

*NC
FIRST IN
FREEDOM
FESTIVAL*

FEBRUARY 21 – 28, 2026



AGENDA



- Welcome & Introduction
- NCFIFF Vision & Overview
- NCFIFF Committee Members & Stakeholders
- Festival Details & Timeline
- Visitors Guide & Passport Program
- How to Get Involved
- Sponsorships
- Questions & Discussion



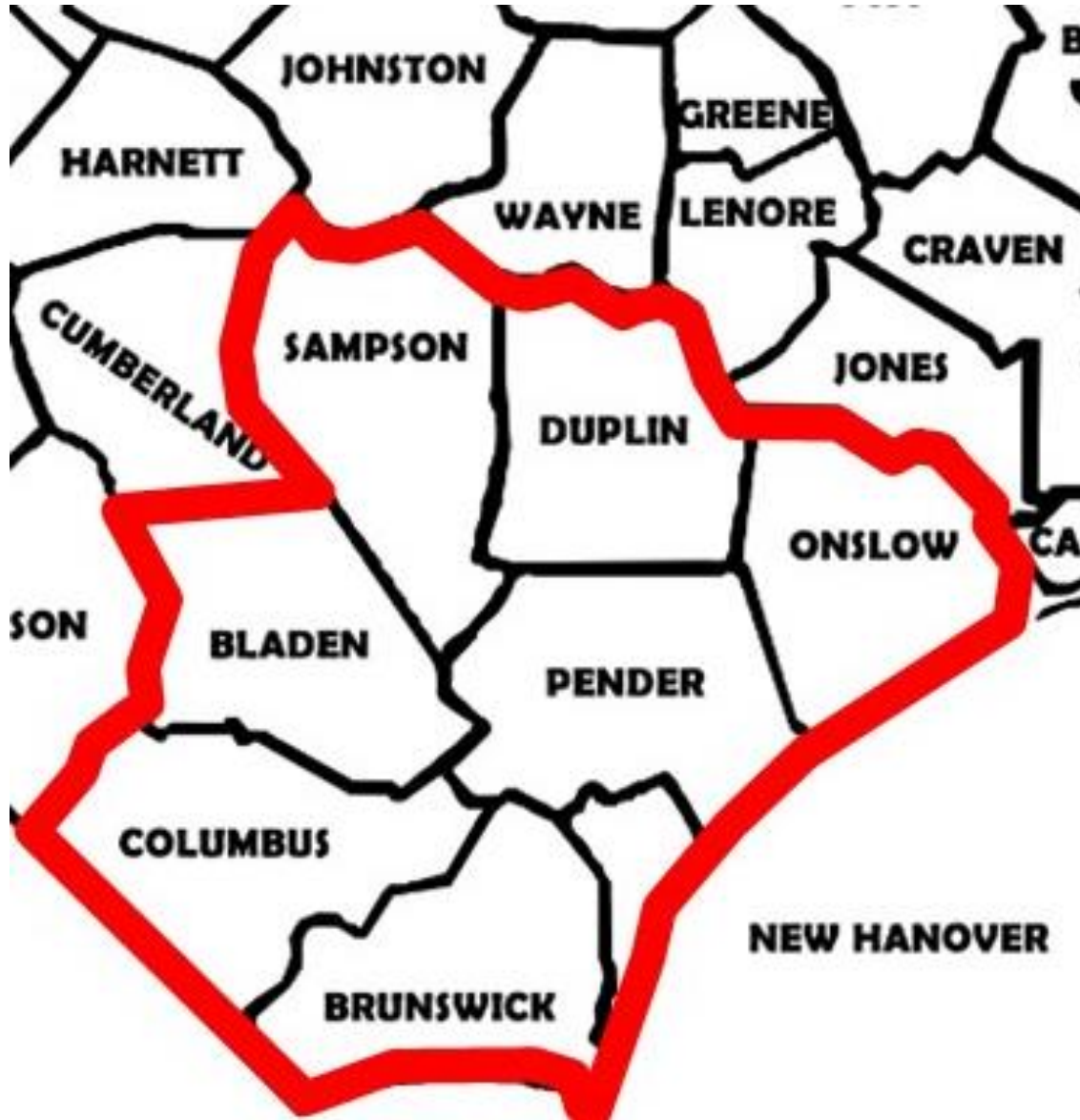
VISION & OVERVIEW

- 2026 represents the 250th of the Declaration of Independence
the 250th of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge
the 100th of Moores Creek as National Park
- It all started with an idea...what if our celebration had greater reach?
- Why go beyond Moores Creek National Battlefield?
- The inaugural **North Carolina First in Freedom Festival**, taking place throughout **Southeastern NC** during the week of **February 21-28, 2026**, will celebrate **250+ years of our Nation's story and culture** viewed through the lens of historical North Carolina events and the arts.

COMMITTEE & STAKEHOLDERS

- NCFIFF Committee Member Introductions
- Stakeholders
 - A250 County Committee Representatives
 - Tourism & Hospitality Entities
 - Historic Sites & Organizations
 - Art Entities
 - Non-Profit Entities
 - Media
 - Government Entity Representatives
 - Special Event Representatives





NCFIFF DETAILS & REACH

Week-long calendar of events with daily activities for visitors to “Choose their Experience” including:

- Kick-off Event at BTFASHS
- Activities taking place all throughout SENC including historic and cultural events, special events, and gatherings
- Launching and promotion of new facilities at FFSHS and Cape Fear Museum
- 3-Day event at MOCR celebrating 250th Anniversary
- Novant Wilmington Marathon with Patriotic theme
- Regional, State, and National Org. gatherings in area

Bottom line: NCFIFF is a marketing partnership targeting over 1 million local citizens with an opportunity to reach countless regional, state, national, and international visitors.

[About Us](#) ▾

[Plan Your Trip](#) ▾

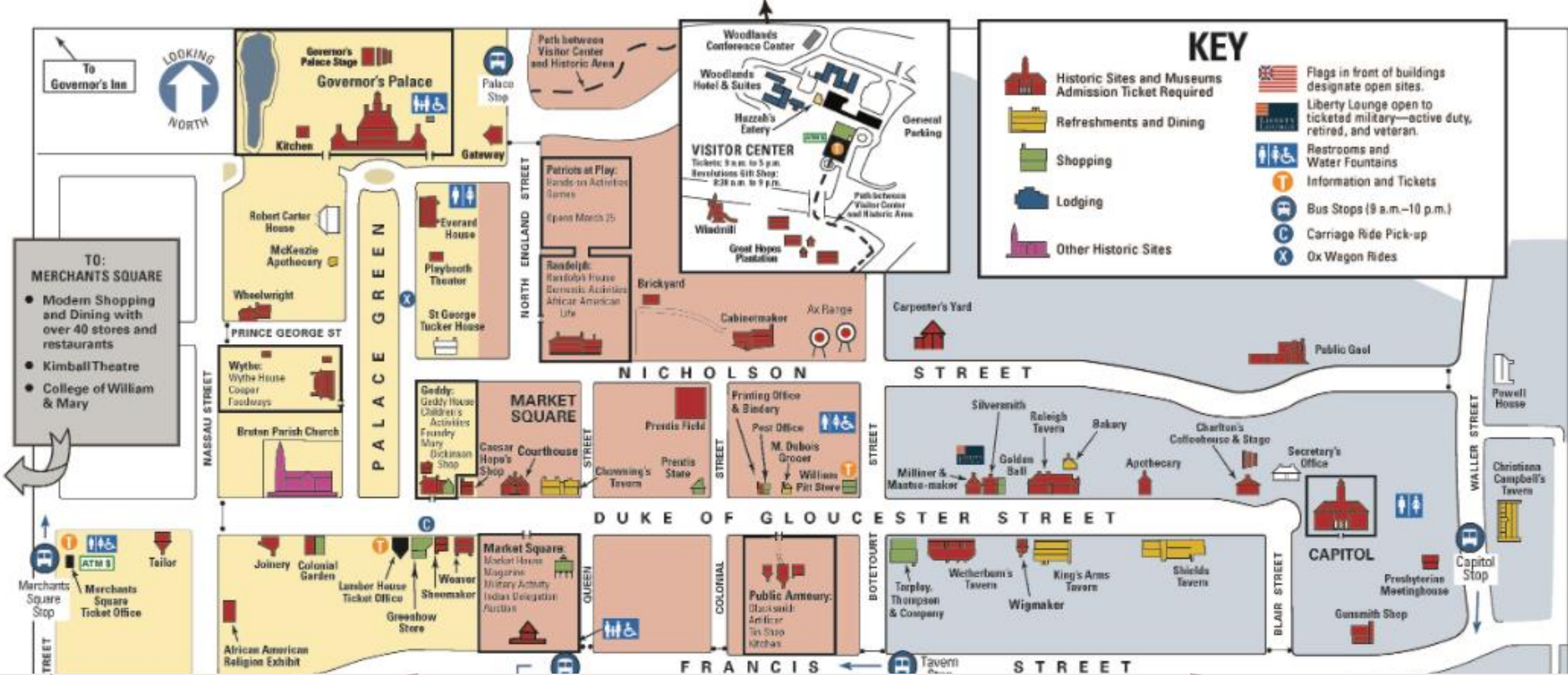
[Education Resources](#) ▾

[Events](#) ▾

[Get Involved](#)



WEBSITE



VISITORS GUIDE

*BRANDING
& SIGNAGE*



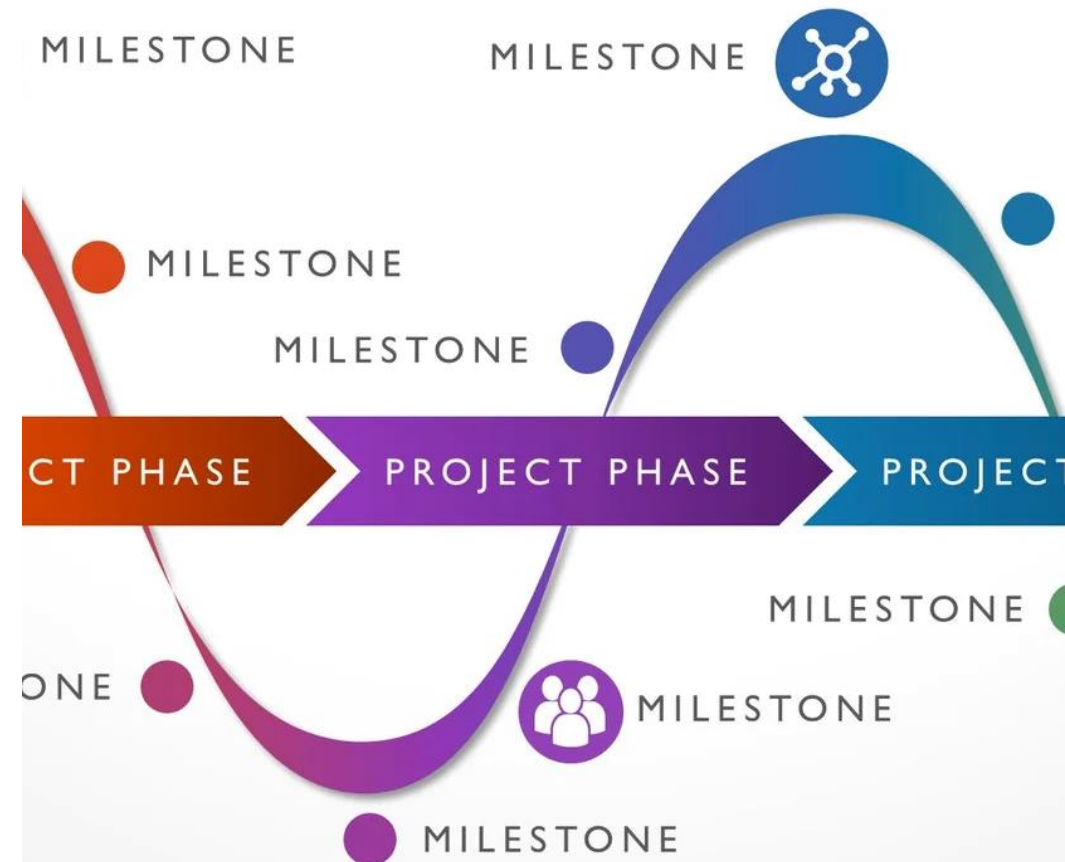


*PASSPORT BOOKLET,
STAMPS, AND SWAG*



FESTIVAL PLANNING TIMELINE

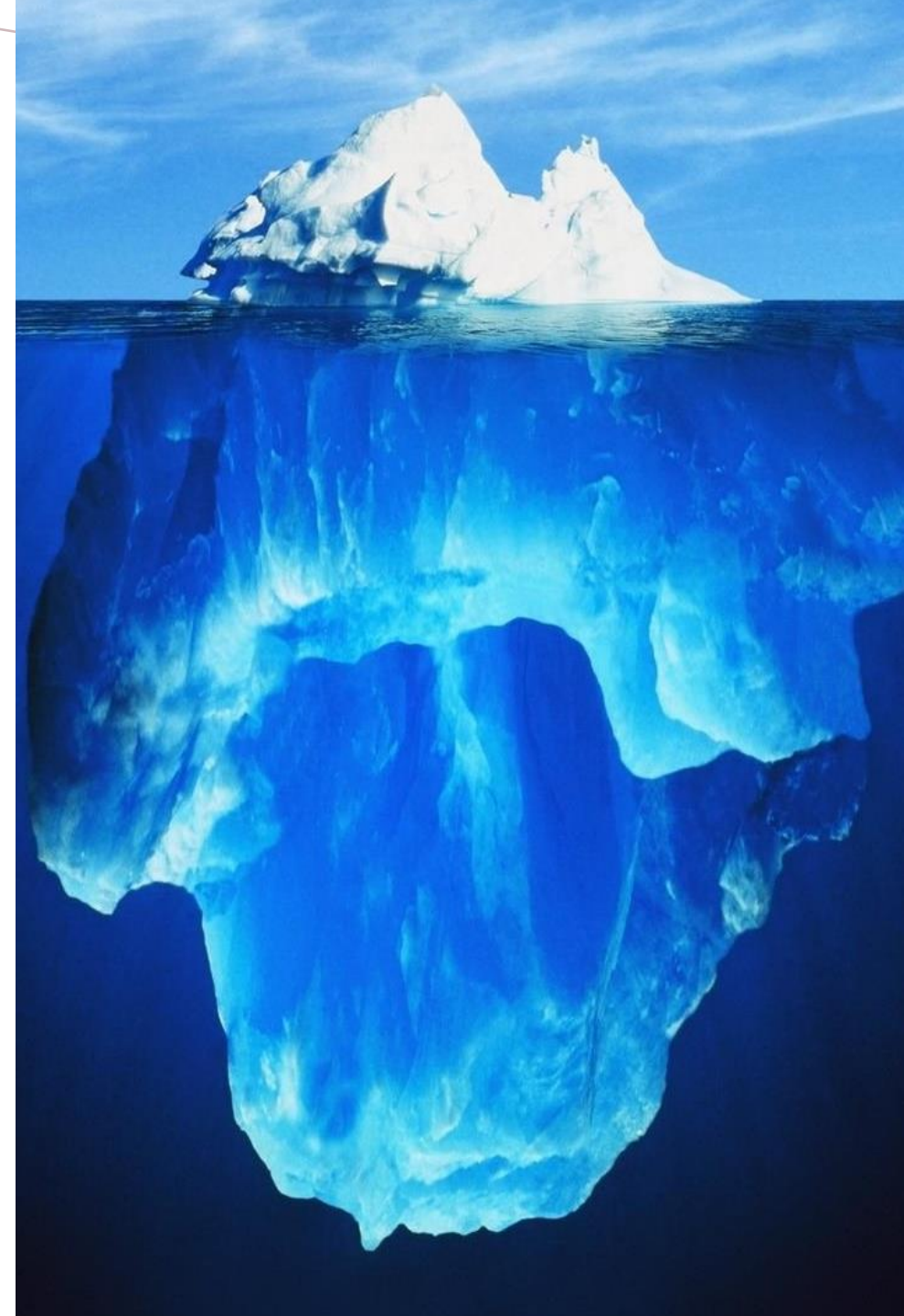
- 2024 – Strategizing & Stakeholder Engagement
- 2025 – Marketing & Finalizing Details
- 2026 – February 21 – 28 – “4th of July in February”
- Beyond NCFIFF – Rest of 2026
- Beyond NCFIFF – Legacy Engagement



HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

- **Plan** an Activity or Event
 - Tell YOUR story – the untold, undertold, and unique stories.
 - Introduce and reintroduce your story to new audiences.
- **Share** your event details with the NCFIFF
- **Promote** the NCFIFF and help drive visitors to each other's activities
- **Participate** – experience for yourself the local history and arts of NC
- **Support** other entities through 2026 and beyond through networking
- **Join** the Committee – bring your talents, skills, and abilities to the planning table

The NCFIFF is the tip of the iceberg. Working with local Tourism and Hospitality entities, the NCFIFF Committee will promote and advocate for your events and activities. You will get out of this what you put in. So go all out and help NCFIFF celebrate 250+ years of our Nation's story and culture viewed through the lens of historical North Carolina events and the arts.





WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

- Inspire the next generation – historians, artists, educators, conservation and preservationists – who will carry on celebrating our Nation’s history and culture.
- Bring Tourism to SENC in 2026 – Drive Tourism to and keep Tourism \$\$ in your community
- Bring Tourism to SENC in 2026 – not just in February – but all year long
- A Final Report will be issued to all stakeholders highlighting the economic impact this week-long and year-long America 250 celebration will have on our communities



SPONSORSHIP



*PARTNER, STAKEHOLDER, & SPONSOR
SUPPORT*

QUESTIONS?



NC First in Freedom Festival

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