



# FLORIDA ATLANTIC

## Festival for America's 250 Department of History and FAU Libraries

### Overview

The Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters and the FAU Libraries already provide immersive learning experiences in our performance and exhibition spaces. We also have strong relations with thousands of Boca residents who attend scores of public-oriented lectures, concerts, performances, and exhibits each year. We propose using these strengths—and leveraging student and public interest in this milestone moment—to focus sustained attention on the meaning and legacies of the American Revolution and to reflect on its call to civic engagement.

We would do this with a **7-week Festival for America's 250** around an exhibition (Feb–Mar 2026), bookended by research presentations before and after the festival period in our yearlong Celebration (Oct 2025–Dec 2026).

The natural rallying point is Florida Atlantic's 13,000-item Marvin and Sybil Weiner "Spirit of America" Collection of 18th-c. materials. It was first modeled on the libraries of Jefferson, Adams, and Franklin. It includes literature, philosophy, sermons, and essays; Continental officer letters; and first copies of the Declaration of Independence and The Federalist. The Daughters of the American Revolution have recognized its value by awarding an America 250 Patriots Marker, to be dedicated during the festival.

The exhibit will feature the Spirit of America Collection, a replica Washington's Battle Tent (pending), and panels from the American Battlefield Trust. Visitors, including K–12, will be asked to write Post-it Note reflections and social media posts that reflect on what liberty means to them and to commit to a plan to remain civically engaged.

The 7-week festival will generate buzz with a weekly special event, casting several stones for many ripples. Some have a "hook" from pop culture. We draw students and the curious public with spies and AMC's *Turn*, classic SNL and Drunk History skits, an iconic video game, and music and dance at a period ball—at which point our visiting presenters, chosen for expertise and charisma, lead the intellectual engagement. Other events hook the public with the local and modern relevance of the Revolution. One is on Florida's role in the Revolution, another on artists who championed the cause, and the finale on how modern America inherited the Revolution.

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We invite you to be part of this exciting festival by becoming a sponsor. Your support will help fund an exciting array of activities designed to engage students and the community in celebrating this special time in our country's history.

**Presenting Sponsor: \$40,000**

- Prominent recognition in all print, broadcast, and online advertisement
- Name/logo on all festival promotional materials and sponsor board
- Reception invitations for up to twenty (25) guests for all six (6) event receptions
- Customizable added benefits, as agreed upon

**Receptions Sponsor: \$10,000**

- Recognition in all print and online advertisement
- Name/logo listed on all festival promotional materials and sponsor board
- Reception invitations for up to ten (10) guests for all six (6) event receptions
- Other benefits, as agreed upon

**Week Sponsor: \$5,000**

- Sponsorships available for Weeks 1 - 6
- Name/logo listed on festival promotional materials and sponsor board
- Reception invitations for up to six (6) guests for all six (6) event receptions

**Promotion Sponsor: \$2,500**

- Name/logo listed on all festival promotional materials and sponsor board
- Reception invitations for up to four (4) guests for all six (6) event receptions

**Friends of the Festival: \$1,000**

- Name/logo listed on all festival promotional materials and sponsor board
- Reception invitations for up to two (2) guests for all six (6) event receptions

**Festival Patron: \$100 - \$999**

- Name listed on festival sponsor board

**How to Donate**

1. Online: Visit <https://fauf.fau.edu/events/ffa250/>
2. By Check: Payable to "FAU Foundation, Inc.; Festival for America's 250 in the memo and mail to:  
FAU/Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters  
Development Office / Festival for America's 250<sup>th</sup>  
777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431

*Your contribution may be tax-deductible based on IRS regulations regarding goods or services received in exchange for your donation.*

For more information please contact:

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## **Festival for America's 250 Proposed Schedule of Activities**

### **Week 1: Spies! Espionage in the American Revolution**

- Presentation by Dr. Roger Smith (Flagler College) with reception
- Screening of AMC's *Turn: Washington's Spies*
- Engagement with original copies of the newspaper published by one of the alleged spies

### **Week 2: Drunk History, SNL, and the American Revolution**

- Presentation by Dr. Richard Bell (Maryland) with reception and book signing (*The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*)
- Screening of Comedy Central's *Drunk History* and clips from *Saturday Night Live*
- Engagement with original copies of the Declaration of Independence, *Common Sense*, and Alexander Hamilton's writings

### **Week 3: The Boston Massacre**

- Presentation by Dr. Serena Zabin (Carleton College), or a similar speaker, with reception and book signing (*The Boston Massacre: A Family Story*)
- Engagement with original Boston Massacre documents, Revolutionary War soldiers' letters, and diary entry about the Battle of Yorktown

### **Week 4: Dance and Social Grace in George Washington's World (for students)**

- An unforgettable night for students to step into History
- "Bridgerton Ball"-style Washington's Ball, at which students wear costumes they've created and dance—if you aren't familiar with what a Bridgerton Ball is, Google it!
- Presentation by Jeanette Watts, historian and dance instructor, on dance, deportment, and history lessons related to balls of the 1770s–1790s
- Featuring FAU student musicians

### **Week 5: Florida in the American Revolution**

- Presentation by Dr. Kathleen DuVal (UNC Chapel Hill), or a similar speaker, with reception and book signing (*Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution*)

### **Week 6: The Artists who Championed the Revolution**

- Presentation by Dr. Zara Anishanslin (University of Delaware) with reception and book signing (*The Painter's Fire and Portrait of a Woman in Silk*)

### **Week 7: Inheriting the Revolution: The Modern Legacy of 1776**

- Presentation by Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky
- Reception and book signing (*Making the Presidency* and *The Cabinet*)
- Sponsored by the John O'Sullivan Annual Memorial Lectureship Fund