



Listening Sessions Summary March 2023

In one word, how do you wish to feel after the 250th?



What would you need to feel that this event is for you?

- "Who our audience is going to be in every single case."
- "Very personal, accurate, in depth, so that someone who does know something about history doesn't feel like they got the cliff notes."
- "All are welcome. And now we hear you and we see you."
- "We need to include accessibility, access to events for everyone safe spaces for people to experience, and, and perhaps to share their own history and stories. We need stories of lived experiences from as many communities as possible."
- "I want events that will connect history of the past to the present and the future."
- "In the communities that i have worked in, over the years transportations a big deal. Getting to things isn't as easy as everybody might think that it is."
- "Stories of real people. "These were our ancestors."
- "A look back at the past so that we can understand the present."
- "Appealing to children."
- "...Has a sense of connectedness."
- "Place a fair amount of weight on helping people become more educated, of the time period, the thoughts, the sentiments during that time period."

How would you wish to be engaged or involved?

- Inclusive engagement
- Local civic engagement
- we come out of it with, okay, this is what I'm going to do to you know, further the cause and the mission of the country further and cause the mission, further the cause and the mission of you know, marginalized communities
- kind of thinking about how themes extend and how we can kind of draw connections between different periods in order to make today more relevant in order to give people the tools to take action going into tomorrow and think critically about the past.
- maybe it's time to articulate a new, relevant and inclusive social contract.
- "...start at sort of town-by-town grassroots levels and move out from there."
- "I would love to have a conversation like this that is mediated and facilitated by somebody like you."
- I would like to be involved with my community level, and with the DAR.
- As a regional organization, I think we can help play a role in facilitating communications between local and state and federal opportunities and events and help to coordinate and that is the role we very much like to play.

What support do you foresee being of need for your community and the organizations in your community?

- Money.
- What's the best language that we're using to describe this / centralized publicity of programs.
- If the commission can help facilitate the groups working together, because if everybody's siloed.
- 50 across the curriculum, and the curriculum, in this case, would be kindergarten through graduate school.
- Database of presenters who could present on revolutionary history and have their costs.
- A slate of programs and activities that helps bring us more together versus further divides us.
- Theme...like time continuity and change, or people, places and environments, individual development and identity.
- If we complement, we won't be competing with each other to tell the same story the same way.
- Allow space for the British who were here who didn't support the American revolution.

Facilitator's observations:

- Attendees seemed quite passionate about being included, but I'm not quite sure if they have a vision of how they would wish to be included. The Commission can use this as an opportunity.
- "What happened to the Indigenous population?"
- Small representation of non-White attendees to public conversation
- www.ct250.org as the one-stop shop where planners can retrieve information
- Biggest concerns:
 - Funding
 - Time
 - Framing from Commission (Sample framework from NISE was provided by a participant)
 - Inclusiveness of all stories