

# Maine Semiquincentennial Commission Grant Program



**Made possible by the Maine State Archives & the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council**

The Maine Semiquincentennial Commission announces the following grant program funded by Maine's Cultural Affairs Council and the Maine State Archives. This packet contains information about the grant program and an application form. For more information or questions about your specific project, please contact: Sarah Hansen, Director, Maine Semiquincentennial Commission at [sarah.e.hansen@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.e.hansen@maine.gov).

## **Program Description**

The primary purpose of this grant program is to support inclusive, community-centered research, events, programs, projects, or exhibitions offered by museums, heritage areas, history organizations and sites, other nonprofits, and state, county, municipal, and tribal entities. Funded projects should follow the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission's three guiding principles:

**Connect:** Uniting Maine's Stories with America's Legacy

- Foster a sense of community and shared heritage through collaborative events and discussions.

**Share:** Illuminating Maine's Legacy in America's Story

- Provide engaging and informative programs that highlight Maine's role in American history and the broader national narrative.

**Learn:** Examining Maine's Role in America's Ongoing Journey

- Encourage lifelong learning and curiosity about our past, present, and future.

## **Eligible Activities**

Grants may be utilized in support of research, programming, and interpretive projects that seek to deepen public understanding of Maine's complex history. Representative projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Research, including archival research, oral histories, research related to a building, structure, or space that broadens interpretation of the site
- Development and installation of historic markers and/or interpretive signage
- Production of educational programming related to Maine history such as classroom offerings, student projects, and field trips, as well as adult learning opportunities like conferences, symposia, lectures, workshops, and seminars
- Creation of public exhibitions, cultural presentations, publications and/or educational materials
- Digitization/processing of relevant collections
- Historic preservation projects
- Living history events
- Community service or volunteer activities

## Funds

- Grant amounts of up to \$10,000
- No funding match or cost-share is required
- Partial awards will not be made
- **Restrictions:** All purchases made with grant funds are to be made during the grant period and be directly associated with the project. Grant funds may not be used to pay for existing supplies or previous work. Grant funds may not be used to pay existing staff salaries but may be used to pay someone who usually volunteers, or who is working beyond regular hours. Organizations may not apply through a fiscal sponsor to meet eligibility requirements.

## Eligible Organizations:

- Maine tribal entities, nonprofit organizations and other institutions that support the arts, culture, learning, and the humanities, and/or preserve historic buildings, objects, art, culture, or records.
- Maine county and municipal governments and state agencies who comply with the Local Government Record Retention Schedules issued by the Maine State Archives.
- Not eligible:
  - Individuals, for-profit organizations, political or advocacy organizations.
  - Cultural Affairs Council member organizations: Maine State Archives, Maine State Library, Maine State Museum, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine Historical Society, Maine Arts Commission, and Maine Humanities.

## Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Quality and clarity of project description
- Alignment with the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission's guiding principles
- Strength and authenticity of collaborations
- Geographic diversity and reach
- Potential for sustainability and lasting legacy
- Appropriateness and feasibility of the budget

## Application Timeline

Application submission deadline:	October 31, 2025
Grant notification date:	December 15, 2025
Earliest project start date:	January 1, 2026
Project must be completed by:	December 31, 2026

Organizations may submit applications for multiple projects; projects may run concurrently.

## To Apply

Please complete and submit the application below to Sarah Hansen, Director, Maine Semiquincentennial Commission at [sarah.e.hansen@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.e.hansen@maine.gov). All applications must be submitted electronically and include "ME250 Grant Application" in the subject line to ensure proper processing and review.

At the completion of the project, all grantees will be required to submit a final report including:

- A summary of how funds were spent and a narrative summary of project outcomes and public impact (images are appreciated).
- Reports are preferred 30 days after project completion, and no later than January 30, 2027.

# Maine Semiquincentennial Commission Grant Program Application

Organization

Point of Contact

Mailing Address

Physical Address (if different from above)

Phone Number

Email

Website

**Type of applicant:**

Municipality/County

Nonprofit

State Agency

Tribal Entity

Other

**Project Title**

**Project Coordinator**

Name

Organization

Email

*Please attach a resume or statement of qualifications for the Project Coordinator, not to exceed two pages.*

## **Project Description**

Provide a clear description of your proposed project, including its purpose, goals, key activities, timeline, and expected outcomes.

**Project Alignment**

Explain how your project aligns with or supports the three pillars of the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission.

**Collaborators and Partners**

List any partners or collaborating organizations involved in your project. Describe their roles and how their participation will strengthen the project's impact and reach.

**Detailed Budget**

Please attach or enter an itemized budget showing total project costs, grant use, and requested amount.

Signature of individual authorized to commit applicant to terms of the grant:

Name

Title

Organization

Email

Signature

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### **Attachments**

Please include the following attachments with your application:

Nonprofit Eligibility Documents: If applying as a nonprofit, you must provide your IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter or equivalent proof of nonprofit status.

A W9 vendor form

Project Coordinator resume or statement of qualifications