Renewing our partnership: New tools, fresh ideas, and inspiring stories for your American Space. No images? <u>Click here</u>





BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

With just over 700 locations, ECA's Office of American Spaces engages people worldwide through content, resources, and programming. American Spaces support U.S. foreign policy goals and strategically promote public diplomacy.

Reconnecting and Moving Forward Together



Dear American Spaces Partners and Mission Colleagues,

We appreciate your patience and we're happy to reconnect with you via this newsletter. We'll highlight new resources to support America's founding, provide new social media graphics, and share an announcement about the Big Library Read.

Thank you for all you do to support American Spaces.

The Office of American Spaces

America's Founding: New Resources for Your Programs



Image: GPA Photo Archives

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with Your Community!

American Spaces are uniquely positioned to commemorate the United States' 250th anniversary of independence. Visit <u>America's</u> <u>Founding</u> on the American Spaces website for more information. Also, to support your programming, ECA will be providing resources including toolkits, virtual tours, educational materials, and curated content that reflect America's founding ideals.

Whether you're planning a cultural event, a historical exhibit, or a discussion on democracy, these resources can help you highlight

themes like liberty, justice, civic engagement, and the enduring influence of the U.S. Constitution.

Q One featured resource is the <u>Constitution Day Toolkit</u>, which includes key terms, lesson plans, interactive games, and links to foundational documents and exhibitions. It's ideal for programming around U.S. governance, rights, and civic literacy—particularly in the lead-up to Constitution Day on September 17.

Explore more at <u>America 250 – The White House</u>

Honoring American Heroes: New Resource Collection



Image: ECA/P/AS

Celebrate the individuals who shaped America's story! In honor of the United States' 250th birthday on July 4, 2026, the White House identified nearly 250 **American heroes** in an <u>executive order</u>. The <u>list</u> <u>of 244 figures</u> from U.S. history is available on the Managing American Spaces website.

Have a look at some of the program toolkits for American heroes:

- <u>Rear Admiral Grace Hopper</u>, pioneer in computer science who revolutionized programming with her invention of the first compiler. Her spirit of innovation, risk-taking, and leadership continues to inspire generations of problem-solvers around the world.
- <u>Muhammad Ali</u>, world heavyweight boxing champion who won a gold medal at the 1960 Olympics. Ali used his celebrity status to advance civil rights and religious liberty.
- Martin Luther King, Jr., leader in the civil rights movement who campaigned for equal voting rights and desegregation.

- <u>Benjamin Franklin</u> In addition to diplomacy and science, he was a successful publisher and entrepreneur.
- <u>Ida B. Wells-Barnett</u> Investigative journalist whose antilynching work exposed systemic failures in the justice system.

Over the next year, we will be creating additional program toolkits to highlight many of these individuals.

An <u>American Heroes collection</u> of more than 200 books, audiobooks, and magazines about these American Heroes is now available in <u>Libby by Overdrive</u>, available via <u>eLibraryUSA</u>. Some items in the collection are available in a simultaneous use format, so that American Spaces users may borrow them immediately and concurrently. These simultaneous use items are ideal for book discussions.

View the American Heroes Page

New Benjamin Franklin Film in Kanopy



American Spaces now have access to a Kanopy film about an <u>American Hero</u>: <u>Benjamin Franklin: A Film by Ken Burns</u>. This twopart series from PBS includes public performance rights, so it's ready to screen in American Spaces.

Streamlined eLibraryUSA Access for Individual Accounts **ELIBRARY**

In June, the <u>eLibraryUSA</u> platform was updated, improving the workflow for eLibraryUSA Managers (LE Staff) and simplifying the training and access process for individual accounts. American Spaces visitors who sign up for an individual account no longer need to receive a training certificate via email and upload it to the system. When they complete training, they automatically receive a training certificate and their eLibraryUSA login credentials.

Big Library Read



The Storyteller's Death by Ann Davila Cardinal

American Spaces are invited to participate in OverDrive's <u>Big Library Read</u> July 17-31, 2025. The featured title is <u>The</u> <u>Storyteller's Death</u>, a novel by U.S. author Ann Davila Cardinal. This family saga tells the story of a Puerto Rican woman who finds herself gifted (or cursed?) with a strange

ability. The ebook and audiobook will be available for worldwide simultaneous use for American Spaces via <u>eLibraryUSA</u>.

American Spaces visitors and program attendees with individual eLibraryUSA accounts will be able to download the ebook or audiobook to their personal mobile device. <u>Marketing materials</u> include social media graphics and a reading group guide with discussion questions.



American Spaces in Serbia Celebrate Big Library Read with Discussions and Music

In May, American Corners in Novi Sad and Belgrade celebrated the Big Library Read with discussions of <u>Uncommon Measure: A Journey</u> <u>Through Music, Performance, and the Science of Time</u> by Korean-American author Natalie Hodges. Visitors engaged in lively Englishlanguage conversations about the memoir. In Belgrade, the program featured a presentation by a U.S. professor, and in Novi Sad, the program showcased a performance by a local violinist. These programs were instrumental in promoting <u>eLibraryUSA</u> resources and resulted in dozens of new applications for individual eLibraryUSA accounts.

Speakers Available for American Spaces



The Office of the U.S. Speaker Program has released a new slate of experts available for in-person and virtual programming with American Spaces. This month's list supports the **America250** initiative and features speakers across key themes such as democracy and civic education, economic development, innovation and technology, and U.S. leadership in global affairs.

To request a speaker for your American Space, please coordinate with the Public Diplomacy team at post.

Social Media Assets

Independence Day (July 4, 2025)



Platform: Instagram, Facebook, X

Target Audience: Broad audiences — youth, families, civic groups, history enthusiasts.

Post:

Happy Independence Day! On July 4th, American Spaces celebrate the founding principles of liberty, democracy, and opportunity. Join us in honoring 249 years of independence and in looking forward to the historic 250th anniversary next year!

Hashtags:

#IndependenceDay #AmericanSpaces #CelebrateFreedom #JourneyTo250

Call to Action:

Celebrate with your American Space — explore programs that showcase America's history, culture, and enduring spirit as we approach 250 years of independence.

Recommended Image:

Fireworks over iconic landmarks (e.g., Statue of Liberty, U.S. Capitol), American flags, or festive community gatherings.

Labor Day (September 1)



Image: ECA/P/AS and Canva Pro

Platform: Facebook, LinkedIn

Target Audience: Job seekers, young professionals, students exploring career pathways, and workforce development partners

Post:

Celebrate Labor Day with Purpose! This Labor Day, honor the contributions of workers by investing in your own future. American Spaces offer dynamic programs that support skill development, entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and career readiness. Whether you're just starting your career journey or looking to build new skills, we have resources to help you succeed.

From resume writing workshops to digital tools like eLibraryUSA and entrepreneurship events, there's something for everyone striving to make an impact in the workforce.

Hashtags: #LaborDay #WorkforceDevelopment #SkillsForSuccess #AmericanSpaces #CareerReady

Call to Action: Visit your local American Space to discover how our free programs and resources can help you build your future and honor the spirit of Labor Day.

Recommended Alternate Image: A photo of a diverse group of young adults engaged in a hands-on workshop or training session, or a graphic featuring tools, books, and symbols of various professions (e.g., hard hats, laptops, briefcases).

Constitution Day (September 17)



Image: ECA/P/AS and Canva Pro

Platform: Facebook, LinkedIn

Target Audience: Students, educators, civic-minded youth, earlycareer professionals, and public diplomacy partners interested in democracy, governance, and civic literacy

Post:

Explore America's Constitution: Foundations of Democracy September 17 marks the signing of the U.S. Constitution — the foundation of American democracy and the freedoms we value today. American Spaces offer engaging programs and resources to help you explore the Constitution's history, principles, and global influence.

From interactive games and virtual tours to lesson plans and discussions on the Bill of Rights, discover how the U.S. Constitution continues to inspire civic engagement and democratic governance around the world.

Hashtags:

#ConstitutionDay #DemocracyInAction #AmericanSpaces #CivicLiteracy

Call to Action:

Visit your local American Space to explore our Constitution Day Toolkit and join others in learning how foundational values like liberty, justice, and rule of law shape a better future for all.

Recommended Alternate Image:

A high-quality photo of the original U.S. Constitution on display, a group of students participating in a civic education activity, or a clean graphic featuring the Preamble with patriotic colors and icons like the Liberty Bell, gavel, or Capitol dome.



American Spaces

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