



Strategic Framework Executive Summary

What is Revolution NJ?

Revolution NJ is a partnership between the **New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC)**, a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit organization **Crossroads of the American Revolution Association (Crossroads)** to plan the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in New Jersey.

Revolution NJ is designed to:

- Provide a statewide framework that will encourage collaboration and cooperation between the many aspects of the commemoration.
- Support organizations all over the state in preparing for, planning, and executing initiatives that will support the goals of the commemoration.
- Originate relevant programs and inspire grassroots participation in the commemoration, encouraging history organizations, schools, civic groups, counties, municipalities, and others to generate programs and events.

Project Summary

Revolution NJ will engage diverse audiences in exploring New Jersey's role in America's history, drawing lessons from the past to apply to the present and future. Acknowledging the questions people faced on the eve of the American Revolution remain pertinent today, New Jersey's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of independence will offer a platform for New Jerseyans to consider the ideals that drove the Revolution and the implications they have for today's society.

In 2019, NJHC and Crossroads began a process to determine how the 250th anniversary should be marked in our state. A joint meeting of the organizations' leadership and staff produced an initial draft strategic framework based on the results of that session. The partnership then conducted a series of listening sessions, designed to be the first round of community feedback during the years of preparation for the 250th. Content from these sessions was used to refine the framework draft. Revolution NJ intends to schedule more listening sessions as planning continues. The strategic framework will guide preparations between now and the launch of programs, responding when appropriate as external circumstances change.

The strategic framework is not a traditional strategic plan. Rather, **it highlights key areas where Revolution NJ intends to have an impact through collaborating with many different groups to develop scholarship, ideas, programs, k-12 education, public visibility, and funding opportunities.** It is an ambitious agenda, reflecting what was heard in listening sessions and intended to generate support for the 250th over the next few years. As planning moves forward, the framework will grow and adapt.



Revolution NJ Mission Statement

Revolution NJ will advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism, and scholarship in New Jersey. Through a series of initiatives that explore the history of the American Revolution, its context, and its legacy, Revolution NJ will galvanize diverse audiences statewide into embracing the enduring value and relevance of history.

Revolution NJ Goals

Goal #1

Tell a diverse and inclusive story about America's past that invites participation from all New Jerseyans.

Goal #2

Encourage the growth of organizational capacity at New Jersey's history organizations so that they are better able to attract, engage, and serve visitors, both during and after Revolution NJ.

Goal #3

Promote heritage tourism in and to New Jersey to increase its positive impact on economic and community development.

Goal #4

Elevate the value placed on history education in our K–12 schools and universities.

Goal #5

Demonstrate how understanding the complexity of our history helps us to respond to the present and prepare for the future.

Goal #6

Increase public and private funding for history in New Jersey.

To read the Revolution NJ Strategic Framework in its entirety, please visit <https://revolutionarynj.org/revolution-nj-resources/>. You will find the full document, including a more detailed Project Summary, priorities, and strategies for each of the six goals, and an appendix highlighting key takeaways from the listening sessions. **If you have any questions, please contact Marc Lorenc: marc.lorenc@sos.nj.gov and Madeleine Rosenberg: madeleine.rosenberg@sos.nj.gov**