

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# New Rochelle Invites the Public to Share Their Hopes for America's Future Through an America 250 Wish Project

*Interactive community art installation runs June 4–23 at the New Rochelle Public Library*

**NEW ROCHELLE, NY — May 29, 2026** — As the nation approaches its 250th birthday, the New Rochelle Downtown Business Improvement District (NRBID), in partnership with the New Rochelle Public Library and the New Rochelle 250 Committee, invites residents and visitors to take part in a growing national conversation through the *America 250 Wish Project*, opening June 4 at the New Rochelle Public Library.

## What is your wish for America's future?

*Be part of history as we look toward the future.*

Presented by the New Rochelle Downtown Business Improvement District in partnership with the New Rochelle Public Library and the New Rochelle 250 Committee, the project is a collaborative public art experience where community members of all ages can write or draw their hopes, dreams, and visions for the country on wish cards that become part of a growing collective installation in the library's Lumen Winter Gallery exhibit space. Together, the cards create a display reflecting what New Rochelle hopes for, dreams about, and believes in.

Wishes gathered in New Rochelle will join thousands more being collected at libraries, museums, and community spaces across the country as part of the nationwide Made By Us effort to capture Americans' hopes and dreams ahead of the nation's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. The effort also connects to Civic Season, a nationwide initiative led by Made By Us that encourages Americans to reflect on the country's past and imagine its future leading up to the Juneteenth and Fourth of July holidays.

*"A 250th birthday is a milestone that calls for a wish — and we wanted to give our neighbors, children, and visitors alike a place to share theirs. This interactive project brings our community's voices together through a simple, meaningful act of reflection and shared creativity."*

— Anne Gold, Executive Director, New Rochelle Downtown Business Improvement District

*"We are proud to partner with the Downtown BID to host the America 250 Wish Project at the New Rochelle Public Library. Libraries have always been places where people come together to learn, reflect, and share ideas. As a civic gathering place and one of the few truly public spaces where everyone is welcome, the library is the perfect setting for our community to share their hopes for the future of America."*

— Eugenia Schatoff, Executive Director, New Rochelle Public Library

The project is free, open to participants of all ages, and requires no advance registration. Visitors are invited to drop in during regular library hours, take a card, and add their wish — in words, in pictures, or both. Younger children, longtime residents, newcomers, and everyone in between are welcome to participate.

## Event Details

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- **What:** America 250 community wish project inviting participants to write, draw, and share their hopes for America's future
- **Presented by:** New Rochelle Downtown Business Improvement District, in partnership with the New Rochelle Public Library and the New Rochelle 250 Committee
- **Where:** New Rochelle Public Library
- **When:** June 4–23, 2026, during regular library hours
- **Cost:** Free and open to the public
- **Ages:** All ages welcome

## About America 250

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The America 250 Wish Project is part of broader national efforts leading up to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, including Civic Season and the Made By Us initiative. The New Rochelle Public Library and the New Rochelle Downtown Business Improvement District are both part of the New Rochelle 250 Committee — the city's local commemoration initiative celebrating New Rochelle's role in American history through community programs, exhibitions, and public participation.

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