



Celebrating Student Creativity for America's 250th





What is the Tapestry of NY?

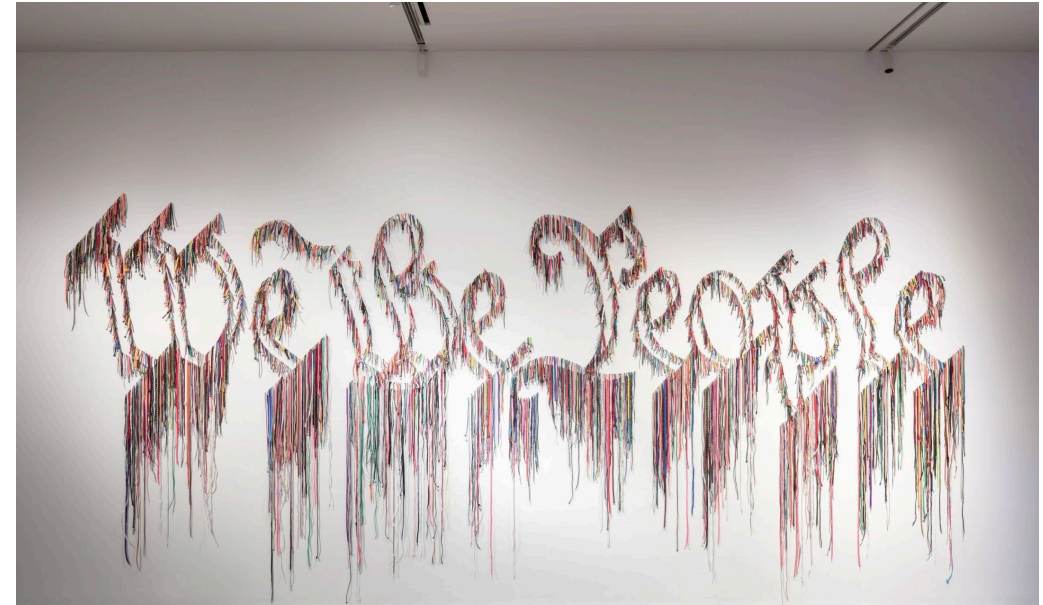
- *Tapestry of New York* is a website showcasing the creative work of New York students in honor of America's 250th anniversary.
- It's a project of the New York State 250th Commemorative Commission and WNET New York Public Media, in collaboration with NY's public media stations.
- The site features artwork and media from elementary, middle, and high school students across New York reflecting their unique interpretations of the American Revolution and the “unfinished revolutions” that followed.
- Submissions will be accepted any time from June –December 2026.





Theme: We the People

- Students are asked to respond to the prompt *"What does 'We the People' mean to you?"*
- Supporting questions include:
 - Who is included in your idea of "We the People"?
 - What makes you feel like you belong to your community or country?
 - Which historical and/or contemporary figures have fought for a more inclusive idea of "We the People"?
 - Who is still left out from "We the People"?

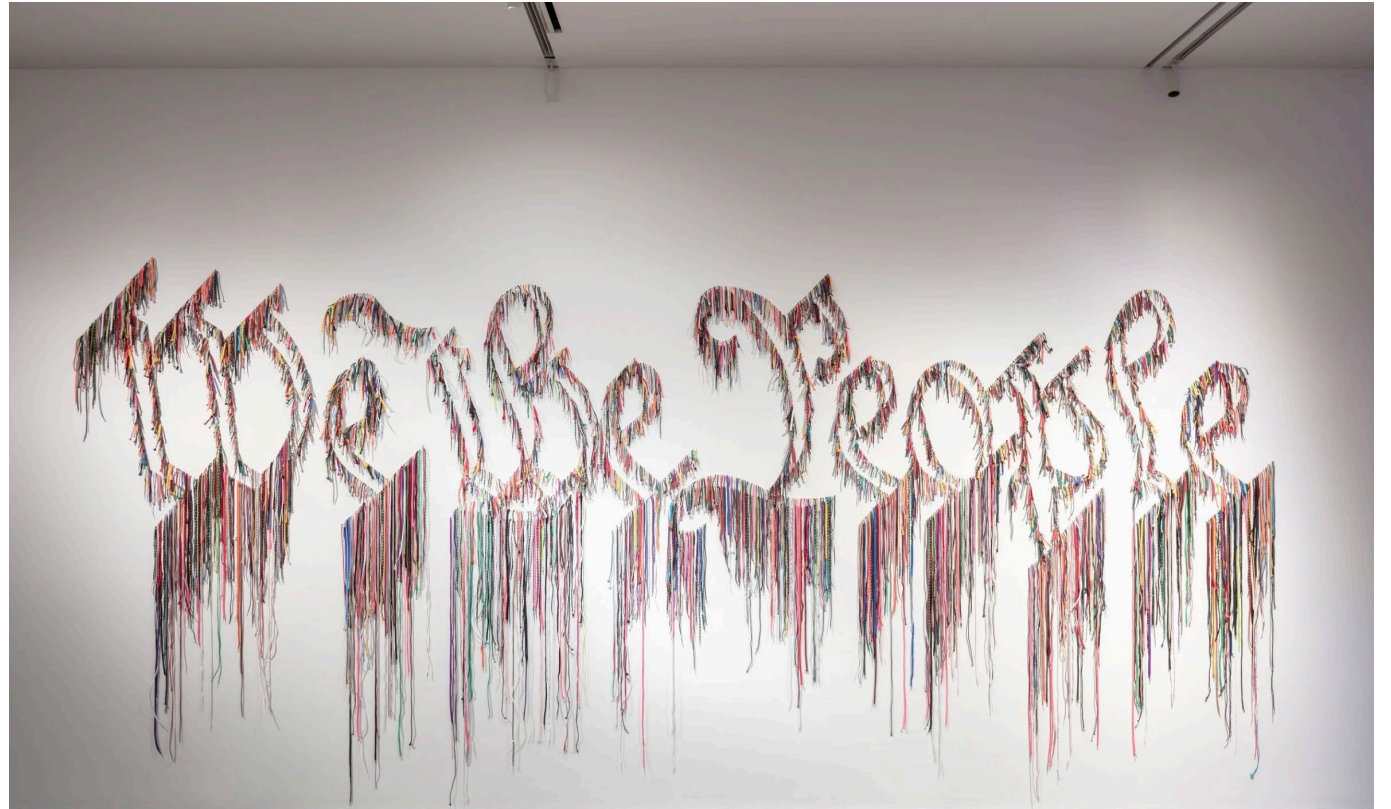
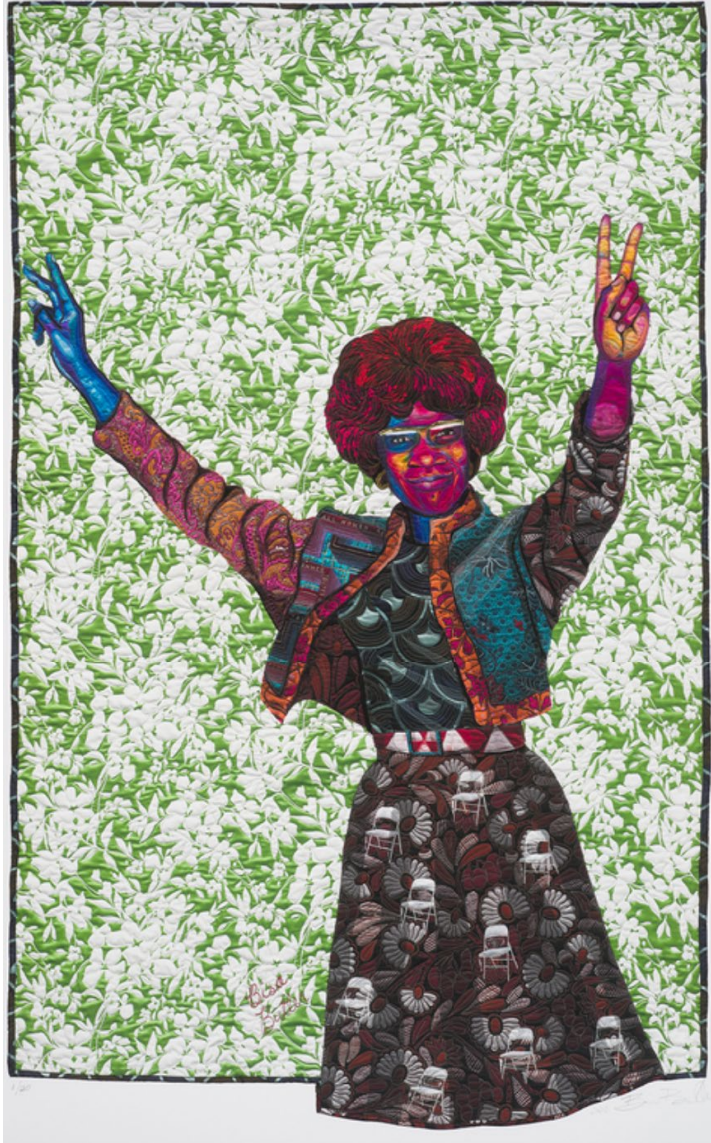
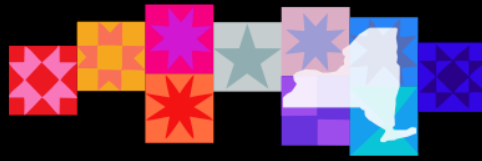


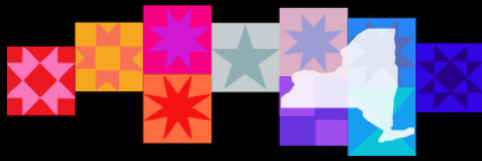


Why participate?

- *Tapestry of NY* can be used in conjunction with an existing exhibit or display on the American Revolution or on any of the "unfinished revolutions" that followed.
- Amplifying student voices by sharing their work across the state is empowering for young people and helps to increase engagement.
- It's easy. The *Tapestry of NY* Educator Toolkit provides suggested lessons and additional resources to help students make connections to the theme and express their ideas through art.







What does the process look like?

1. Register and receive a submission code.
2. Make sure students have the necessary history and civic knowledge to respond to the prompt.
3. Guide students to create their projects.
4. Ask students to write an artist statement.
5. Support students as they upload their submissions using the submission code and a submission template available on the website.

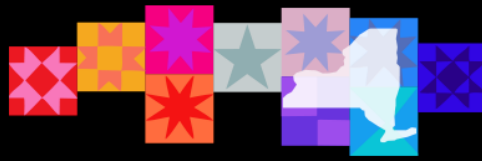




Student Privacy

- A signed parental/guardian release for is required before you can submit student work. The consent form is available for download on the Tapestry website.
- Upon registration, you'll receive two submission codes – one is for anonymous submissions
- If you don't use the anonymous submission code, there is still an option to submit students' work anonymously.
- A detailed privacy policy is available on the website.





TAPESTRY OF NY WEBSITE TOUR

<https://tapestryofny.org>

WE THE PEOPLE

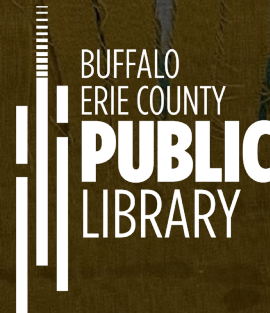
COMMEMORATING 250 YEARS OF
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



"We the People" Community Quilt Project

Part of the Erie County 250th Anniversary Celebrations

- I. Introduction:
 - a) Erie County 250 & "We the People" Committee
- II. General Quilt Project Timeline
- III. Materials, Workshops, and Partnerships
- IV. Other Erie County 250 Plans



"We the People..."

- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
 - Explore & More
- Concordia Cemetery
- Dr. Lillian Williams
 - Arabesques



WE THE PEOPLE...

"We the People of the United States..." So begins the 1787 Constitution, rooted in Revolutionary ideals yet authored by wealthy white men. While its promises excluded many, its principles inspired ongoing struggles to broaden citizenship. The definition of "citizen" has changed throughout history, as has what it means to be an American.

For the past 250 years, many have fought to expand the meaning of citizenship to incorporate people of diverse backgrounds more fully into the political, economic, and cultural life of the nation. While there is more work to be done, great progress has been made. This anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the diverse cultures that contributed to Erie County's history, recognizing the contributions of various groups and the influence they have had on the region's development. It is also an opportunity to discuss the further efforts required to ensure "We the People..." means all the people.

THE GOAL: Examine how American identity has evolved, who constitutes the American people, and what does citizenship mean today?

ORGANIZATIONS

- Portraits of Belonging: A multimedia installation celebrating the faces and stories of Erie County citizens—from refugees to veterans, artists to teachers.
- Community Quilt or Banner—invite groups to create squares or panels representing their heritage and contributions to the region, assembling them into a public art piece.
- Hold an Immigrant Heritage Festival event featuring food, music, and storytelling from the different cultural groups that have influenced Erie County's development.
- Interactive Settlement Map—create a digital map that shows how different areas in our community were settled by different immigrant groups. Explore how that shaped the community culture in each of those areas.
- Panel discussion and/or pop-up genealogy with area genealogical societies to help individuals better understand their own history.
- Partner with local cemeteries to hold events that explore the final resting places of the people who built our communities.

INDIVIDUALS

- Trace your roots, explore the cultural heritage of your family, and learn more about their American experience.
- Participate in Oral History Interviews with local museums to record your memories of community traditions.
- Participate in Heritage Celebrations and learn more about the cultures represented in Erie County.



ABOUT THE QUILT FACILITATORS

Will Kawalec

Cultural and Community Manager at
Explore & More, The Ralph C. Wilson,
Jr. Children's Museum in Buffalo, NY.

Hannah Quaintance

Fiber artist and Community
Engagement Manager, Buffalo & Erie
County Public Library

Susan Buttaccio

Manager of Special Collections
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library



PROJECT SUPPORT AND PARTNERS

- Erie County Historical Commission
- B&ECPL Libraries (both city and rural locations, as well as the Bookmobile)
- Explore & More Children's Museum
- Stitch Buffalo
- Cultural Heritage Museums, Schools, Genealogy Societies



General Timeline



March – April 2026

- Supplies
- Toolkit
- Promotional materials

May – June 2026

- Children's Workshops & Promotion at local Libraries, led by Children's Museum Staff
Additional quilting opportunities developed by Library staff

July 2026

- Collection and piecing of quilt squares

August 2026

- Community quilting at County's Signature Event – August 2

August/ September/October

- Exhibition/display of quilt(s)

Quilt by Harriet Powers



Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold



Workshops & Materials

In Partnership with Explore & More
and Stitch Buffalo

- Open call to Erie County residents
- Outreach to fiber/textile groups that meet at the libraries
- Opportunities to offer programs for Families and Children
 - Facilitated by Explore & More
 - Self-led workshops

Sample Prompts

- What in your life make you feel like you belong?
- What is your family history? Tell this story through an object, activity, or food tradition.
- What is the origin and history of your name?
- What does freedom mean to you?
- What is something that you love about the place where you live?



Gender Euphoria Quilt Project 2025

Project Webpage



<https://www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening/we-people-community-quilt-project>

“We the People” A Quilt of Belonging

A Community Quilt Project Celebrating Erie County 250

Who are “we the people”?

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library invites you to make and contribute a quilt square for a community project!



**explore
& more**

THE RALPH C. WILSON, JR.
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Scan the QR code for more information about workshops, materials and how to submit your quilt square.



"We the People" Quilt Project - Artist Statement

Quilt Square Title: _____

Name *(optional)*: _____

Email address *(optional, contact information will be used to share dates and times when the quilt will be exhibited)*: _____

1. What does your square represent? (Describe the images, colors, and materials you chose.)

2. Why did you choose these symbols? (What personal story, memory, or identity do they connect to?)

3. How does your square reflect the diversity of being American?

4. What do you hope viewers notice or feel?

I wish to transfer, convey, and assign to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library ("Library") all Intellectual Property Rights that I control in the above-described artwork.

I assign and convey irrevocably the legal title of the described property to the Library. I agree that the Library may use the material as it deems most beneficial. I understand that the Library may exhibit or digitize this material for access via the World Wide Web or other forms of distribution. Furthermore, I agree that researchers who meet the requirements set by the Library may have full access to this art and may reproduce the materials for educational purposes.

I understand that the Library, in its sole discretion, will determine when, if, and how the described property and my statements above, in whole or in part, may be displayed, distributed, or made available for viewing.

The Library agrees to exercise reasonable care in handling contributed artwork but shall not be liable for any loss, damage, or theft of artwork while in the Library's possession or on display. The Contributor acknowledges that the artwork is contributed voluntarily and that no compensation is provided.

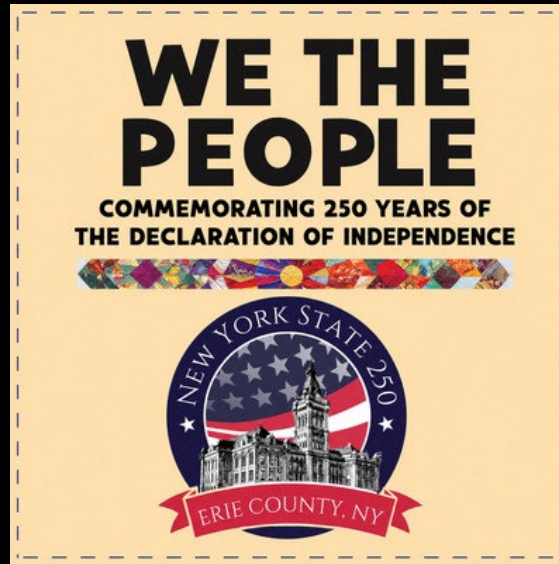
- ☐ I give the Library permission to include my square in a community quilt and to digitally document and make publicly accessible my square and artist statement. I acknowledge that my quilt square may or may not be on display and will not be returned to me.

Signature of artist or guardian _____

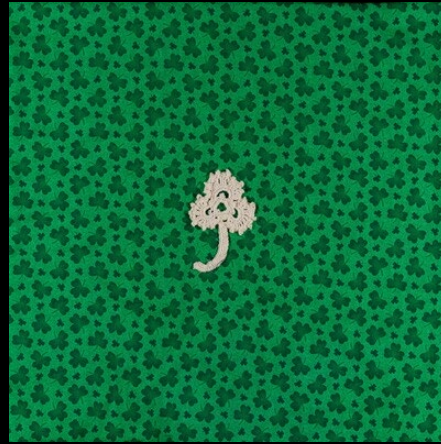
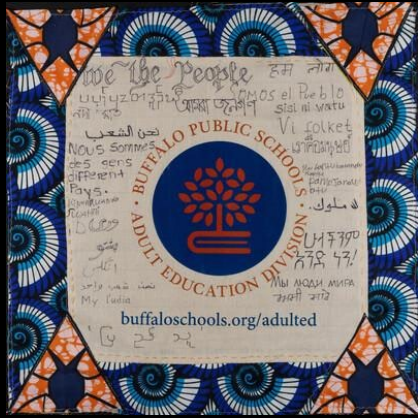
Date _____

Complimentary Exhibit (and shameless plug of our Rare Book Collection!)

Piecing Together Our Past: Preserving the Documents of a Nation



<https://digital.buffalolib.org/exhibits/show/250-exhibit/250-exhibit-documents>



Patchwork of Our Community

Squares from community organizations -- a part of our in-house exhibit

https://digital.buffalolib.org/exhibits/show/250-exhibit/250-exhibit-images_squares

Some Children's Squares to Share



Beyond this Summer...

- Events and exhibits (including potential traveling displays) highlighting county history and diversity
- The quilt will be displayed at our local county fair in August
- Squares will be digitized and shared on our Digital Collections page which pairs with our Digital Exhibit!
- Partnership with Tapestry of New York



VIEW OF BUFFALO HARBOR—FROM COLDEN'S MEMOIR,



Questions?

Contact Sandy Goldberg
goldbergs@wnet.org

Contact Susan Buttaccio
buttaccios@buffalolib.org

