

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



MEDIA CONTACT:

Carpenters' Company | Tracy Buchholz
tracy@enroutemarketing.com | 267-992-0808

America250 | Michael Frazier
mfrazier@america250.org | 347-415-0219

**THE CARPENTERS' COMPANY, STATE AND NATIONAL LEADERS UNVEIL THE
YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND OTHER PROGRAMS TO
COMMEMORATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES**

The Young People's Continental Congress, a nationwide initiative beginning in 2024 as part of the lead-up to the nation's Semiquincentennial, is the signature program for The Carpenters' Company anniversary year.

Photos, headshots, and additional information can be found [HERE](#).

PHILADELPHIA, PA (October 6, 2022) — [The Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia](#) and [America250 Foundation](#) today unveiled new details on the [Young People's Continental Congress](#) (YPCC), a one-of-a-kind program for high school students from around the country leading up to semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of our founding—on July 4, 2026.

The Young People's Continental Congress begins July 2024 in Philadelphia, marking the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress, when 56 Colonial delegates convened at Carpenters' Hall to discuss their grievances with Great Britain and solidify a united American identity. For five days, rising 10th-graders and their teachers from all 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions will gather in Philadelphia to discuss contemporary democracy and civic engagement issues and make recommendations to address them. YPCC delegates will be selected through a competitive application process and reflect the nation's diversity in terms of race, gender, and economic status.

"The events that took place in Carpenters' Hall in 1774 paved the way for American independence," said **Michael Norris**, Executive Director of The Carpenters' Company, "and so it's only fitting that 2024 be the starting point for commemorating Philadelphia's – and the nation's – journey to the Semiquincentennial in 2026. Since 2024 also marks the 300th anniversary of The Carpenters' Company itself, all of our planned 2024 programs and activities will commemorate these two milestone anniversaries."

"The approaching semiquincentennial provides a special opportunity for our next generation to protect and enrich our highest ideals and help move a united country forward to the next 250 years and

beyond," said **Joseph C. Daniels**, America250 President and CEO. "We are honored to partner with Carpenters' Hall on this national program, bringing together students from every corner of the country to where our democracy began so they, too, may be inspired to make this world better for everyone."

The America250 Foundation has made a commitment to support the YPCC program.

Today's event, hosted at the Independence Visitor Center, featured **Michael Norris**, **Hon. Edward G. Rendell**; **Hon. Mary Isaacson**, Pennsylvania State Representative; **Cynthia MacLeod**, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park; **Joseph Daniels**; President and CEO of the [America250](#) Foundation, **Robert MacIntosh**, The Carpenters' Company Anniversary Co-Chair; **Lynne O'Hara**, Director of Programs, National History Day; **Elizabeth Clay Roy**, Chief Executive Officer, Generation Citizen; **Tom Daley**, The Carpenters' Company President; and **Quentin Williams**, spoken word artist. Following the media event, students and teachers from Philadelphia-based **Constitution High School** met with officials from [National History Day](#)® and [Generation Citizen](#) for a working lunch to launch a comprehensive planning process for a 2024 local version of the YPCC.

Founded in 1724, The Carpenters' Company is the nation's oldest extant trade guild. Fifty years later the Company built Carpenters' Hall as its meeting hall and hosted the First Continental Congress in the fall of 1774, when 56 Colonial delegates convened to discuss their grievances with Great Britain and solidify a united American identity. Two years later, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in July 1776.

"The anniversary of the First Continental Congress will be a landmark event in 2024," said Cynthia MacLeod, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park. "Carpenters' Hall is an integral part of the story of Independence National Historical Park, exploring the intersectionality of our nation's founding and its implications for the 21st Century, through the modern lens of equity and social justice. When the eyes of the world once again focus on the City of Philadelphia, together with Carpenters' Hall, we plan to be ready to welcome and serve the millions of tourists and visitors to the park at the foundation of American history."

In addition to the Young People's Continental Congress, the Carpenters' Company will produce a year-long slate of programming tied to its 2024 anniversaries. Other programs in development include:

- **February:** The unveiling of recent preservation efforts at Carpenters' Hall.
- **May:** Public demonstrations of historic trades and crafts in Carpenters' Court.
- **August:** A reunion picnic for descendants of delegates to the First Continental Congress and early Carpenters' Company members.
- **September through October:** Living-history reenactments of key moments from the First Continental Congress inside Carpenters' Hall and in Carpenters' Court.
- **October:** Carpenters' Hall hosts the triennial national convening of *Sons of the Revolution*
- **October:** Visit by a delegation from Carpenters' Company predecessor organization, The Carpenters' Company of London, founded in the Middle Ages.
- **December:** The publication of *Patriot Builders* by author Roger Moss, highlighting the early history of The Carpenters' Company.

For a complete list of programming, please click [HERE](#).

About The Carpenters' Company

The Carpenters' Company of the City and Country of Philadelphia was established in 1724 and will soon celebrate its 300th anniversary. Today approximately 180 men and women, all of them prominent architects, building contractors, and structural engineers, carry on the Company's traditions at the center of the continuing evolution of the built environment of Philadelphia. From the 18th -century members who erected the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall), Christ Church, and Carpenters' Hall to its modern membership, the Company's members are "Master Builders." The Company's mission includes preserving and maintaining Carpenters' Hall, where it seeks to interpret the many significant events that occurred in and around the Hall for over 130,000 visitors annually; providing a forum for professional association; and encouraging and supporting education for those entering the construction industry. For more information, visit <http://www.carpentershall.org/>.

About America250

America250 is a multi-year effort to commemorate the semiquincentennial, or 250th anniversary, of the United States. The purpose of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, created by Congress, and the corresponding America250 Foundation, is to catalyze a more perfect union by designing and leading the most comprehensive and inclusive celebration in our country's history. America250 represents a coalition of public and private partners all working to create initiatives and programs that honor our first 250 years and inspire Americans to imagine our next 250. The commemoration period began in 2020, culminates on July 4, 2026, and officially concludes in 2027. For more information, visit america250.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#).

###

DRAFT