



THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEW Episode: *The White House 1600 Sessions* Podcast “The American Semiquincentennial and the Work of the White House Historical Association”

*White House Historical Association President Stewart McLaurin Discusses the
Nation’s 250th Anniversary and Expanding Access to White House History*

March 26, 2026 (Washington, D.C.) – The White House Historical Association today released a [new episode of *The White House 1600 Sessions* podcast](#) discussing America’s 250th anniversary in 2026. Stewart McLaurin, president of the Association, explores how the Semiquincentennial year highlights the Association’s timeless mission of protecting the history of the White House, preserving its legacy, and providing unprecedented public access to its stories.

As part of this milestone year, the Association’s nonpartisan America 250 campaign—a \$150 million initiative—will expand preservation, education, and storytelling programs. Designed to broaden the Association’s reach, the campaign will ensure that White House history continues to inspire, inform, and unite Americans well beyond Independence Day.

“In this Semiquincentennial year, we are channeling that mission into our ambitious America 250 campaign about educating future generations, strengthening civic understanding, and connecting people to the shared heritage that defines us as a nation,” said McLaurin.

The America 250 campaign centers on preserving and stewarding the White House’s historic collections while telling broader stories of American resilience; building partnerships and convening leaders from presidential sites across the country, including the biennial Presidential Sites Summit, and making White House history accessible through innovative pathways like the Association’s museum experience, *The People’s House: A White House Experience*, *The White House 1600 Sessions* podcast, and publishing programs that have reached hundreds of thousands of visitors and millions online. Through this comprehensive approach, the campaign aims to scale educational impact by expanding multimedia resources, growing professional development programs, and ensuring presidential history remains vibrant and connected to the larger American narrative.

The Association is also partnering with [America250](#), the nonpartisan initiative leading the nation’s Semiquincentennial, to create a suite of limited-edition, American-made commemorative ornaments. The [Official Commemorative Ornament of America’s 250th Anniversary Celebration](#)—also the Official 2026 White House Christmas Ornament—honors the Declaration of Independence with intricate 24-karat gold detailing, while two others celebrate iconic American landmarks and national pride.

McLaurin also announced the upcoming exhibition of *So You Want to See the President!*, Norman Rockwell's only known suite of four interrelated paintings, set to open in June at *The People's House*, with the support of the White House Endowment & Acquisition Trust. Created in 1943 during World War II, the series depicts a cross-section of Americans waiting outside the president's office, capturing the character and humanity of everyday life in the United States.

Originally displayed in the West Wing of the White House, the paintings were viewed by presidents, dignitaries, and visitors as part of the daily routine in the Executive Mansion. Their display at the Association's experience will offer visitors a unique opportunity to reflect on how the story of the presidency is shaped not only by leaders and historic events, but also by the experiences and voices of everyday Americans.

"The White House is more than a building—it's a home, a stage for history, and a beacon of democracy recognized worldwide. Together, we are ensuring that the White House's history remains vibrant and accessible for the next 250 years. We're proud to help tell its story through all we do," said McLaurin.

The White House 1600 Sessions podcast is available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

For more information, please contact press@whha.org.

The White House 1600 Sessions

The White House Historical Association's President Stewart McLaurin is the host of *The White House 1600 Sessions*, the Association's official audio and video podcast devoted to exploring the history, cultural impact, untold stories, and personal accounts of America's most iconic residence and highest office.

About the White House Historical Association

Founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, the White House Historical Association is the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization entrusted with preserving and sharing the history of the White House. Supported entirely by private philanthropy and the sale of educational books and products, the Association reaches millions of students, teachers, and lifelong learners through research and scholarship initiatives, public programming, and the authoritative titles published by its independent press. Throughout each presidency, the Association works with the Offices of the First Lady and the White House Curator to acquire and preserve historic objects for the White House Fine and Decorative Arts Collection. The Association also operates The People's House: A White House Experience, a free, immersive, educational museum in Washington, D.C., which welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit WhiteHouseHistory.org.

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