



NATIONAL ARCHIVES
FOUNDATION

ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

*National Association of Secretaries of State
and
National Archives Foundation*

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

Overview: 250th Commemoration



Freedom Plane Traveling Exhibition

This once-in-a-generation traveling exhibition will bring **original Founding-era** documents to **eight cities** across the U.S. in celebration of America 250, giving visitors coast-to-coast a chance to get up close and personal with our nation's history.

250th Celebration at the Archives

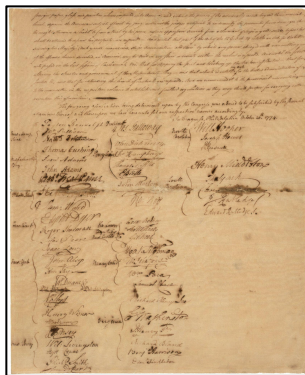
The signature celebration of the 250th will be held this June at the National Archives! This **three-day festival on Constitution Avenue** will offer live music, historical reenactments, and family-friendly fun while inspiring a lasting connection to our Founding.

Museum Exhibitions

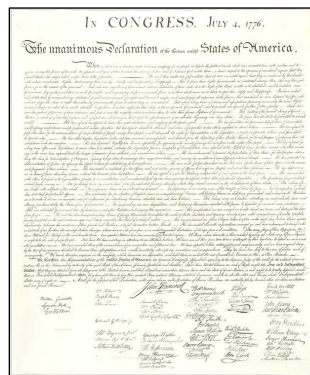
The National Archives Museum's flagship exhibition—***The American Story***—uses AI to fully personalize your experience. This spring, we'll also **debut a new exhibition** on the journey to independence, plus a look back at past celebrations and memorabilia like the '76 Bicentennial.

Freedom Plane National Tour

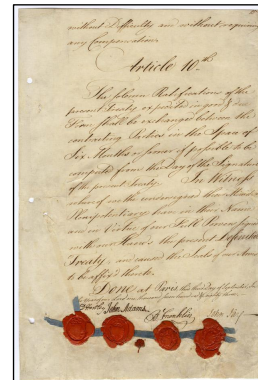
Documents That Forged a Nation | March - August 2026



Articles of Association
(Last Page)



Stone Engraving of the
Declaration of
Independence



Treaty of Paris
(Last Page)

- **Historic documents on the move:** Bringing original Founding-era records—including a rare 1823 engraving of the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Paris, and early Constitutional drafts—to eight cities across the U.S. for the first time.
- **Flying across America:** Documents will travel to 8 major cities via a specially branded Boeing 737, connecting communities nationwide to the history that shaped the nation.
- **Free and open to the public:** Each stop on the tour will offer free access to these rare artifacts, making America's founding history accessible to everyone.



Learn more at FreedomPlane.org

America's 100 Docs Sweet 16

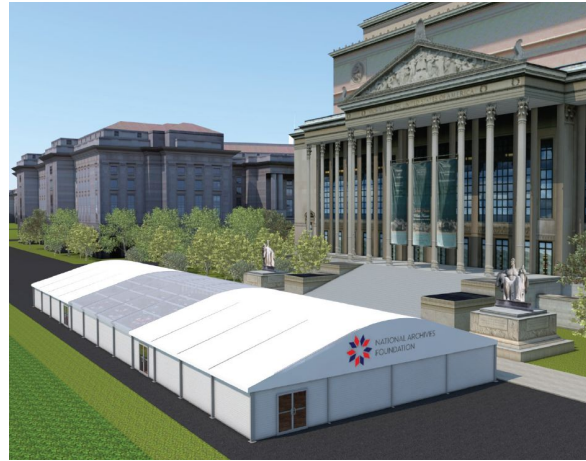
February 1-March 15, 2026



- **History goes head-to-head:** 16 of America's most significant historical records from the holdings of the National Archives face off in a bracket-style Sweet 16 championship.
- **Beyond just "docs:"** Records range from iconic photographs, treaties, Supreme Court cases, and more, representing various eras of American history from the Founding Era through 9/11.
- **National public voting decides the winner:** Americans fill out brackets and vote each week as documents advance from the Sweet 16 to a single national champion, or in this case, "America's Top Doc."

Spirit of Independence Festival

June 4-6, 2026



- **Family & Community Events:** Throughout the festival, there will be art, games, hourly programs, and even a “Yappy Hour” for furry friends.
- **Honoring Service & Heritage:** Salute to Service will pay tribute to U.S. military members; American Mosaic: State Dinner Cookout and American Opportunity black-tie dinner will showcase regional cuisine, celebrity chefs, and entertainment.
- **Festive Experiences:** Guests will enjoy interactive chef and cocktail stations, engaging conversations with historical interpreters of Founding figures, special museum-specific activations, and more surprises!

The American Story

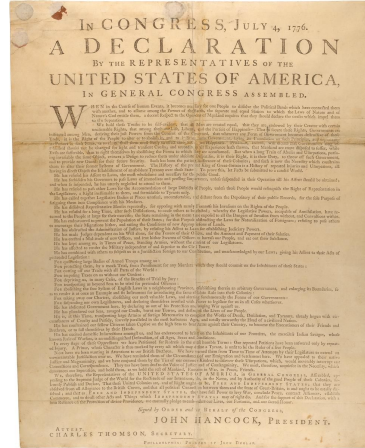
Ongoing, National Archives Museum



- **A new signature museum experience:** *The American Story* is the National Archives Museum's newly opened permanent exhibition, redesigned for the first time in over 20 years to celebrate 250 years of U.S. history.
- **Personalized, interactive journey:** Powered by artificial intelligence, the exhibit lets visitors choose topics they care about and receive personalized content drawn from more than two million digitized records.
- **Original documents and artifacts:** Highlights include George Washington's annotated Constitution, the Louisiana Purchase Treaty, notable patents, photographs, and Presidential gifts from foreign dignitaries.
- **Discovery Center:** Just across the Rotunda, the Discovery Center offers hands-on, interactive games and activities designed to engage children, families, teachers, and students of all ages with history in a playful way.

Free and Independent

Coming May 2026



- **Celebrating independence:** Explores the events, people, and ideals that led to the signing of the Declaration of Independence and highlights how Americans have celebrated July 4 and milestone anniversaries over the centuries.
- **Rare documents and artifacts:** Visitors will see a Dunlap Broadside (shown above), the Lee Resolution, King George III's proclamations, journals from the First Continental Congress, and the National Archives' working model of the original Declaration vault.
- **Reflecting on past commemorations:** Will feature unique and interesting memorabilia, as well as films and audio from past "milestone" birthdays, namely the 1976 Bicentennial

How **YOU** can get involved!



- **Engage with NAF Social Media:** Our most active channels are Instagram (@archivesfdn) and Twitter/X (@archivesfdn). We welcome any sort of collaboration, especially as it relates to the records.
- **Using and sharing civic resources:** [DocsTeach.org](https://docsTeach.org), etc
- **If your state is on the Freedom Plane route:** Please reach out to us to coordinate getting your state government involved in either the opening reception and/or press coverage.
- **Spirit of Independence Festival:** Coordinate with our Communications Team on Local Celebrations



Questions?

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