

YEAR IN REVIEW

REFLECT
THE PAST

CELEBRATE
THE PRESENT

DREAM
THE FUTURE



Celebrating 200 Years

Manchester commemorated its Bicentennial anniversary with a year-long slate of events and activities which aimed to **remember the past**, **celebrate the present**, and **dream about the future**. The celebration engaged the community with festive events; we honored and celebrated the community's diversity, we reflected upon the past to remember and inform younger generations, captured, preserved, and discovered stories of historical significance and highlight the planning and reimagining of Manchester's places to live, work and play for the next 200 years. This final report outlines these ideas and more and serves as a historical record of the Town's 200th Celebration.

The Purpose

Manchester was incorporated during the 19th century, 1823 to be exact. The Town transformed from a small farming community to a bustling industrial center. The first half of the 20th century began to see a decline in manufacturing due to the Great Depression. From the mid 20th century to present day the Town has shifted from an industrial economy toward an entrepreneurial one.

The purpose of documenting the Bicentennial events was multifaceted. Primarily, it serves as a comprehensive record of the community's efforts in commemorating this significant milestone, offering an in-depth reflection of the Town's history, culture, and progress over the past two centuries. By showcasing the array of events, activities and initiatives held throughout the year, the report aims to foster a sense of communal pride and unity, emphasizing the shared values and achievements that have shaped Manchester's identity. Furthermore, this report serves as a valuable resource for future generations providing a tangible link to the Town's rich heritage and serving as a catalyst for continued engagement and preservation of local history. This report also seeks to **inspire ongoing civic participation** and **encourage a legacy of community spirit and celebration**.

Getting Started

Create an Identity- Brand Development

Logo As a Connecticut graphic designer and artist, I was honored to be commissioned by the Town of Manchester to design its Bicentennial logo. A creative discussion with project leads inspired me to design a logo that would reflect Manchester's past, present, and future. The final logo celebrates the city's iconic history in the silk industry, its richly diverse community, its arts and cultural impact, and future growth.

ABOUT THE ARTIST | Lauren Clayton is an artist, graphic designer, and founder of Studio 162 in Stamford, CT. She studied at the Cooper Union School of Art in NYC before winning a grant to help launch her business, Studio 162 in 2003. Lauren began to specialize in designing family heirloom books at the start of her business but has grown to offer a variety of creative solutions. In recent years, Lauren has developed a special focus on working for non-profit organizations whose mission she supports with powerful design. As an artist, she explores the ideas of connectivity, ethnicity, and our impact on our environment and community. She participates in creative initiatives, mural projects, and art shows in Connecticut and New York. Lauren is a resident of Stamford and is active in her community by mentoring art students and previously serving on local boards.



Reflect the Past. Celebrate the Present. Dream the Future.

Reflect the Past is about taking the time to look back at the last 200 years of community growth. Reflecting gives us an opportunity to remember the things that once were, to assess its impact on us as a community, family and individuals and to use what we have learned to help better build a community that we can be proud of, one that allows us to work, live and play. *Celebrate the Present* is about appreciating what we have today, here and now and who we are today, here and now.

Dream the future, imagining and looking forward to the community that we will one day become. One that invests in our public places and spaces, one that continues to value our diverse community, one that continues to strive for equity and inclusion and most importantly, one that is safe, beautiful, and welcoming.



Planning Framework

Brand Partners: Encouraged Town departments as well as community organizations to become brand partners by utilizing the Bicentennial branding. This included events and programs that happen on a regular basis (ie. Fourth of July, Manchester Road Race). Brand partners adopted the Bicentennial logo and branding for their 2023 events. Brand partners received recognition and inclusion of their organization, event, and/or project in the official Bicentennial Events Guide, inclusion of their organization and event/project in other methods of promotion to include the official Bicentennial website and *Better Manchester Magazine* and provided these partners an opportunity to showcase their organization, project, and pride for the Manchester community.

Engagement Grants: Developed a community engagement arm through a grant giving process. This allowed for local community organizations and groups to propose ideas for the Bicentennial year. Groups completed grant applications for events and programs that were completed April-December 2023.

Town Sponsored Events: These events were specific to the Town sponsored events, programs and activities and were broken down into six specific tracks:

- I. Historical Events and Programs
- II. Educational Events and Programs
- III. Community Events and Celebrations
- IV. Engagement Grant Events
- V. Commemorative Projects
- VI. Marketing and Communications



Getting the Word Out

Working Group

Putting aside traditional committee structures, our group decided to create what we referred to as a “Working Group”. Rather than assign symbolic chairperson roles, leadership was shared and members worked collaboratively from start to finish. The group consisted of Town employees, elected officials and community members.

The Bicentennial Working Group created a marketing team in partnership with the Department of Leisure, Family and Recreation and the Town Communications Office. The marketing team identified marketing and promotional methods and created a multi-phase approach using a variety of methods to deliver marketing materials in a effort to build excitement and momentum leading up to the celebratory year.

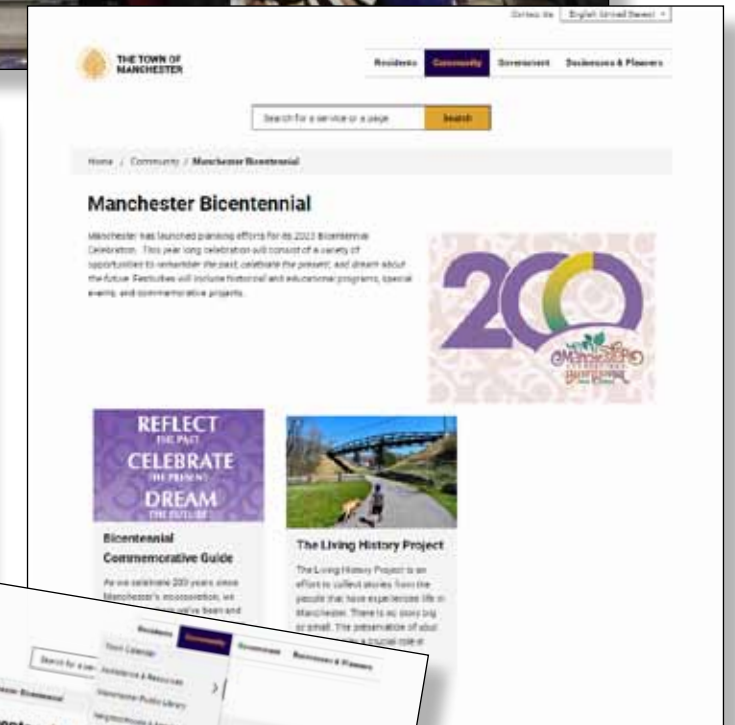
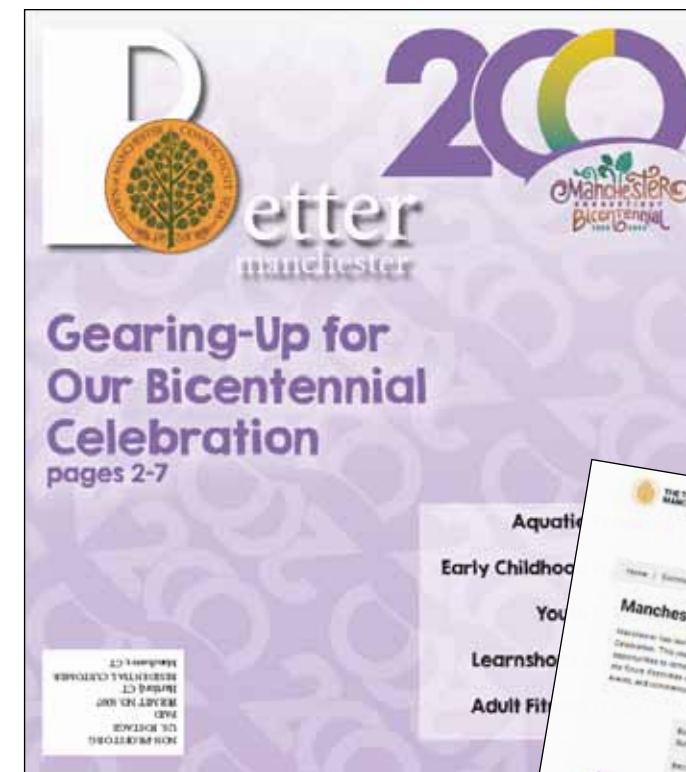
Phases I & II

Our first effort was to engage the community by offering a grant opportunity to local community groups and organizations who had a desire to participate in the Bicentennial by planning and/or creating celebratory events or commemorative projects.

Simultaneously, the Marketing Team created the framework and final structure for the Bicentennial website- “All Things Bicentennial”. The initial features of the site included: an event calendar, brand partner registration, engagement grant portal, volunteer registration portal, the on-line Bicentennial store and story preservation.

In early fall 2022, the Marketing Team provided public presentations to Town staff and local civic groups/organizations in efforts to inform, engage and create a vision alignment.

The “Gearing Up for Our Bicentennial Celebration” issue of the *Better Manchester* Magazine was released in November 2022. In efforts to rally excitement around the upcoming year. By late December 2022, the Team began dressing up our centrally located and prominent government buildings with celebratory banners.



Building Momentum

Phase III

The Promotional Launch was held on January 25, 2023 as a way to kick-off the Bicentennial year celebration. The launch, held in the lobby of Town Hall consisted of performances by the Town Troubadour, the Town Poet Laureate, the Town Historian, the Mayor and the Town Manager. A trailer to the Bicentennial Documentary was produced and shown to build excitement for the year to come. The celebration concluded with cupcakes and a 200th birthday cake.

The Marketing Team then put out a major press release to share information regarding the upcoming year-long celebrations.

Phase IV

- The Summer 2023 edition of the *Better Manchester Magazine*, was a full event catalog containing a listing of celebratory events and projects as well as a information directing and explaining All Things Bicentennial for the official Bicentennial website.
- The Official Commemorative Program Guide for the 2023 Bicentennial celebration included a chronological listing of all bicentennial events, stories, projects, grants, website, and musical lyrics for the official bicentennial song. This guide coincided with the digital event calendar.
- Inserted Bicentennial promotional material in the Spring 2023 Town of Manchester water bills. The insert was a simple directional message to the official Bicentennial website.
- Various flyers were created to support the promotion of individual events as their event date approached.
- QR Codes were used on all promotional materials to direct people to the official Bicentennial website.
- Various banners were designed, produced and installed at Main Street, Center Memorial Park, Northwest Park, Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center, Lincoln Center, Weiss Center, and Town Hall. All banners were dressed with the official branding of the Bicentennial and used to build excitement and inform.



Engagement Grant Partners

Grant Giving Program and Recipients

As a philanthropic component of the Bicentennial Celebration, the Bicentennial Grant Giving Program sought community partners and organizations interested in contributing to the year-long celebration. Facilitated by the Manchester Youth Commission, the program requested applications from local Manchester non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations and/or government/education organizations, neighborhood groups, religious organizations, and other appropriate organizations.



African American Black Affairs Council

*Black History, Manchester Bicentennial Celebration
"The Stories we Tell"*

The African American Black Affairs Council (AABAC) was the proud recipient of a grant to host a special Black History and Manchester Bicentennial celebration that honored and celebrated the rich history and cultural contributions of the African American community in Manchester.

Elks Lodge #1893

A Day in the Park

With the Bicentennial funding, Elks Lodge #1893 provided a safe and engaging environment where children and families can come together to participate in healthy and educational activities, fostering community spirit and well-being. Held on May 13, 2023, participants engaged in the annual hoop shoot, soccer shoot, a drug awareness poster contest and kids safe bicycle rodeo.

Lutz Children's Museum

300 Years of Manchester: The PAST, The PRESENT, The FUTURE.

The Lutz Children's Museum received Bicentennial funding for a collaborative between the Lutz Children's Museum, the Manchester Historical Society, and WORK_SPACE to host a unique three-venue art show titled "300 Years of Manchester: The Past, The Present, The Future." At the heart of this endeavor is THE LUTZ, where a portion of the exhibition, "THE PRESENT," showcased artwork created by talented young artists attending Manchester Public Elementary Schools. Their pieces, carefully collected and curated by their respective schools, offered a glimpse into the vibrant present-day culture and creativity within our community. This grant underscored our commitment to fostering artistic expression and engaging the next generation of artists and historians in celebrating Manchester's rich heritage and envisioning its bright future.

Manchester Adult and Continuing Education

International Mother Language Day (see events p 6-7)

Manchester celebrated International Mother Language Day (IMLD) in February in a culturally rich and inclusive manner, thanks to a grant awarded by the Bicentennial Working Group. The celebration of IMLD served as a testament to Manchester's commitment to embracing multiculturalism and promoting inclusivity within the community.

Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative

Community Baby Shower

Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative received funding to partner with ECHN Family Birthing Center & ECHN Family Development Center to provide a community baby shower. The event provided fun activities and toys for the littlest (or soon-to-be) Manchester residents and their families. The shower was held November 4, 2023 (rescheduled from Sept. 30) at Manchester Memorial Hospital and featured a baby gear swap while providing local resources and information of providers.

Manchester Garden Club

200 Trees for a Greener Tomorrow

The Manchester Garden Club participated in several Bicentennial events where they gave out 200 native tree seedlings to Manchester residents. Residents were given fact sheets and planting instructions to plant 200 trees in commemoration of the Bicentennial.

Manchester Public Library & WORK_SPACE

Authors & Illustrator's Series

Funding was given for the Manchester Public Library to collaborate with WORK_SPACE. They co-hosted multiple events to showcase the writing and illustration talent of Manchester residents and the opportunities for publication to future writers and illustrators.

WORK_SPACE

A Week in the Life Photography Contest

WORK_SPACE was thrilled to receive a grant for "A Week in the Life Photography Contest," marking Manchester's Bicentennial. The initiative invited community members to capture Manchester's essence through their lenses over a 7-day period. After attending one of three ninety-minute workshops led by professional photographers, contestants had a week to explore Manchester and submit their best shots online. Twenty-three winning photographs were selected and professionally printed, then showcased in the "EXPRESSIONS OF MANCHESTER" exhibit, co-hosted with MARC. The exhibit ran from August 6th to September 29th, 2023, portraying the diverse and vibrant spirit of Manchester through the eyes of its residents and visitors.



St. Johns Polish National Catholic Church

Polish Food & Heritage Family Festival

Funding provided for St. Johns Polish National Catholic Church provided an opportunity for community members to immerse themselves in the rich cultural Polish heritage with activities that included games and interactive experiences related to Polish traditions. The event, held on June 24, 2023, allowed community members to step back in time and explore the historic site while indulging in traditional Polish dishes and listening to lively Polish folk music.



ECHN Manchester Clinical Day School

Adirondack Chair Project

Manchester Bicentennial grant was awarded to the day school to construct and paint historical themes on 20 Adirondack chairs, each to be placed in public areas for use. This exciting initiative showcased the artistic talents of students as they transformed ordinary Adirondack chairs into unique works of art. These chairs tell stories inspired by Manchester's rich history and vibrant community spirit. All twenty chairs were on display and available to relax in on May 13, 2023, at Center Memorial Park in conjunction with the Reflect, Celebration, and Dream in the Park Event.

International Mother Language Day
February 25-26, 2023

What is International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is a worldwide annual observance held on February 21, initiated by the people of Bangladesh, to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. The holiday was declared by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November of 1999. Later, in 2002, the General Assembly of the UN officially marked the day with a resolution "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world."

The Town of Manchester and multicultural community partners will honor and celebrate IMLD with a weekend of events with the goal to inspire acceptance and solidarity. The events are free of charge and open to the public.

Come Celebrate

Writers Meet & Greet
Saturday, February 25, 1:00-4:30 PM
Whitton Library, 100 N. Main Street
Storyteller, music, arts and crafts, poetry and an author meet and greet. Reception will be catered by Anthony's Jamaican Restaurant. For more information call the Manchester Public Library: 860-645-0821 or visit website: manchesterct.gov/library

Multicultural Event With Music & Dance
Sunday, February 26, 2:00-3:30 PM
Manchester High School, Bailey Auditorium, 134 East Middle Turnpike
Music, poetry, dance and more from a variety of cultures and backgrounds

'Language is Art' Exhibit
Sunday, February 26, 1:30-4:00 PM
Manchester High School, Bailey Auditorium Lobby

Brand Partners

The Manchester Bicentennial Working Group welcomed the active participation of local businesses, organizations, and the entire community by extending an invitation to become a Brand Partner. Participating Brand Partners were granted exclusive access to the Bicentennial brand and logo. The recognition and inclusion of these partners, along with their events, were prominently featured online, amplifying their visibility and contributions to the celebration. This initiative provided a unique opportunity for Brand Partners to showcase their organizations, projects, and thereby contributing to the collective spirit of the Manchester community. Notably, the support from Town Employees, the Manchester Board of Directors, and all Town Departments, each utilizing the Bicentennial brand, further underscored the collaborative and unified effort that made the celebration a truly inclusive and memorable experience for all.

- African American Black Affairs Council
- Artists in Real Time, Inc.
- Beller's Music/Dubaldo Music Center
- Celebrate Manchester
- Cruisin' on Main Car Show
- Department of Leisure, Family and Recreation
- Downtown Manchester Special Services District
- ECHN
- Hilliard Mills, LLC
- Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home
- James 'Dutch' Fogarty Independence Day Celebration Committee
- Lutz Children's Museum
- Manchester Adult & Continuing Education
- Manchester Art Association
- Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative
- Manchester Elks Lodge #1893
- Manchester Fire/Rescue/EMS
- Manchester Garden Club

- Manchester Historical Society
- Manchester Latino Affairs Council
- Manchester Public Library
- Manchester Public Works
- Manchester Road Race, Inc.
- Manchester Running Company
- Manchester Senior Center
- Manchester Sports Hall of Fame
- Manchester Women's Club
- Manchester Youth Commission
- MARC, inc. of Manchester
- Perennial Planters Garden Club of Manchester
- Permanent Memorial Day Parade Committee
- Rebuilding Together of Manchester
- Rise Up for the Arts!
- Rotary Club of Manchester, CT
- St. John's Polish National Catholic Church
- WORK_SPACE



Volunteer Partners

The Bicentennial year-long celebration of Manchester truly came alive through the dedicated efforts of numerous volunteers, whose invaluable contributions played a pivotal role in the success of various events and projects. Over 80 individuals demonstrated their commitment by completing the digital Bicentennial Volunteer Signup Form on the Manchester Bicentennial website, showcasing a community-driven spirit. Additionally, approximately 20-30 more volunteers, including those from UConn Alpha Phi Omega, Boy Scout Troop #123, and students from MHS, actively participated in different capacities, amplifying the collective impact.

Volunteers undertook important tasks, including the preparation of hundreds of goodie bags, informational packets and crafting giveaways throughout the year. Their involvement extended to supervising carnival games, overseeing moon bounces at numerous events, dressing up for Holiday in the Park and Fall Fest to provide entertainment. Volunteers excelled in hospitality roles, such as greeting participants at welcome tents, handing out goodie bags and providing essential information. The meticulous attention to detail in organizing seemingly minor aspects, such as parking and bathroom attendants underscored the volunteers' commitment to ensure the smooth execution of marquee events, such as the Reflect, Celebrate Dream in the Park and the Lights in the Sky-A Drone Show Event.

One of the most significant undertakings entrusted to the volunteers was the curation of the 1998 time capsule. Their multifaceted skills and unwavering dedication were evident as they meticulously crafted scrapbooks from assorted materials, preserving the sentiments of the past. In addition, volunteers played a pivotal role in embracing modern technology, transferring videos and pictures from yesteryears into digital formats, culminating in a compelling historical presentation. Almost 150 people were located and reunited with the letters they had written, creating a poignant connection across time.

Beyond event-specific tasks, volunteers assisted with the broader commemorative experience associated with the Bicentennial Celebration. Events such as WORK_SPACE 2nd Saturdays, the James "Dutch" Fogarty Independence Day Celebration and Silk City Fest were enhanced by the enthusiastic participation of volunteers. Their collective effort underscored the significance of community engagement, preservation of history, and the creation of memorable experiences for all participants in this year-long celebration of Manchester's rich heritage.



Volunteers

Susan Aekus
Alejandra Alba
Ronald Atwater
Lucas Balikian
Ed Bouchie
Emily Braham
Trish Camacho
Kiara Carvajal
John Casey
Hassan Chaudhary
Dana Chaffiotte-
Thibodeau
Suzy Couture
Troy Couture
Cindy Dansker
Liv Dickson
Jo-Ann Dorn
David Dove
Carol Ebersold
Mary Falotico
Jess Furphy
Abby Gardiner
Kirkland Harris
Bethlynn Heller
Ashton Henry
Evangelos Horiatis
Barbara Hurley
Emma Hursey Hursey
Michele Iraci
Jawuan Johnson
Sherry Keeran
Allison Letizia
Zeba Lulat
Leslie Manna
Linda Mason
Thomas Matrick
Kim Mauro
Ray Monaccio
Sarah Moses

Laura Mund
MaryAnn Murray
Durgesh Nandini
Mariam Nazir
Paul Ofria
Ken O'Hara
Marc Orfitelli
Dean Ott
Jasmyne Ouellette
Keyla Palala
Trace Peterson
Lauren Pope
Eric Prause
Sue Racicot
Fajar Raja
Suriya Prabha Rajendran
Thasfia Rifa
Jordan Rodriguez
Ed Ruel
Wendy Slegeski
Tino Soto
Robin Starkel
Vivien Stemberidge
Elsie Stempinski
Susan Stepanski
Eileen Templeton
Julie Tanguay
Rosaleen Templeton
Tom Tierney
Tom Topping
Jenny Vesco
Robert Viara
Mary Jane Viara
Spencer Walker
Richard Walsh
Hazel Westfall
Rachael Witkege
Linda Woodall
Amanda Zappulla



Community & Family Events List

23 Walks with the Town Historian

23 Walks was a popular series held throughout the bicentennial year, featuring an average of 2 hikes per month starting January 28 and continuing right thru December 31, 2023. Approximately 55 participants completed 10 or more hikes, with the series attracting widespread participation. Some hikes saw a “high” of around 120 attendees RAIN OR SHINE! In total, over 800 individuals joined the walks at least once, with many expressing appreciations for the valuable knowledge gained about Manchester, even after decades of living in the area.

200 Trees for a Greener Tomorrow (see grant p 6)

2023 Memorial Day Parade The annual parade began at the Army and Navy Club and concluded at Center Park with a Memorial Day program honoring our fallen veterans.

2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

Hosted by WORK_SPACE

Each month provided an opportunity to visit art exhibits, shop in the Gallery Shop & tour the coworking & meeting spaces. Live entertainment was provided by Imgain Main Street. Each month featured art demonstrations and/or craft projects for the whole family.

300 Years of Manchester: The PAST, The PRESENT, The FUTURE.

A 3-venue art show. On May 13, 2023 there was free transportation between venues by open air trolley!

- **THE PAST** exhibit presented by the Manchester Historical Society focused on the last 100 years.
- **THE PRESENT** (see Lutz Grant p 6)
- **THE FUTURE** held at WORK_SPACE (downtown Manchester) featured Artists illustrating their vision for what Manchester, CT will be like in the next Century.

A Day in the Park (see grant p 6)

A Week in the Life Photography Contest

(see grant p 6)

African American Black Affairs Council

Black History, Manchester Bicentennial Celebration “The Stories We Tell.”

Presented by the African American and Black Affairs Council, in collaboration with the Town of Manchester and the MPS Department of Race and Equity, the “The Stories We Tell” event was a special Black History and Manchester Bicentennial celebration. Held at Bailey Auditorium on Monday, February 26, 2024, this inspiring event showcased the talents of approximately 60 children, including four groups and five individual performers. Through storytelling and shared heritage, the event underscored the importance of honoring our past while embracing our future.

Art in the Park

Center Memorial Park in Downtown Manchester was transformed into a vibrant hub of creativity on June 4, 2023, for the annual Art in the Park festival. Attendees were treated to a delightful blend of outdoor art installations, live musical performances, and captivating spoken word entertainment. Sponsored by Artists in Real Time, Inc., this event brought together artists and art enthusiasts alike, fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the arts.

Authors & Illustrator’s Exhibit

A captivating art exhibit that showcased the incredible talents of New England Authors & Illustrators

The exhibit ran Oct. 12 – Nov. 30, 2023 and included a number of panels and workshops about the craft and business of writing, illustrating, and publishing. Co-hosted by Manchester Public Library and held at WORK_SPACE.

Authors & Illustrator’s: Writers’ Conference- Creating Characters, Memoir, Poetry, Publishing

Co-hosted by the Manchester Public Library, the writers’ conference was a must-attend event for both aspiring and experienced writers. It offered valuable insights into creating captivating characters, penning memoirs, crafting poetry, and navigating the publishing process. The conference took place on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at WORK_SPACE and attracted 25 attendees. Participants had the opportunity to attend multiple workshops, with up to three different seminars available, and network with fellow authors, enriching their writing journey.

Authors & Illustrator’s: Art that Transforms

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words; at this program participants explored how a single image can provoke thoughts, words, and emotions that initiate change. This program, co-hosted by Manchester Public Library and held at WORK_SPACE was held October 16, 2023.

Authors & Illustrators: Scrapbook Stories

In honor of National Author’s Day, National Family Literacy Day, and Family Stories Month, Manchester Public Library, in concert with WORK_SPACE hosted an intergenerational event, November 1, 2023 where families and friends were invited to create a scrapbook of stories. Writing prompts encouraged the sharing of Manchester memories to help commemorate our bicentennial and reflect on what’s next and where are we going from here in the next 100 years. Participants were encouraged to register and record their lived experience story at HistoryChip.com.

Authors & Illustrators: Veterans Poetry Event

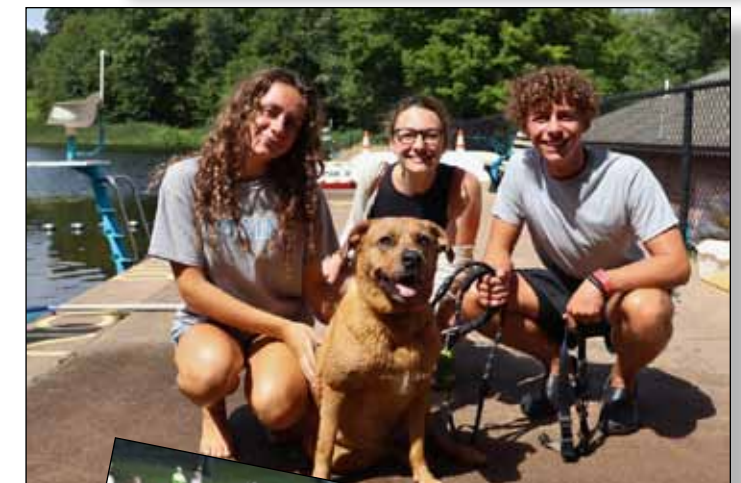
Manchester Residents who are or have served in the military were invited to share poetry that have meaning for them and their experience of serving and sacrifice. A special focus was placed on engaging Women, LGBTQ+ and BIPOC Veteran’s whose voices have been overshadowed in the past and experiences under-represented. On November 8, 2023 the event, co-hosted by Manchester Public Library and WORK_SPACE, unfolded at the Whiton Library.

Authors & Illustrator’s How to Become a Published Author

On November 13, 2023, aspiring authors gathered at WORK_SPACE for the enlightening conference, co-hosted by Manchester Public Library. With 45 enthusiastic participants in attendance, the event provided valuable insights and guidance on the path to publication, fostering a supportive community for writers to pursue their literary dreams.

Beller’s Music Summer Concert Series

The series, consisting of five captivating performances, spotlighted individuals and groups with deep roots in the Town’s vibrant heritage. Beyond mere entertainment, the aim was to ignite a passion for Manchester’s Bicentennial celebration while enriching our community. The weekly concerts began on July 20, 2023, at Center Memorial Park, offering attendees an unforgettable musical journey, generously sponsored by Beller’s Music and Dubaldo Music.



Bicentennial Launch (see p 4 Getting the Word Out)

Charter Oak Park Summer Kick-off

A delightful family event that invited everyone to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Held on June 29, 2023, at Charter Oak Park, attendees were offered a plethora of recreational activities and games, along with exciting inflatables. It was an evening filled with laughter, play, and cherished memories, setting the perfect tone for the summer ahead.

Community Baby Shower (see grant p 6)

Community Child Guidance Clinic's Family Fall Fest

Hosted by Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative and Community Child Guidance Clinic (CCGC), this event took place on September 23, 2023, at CCGC. Children delighted in activities like the bounce house and petting zoo, while parents had the opportunity to explore resource tables provided by local community organizations and businesses. It was a fantastic fair that catered to the entire family, with all ages welcome to join in the festivities.

Cricket Day

The Town of Manchester's Recreation Division partnered with the Rotary Club to host a youth/adult cricket day. The day featured instruction and insight into the game of cricket, an Exhibition game, giveaways, food trucks, music and a fun zone for kids. The event was held September 9, 2023 with about 60 people that visited throughout the day.

Cruisin' on Main Street Car Show

The 22nd annual Cruisin' on Main Street Car Show was held on Sunday, August 6, 2023, and featured "vintage cars, trucks, sports cars and street rods, 1987 and prior" from across the state.

Doggie Dunk

In conjunction with the Manchester Youth Commission, the Town of Manchester's Recreation Division held their annual K9 Kerplunk! Multiple days in August for licensed Manchester dogs to swim at Globe Hollow.

Expressions of Manchester Exhibit

MARC, Inc. in collaboration with WORK_SPACE hosted the EXPRESSIONS OF MANCHESTER exhibit which opened August 6, 2023 and ran through September 29, 2023. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a unique view of and a personal connection to the world. In the EXPRESSIONS OF MANCHESTER exhibit, these artists use a variety of art forms to celebrate MARC, Inc.'s 70th Birthday and our hometown of Manchester's Bicentennial.

Fire Department Open House Recap: Past, Present & Future

The Open House was a family-friendly event held on September 16, 2023, at Fire Headquarters on 75 Center St. Attendees had the opportunity to witness demonstrations of apparatus and equipment, gaining insights into both the historical evolution and modern capabilities of fire protection and EMS services. With a focus on education and engagement, visitors learned about the history of the fire department while exploring its current and future endeavors.

Free Restring Day!

In celebration of Dubaldo Music Center's 70 years in business in Manchester and the Town's Bicentennial, the community was invited to participate in Free Restring Day on May 27, 2023.

Halfway to Turkey Day 5k & Spring St. Mile

Over 100 participants gathered to commemorate the halfway mark to their favorite day in Manchester, the Manchester Road Race. Runners or walkers were invited start easy with the Spring Street mile or do the whole 5k. Held on May 20, 2023, this event was sponsored by the Manchester Running Company.

Hilliard Mills Celebration

Hilliard Mills, America's oldest woolen mill, commemorated two significant milestones: Manchester's 200th anniversary and Hilliard Mills' 350th anniversary. From September 15th - 17th, 2023, the public was invited to partake in HilliardFest, a grand celebration of history and community. Sponsored by Hilliard Mills, LLC, this event was a weekend filled with festivities, including historical tours, live music, delicious food, and family-friendly activities.

Hispanic Heritage Day

The Town of Manchester kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with its annual Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration. Held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at the Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center, the event was a vibrant homage to Hispanic culture. Attendees enjoyed browsing through a local food and vendor market, witnessing captivating cultural performances, and witnessing the unveiling of the Hispanic Heritage mural at the Marcy MacDonald Poolhouse. With more than 250 people in attendance, the celebration was a testament to the town's rich cultural diversity and spirit of unity.

Holiday in the Park

On December 16, 2023, the Recreation Division including Rec on the Run, collaborated with Church of Christ, MPD and MELC to provide a drive through family fun event featuring festive characters. Each participant received (2) craft activities, snowman soup and a gift. More than 500 people attended.

International Mother Language Day (IMLD)

A Weekend of events, held February 25-26, 2023, were organized to commemorate the occasion, including a 'Language is Art' exhibit on 26th and a multicultural event with music and dance both held at Manchester High Schools Bailey Auditorium. In addition, a reception at Whiton Library held on February 25 had storytelling, music, arts & crafts, poetry and an author meet and greet.

James 'Dutch' Fogarty Independence Day Celebration

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, the annual James "Dutch" Fogarty Independence Day Celebration took place, drawing in approximately 8,000 attendees. The event featured thrilling musical performances by The Real Goonie Jay & Night Shift, creating a festive atmosphere for all. Families enjoyed a fun-filled day of delicious food, engaging kids' activities, and, of course, a spectacular firework display to mark the occasion. It was a memorable celebration of patriotism and community spirit, bringing together residents and visitors alike to honor Independence Day in style.



Stage Schedule	
Opening Block (11 - 11:30 AM)	Vendor Market
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Town of Manchester IntroductionsLibation Ceremony with Brother AbuAfrican American & Black Affairs CouncilPoetry with Kwasi Ntem-Mensah	<ul style="list-style-type: none">21 Day StoreAfrican American and Black Affairs Council (AABAC)AppalachiansBig Red Book TruckHistory ShopHuge LiveKing of the HillTeam of Manchester's ResponderTeam of Manchester's Sustainability Committee
DJ Performance (11:30 AM - 12 PM)	Juneteenth
Feature Performances (12 - 2PM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Food Vendor MarketClean TimeEmmanuel DignKiss thePop's Hill Digby DigsSaboros Mexican FoodtruckThomas Seakingy PB ShopThe Single State of Cherokee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mixed Company (12:05 PM - 1:30 PM)Hartford's Proud (1:30 PM - 2:00 PM)	
DJ Performance (2 - 2:40 PM)	
Closing Block (2:40 - 3 PM)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Black Joy Poetry ContestClosing Remarks with Janzè Richardson	

Continued

Community & Family Events List *Continued*

Joseph D. Negri Concert in the Park

The Joseph D. Negri Concert, held at Center Park, served as a memorable start to Celebrate Manchester Week. Held on June 3, 2023, the concert succeeded in bringing the community together, fostering a sense of unity and joy as attendees were treated to a musical journey, thanks to the exceptional performance of Soul Sound Review.

Juneteenth Commemorative Celebration

It was a meaningful day of remembrance and celebration at the Juneteenth Commemoration which marked the end of slavery in the U.S. This event, held on June 17, 2023, at Leisure Labs at Mahoney, held an array of engaging activities. From insightful guest speakers and educational events, to delicious food, vibrant music, and lively dancing, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The community came together to honor this significant milestone in American history.

Let's Have a Ball! Senior Center Bicentennial Picnic

Seniors were treated to a delightful day of celebration at the Let's Have a Ball Senior Picnic, held in honor of the bicentennial. On September 21, 2023, at the Northwest Park Pavilion, attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch amidst the scenic surroundings. Sponsored by the Senior Center, this picnic was a heartwarming opportunity for seniors to come together, create cherished memories, and revel in the spirit of community.

Lights in the Sky: Drone Show Event

The Town of Manchester's Bicentennial Working Group hosted a spectacular evening of entertainment with the Lights in the Sky: Drone Show Event on Friday, September 22, 2023. This groundbreaking event was a first-of-its-kind project that captivated attendees with mesmerizing drone displays. In addition to the breathtaking aerial show, guests enjoyed live music, the unveiling of the Pups in the Park exhibit, and the premiere of The Living History Project, all while marveling at the display of the 1998 Time Capsule. With approximately 5000 attendees, this event was a resounding success and a fitting celebration of Manchester's bicentennial milestone.

Manchester Art Association Bicentennial Exhibit

The Manchester Art Association proudly presented its Bicentennial Exhibit showcasing iconic artworks representing the essence of Manchester. Running from April 20, 2023, to July 6, 2023, the exhibit featured diverse mediums and creations by talented association members. Held at the historic Manchester Town Hall, the exhibit provided a captivating journey through the town's rich cultural heritage and artistic expression.

Manchester Sports Hall of Fame Exhibit Opening

(see also Commemorative projects p. 14)

The Manchester Sports Hall of Fame, in partnership with the Town of Manchester's Bicentennial Working Group, unveiled its new exhibit on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at its new home at the Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center, with more than 200 people in attendance. All those attending received an exhibit look book.

Manchester Women's Club Annual Townwide Tag Sale

On June 3, 2023, Manchester Women's Club hosted their annual tag sale to support the MWC Scholarship Fund. In addition, they held a Manchester Scavenger Hunt encouraging people of all ages to have fun while exploring Manchester.

MARC's 12th Annual Summer Concert Series

The excitement of summer kicked off with a bang as Mass Conn Fusion took the stage to open MARC's 12th Annual Summer Concert Series on July 11, 2023. Attendees were treated to an evening brimming with soulful melodies and infectious energy, setting the tone for a series of unforgettable performances. The series continued with captivating performances by Anthem Reggae Band and Backstage Pass, ensuring that each concert was a unique and memorable experience. Sponsored by MARC, Inc. of Manchester, the concert series was not only a celebration of music but also a testament to the power of community gatherings.

Northwest Park Fall Festival

On October 13, Northwest Park came alive with excitement for its annual Fall Festival, drawing in approximately 2,500 attendees. The highlight of the event was the Jack-O-Lantern Zombie Walk, featuring over 300 intricately carved pumpkins, crafted with the help of volunteers from the Youth Commission and MELC. Additionally, families enjoyed a Trunk or Treat event with participation from more than 10 Town of Manchester departments. The festivities also included local vendors, mouthwatering food trucks, live entertainment, and much more, making it a vibrant celebration for all ages.

Northwest Park Farmers Market

The annual Northwest Park Farmers Market was held on Wednesdays starting Sept. 6, 2023 and ending Oct. 25, 2023. The Northwest Park Farmers Market is dedicated to providing a source for fresh, locally grown produce, food items & artisanal goods. This year, the Northwest Park Farmers Market celebrated the Town of Manchester's Bicentennial with weekly market themes, including a Free Pumpkin Carving, Halloween Costume Day & more.

Off Main Experience

Throughout the bicentennial summer, the Off Main Experience offered a monthly mini-festival celebrating art, music, family, and culture. Starting on June 15, 2023, this dynamic event took place in Downtown's Purnell Place. Sponsored by Rise Up for the Arts!, each gathering was a vibrant reflection of the community's rich cultural diversity. Attendees immersed themselves in a variety of activities and entertainment, enjoying the lively atmosphere and fostering connections with fellow participants. Additionally, the Bicentennial Store pop-up was available, offering Bicentennial commemorative swag for those eager to take home a piece of Manchester's history.

Perennial Planters of Manchester Garden Tour

Perennial Planters Garden Club of Manchester sponsored their biannual garden tour, "Through the Garden Gate," on June 10, 2023. Over a hundred participants had an opportunity to tour six beautifully designed private backyard gardens in Manchester.

Perspectives of Time Exhibit

This captivating exhibition showcased the dynamic, diverse, and thought-provoking works of local artists who delve into various facets of time, offering unique perspectives on how we perceive it, spend it, relate to it, and at times attempt to control and transcend it. Free public viewing hours at WORK SPACE Dec. 8, 2023 – Jan. 26, 2024

Polish Food & Heritage Family Festival

(see grant p 7)



Pups in Our Parks: Showcase & Agility Dog Course Demo

held on August 18, 2023 at Northwest Park (please see Commemorative Projects p. 14)

Pups in Our Parks: Exhibit & Gizmo, the therapy dog, retirement celebration on September 9, 2023, at Northwest Park (please see Commemorative projects p. 14)

Rebuilding Together of Manchester

In honor of the Bicentennial, Rebuilding Together Manchester distributed 200 Safe at Home Kits to Manchester residents at the Manchester Senior Center on April 26, 2023. The kits aimed to assist low-income homeowners in making their homes warmer, safer, and drier, thus stabilizing affordable homeownership, and enabling seniors to age in place. As an organization, Rebuilding Together Manchester is dedicated to fostering a sense of community and promoting the ethos of neighbors helping neighbors.

Reflect. Celebrate. Dream in the Park

As a pivotal part of the year-long Bicentennial celebration, "Reflect. Celebrate. Dream in the Park" unfolded at Center Memorial Park on May 13, 2023, offering a diverse array of festivities for the entire community. The day commenced with invigorating morning yoga, setting the tone for a day filled with cultural and recreational activities. Attendees were treated to the rhythmic beats of a drumming circle and the nostalgia-inducing 1998 time capsule display, fostering a sense of reflection on Manchester's rich history. The event also featured the Youth Service Bureau Open House and lively street games for participants of all ages. The air was filled with music courtesy of a DJ and a vibrant concert featuring students from Illing Middle School. A poignant moment occurred with the burial of the 2023 Time Capsule, allowing Manchester's youth a final opportunity to contribute by writing stories or creating drawings for inclusion in this symbolic capsule. The Manchester Garden Club generously gave away 200 trees, emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship. Another unique opportunity was presented with the History Chip, offering attendees a means to preserve their personal stories as part of the town's history. This event was seamlessly integrated into a larger multi-site day of activities, and attendees could hop on a free trolley to explore and enjoy all the locations. "Reflect. Celebrate. Dream in the Park", sponsored by The Bicentennial Working Group, served as a vibrant tapestry woven with elements of reflection, celebration, and community engagement, embodying the essence of Manchester's bicentennial spirit.

Rotary in Motion

The 4th annual FREE community-wide event took place at Charter Oak Park on September 30, 2023. The event brought together individuals of all abilities, groups, and interests to celebrate the beauty of our trails and greenways. Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities and experiences including rickshaw rides, an adaptive bike display, and educational programs. Participants were able to connect with nature, engage in outdoor recreation, and foster a sense of community spirit.

Senior Center Bicentennial Breakfast

The Senior Center hosted a Bicentennial Breakfast on May 18, 2023, featuring music, a talk from the Town Historian, and presentations on the contents of the 1998 time capsule. Attendees enjoyed a light breakfast of pastries, fruit, and coffee while reminiscing about the Senior Center's role in Manchester's history. Scrapbooks and digital presentations showcasing Manchester's past added to the nostalgic atmosphere of the event.

Silk City Fest

This annual celebration of local music and art, with performances, vendors, games, craft beer, food trucks and more. This, held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 included live music from DB Kinney, Johnny Mainstream, MARMO, Passing Strange & many more.

Spruce Street Farmers Markets

Special themed, Family friendly events were held each Wednesday, June-August bringing together food, fun, farmers and local vendors throughout the bicentennial year. June 19, 2023, marked the 100th Spruce Street Farmers Market and was celebrated with a proclamation by the Mayor and painting of an interactive mural.

Take a Hike: National Trails Day

Manchester residents were encouraged take a hike on any of Manchester's extensive trail networks on National Trails Day on June 3, 2023. From sunrise to sunset, explore the beauty of nature and enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. Discover scenic trails, lush landscapes, and hidden gems right in your own backyard. Trail guides and more information are available at www.bettermanchester.com - search "Trail Guide."

The Funeral Home in the Community

Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home hosted an open house on June 25, 2023 focusing on the crucial place the funeral home plays historically in a community and of Holmes-Watkins history in Manchester.

The Manchester Road Race

The 87th Manchester Road Race, held on Thanksgiving Day in 2023, continued its tradition of uniting approximately 10,000 runners and 30,000 spectators from across the region. As a bicentennial brand partner, the 'Race' maintained its beloved traditions while offering participants and onlookers a unique opportunity to celebrate Manchester's 200 years of history in a healthy and active way. The event remained a cherished Thanksgiving Day tradition, embodying Manchester's spirit of community and camaraderie.

Women of the Cheney Family Exhibit Dedication

Visitors gathered at the Cheney Homestead Museum to celebrate the unveiling of the newest exhibit, which honors the remarkable women of the Cheney family. The event featured a presentation by MIT professor Margery Resnick, who discussed early women's college education and shared insights into Margaret Swan Cheney's teacher, Professor Ellen Swallow Richards, the first female graduate of MIT. Margaret Swan Cheney, born at the Cheney Homestead in 1855, played a significant role in shaping the family's legacy. Manchester Historical Society hosted the dedication on Sunday, March 5, 2023. The event was open and free to the public, providing attendees with the opportunity to visit the Cheney Homestead and view the new exhibit room dedicated to the women of the Cheney family who lived there throughout its 238-year history.

WORK_SPACE 5th Birthday & Art Opening

On February 10, 2023, WORK_SPACE celebrated their 5th Birthday as Manchester's Coworking, Meeting & Gallery Space with an Art Opening of their 3rd Annual Blank Canvas Show. Participants experienced wonderful art, live music, light refreshments, tours of our coworking & meeting spaces and as a Bicentennial Brand Partner, WORK_SPACE offered an opportunity to record a Manchester memory in our Digital Story Studio.



Commemorative Projects

Manchester Sports Hall of Fame Exhibit (see also events p 12)

The Manchester Sports Hall of Fame, in partnership with the Town of Manchester's Bicentennial Working Group, created a multi-floor exhibit which highlights the first 42 years of Manchester Sports Hall of Fame inductees. Commemorated with display panels, the exhibit spans two floors of the recently revamped Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center, officially signifying the move from its original home at the Old Manchester Museum at 126 Cedar Street.

Faces of Time Exhibit

Part of the Perspectives of Time Exhibit at WORK_SPACE (see events p 12), this special project showcased portraits of Manchester residents whose perspectives embody community, progress, and leadership. The artist, Zack Carroll, reflected on the project, stating, "We are perceived, not only as physical beings but as the result of unique collected experience." These portraits were permanently installed at the East Side Neighborhood Resource Center, serving as a lasting tribute to the diverse voices and stories that shape our community.

Pups in Our Parks Exhibit

As part of the Bicentennial, artists from the area were chosen to paint a canine sculpture. Selected artists were honored for their creative contribution. These artful pups, once completed, were on display to the public at several of the bicentennial events. Community members were invited to check out these pups in our parks during the summer of 2023 before they were installed in their forever home at Northwest Park.

Elisabeth M. Bennet Statue & Dedication

An unveiling and dedication ceremony for the statue of Elisabeth M. Bennet was held on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at Bennet Academy, 1151 Main Street. The statue honors and immortalizes the life of Bennet and her role as beloved teacher, principal, pioneer and friend to all.

2023 Time Capsule Burial

In a collaborative effort between the Manchester Public Schools (MPS) and the community, the Bicentennial Time Capsule burial ceremony marked a significant moment in Manchester's history. The capsule, designed to capture the stories, letters, pictures, poems, and more from Manchester's youth, symbolizes the beginning of the narrative for the town's next 200 years. As part of the MPS collaboration, the perspectives of Manchester's youngest generation in 2023 were carefully curated and included in the capsule's contents. This initiative not only serves as a means of preserving the stories and experiences of today's youth but also lays the foundation for future generations to understand and appreciate Manchester's heritage.

Unveiling of the 175th Time Capsule

In 1998, in celebration of the Town's 175th birthday, community participants were encouraged to "talk to the future," or include items they thought were significant at the time. Diverse contributors, including civic groups, scouting troops, schools' classes, clubs, and families, shared their thoughts and reflections 25 years ago. The unveiling of the 175th Time Capsule marked a poignant journey back in time, as participants from 1998 were invited to reconnect with their past messages at the Reflect, Celebrate Dream event and culminated in a heartfelt celebration of community, continuity, and the enduring spirit of communication across generations.

Tree ID Project at Center Memorial Park

The Manchester Public Works Department spearheaded the Center Memorial Park Tree ID project. Through this project, the department identified and mapped all the tree species within the Park. The Main Street entrance to the park features a locator kiosk, providing visitors with valuable information about the diverse array of trees found within the park's grounds. By celebrating the park's natural heritage in this way, the project aims to foster a deeper appreciation for the park's ecological significance and promote environmental stewardship among residents and visitors alike.

Bicentennial Commemorative Proclamation Exhibit

Located in the Hearing Room at Lincoln Center, a plaque commemorating the Bicentennial was installed in Lincoln Center in May, 2023. The plaque included minutes from the first ever Town of Manchester Town meeting and a proclamation commemorating the 200th birthday of Manchester.

Native American Mural Project

Center Springs Park mural installation scheduled for Spring of 2024. The mural was funded in part by donation from the Cheney Family Foundation.

Songs of Village Charm

Commissioned by the Bicentennial Working Group, Town Troubadour Bill Ludwig wrote and performed Happy Birthday Manchester at the January, 2023 launch of the Bicentennial which is included as a track on the CD *Songs of Village Charm*.



Historical Projects

Commissioned Commemorative Art

Artists were commissioned to capture a moment in time during the Bicentennial year at selected celebratory events.

Living History Documentary

In honor of Manchester's Bicentennial year, the Town's Bicentennial Working Group collaborated with Zack Carroll, a photographer and videographer, to produce a documentary that captures the essence of the Manchester community and its rich history. The Living History Project aimed to collect stories from individuals who have experienced life in Manchester, showcasing the diverse voices and perspectives that shape the town's identity. The documentary premiered at the Lights in the Sky-A Drone Show Event at Northwest Park on September 22, 2023 and is available for viewing on YouTube.

History Chip: Preserve Your Story

The History Chip initiative in Manchester was dedicated to preserving the vibrant tapestry of the community's history through the firsthand accounts of its residents. The Bicentennial Working Group invited individuals to share their unique stories, lived history and cherished memories of Manchester through a variety of mediums, including written narratives, audio recordings, and video submissions. By empowering residents to contribute their personal perspectives, History Chip serves as a digital archive that captures the essence of Manchester's past, ensuring that its cultural heritage and collective identity endure for generations to come.

Bicentennial Tiny Podcasts

The Tiny Podcast Team collaborated with the Bicentennial Working Group, to focus its second season on producing a special Bicentennial Series. The topics for these episodes included Pre-Manchester and Indigenous People, Agriculture to Industry, Buffalo Soldiers, Wartime in Manchester, Sports and Recreation in Manchester, Race and Equity, and The Future of Manchester. The podcasts are available for viewing at www.bettermanchester.com

Then and Now Exhibit at Manchester Historical Society

The Manchester Historical Society opened an engaging exhibit to the public Wednesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. The exhibit explores main themes such as Create, Build & Craft, Work & Innovate, Learn, Play & Exercise, Shop & Eat, and Advocate & Push for Change. Showcasing artifacts and images carefully selected from existing collections, many of which have never been displayed before, the exhibit serves to bridge the past to the present. Through these artifacts, visitors can witness how the town and its residents have evolved over time and contributed to the nation's development.

23 Walks with the Town Historian

23 Walks offered participants a unique blend of outdoor exploration and historical insight, providing an opportunity to discover Manchester's trail networks while learning about its rich history. Those who completed 10 or more hikes were rewarded with a Bicentennial coin, making it one of the most popular events of the year. An online version of the 23 Walks booklet is available at: <http://www.manchesterhistory.org/Booklet23WalksWeb.pdf>

Historical Location Identification Markers

Signage featuring the Bicentennial Brand were thoughtfully designed and placed across the town, serving as informative guides to significant historical sites. These markers not only enhanced the town's aesthetic appeal but also played a crucial role in educating residents and visitors alike about Manchester's unique heritage. As part of the Bicentennial Commemoration, these signs served as tributes to the town's history, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their roots and understand the importance of preserving Manchester's historical legacy.

Bicentennial Commemorative Coin

Bicentennial Working Group designed and casted a commemorative coin marking Manchester's 200th birthday.

Witness Stone Project

The Witness Stone Project™ is an educational initiative aimed at restoring the history and honoring the humanity of enslaved individuals who contributed to building our communities. Select Manchester High School teachers and students engaged in researching and documenting the local history of slavery over the course of the school year. The final component of their work involved the placement of a Witness Stone Memorial™ at a location where enslaved individuals lived, worked, or worshiped.





Happy Birthday Manchester

Music and Lyrics by Bill Ludwig, Town Troubador

Manchester's been home sweet home to folks 200 years
This bicentennial let's celebrate with many cheers
All the things we love about her
Things that make us proud to call her ours
The things that make us sure that in two hundred years she'll still make people proud

We can celebrate the kids and schools and teachers help us learn
And celebrate small businesses you'll find at every turn
Those green open spaces
Spots to clear our heads and run around
Oh Manchester's just big enough but still a pretty, quaint New England town

(Chorus)
Oh, happy anniversary
Of the founding of our home
Happy birthday, Manchester
Our City of Village Charm

The people here in Manchester are the best you'll ever meet
As evidenced by the smiles found when strolling down Main Street
There's some kids running bases
Shooting hoops and skating down the road
Whether Summer, Autumn, Winter or Spring from all around the Silk City
people will go

The prettiest town for miles 'round to raise a family
All backgrounds, faiths and cultures make up our community
All the arts and farmer's markets
Chuckles predicts Spring or snow
Libraries and museums, MCC, The Little Theatre for a show

(Chorus)
Oh, happy anniversary
Of the founding of our home
Happy birthday, Manchester
Our City of Village Charm

(Outro)
Oh, congratulations
On your bicentennial
A big round of applause
Cause we love Manchester

