle
<i>Krys Sipple, Vice Chair</i>	Colin Hanna	Ernie Holling	James Christ
<i>MaryFrances McGarrity, Corporate Secretary</i>	Larycia Hawkins		Barbara Cohen
Mark Slouf	Bruce Mowday		Fernando Fonseca
Randell Spackman	John Reynolds		Randell Spackman
Robert Williams	Savannah Flores		tonya thames-taylor
	Emma Brennan		Robert Williams
			James Ziegler
<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>
Matt Edmond	Matt Edmond	David Blackburn	David Blackburn
David Blackburn	David Blackburn	Carolyn Oakley	Jeannine Speirs
	Carolyn Oakley	Beth Cunliffe	
	Beth Cunliffe		

Education Committee	Fundraising Committee	Partnerships Committee	Nominating Committee
<i>Beverly Sheppard, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Michelle Kichline, CC250 Chair</i>	<i>Randell Spackman, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Randell Spackman, Cmte Chair</i>
Fernando Fonseca	<i>Winifred Moran Sebastian, Cmte Chair</i>	Adam Desch	Jane Dorchester
Jennifer Green	Tim Hennessey	Conor Hepp	tonya thames-taylor
Lisa Doan Harley	MaryFrances McGarrity	Laura Manion	
	Laura Manion	MaryFrances McGarrity	
	Krys Sipple	Winifred Moran Sebastian	
		Beverly Sheppard	
		Brandi Levine	
<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	
David Blackburn	Matt Edmond	David Blackburn	

Events Committee
Adam Desch
Colin Hanna
<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>

Purple shading = Committee member not member of CC250 Commission

# Work Updates





<https://cccf250.org/planning/>

**America 250 Events – Working List**



## Activity #1: COMMUNITY CONVENING & HYPER-LOCAL ACTIVATION

1. Greater West Chester 4<sup>th</sup> Mon 2-3
2. Main Line 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon noon
3. Phoenixville: 4<sup>th</sup> Tues 3-4
4. Southern ChesCo 4<sup>th</sup> Wed 2-3
5. Coatesville

Municipal Heritage & Arts Commissions  
Heritage, History  
Civic & Social Justice; Legal Community  
Arts, Culture, Community NPOs  
Chambers of Commerce, Main St Assoc,  
Businesses, Education, Schools, Libraries  
Scouts, Ys, Veterans groups, Senior Living  
Communities, Service Clubs, Places of Worship

## Activity #2: CONVENE “LET FREEDOM RING” COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

1. w/National Constitution Center & WHYY PBS  
co-promote free Ken Burns “The American Revolution” watch-parties in ChesCo
2. w/VF NHP support **Dare to Declare/Community Conversations w/Wish Walls**  
Dare to Declare **Video Red Carpet Premieres...**Jan & Feb 2026  
Dare to Declare **Video promotion:** view, use, discuss...all 2026  
**Dare to Declare Events:** promote host scheduling, support discussions...all 2026

## Activity #3: GRANTMAKING

### New Heritage Centers: Capital Fundraising Capacity Building Grant Projects (~\$15k/site)

1. Tredyffrin Heritage Center at Duportail House: \$350K FR Goal (\$180k pledged)
2. Paoli Battlefield Heritage Center: \$500K FR Goal (\$325k pledged)
3. Thornbury Farm Heritage Center: \$375K FR Goal (\$100k pledged)

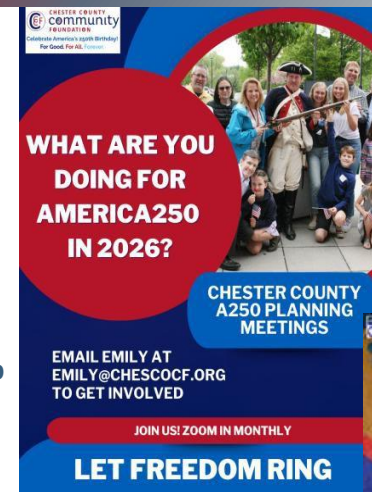
### Let Freedom Ring & Dare to Declare Fast-track & Mini-Grants

1. Let Freedom Ring & Dare to Declare: Events, Activities & Program Funding  
Eligible to apply: Orgs participating in hyper-local regional activation groups  
Fast-track grant applications; weekly decisions: \$1,250 - \$2,500 - \$5,250 - \$10,250
2. Grant: Bells Across PA. Sponsor Bell for ChesCo/A250CC CVB \$10k 11/25
3. Grant: Special Request Grant to A250CC Commission \$50k 1/26

Karen Simmons, [karen@chescofc.org](mailto:karen@chescofc.org)

Heather Reiffer, Angela Scully, Kim Andrews, Paige Mardsen, Beth Krallis

<https://cccf250.org/> [cccf250@chescofc.org](mailto:cccf250@chescofc.org)



CHESTER COUNTY  
community  
FOUNDATION  
Celebrate America's  
250th Birthday!  
For Good.  
For All.  
Forever.



# Bells Across PA: Chester County

Bell Unveiling Ceremony: April 30, 2026 at 5:00 at the Historic Courthouse

Directly before West Chester Town Tours & Village Walks at 5:30

<https://cccf250.org/bells/>

Please join us!

★ Dare to Declare

★ America250 Bell Unveiling

★ Town Tours & Village Walks

Free & open to the public

Historic Chester County Courthouse Steps

Thurs. April 30<sup>th</sup> 5pm


[cccf250.org/daretodeclare/](http://cccf250.org/daretodeclare/)

[chescoplanning.org/historic/towntours/](http://chescoplanning.org/historic/towntours/)

5 - Declaration Reading 5:15 - Bell Unveiling 5:30 - Town Tours & Village Walks



Bell housed at 28 W. Market Street

Loew Courtyard 

Behind fence

Due to County of Chester property placement liability concerns

Can be easily seen by visitors

CCCF adding large sign to enhance plaque explanation

Ashley Kolpak  
County: CHESTER

## "Scenes From Chester County"

### Design Description:

My bell focuses on the natural and historical aspects of Chester County, both in notable historical moments as well as featuring famous local artists. I wanted to include many aspects of the America250PA focus areas, agriculture, arts and culture, history, and nature/environment. Longwood Gardens is a huge nature focus in Chester County and extremely notable for the plants they have helped cultivate and preserve. Kennett Square is the mushroom capital of the world.

The Wyeth's and Warton Esherick are important artists that came from Chester County. I wanted to capture air and sky, so I felt it was important to note the Helicopter Museum from West Chester, and to feature hot air balloons which are seen across Chester County along with a hot air balloon festival. I included nature by including the PA state bird, the ruffed grouse, and other animals frequently seen in our county, the White-tailed deer, turkey, and red fox most predominantly. I want to complete the design in paint, giving a collaged look to the piece, combining all these objects of note, along with some possible mixed media elements added to it.



AMERICA 250 PA  
WWW.AMERICAN250PA.ORG

BELLS ACROSS PA

This bell was placed as part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's celebrations for the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2024.

## "Scenes From Chester County"

Presented in Chester County

Artist: Ashley Kolpak

Sponsored by:

CHESTER COUNTY community FOUNDATION

AMERICA 250 PA  
CHESTER COUNTY



## DARE TO DECLARE

Let us help you host  
a community Dare to Declare event





*The Declaration isn't long,  
but its impact is immeasurable.*



### SUMMER 2026

### MEMORIAL DAY thru LABOR DAY

28 W Market St, West Chester, PA 19382  
 cccf250.org/daretodeclare  
 cccf250@chescof.org  
 610.696.8221



### Red Carpet Premieres

**COLONIAL THEATRE**  
 WED, JAN 28  
 6:30-8pm

*In just 10 minutes,  
hear the words  
that built our  
nation.*

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

**DARE TO DECLARE**

**UPTOWN! KNAUER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
 TUES, JAN 27, 5-6:30PM

**KENNETT LIBRARY**  
 TUES, FEB 10  
 6-7:30pm

*The Declaration isn't long,  
but its impact is  
immeasurable.*





28 W Market St. | West Chester, PA 19382  
610.696.8221 | cccf250@chescof.org





### GET INVOLVED!

**1-Review Dare to Declare webpage & videos**



<https://cccf250.org/daretodeclare/>



**Teaser video** (30 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXjzGkI3stM>



**Dare to Declare: All-County video** (15 min)

[https://youtu.be/2lkdxr4\\_MHA](https://youtu.be/2lkdxr4_MHA)

**2-Watch Kennett livestream** from 2/10/26


[https://youtu.be/uBwL\\_jANK7M](https://youtu.be/uBwL_jANK7M)

**3-Open doors to Dare to Declare host sites**


[hpreiffer@gmail.com](mailto:hpreiffer@gmail.com)

**4-Zoom in & join weekly activation meetings**

[hpreiffer@gmail.com](mailto:hpreiffer@gmail.com)



**WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR AMERICA250 IN 2026?**



**CHESTER COUNTY A250 PLANNING MEETINGS**

EMAIL EMILY AT [EMILY@CHESCOF.ORG](mailto:EMILY@CHESCOF.ORG) TO GET INVOLVED

JOIN US! ZOOM IN MONTHLY

**LET FREEDOM RING**

CHESTER COUNTY  
**community**  
 FOUNDATION

Celebrate America's  
 250th Birthday!  
 For Good.  
 For All.  
 Forever.