

FAQs

What is Leave a Legacy 2026?

Leave a Legacy for 2026 is a public call for bold ideas and projects promising to have a positive and lasting impact in Philadelphia neighborhoods to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence. 2026 marks the next big moment for the City of Philadelphia and PHILADELPHIA250 is evolving how our city has previously approached anniversary legacy building through the “Leave a Legacy” public call that aspires to achieve a more equitable, just and resilient city in 2026 and beyond. The project submissions—by the people, and for all people—will reflect PHILADELPHIA250’s 2026 **#values** of **#SharedProsperity**, **#RevolutionaryActions**, **#PursuitOfHappiness**, and **#PeoplesHistories**.

What types of projects will be considered?

We are looking for bold ideas and initiatives that will build a more equitable, just and resilient Philadelphia in 2026 and beyond. All project development stages will be considered: conceptual, emerging or early-stage, trial-stage, or an existing project. Specifically, PHILADELPHIA250 is interested in projects that will bring about positive impact in the following ways and exemplify the organization’s four key values:

- Improve the quality of life in neighborhoods (Shared Prosperity)
- Spark civic action to address injustices and inequities (Revolutionary Actions)
- Amplify diverse and inclusive stories of our people (People’s Histories)
- Celebrate our individual or collective passions and pastimes (Pursuit of Happiness)

A project should have a feasible implementation timeline so that it can be completed, or nearly complete, by July 4, 2025, in time for a January 1, 2026 project unveiling.

What are the benefits to submitting my project?

Key benefits for semi-finalists include: access to a portion of \$125,0000 to develop their project idea with a team of advisors; recognition and promotion through the PHILADELPHIA250 network and in 2026 when all eyes are on Philly; and robust networking access. For full benefit information [click here](#).

What is the submission process?

PHILADELPHIA250 wants to hear from as many Philadelphians as possible. The Leave a Legacy submission process is easy and accessible for all teams, individuals, community groups, for-profit companies, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits to apply. There is no lengthy proposal process—part one includes questions about the project, a preliminary review, and then an invitation to part two questions about the team that will make it happen. There is no fee to apply. Interested applicants should visit philadelphia250.us/leave-a-legacy

Is there a fee to submit my project?

There is no fee to apply to the Leave a Legacy 2026 public call.

How long do I have to submit my application?

Leave a Legacy submission period runs from February 16, 2022 - May 20, 2022. Semi-finalists will be selected and announced during a public celebration event on June 28, 2022, with up to four finalists announced in December at the Legacy Leaders Expo.

How are projects being evaluated?

A PHILADELPHIA250 review panel of Legacy Leader Task Force members and affiliates will select the Semifinalist Promise Project Teams based on alignment with the Submission Criteria. Projects will be evaluated based on a strong, adequate, or inconsistent showing in the following criteria areas.

- Project Relevance and Coherence (that strongly relates to the PHL250 #values)
- Community Impact (the Project intends to serve is clearly defined. The operations and programming align to serve their self-defined constituents and/or neighborhoods)
- Legacy Potential (sustainable, memorable project with a long-term impact on Philadelphia)
- Team Capabilities (reputation and recognition for leadership and/or implementation)

FAQs (continued)

What is required from me if my project is selected?

If your idea or project is selected as a Semi-finalist in June 2022, you and your Project Team will be asked to participate in 24 hours of project incubation activities (i.e. workshops, mentoring, events, etc.) from August through November of 2022. Up to four projects will be selected as the final Legacy Promise Projects in December 2022 at the Legacy Leaders Expo. Your attendance would be necessary at both the June announcement event and December expo.

How many projects will be selected?

In June 2022, up to 16 Semi-finalists will be selected and announced during a public celebration event, with the individual or Project Team agreeing to attend 24 hours of project incubation activities (i.e. workshops, mentoring, events, etc.) from August through November of 2022.

Up to four projects will be revealed at the PHILADELPHIA250 Legacy Leaders Expo in December 2022. At this event, these projects will be identified as “PHILADELPHIA250 Final Legacy Promise Projects” and will receive support and stewardship from PHILADELPHIA250 and its affiliates through 2026.

Why are the call parameters so general?

We know that Philadelphians are brimming with the powerful ideas, projects and passions that could have a lasting, positive impact on our city’s future. We also know how hard it can be to get the resources, attention and support necessary to transition ideas into action. The Leave a Legacy call is a direct reflection of our By the People, For all People commemoration approach, which places ownership in the people of Philadelphia to identify and fulfill community needs. We intentionally made the parameters general to attract as many different responses from as many different communities and people as possible.

Why does this matter to me?

An opportunity of this magnitude only comes once every 50 years and all eyes will be on Philly! In 2026, the nation and world will turn to Philadelphia as we revisit the events that occurred in our City in 1776. As the birthplace of American democracy and the home of the Declaration of Independence, PHILADELPHIA250 believes our City has a unique responsibility to serve as a model in building a citywide spirit and passion for revolutionary civic participation - where people are working together to imagine and carry out new possibilities that equitably benefit residents. Many of the programs and initiatives that will shape Philadelphia’s 250th will be guided and created by you, so if you have an idea, innovation or experience that could help create a more equitable and just city, now’s the time to share it and be a part of creating a stronger future for Philadelphia.

