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LEAVE A LEGACY FOR 2026

A Call for Bold Ideas, Initiatives + Innovations for Legacy Projects for 2026! (“Call”)

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Description

[Leave a Legacy](#) for 2026 is a public call for bold ideas, initiatives or innovations promising to have a positive, transformational impact in Philadelphia neighborhoods and leave a lasting legacy to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence. The project submissions—by the people, and for all people—will reflect PHILADELPHIA250’s 2026 [#values](#) of [#SharedProsperity](#), [#RevolutionaryActions](#), [#PursuitOfHappiness](#), and [#PeoplesHistories](#).

The Call is open and free to everyone. In a two-part, on-line submission process, each Project Team (or individual) will describe their legacy project with a set of preliminary questions in Part 1, and upon review, receive an invitation to questions regarding the project’s impact and implementation in Part 2 of the submission process. During rolling submission, between February and May 2022, [PHILADELPHIA250](#) will host information assemblies to answer questions from project teams about the submission process. In June 2022, up to 16 Semifinalist Project Teams will be announced and participate in a project incubation phase to help develop projects towards 2026. At the end of 2022, the cohort of Project Teams will review and select up to 4 projects to be introduced as PHILADELPHIA250 Final Legacy Promise Projects at the Leave a Legacy Expo.

Background

In 2026, the country will commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence in 2026. An opportunity of this magnitude only comes once every 50 years! PHILADELPHIA250 (PHL250) is the City’s coordinating entity for the 250th anniversary in



2026. While there will be blockbuster sporting events and national exhibits in 2026, the team at PHL250 is dedicated to leveraging the 250th by leading a citywide, grassroots civic celebration that invites all Philadelphians to put forth ideas to help make Philadelphia a more equitable, sustainable and resilient city. The Declaration of Independence, our world-changing founding document, is our guidepost and inspiration for civic action.

Philadelphia played a major role in hosting previous national anniversaries from 1876, 1926, and 1976. With each one, special buildings or monuments were constructed as legacy projects such as Memorial Hall (1876), Benjamin Franklin Bridge (1926), and the African American Museum of Philadelphia (1976).

In order to mark the occasion of the 250th, PHILADELPHIA250 is taking a new approach to legacy building by offering the public the opportunity to “Leave a Legacy for 2026” by answering a call for bold ideas, initiatives or innovations that promise to leave a lasting legacy and have a positive impact in Philadelphia neighborhoods. The project submissions must address as many of the four key values that represent Philadelphia’s identity and are rooted in our country’s founding principles.

PHILADELPHIA250 Legacy Leaders Task Force

Leave a Legacy for 2026 (“Call”) is supported by the PHILADELPHIA250 Legacy Leaders Task Force composed of more than 40 businesses, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to leaving a lasting legacy for 2026. The Task Force and PHL250 affiliates support the Call process in the following ways: advising on the development of the Call, utilizing their outreach channels and networks, review of project submissions, technical support for Semifinalist Project Teams, and promotion.

Qualifications for a PHILADELPHIA250 Leave a Legacy for 2026 Project (“Project”)

- A project is defined as a bold idea, initiative, or innovation that will position Philadelphia’s neighborhoods for a stronger future in 2026 and beyond.
Specifically, we are interested in projects that will bring about positive impact in the following ways:
 - **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)**
- Projects must have an area of impact within the city/county of Philadelphia.
- We are interested in projects that can be deployed in multiple locations across Philadelphia as opposed to a single location and can serve multiple constituency

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groups. A project may begin as a place-based pilot project that is scalable to a citywide or multi-site endeavor.

- A project should seek to achieve as many of the PHL250 #values as possible.
- 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 unveiling and celebration.
- A project can be a capital project, program, service or activity in Philadelphia.

PHL250 #Values

We are interested in ideas, initiatives, and innovations that relate to PHL250's thematic values. Please consider how your project will address or relate to one or more of the #values listed below.

- **#SharedProsperity - Improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.** *Shared Prosperity means making sure neighborhoods have what they need to thrive by providing access and opportunity to goods, services, and places essential to neighborhood health. Neighborhoods are stronger with foundational structures and services that improve quality of life and make them healthier, safer, more equitable, and less polarized.*
- **#RevolutionaryActions - Spark civic action to address injustices, inequities, and threats.** *Revolutionary Actions refers to the fact that Philadelphia has always been a City of Firsts in science, technology, medicine, and government. The revolutionary spirit of Philadelphia has also fueled a sense of common purpose through which civic movements led to innovative ways to address injustices, inequities and threats in our systems, institutions, and communities.*
- **#PeoplesHistories - Amplify diverse and inclusive stories of our people.** *Peoples Histories means sharing creative methods and expressions to better share, teach, unearth, and learn about the great diversity of Philadelphians' histories, experiences, places, and traditions and how they contribute to and expand American history. Philadelphia history is American history and it's critical to make sure to uncover all the stories of our people-and amplify them in 2026.*
- **#PursuitOfHappiness - Celebrate our individual or collective passions and pastimes.** *The Pursuit of Happiness is one of the inalienable rights granted in the Declaration of Independence. The breadth and diversity of our cultural assets, traditions, and places add to the vitality and uniqueness of living in Philadelphia and allow us to find ways to engage in our passions and pastimes.*

Participant Eligibility

- The Call is open to individuals, community groups, for-profit companies, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits.
- All backgrounds and levels of experience are welcome.

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- There is no cost or fee to apply.
- All project development stages will be considered: conceptual, emerging or early-stage, trial-stage, or an existing project.

Review and Submission Process Expectations

- After completing of “**PART 1, PRELIMINARY REVIEW**” Project Teams that are successful will receive an invitation to proceed to “**PART 2, PROPOSAL SUBMISSION.**” Project Teams that are unsuccessful will receive a message of “Thank you, please try again.”
- After completing **PART 2**, Project Teams will be notified if they are Semifinalists or not. Up to 16 Semifinalist Promise Projects will be selected. Project Teams that are not selected as Semifinalists will be asked to try again, if so inclined, and if submission enrollment has not closed.
- Semifinalist Promise Project Teams will be asked to participate in the Project Incubation Phase from August through November 2022. PHILADELPHIA250, the Legacy Leaders Task Force, and its affiliates will provide project development and support to the Semifinalist Promise Project Teams during this Phase.
 - Semifinalist Project Teams will be awarded a stipend to cover their time for participating in the Project Incubation Phase. The PHILADELPHIA250 Leave a Legacy Seed Fund of \$125,000 is supported by **the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Philadelphia Foundation**, and will be allocated proportionally based on the number of Semifinalist Project Teams selected.
- All Semifinalist Promise Project Teams will participate in the celebratory PHILADELPHIA250 Leave a Legacy Expo in December 2022. At this event, up to 4 projects (ideally as a group reflecting all the #values) determined in part by the semifinalists, will be announced as the “PHILADELPHIA250 Final Legacy Promise Projects,” and will receive general recognition and promotion, project support, funding assistance, and access to PHL250 programs, partners, and events through 2026.

Timeline

- **February 16, 2022:** Launch and rolling submission platform open to welcome all submissions.
- **Winter to Spring 2022:**
 - Rolling submissions are open online and at PHL250 and partner virtual and/or in person events
 - PHL250 will provide public Information Assemblies for people to find out more information about the process
 - **May 1, 2022:** Submission deadline for PART 1, PRELIMINARY REVIEW

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- **May 20, 2022:** Submission deadline for PART 2, PROPOSAL REVIEW (Final deadline)
- **June 2022:** Legacy Leader Panel Review + Evaluation. PHL250 will reach out to Semifinalist Promise Project Teams to confirm commitment.
- **June 28, 2022:** Press event announcing Semifinalist Promise Legacy Projects
- **Summer to Fall 2022:** Project Incubation Phase for Semifinalist Promise Project Teams. At the conclusion of this Phase, Semifinalists and Legacy Leaders Task Force will select four projects to become the PHILADELPHIA250 Final Legacy Promise Projects.
- **December 14, 2022:** PHILADELPHIA250 Leave a Legacy Expo for Semifinalist Promise Project Teams, Task Force members and affiliates, and the general public. Announce PHILADELPHIA250 Final Legacy Promise Projects.

Proposal Evaluation

- A PHILADELPHIA250 review panel of Legacy Leader Task Force members and affiliates will select the Semifinalist Promise Project Teams that are broadly representative of the 4 #values and in alignment with the Submission Criteria Areas.
- Projects will be evaluated based on a strong, adequate, or inconsistent showing in the following criteria areas.
 - **Project Relevance and Coherence (25 points)**
 - *There are clearly articulated Project objectives that strongly relate to the PHL250 #values and corresponding challenges in selected Focus Areas*
 - **Community Impact (25 points)**
 - *The constituents and/or neighborhoods the Project intends to serve is clearly defined. The operations and programming align to serve their self-defined constituents and/or neighborhoods.*
 - **Legacy Potential (25 points)**
 - *Project demonstrates a clear and compelling connection to the PHL250 #values; Sustainable, memorable project with a long-term impact on Philadelphia.*
 - **Team Capabilities (25 points)**
 - *Reputation and recognition for leadership and/or implementation.*



Opportunities for Promise Project Teams

If selected to become a Semifinalist Promise Project, your team agrees to participate in 24 hours of the Project Incubation Phase from August through December of 2022, such as:

PROJECT INCUBATION PHASE OPPORTUNITIES	SEMIFINALIST PROMISE PROJECTS (up to 16)	FINAL PROMISE PROJECTS (up to 4)
Access to Legacy Leaders Network	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promotion by PHL250 through website, social media, monthly communications, and partners	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to the Legacy Network Toolkit	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technical Assistance	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Site Visits or Walkthrough concept	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advisor or Mentor	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seed Funding/Financial Award for Participation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participation in the PHL250 Legacy Leaders EXPO	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PHL250 stewardship, promotion, and support post-2022		<input checked="" type="radio"/>

PHILADELPHIA 250

By the people • For all people

Legacy Leader Task Force Members



For additional information and to submit your idea, visit:
<https://www.philadelphia250.us/leave-a-legacy/>

For all inquiries, please reach out to legacy@philadelphia250.us.

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