



Aspen Celebrates America 250 & Colorado 150

This summer, Aspen joins the nation in marking a once-in-a-generation milestone: America's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th year of statehood. From a spirited Fourth of July event to a powerful photojournalism talk and immersive public art, Aspen's summer calendar reflects its "mind, body, spirit" ethos in full. Below is a curated overview of the events and moments honoring this historic summer.

Featured Events

Aspen Historical Society | Aspen in Excess: The 1980s and Moments that Made Us

Opening June 16 at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum, this new exhibition explores the decade that transformed Aspen from small town to global hotspot — told through archival photographs, newspaper clippings, and community stories. The AHS Archives Building also features *Mountainscapes: The Photography of David Hiser*. | [Website](#)

AHS is also partnering with History Colorado to bring a collaborative display of their marquee exhibition Moments that Made Us to the Roaring Fork Valley in 2026. The exhibition explores the ideals at the heart of the country's founding, providing a meaningful way to spark conversation, inspiration, and connection as the nation reflects on the last 250 years. AHS will present the pop-up display with curated selections from Moments That Made Us, paired alongside moments in local history that "made" the Roaring Fork Valley. | [Website](#)

Mall Fest 50 Art Parade & Public Art Program | June 27 + May–October

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Aspen Pedestrian Mall, Aspen Public Art, the Red Brick Center for the Arts, and the City of Aspen will host the Mall Fest 50 Art Parade on June 27 in the downtown core, culminating in a block party at Sister Cities Plaza. Led by local artists and produced with up-cycled materials, the parade is a community celebration filled with costumes and performances.



BACKBONE

(970) 963.4873
www.backbone.media

CARBONDALE

65 N 4th St, Ste 1
Carbondale, CO 81623

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3827 Lafayette St, Ste 212
Denver, CO 80205

Part of the Colorado 150 celebration, programming runs May–October and includes public art installations: *Shifting Light* by textile artist Rachel B. Hayes, and a bold asphalt mural by a local artist. | [Website](#)

Aspen Music Festival & School: “For All” | July 1–Aug. 23

Titled “For All” in a nod to the closing words of the Pledge of Allegiance, the 2026 Festival commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In celebration of this historic milestone, the season’s repertoire will include classic and contemporary works by American composers, as well as significant works celebrating the contributions of visitors and new arrivals from all over the world to the American sound, and an Aspen signature mix of both much loved and rarely performed works from the full breadth of the classical repertoire. As in previous seasons, these events will all be presented over eight weeks in Aspen’s spectacular mountain setting (July 1–Aug 23). | [Website](#)

America 250: Changemaker Speaker Series: Deanne Fitzmaurice A250 Portrait of a Nation | Thursday, July 2 at 7 PM

Pulitzer Prize–winning photographer Deanne Fitzmaurice brings a powerful illustrated talk to Aspen in honor of America’s 250th anniversary. Drawing from nearly four decades as a photojournalist for the *San Francisco Chronicle* — with work appearing in National Geographic, Sports Illustrated, and ESPN — Fitzmaurice’s career spans the AIDS crisis, the Loma Prieta earthquake, marriage-equality rulings, global conflict, climate events, and cultural touchstones. Her Pulitzer-winning essay documenting the recovery of a young Iraqi war victim anchors a broader exploration of resilience, humanity, and the power of visual storytelling to preserve national memory. | [Website](#)

Aspen’s Old Fashioned 4th of July | July 3–5

In celebration of America’s 250th birthday and Colorado’s 150th, Aspen’s beloved 4th of July tradition is expanding to a full weekend (July 3–5) under the theme “1776!” Olympic Gold Medalist and Aspen local Alex Ferreira serves as Grand Marshal. New this year, a free carnival arrives at Rio Grande Park on July 3 & 4, featuring a 65-foot Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, big slide, dizzy dragon, and more; entry and all rides are free. | [Website](#)

Weekend highlights include:

- Live music throughout the weekend
- Boogie’s Buddy Race
- Kids on Bikes parade
- The beloved Old Fashioned 4th of July Parade through downtown
- Evening Drone Show on Aspen Mountain

At a Glance: America 250 / Colorado 150 Summer Calendar

Through Dec. Aspen Historical Society: Moments that Made Us

May–October Mall Fest 50 Public Art Installations (Colorado 150)

June 16 Aspen Historical Society: Aspen in Excess: The 1980s opens

- June 27** Mall Fest 50 Art Parade + Block Party
- July 1** AMFS “For All” (July 1-Aug. 23)
- July 2** A250: Portrait of a Nation — Deanne Fitzmaurice (7 PM, free/ticketed)
- July 3–5** Aspen’s Old Fashioned 4th of July (Theme: “1776!”)

For more information and the full event calendar, visit aspenchamber.org/events.