

The Umbrella Puts an Arts Lens on Rev250

*A Robust Season of Multi-disciplinary Programs and Collaborative Events
Emphasizes Under-represented Perspectives, Stories and Voices Creatively
Rendered for America's Semiquincentennial*



CONCORD, MA— March 30, 2025 – April 19, 2025 in Concord will mark the 250th anniversary of the battle at the Old North Bridge and the "shot heard round the world" on the first day of fighting in the Revolutionary War. Commemorations of the semiquincentennial abound along Battle Road and throughout the Commonwealth, from parades and balls to fireworks and historical re-enactments, and The Umbrella Arts Center has been proud to work with local partners to plan a robust series of programs that reflect expanded perspectives on history through a lens of the arts. Below is a summary of related programs this season at The Umbrella, both including its original programs and hosted programs in collaboration with Concord250 and other partners.

[Where We Belong](#)

February 28-March 23, 2025

The Umbrella Arts Center Black Box Theater

The Umbrella Stage Company presents the New England premiere of Mohegan theatre-maker Madeline Sayet's ground-breaking play interweaving indigenous history, Shakespeare, colonialism, cultural legacy, and the power of language. It recounts Sayet's 2015 journey to England to pursue a PhD in Shakespeare, in the shadow of the Brexit vote. Moving between nations that have failed to reckon with their ongoing roles in colonialism, she grapples with what it means to remain or leave her own home at Mohegan, but finds comfort following in the footsteps of her ancestors who traveled to England in the 1700s to help her people. Several special community engagement activities are planned during run.

[Ways of My Ancestors – Imagery: Lighting the Path to Awareness](#)

February 28-March 23, 2025

The Umbrella Arts Center Wedge Gallery

The Umbrella Visual Arts presents an exhibition of work by Nipmuc photographer Scott Strong Hawk Foster juxtaposing historical and contemporary experiences of the region's indigenous peoples. Opening reception March 5, 6-8PM and Artist Talk March 9 at 1PM. FREE

Concord250 Event: [A Fight for Freedom: Honoring Patriots of Color](#)

March 15, 2025, 3-5pm

The Umbrella Arts Center Main Stage Theater 144

Special event dedicated to uncovering and honoring the often-overlooked contributions of African American and Indigenous patriots during the American Revolution through a series of engaging presentations, cultural performances, and discussions. In 1775, between 20 and 40 colonists of African and Indigenous descent fought alongside their fellow revolutionaries on the Battle Road during the opening conflict of the American Revolution. These individuals, who had been excluded from formal militia service prior to the war, became some of the earliest patriots to take up arms in the fight for liberty. By the end of the Revolutionary War, approximately 5,500 African and Indigenous men had served in the Continental Army or militia, risking their lives for the promise of freedom. Partners: Concord250, Minuteman National Historical Park, The Robbins House, Concord Visitors Center, The Umbrella Arts Center, and other local partner organizations. FREE

[Revolutionary Concordians Kickoff: Brister Freeman](#)

April 12-14, 2025

The Umbrella Arts Center Allie Kussin Gallery and Main Stage Theater 144

The Umbrella is a participating partner in the Revolutionary Concordians Trading Cards program, developed by Thoreau Farm, supported by Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. Attend one of our weekend premiere screenings and exhibition opening reception and receive the inaugural collectible card honoring Brister Freeman, a formerly enslaved Patriot of Color who fought in the Revolutionary War and lived in Walden Woods. Program runs townwide through 2026.

[Learn more here.](#) FREE

Concord250 Event: [Concord's Secret History](#) (World Premiere)

April 12, 2025 8-10pm and April 14, 2025 2:30-4:30pm

The Umbrella Arts Center Main Stage Theater 144

World premiere of new documentary about the history of slavery in the region surrounding Concord, Massachusetts, in co-production by Kogainon Films (USA) and GTVdocs (UK). The documentary reveals a long-suppressed secret, set in Concord, Massachusetts—the birthplace of the American Revolution, where the first shots were fired on April 19, 1775. While Concord is often celebrated for its role in the fight for freedom, few are aware of the untold stories that extend beyond its borders. The film also explores hidden narratives from both Medford and Harvard University, offering a richer, more complete picture of the region's colonial past. The premiere will take place in Concord on April 12, 2025, followed by distribution to over 500 PBS member stations across the United States via PBS+. After the screening, the filmmakers and historians involved in the project will participate in a facilitated talk-back, providing an opportunity for deeper engagement and discussion. Partners: Concord250, Concord DEI, The Umbrella Arts Center. [View the trailer here](#). FREE

[Weaving an Address](#)

April 14, 2025 – October 18, 2025

The Umbrella Arts Center Allie Kussin Gallery and Walden Woods

Curated by artist Marla MacLeod, this outdoor/indoor public and gallery art exhibition features site-specific work by prominent Black artists combining sculpture, fiber art, installation and live performance inspired by little-known experiences of historical Black inhabitants of Concord and its Walden Woods. Large-scale and interactive work will be installed on Brister's Hill, named for Brister Freeman, an enslaved man who won his freedom by serving in the Revolutionary War and then bought the property and lived there along with other formerly enslaved. Inter-related fiber and woven artworks will also be installed in the nearby Umbrella Arts Center Allie Kussin Gallery through June 14, 2025. Supporting community activities include opening reception on April 14, monthly curator talks, processions and live performances. Artists: Ifé Franklin, Stephen Hamilton, Whitney Harris, Ekua Holmes, Perla Mabel, Marla McLeod, Kimberly Love Radcliffe, Anthony Peyton Young. Partners: The Umbrella Arts Center, Walden Woods Project, The Robbins House. FREE

Concord250 Event: [Concord Triptych](#) Film Screenings

May 17, 2025, 3PM

The Umbrella Arts Center Main Stage Theater 144

The Umbrella with Five Sisters Productions and the Tufts University [Half the History](#) Film Project presents a program of three locally shot short films about impactful women in Concord history.

Margaret Lothrop and the Wayside (Premiere screening with new score)

Ellen Garrison: Scenes from an Activist Life (Return engagement)

Women of the Old Manse (Sneak peek)

Related family activities include optional childcare with teacher-led thematically related crafts during the screening, and a table display of [Rise Up!](#), a new children's book by Barefoot Books on revolutions and protest in U.S. history. Partners: The Umbrella Arts Center, Tufts University Half the History Film Project, Robbins House, Barefoot Books. FREE

Learn more about upcoming Rev250 commemorations in Concord and around Massachusetts at Massachusetts250.org

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