Tools, fresh ideas, and inspiring stories for your American Space.

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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.

Spotlight on Cotonou: Facebook Live Empowers English Learners with eLibraryUSA



On April 23, the American Center in Cotonou hosted a dynamic Facebook Live session led by Angele Tantoukoute, showcasing how to use eLibraryUSA to improve English language skills. The session

introduced key platforms like Libby for audiobooks and eBooks, BookFlix for beginner readers, and Kanopy for educational films—all accessible through individual accounts. With nearly 100 participants tuning in live and over 5,000 views to date, the event sparked strong interest, resulting in hundreds of new account signups. This initiative highlights the growing impact of eLibraryUSA in supporting digital literacy and language learning across West Africa.

Webpage of American Innovations



Explore how American innovation has shaped the modern world through this <u>engaging interactive webpage</u> from the U.S.

Department of State. Highlighting key inventions across centuries, the page offers a visually rich timeline that celebrates the creativity, problem-solving spirit, and global impact of American inventors.

Readers will discover how these breakthroughs continue to influence everyday life and drive progress around the globe.

The Most American Thing



This <u>interactive webpage</u> invites users to reflect on a deceptively simple but thought-provoking question: *What's the most American thing you can think of?* Through different perspectives and cultural references, the U.S. Department of State offers a fun, engaging way to explore American identity. It's a great icebreaker or warm-up activity for American Spaces programs, and it also works well as a conversation prompt for English language clubs or cultural exchange discussions.

State Fairs USA



Step right up! This vibrant, interactive feature from the U.S. Department of State takes you on a coast-to-coast tour of four iconic state fairs—celebrating America's agricultural roots, regional flair, and summer traditions. Packed with stories of livestock shows, homemade contests, carnival thrills, and musical stars, the page brings to life the communal spirit and local pride that define these beloved events.

Perfect as a cultural showcase in an American Spaces program, a conversation starter in English clubs, or simply a virtual escape to classic Americana, this page offers something engaging for every audience.





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 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.

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: 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 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:

- Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, 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.
- Muhammad Ali, 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

Social Media Assets

Labor Day (September 1)

"The cause of labor is the cause of humanity."

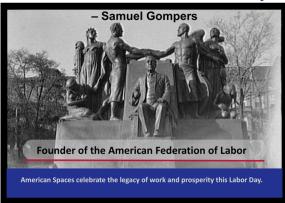






Image: ECA/P/AS and Canva Pro

Platform: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Target Audience: Broad audiences — youth, aspiring professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, civic groups

Post:

This Labor Day, American Spaces honor the spirit of American work, innovation, and entrepreneurship. From the steel mills of Pennsylvania to today's high-tech labs and small businesses, American workers have built the strongest economy in the world.

We recognize pioneers like **Samuel Gompers**, founder of the American Federation of Labor, whose vision of

fairness and opportunity still guides America's workforce.

At American Spaces, we support these values by offering programs that build real-world skills, support job seekers, and promote economic opportunity.

Hashtags:

#LaborDay #AmericanSpaces #WorkAndProsperity #AmericaFirst #SkillsForSuccess

Call to Action:

Visit your American Space to explore programs that develop employment skills, support entrepreneurship, and showcase the values that make American workers—and America—exceptional.

Recommended Image:

Historic black-and-white image of American industrial workers blended with modern scenes of tech workers, entrepreneurs, or educators. Include U.S. flag per <u>USA</u> <u>Branding Guidance</u>.

Constitution Day (September 17)



Image: ECA/P/AS and Canva Pro

Platform: Facebook, LinkedIn

Target Audience: Students, educators, civic-minded youth, early-career 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 <u>Constitution Day</u> <u>Toolkit</u> 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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