



Memo To: A250 in Idaho Advisory Council
From: Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, Task Force and Advisory Council member
Regarding: Follow-up to December 18, 2024, Advisory Council questions and current status report
Date: 1/17/2025

A250 in Idaho initial Planning, 2023 legislative consultation, and current work to align Task Force and Advisory Council work

Fall 2022: In response to a request from the Office of Governor Little to recommend how the state might celebrate the country's 250th anniversary, ISHS convened state agency stakeholders, including the Idaho Commission on the Arts, Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Department of Education, Idaho Commission on Libraries, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and Idaho Public Television. This team agreed to collaborate and create a recommendation for Governor Little on how Idaho could champion this significant, historic milestone. Work included a review of past Idaho Commemorations for their impact and reach, discussion of approved and funded agency initiatives that could align with the America250 vision, brainstorming of new legacy initiatives that could connect and serve our state in meaningful ways, creation of a cost-effective and streamlined structure maximizing existing resources, and design of an America/Idaho250 brand and communications plan. The Task Force met over the course of 9 months and recommended an initial *America 250 in Idaho* program framework and proposed a \$1,650,000 budget request to the office of the Governor as part of the annual budget process in late summer/early fall of 2023. Additional members including the Secretary of State, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Transportation joined the Task Force.

November/December 2023: Director Gallimore met or spoke with the following legislators in November/December 2023 to provide information about, seek feedback, and answer questions about the *America 250 in Idaho* program framework and proposed budget in advance of budget consideration: Representative Horman, Representative Dustin Manwaring, Representative Nate Roberts, Senator Jim Guthrie, Representative Andrus, Representative Garner, Representative Cheatum, Senator Cook, Senator Lent, Representative Bundy, Senator Linda Hartgen, Speaker Moyle, ProTem Winder, Senator Grow, Senator Just, Representative Green, Representative Raybould, and Representative Pickett. Major takeaways included overall support of the commemoration, a desire for strong criteria for grants and ensuring the A250 funding request was specific and allocations of funds clear.

In February 2024, the Governor's Office (Madison Hardy) and ISHS (Janet L. Gallimore) worked closely with Representative Pickett to craft the HCR 31 with language that blended both the founding values of our country and Idaho's role in that national narrative and align language with the Governor's Proclamation.



The FY 25 budget appropriation specified the following agencies/projects: Idaho State Historical Society, \$600,000 for community grants that enhance history, culture, literacy, and civic engagement; \$160,000 for a website and communications strategy; \$60,000 for an oral history initiative. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation: \$60,000 for a publication about rural, historic Idaho places, scenic byways, and state parks; Idaho Public Television: \$60,000 for a documentary to accompany the above publication; \$60,000 for an updated Idaho history series for school-aged children. Boise State University, Institute for Advancing American Values, \$650,000 for Civics and American Thought Education, a three-year initiative to provide core education in Civics and American Thought for high school and college students and the public.

Upon the spring of 2024 approval of the \$1.65 million budget appropriation, the ISHS in collaboration with A250 in Idaho Task Force and approval of the Governor's Office, created a guiding document with A250 in Idaho mission, vision, values, focus areas, messaging, and objectives. The logo was designed and approved by the Governor's Office and trademarked with the Secretary of State's Office.

On July 4, 2024, the ISHS, with approval from the Governor's office, created and launched website, video, collateral, grant criteria, grants and oral history programs. ISHS collaborated with AG's office on MOUs to transfer funds to agencies and create and execute license agreements with the federal commission for logo use, and grant and oral history program launch.

December 2025, the A250 in Idaho Advisory Council convened. Though collaborative efforts, Task Force and Advisory Council members are working toward aligning the work to date, including refining the website structure and relocating funds to support the "Celebrate" pillar.

Actions/discussions include:

- 1.) Work collaboratively to enhance the structure of the commemoration to include Idaho Pillars:
 - *Idaho Celebrates* (Events, parades, and President Trump's "Salute to America" /Iowa's state fair)
 - *Idaho Honors American Ideals* (Educations/Civics, IPTV, Parks)
 - *Idaho Recognizes our place in American History* (Grants, Oral histories, Resources)

- 2.) Create resource to fund *Celebrate* pillar
 - Reallocate approximately \$200,000 from Idaho State Historical Society and Idaho State Parks to provide resources for the *Celebrate* pillar, possible additional funds in conversation with IPTV
 - Create fund in SOS or STO, transfer funds through MOU
 - Utilize Foundation for Idaho History as a non-profit pass through for future donations or private funds generated to support A250 in Idaho