



WHAT IS PUBLIC MEDIA MAKING HISTORY AT 250

A national public media storytelling collective celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States by amplifying local stories from PBS stations

As we approach this landmark anniversary of our country, we want to unite public media stations to amplify their local stories — both past and present — to a broader audience and celebrate the essential role public media plays in sharing our national story.

At the heart of Public Media Making History at 250 is our commitment to curating collections that show how public media increases understanding around social change, local histories, civic engagement, and elevating a variety of community voices.

How PBS Stations Can Participate

We invite all PBS stations—no matter the size—to contribute content that reflects their local history and connects to the broader national story. Content will be distributed monthly by theme and can include:

- New Content: Recently produced programs or digital series.
- Archived Content: Digitized or repurposed films, documentaries, or programs from station archives.
- Community Collaborations: Partnerships with local museums, libraries, historical societies, or educators.

Content Themes for Submission

Inspired by the American Association for State and Local History's "[THE FIELD GUIDE for the SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL: Making History at 250](#)", your station can submit up to five (5) stories, aligning with these key themes:



UNFINISHED REVOLUTIONS

Stories of movements for social, political, and economic change throughout history.



POWER OF PLACE

How geography, environment, and communities have shaped history.



WE THE PEOPLE

Exploring citizenship, identity, and the diverse voices that define America.



AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Democracy in action, civic engagement, governance, and the evolution of American institutions.



DOING HISTORY

Uncovering history through archives, oral histories, and new perspectives on the past.

How Content Will Be Shared

- Monthly Theme Releases: NETA will curate stations' content into national collections for broadcast, streaming, and digital engagement.
- Interactive Media Map & Timeline: Showcasing stories from all 50 states.
- PBS App & Streaming: Selected content will be available via broadcast and on an Am. 250 Fast Channel.

Submissions

- See next page for collection categories
- Complete this [submission form](#) to participate.

Submission Timeline

- **March 27, 2025:** Content submissions open.
- **May 1, 2025:** Content submissions deadline
- **Late Summer 2025:** First curated content list for PBS app released; rolling content distribution by monthly theme begins
- **November 2025:** Premiere of *The American Revolution, A Film by: Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt*
- **2026:** Continued content rollout.

INCLUDE WITH SUBMISSION

- Title of Show or Engagement Activity
- Brief Description
- Content Collection
- Content Category
- Link to Show on PBS App (Media Manager if applicable)
- Date of Engagement activity (if applicable)



COLLECTIONS ARE ORGANIZED AROUND THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES



UNFINISHED REVOLUTIONS

Stories of movements for social, political, and economic change throughout history.

CATEGORIES

- Civil Rights Movements
- Labor Rights
- Women's Suffrage
- LGBTQ+ Rights
- Economic Reforms
- Political Upheavals
- Social Justice
- Voting Rights & Political Engagement
- Protests & Demonstrations
- Public Policy & Reform
- Legal Landmarks & Supreme Court Cases
- Environmental & Conservation Movements
- Disability Rights & Advocacy
- Rural vs. Urban Social Dynamics



WE THE PEOPLE

Exploring citizenship, identity, and the diverse voices that define America.

CATEGORIES

- Immigration Stories
- Cultural Identity
- Community Profiles
- Biographies
- Multiculturalism
- Citizenship Journeys
- Coming-of-Age in America
- LGBTQ+ Personal Narratives
- Family Legacies
- African American History
- Latinx & Hispanic Stories
- Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage
- Indigenous Heritage & Narratives



AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Democracy in action, civic engagement, governance, and the evolution of American institutions.

CATEGORIES

- Government Formation
- Constitutional Amendments
- Voting Rights
- Public Policy
- Civic Movements
- Judicial Landmarks
- Educational Reform
- History of Public Broadcasting
- Elections & Political Campaigns
- Military & Wartime Stories
- Veterans' Voices & Oral Histories
- POW/ & Internment Camp Stories
- Public Media & Civic Education



DOING HISTORY

Uncovering history through archives, oral histories, and new perspectives on the past.

CATEGORIES

- Archival Discoveries
- Oral Histories
- Documentary Films
- Historical Reenactments
- Genealogical Research
- Preservation Efforts
- Public Media & Storytelling
- Libraries & Public Archives
- Museums & Curation
- Science & Technology in Public History
- Space Exploration & NASA
- Medical & Scientific Breakthroughs



POWER OF PLACE

How geography, environment, and communities have shaped history.

CATEGORIES

- Environmental Changes
- Urban Development
- Rural Communities
- Cultural Landscapes
- Migration Patterns
- Indigenous Territories