



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 13, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
Jenny Coss, JCHS Event Coordinator  
[jennycoss@gmail.com](mailto:jennycoss@gmail.com)  
[oldjeffersontown.com](http://oldjeffersontown.com)

## Old Jefferson Town/Jefferson County Historical Society to Host National Declaration of Independence Exhibition in 2026

Old Jefferson Town Museums – Jefferson County Historical Society will host **“Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy,”** a traveling exhibition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, from **March 14 – April 12, 2026**, at Old Jefferson Town, 703 Walnut, Oskaloosa, KS. The Kansas tour of “Declaration 1776” is presented by Humanities Kansas.

When the Declaration of Independence was issued, the idea that “all men are created equal” was revolutionary. With this seminal document, the Founding Fathers unleashed an open-ended driving force that would shape modern history. Around the world, other countries have declared independence taking the US Declaration of 1776 as a model. “Declaration 1776” uses primary sources to illustrate how Americans and people across the world have been inspired by the Declaration in their pursuit of equality and self-determination. The Kansas “Declaration 1776” traveling exhibition includes a section called “Kansas 1776,” which looks at what was happening on the land that would become the state of Kansas 250 years ago.

The Jefferson County Historical Society will also host and sponsor coordinating events throughout 2026. Our local programming plans include: an Art Display, School Field Trips with hands on activities, Patriotic Quilt Displays, and Native American & Early Settlement Exhibits of Jefferson County.

“‘Declaration 1776’ is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to for Kansas communities to participate in the national commemoration of America’s 250th right in their own hometowns,” said Julie Mulvihill, Humanities Kansas executive director. “We look forward to robust community conversations about America’s founding document and its impact on the world.”

Old Jefferson Town Museums/Jefferson County Historical Society is one of 46 Kansas venues hosting “Declaration 1776” in 2026. For a full schedule of locations and dates, visit [humanitieskansas.org](http://humanitieskansas.org).

The “Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy” traveling exhibition is made possible in Kansas with support from the Kansas Arts Commission and the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund.

For more information about “Declaration 1776” in the Jefferson County and surrounding areas, please contact Jenny Coss at [jennycoss@gmail.com](mailto:jennycoss@gmail.com) or (620) 262-5858 and leave a message.

### ABOUT OLD JEFFERSON TOWN MUSEUMS / JEFFERSON COUNTY KS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Discover where history comes alive at the **Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS)**, nestled in the charming setting of **Old Jefferson Town**. Explore an impressive collection of artifacts, documents, and exhibits that tell the story of the people, places, and events that shaped our community. At JCHS, we’re committed to recording, preserving, and sharing the ongoing history of Jefferson County—keeping our past alive for future generations.

### ABOUT HUMANITIES KANSAS

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit leading a movement of ideas. Since 1972, HK’s programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and invite new insights. Together with statewide partners and supporters, HK encourages Kansans to draw on diverse histories, literatures, and cultures to create connections with one another and strengthen Kansas communities and our democracy.

###