

Participation Option 3
Discussion Questions

Suggested Options:

OPTION A: A living tree or multiple living trees

OPTION B: A wall exhibit/display interactive

OPTION A

1. Create a project team. This team will organize your project and make it happen!
2. The title of your project will be Liberty Tree – Indoor Interactive. Please add a descriptor that identifies your community. An example would be Liberty Tree – Indoor Interactive: La Luz. If you are one of several similar facilities in the same city, such as one of many museums in a city, you may wish to identify your project by the name of your facility. An example would be Liberty Tree – Indoor Interactive: Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.
3. Define the scope and size of your project. Set a realistic goal. Think about the following items:
 - a. Where would you put the living interactive? How much space do you have for the display/exhibit?
 - b. How many trees will you use? Will you start with one tree and add more as needed, or start with multiple trees?
 - c. What variety of tree will you use?
 - d. Who will water and care for your living interactive while it is up?
 - e. Will you include a statement on what the Liberty Tree is, and how visitors interact with it?
 - f. Will visitors and members of the community add their “What does Liberty mean to me” tags directly on the tree themselves or put them in a secure container to be added to the interactive daily, or weekly?
 - g. What will the tags look like? Multiple colors or one color? A specific shape such as the Liberty Bell, a leaf, or a simple rectangle? What will you use as a hanger? String, yarn, or hooks?
 - h. What will be used to write on the tags? Pencil, pen, or markers/Sharpies?
 - i. If using multiple trees, how do you plan to lay them out? In rows?
 - j. Will you add additional elements to your display such as information about the signing of the Declaration of Independence? You could add a quote such as “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*” Another idea would be to add quotes of what people around the world have said about Liberty such as this quote from Malcolm X who said, “*A man who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire or preserve his freedom*” or John Adams who said, “*Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.*”
 - k. When can visitors and the members of your community begin to write and hang their responses? Set a start date that will allow you to get as many responses as you can. For example, you could have the display completed and open on July 4, 2025, which would give a year to collect “What does Liberty mean to me” responses to hang on the trees, or you could have it completed and open six

months in advance of July 4, 2026. Smaller communities may wish to collect for the longer period to gather more responses.

- l. Will you plan additional activities for July 4, 2026? If so, what will those activities be?
 - m. What sources of funding do you have for purchasing the tree(s) and/or supplies for tags?
 - n. What will you do with the trees after July 4, 2026? The trees could be planted outdoors in a special area and called the “Liberty Garden.” A plaque could be created stating that they were planted in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This planting could be part of the July 4, 2026 celebration at your facility.
4. Choose your location for the interactive. This could be your town hall or community center, an exhibit hallway, the lobby of a City Hall, or gallery space in a museum.
 5. Make a definite decision about layout, response tags, number of trees, and how the public will interact with the live trees. Will you need a table or stand to place the tags and writing materials on? Who will do a daily/weekly check to make sure there are enough tags and make sure the writing materials work?
 6. Will someone need to do a daily check of the hanging tags for obscene, offensive, or inappropriate responses and remove any that are found? If so, who will that person be?
 7. Make a list of the supplies you will need and determine where funding will come from.
 8. Design all indoor interactive elements including any text that will be included in your interactive.
 9. Set a date for completion of the project and set a date for when it will be available for the visitors and members of the community to add their response.
 10. Order any supplies you will need.
 11. Begin thinking about July 4, 2026 and begin making a plan of activities you can do on that day.
 12. How will you inform the public of the project when it is ready to open? Will you advertise in the paper, or distribute flyers? How will the word be passed around your community?
 13. Begin setup of your interactive.
 14. Set a date for the opening.
 15. Plan to document the interactive display from construction to July 4, 2026. Taking photos is a great way to do this.
 16. Set a date for de-install approximately 1 month after July 4, 2026.
 17. Gather all “What does Liberty mean to me” tags and send them, along with photos you took of your project from the planning stages up to July 4, 2026, to the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. The visitor responses will be entered into a database, photos scanned to digital files, and your Liberty Tree Interactive project will be added to a created archival collection of projects from around New Mexico. The results of the visitor responses will be tallied, and the results will be publicized.

OPTION B

1. Create a project team. This team will organize your project and make it happen!
2. The title of your project will be Liberty Tree – Indoor Interactive. Please add a descriptor that identifies your community. An example would be Liberty Tree – Indoor Interactive: La Luz. If you are one of several similar facilities in the same city, such as one of many

museums in a city, you may wish to identify your project by the name of your facility. An example would be Liberty Tree – Indoor Interactive: Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

3. Define the scope and size of your project. Set a realistic goal. Think about the following items:
 - a. How large is the available space where you will display your Liberty Tree?
 - b. What design will you choose? Will it be a single tree or a full wall forest of trees? *Refer to the example sheet for ideas.*
 - c. Will you include a description of what the Liberty Tree Indoor Interactive is all about? Will you include this where the Liberty Tree Indoor Interactive will be located, or print it on an information sheet?
 - d. Will you want to add a quote from the Declaration of Independence such as, *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*
 - e. Will you ask a local school to help create and paint the Liberty Tree as a school art project?
 - f. What is your budget for the project?
 - g. What supplies will you use to create your indoor liberty tree interactive? You can use several different kinds of supplies such as wood, paint, construction paper, fabric, or other textured materials.
 - h. How many workers will you need to complete the project?
 - i. How will you get the graphic up on the designated space?
 - j. What equipment will you need to accomplish your interactive? Will you need an overhead projector to project an image on the wall to be traced prior to painting?
 - k. Will you plan additional activities on July 4, 2026 such as a community picnic or a special celebration with music and/or fireworks (if permitted)?
4. Choose the Indoor Liberty Tree Interactive location.
5. Make a definite decision on your design. Designate team members to specific tasks.
6. Draft a plan for the celebration date of July 4, 2026. Your project should begin well in advance of July 4, 2026 to allow visitor and/or community participation.
7. If you plan to work with the students on this project, schedule a meeting with the teacher to discuss the school participation.
8. Begin discussions on how you will process the tags. Ask these questions:
 - a. Will the visitors/community members hang their own tags (responses) on the Indoor Liberty Tree Interactive?
 - b. Will the visitors/community members deposit their tags in a sealed box for a team member to hang on the tree? If so, how often will the tags be removed & hung on the Indoor Liberty Tree Interactive? Daily? Weekly? Monthly?
 - c. How will the tags be made available for visitors/community members to fill out? Will they be in a basket, on a small table, or on a stand? In a jar? What items will be made available to write with? Pens? Pencil? Felt Markers/Sharpies?
 - d. Who will make sure there are enough tags and writing materials available for use? Who will restock and/or replace as needed?

- e. Will someone need to do a daily check of the hanging tags for obscene, offensive, or inappropriate responses and remove any that are found? If so, who will that person be?
- 9. Decide what you want the tags to look like. A bell (Liberty Bell shape)? A leaf? A rectangle? What color or colors will the tags be?
- 10. Order supplies needed for “What liberty means to me” tags.
- 11. Order supplies needed for Indoor Liberty Tree construction.
- 12. Schedule start date for construction of Indoor Liberty Tree Interactive.
- 13. Set a completion date for construction of Indoor Liberty Tree Interactive. [You will want to have this project completed in the early part of 2026 at the latest to allow visitors and members of the community to add their tags in advance of celebration day on July 4, 2026].
- 14. Begin work on Indoor Liberty Tree Interactive.
- 15. Begin printing and cutting out the tags.
- 16. Make a decision about advertising the opening of the Liberty Tree Interactive and draft your announcement. Will you advertise in the newspaper, or distribute fliers?
- 17. Will you plan other activities for July 4, 2026 such as fireworks (if permitted), a community or neighborhood picnic or something else to celebrate the day?
- 18. Plan to document the interactive display from construction to July 4, 2026. Taking photos is a great way to do this.
- 19. Set a day for de-install approximately 1 month after July 4, 2026.
- 20. Gather all “What does Liberty mean to me” tags and send them, along with photos you took of your project from the planning stages up to July 4, 2026, to the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. The visitor responses will be entered into a database, photos scanned to digital files, and your Liberty Tree Interactive project will be added to a created archival collection of projects from around New Mexico. The results of the visitor responses will be tallied, and the results will be publicized.