

PARTICIPATION OPTION 4  
Discussion Questions  
OUTDOOR LIBERTY TREE INTERACTIVE  
DISPLAY/EXHIBIT

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 – Outdoor Interactive. Please add a descriptor that identifies your community. An example would be Liberty Tree – Outdoor Interactive: La Luz. If you are one of several similar facilities in the same city, such as one of the many museums in a city, you may wish to identify your project by the name of your facility. An example would be Liberty Tree – Outdoor 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 interactive? How much space do you have for the display/exhibit?
  - b. How many trees will you use? Will it be a single tree or several trees? Will these be existing trees or will you need to purchase a tree(s). You could choose to do artificial trees such as an artificial fir tree.
  - c. What variety of tree will you use? If you choose living tree(s) consider a variety of tree that grows well in your area of the state.
  - d. Will the interactive be covered or exposed to the elements?
  - e. If exposed to the elements (wind, rain, snow, sun) how will you protect it so that the public response tags to the question “What does Liberty mean to me” will not get blown off, destroyed, or faded while it is on display?
  - f. What will the response 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?
  - g. Will visitors and members of the community hang their “What does Liberty mean to me” tags directly on the tree themselves or put them in a secure container to be added by staff or a volunteer to the interactive on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis?
  - h. What will be used to write on the tags? Pencil, pen, or markers/Sharpies?
  - i. If using an existing uncovered tree, how long will you want to make it available for “tagging” so that the tags do not get destroyed by the elements? When can visitors and members of the public begin to write and hang their responses? Allow as much time as you can to allow you to collect as many responses as you can. For example, you could have the display completed and open on July 4, 2025, which would give you 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. Small communities may wish to collect for a longer amount of time to gather more responses.
  - 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 from the Declaration itself 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 could be to add quotes of what other 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. Will you plan additional activities for July 4, 2026? If so, what will those activities be?
- l. What sources of funding do you have for purchasing the tree(s) and/or supplies for response tags? How much will you need, and where will you get it from?
- m. What will you do with the tree(s) after July 4, 2026 (if you have chosen living trees)? The trees could be designated/dedicated as a Liberty Tree Garden. A plaque could be created stating that they were planted in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
4. Make a definite decision about response tags, number of trees, and how the public will interact with the trees. Where will the tags and writing materials be located? Who will do a daily/weekly check to make sure that there are enough tags and make sure the writing materials work?
5. 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, and how often will that person check responses?
6. Make a list of the supplies you will need and determine where the funding will come from. Will you team up with another organization or with the local school for co-funding?
7. Begin thinking about July 4, 2026 and plan for activities that you can do on that day. It could be a community picnic, fireworks (if permitted), or a parade.
8. 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?
9. Set a definite date for the opening.
10. Plan to document the display from opening to closing. Taking photos is a great way to do this.
11. Set a date for de-install approximately one month after July 4, 2026.
12. After de-installation of your project gather all the “What does Liberty mean to me” tags and send them, along with photos you took of your project from the planning stage 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.
13. Begin monthly project team meetings.