

KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

America250KY Kentucky Heritage Council

Preservation Grant Application



As the United States prepares to celebrate the 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the KHS, KHC and partners across the commonwealth are exploring the history of the state from the nation's founding to today.

This commemoration will recognize the people, places, and events over the past 250 years that created our shared history. It will also allow us to examine Kentucky's role in the development of the United States and how our country's ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice have evolved since 1776.

Through educational programs, preservation projects and statewide events and activities, we will celebrate our history while considering what it means to be a Kentuckian.

The Kentucky African American Heritage Commission is offering grants to eligible agencies and programs as part of the America 250-KY Kentucky Heritage Council Preservation program. Applicants will submit this application no later than October 15, 2025. The purpose of these grants is to supplement your project budget above \$5000.00. We are providing grants at \$5000.00, maximum against your budget. Awards will be disbursed by November 15, 2025. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2026, and a final report is to be submitted by that time. Commission members will follow up with grantees during the life of their project. Eligible program examples are as follows:

- Research
- Publications
- Exhibition planning or implementation
- Interpretive signs
- Events and public programs
- Educational programs
- Production and implementation of tours
- Purchasing collections (artifact or archival)
- Historic preservation

Funds may **not** be used for:

- Public art
- State historical markers

- Building maintenance, utilities, grounds keeping, insurance costs, interest or debt payments, or other projects that the Kentucky Historical Society considers to be under an organization's day-to-day operations
- Fundraising events
- Oral history projects
- Personnel, payroll, benefits, or indirect costs.

Application Deadline: October 15, 2025

In any publication for this project, you are to acknowledge financial support provided by the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission and the Kentucky State Historic Society. Please note that incomplete applications will not be accepted. **All required supporting information must be attached to the application when submitted.** Carefully read all the application to be sure you provide the needed information. Applications can be downloaded, completed and submitted online, forwarded to the attention of the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission Grants Committee, Kentucky Heritage Council, 410 High Street, Frankfort, KY 40601 or emailed to the attention of Tressa.Brown@ky.gov. Questions or concerns regarding your grant application should be addressed to Tressa Brown at 502-892-3607 before the application deadline.

Your signature is permission for the Commission to take pictures of your project and use them for publicity on our website and printed materials.

Applicant Information

Section 1: Initial General Project Information

Organization Information: _____

Organization Name: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Are you applying for America250KY funds from a different source? ____ Yes ____ No

Type of Organization:

____ Local Government ____ Certified Local Government ____ University ____ Church

____ Non-Profit Organization ____ State Agency or Regional Planning Agency

____ Other (specify): _____

Provide proposed budget to support grant request.

Submission Date: _____
Project Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
County: _____ Congressional District: _____ Legislative District: _____

Physical Location of Site/Facility (if different):
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Address not for publication? Yes ____ No ____

Project Summary Statement: Describe in 500 words or less, the significance of this project to the preservation of Kentucky African American history as a site, program, or facility nominated for funding. Your statement is to provide information to answer the following: **How does your project support one of the themes indicated below from the Kentucky Historical Society? Please specify which of these themes you are addressing.**

1. Revolutionary Experiment

Our founding mothers and fathers did not have all the answers. They knew America was a revolutionary experiment and they expected future generations to improve upon their work. The four editions of the Kentucky constitution serve as a prime example of this experiment as people advocated for their inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This history is not always uphill, but full of both advancements and setbacks. This theme allows us to reflect on Kentucky's and the nation's founding ideals and encourages discussions about our democracy and civic institutions.

2. We The People

Since the settlement of Kentucky lands by Native groups, what it means to be a Kentuckian has changed. The definition and process of citizenship has altered drastically over the past 250 years in both Kentucky and the United States. Today, there are many different people that call Kentucky home.

3. Power of Place

Our natural and built environments shape our identities. Over the past 250 years, our environment and those that reside in it, have changed. Across the regions of Kentucky today, how people identify with the Commonwealth varies. Although our experiences and perspectives differ from region to region, we all share history. This history allows us to draw similarities between different places to help us better understand the past and present.

4. Crossroads in History

Since 1776, Kentucky has stood at the crossroads of multiple historic movements, from westward expansion, the Civil War, the Trail of Tears, the Underground Railroad, the Great Migration, and more. Moreover, Kentucky's political and cultural output has expanded far beyond the state, influencing our nation's history and broader social trends.

5. Doing History

By exploring state and local history during the 250th, Kentuckians can use the past to better understand our roles and responsibilities within our communities today. To accomplish this, Kentuckians can visit museums and historic sites and discuss why history is important today. By engaging with history, we become better informed citizens who understand where America has been and where it's going.

If approved, specify how will KAAHC funds be applied?

Anticipated project completion date: _____

Both during and at the conclusion of your project, you will be contacted by a representative of the Commission. They may request a site visit to see progress of the project and at the conclusion, we will seek a letter (**see attached KY250 agreement for letter format**) stating such and a means of publicizing the project identifying the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission and the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office as supporters.

In addition to the response to each question, applications must also include the following attachments:

- IRS letter designating your organization as 501c3 status, except churches.
- Current Form W-9 giving organization address and EIN.
- Letters of consent from all property owners or concerned parties.
- Text and/or photographs of all present or intended site markers
- Photographs illustrating the current appearance and condition of the site being nominated for funding.
- Maps showing the location of the site.
- Provide a projected impact statement of how this project will enhance African-American History in Kentucky.

If this grant involves property, provide the following information:

Site type: ____ Urban ____ Rural ____ Cemetery ____ Park ____ Building

Is the site listed in the National Register of Historic Places? ____ Yes ____ No

What is the listing name? _____

Ownership of site: __ Private __ Private non-profit (501c3) __ Multiple ownership

___ Public, local government ___ Public, state government ___ Public, federal gov.

- Describe current educational programs, tours, markers, signs, brochures, site bulletins, or plaques at the site. Include text and photographs of markers.
- Describe any other local, state, or federal historic designation, records, signage, or plaques the site currently has. N/A
- Is the site open to the public, and if so under what conditions?

FOR KAAHC USE	
Assigned Commissioner: _____	

Signature of Certifying KAAHC Official	Date
