

Theme Prompts CONNECTIONS

Events should do more than bring people together; they should invite audiences to explore what connection means and why it matters.

Community Connections

- What does it mean to be connected to family, friends, neighbors, or strangers?
- How do efforts to build connection address loneliness, isolation, or fragmentation?
- What creative practices (storytelling, shared ritual, collaborative art) make room for empathy and mutual understanding?

EXAMPLES: community art collaborations; intergenerational storytelling circles; public rituals of shared expression.

Arts, Humanities, & Connections

- How do stories—personal or collective—connect us across time and place?
- What narratives of belonging, struggle, or hope can we share?
- How can creative writing, performance, or artmaking catalyze reflection on connection?

EXAMPLES: spoken word events that weave stories of community; documentary screenings followed by reflection.

Spiritual Connections

- How does connection relate to faith, belief, or spiritual practice?
- What experiences help individuals sense belonging to something larger than themselves?
- How might religious or contemplative traditions deepen our understanding of connection?

EXAMPLES: interfaith reflections; spiritual practice workshops; sacred music gatherings.

Civic Connections

- How do shared democratic values shape who we are as a community?
- What does connection look like across lines of difference—racial, religious, economic, or political?
- During America's 250th anniversary, how might we honor history while acknowledging exclusion or division?
- What practices help strengthen the bonds of civic life?

EXAMPLES: dialogues on democratic values; shared history projects; moments of civic joy



TO SHARPEN YOUR EVENT IDEA AROUND CONNECTIONS, CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS AS YOU REFINE YOUR PROPOSAL:

- 1 What "connection" are you exploring?**
Are you inviting audiences to notice connection, to build it with others, or to reflect on what makes connection possible (or difficult)?
- 2 What experience will your audience have?**
How will participants be invited into the event's ideas—through creation, conversation, movement, or contemplation?
- 3 How does your event use the arts, humanities, or religion?**
In what ways do these civic tools help deepen understanding of connection?
- 4 What questions will your event leave participants with?**
Will they be invited to reflect on personal, communal, or civic dimensions of connection?