

**Executive Order 2008-24**

**Establishing the Arizona Centennial Commission  
(Supersedes Executive Order 2008-15)**

**WHEREAS**, Arizona entered the Union as the 48<sup>th</sup> state and the last of the contiguous states on February 14, 1912 upon proclamation of President William Howard Taft; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona will commemorate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood on February 14, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, as officially announced in the Countdown to the Centennial proclamation of February 13, 2003, Arizona should commemorate its Centennial by creating a greater awareness among residents and visitors of its vibrant culture, heritage and beauty; and

**WHEREAS**, to enhance the Centennial plan developed by the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (“AHAC”) to showcase, through Centennial events, the State’s growth and development from frontier beginnings to 21<sup>st</sup> century innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centennial provides a sense of unity and pride among residents by accentuating the diverse nature of the State’s people, entrepreneurial spirit, educational opportunities and tourist destinations and reminding Arizonans of the need to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State hereby order and direct the following:

1. The Arizona Centennial Commission (the “Commission”) is established to plan, promote, and implement a comprehensive, statewide plan to commemorate Arizona’s Centennial, as well as to coordinate and plan state and local observances of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood.
2. The Commission shall consist of a cross-section of Arizonans, including representatives of the business community, elected officials, and citizens from diverse geographic and cultural backgrounds of this great State.
  - A. The Governor or the Governor’s designee shall serve as Chair.
  - B. Additional co-chairs and members may be appointed, as the Governor deems necessary.
  - C. The Governor shall appoint 15 to 25 members to serve at the pleasure of the Governor and without compensation.

- D. Former Arizona Governors may be invited to serve as honorary chairs and members of the U.S. Congressional delegation from Arizona may be invited to serve as honorary members.
  - E. State agency directors, university presidents, Arizona legislative elected officials and others may be appointed as Ex-Officio members of the Commission.
  - F. The Commission shall establish sub-committees, with membership reflecting participation from all of Arizona's 15 counties.
  - G. Members of the Commission may, with the Governor's permission, send designees to serve on the Commission provided, however, that such designees shall have been delegated by the member with full authority to vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member.
3. The Commission shall have duties and responsibilities, including but not limited to, the following:
- A. Plan, promote and implement state and local observances of Arizona's Centennial held between February 2011 and February 2012;
  - B. Develop a statewide master plan, which incorporates recommendations from AHAC where applicable, for commemorating the Centennial of Arizona's admission into statehood in 1912;
  - C. The master plan shall be developed to represent the contributions of all peoples and cultures to Arizona state history and to the extent possible shall be designed to encourage and support participation in the Centennial by all interested ethnic groups in the State;
  - D. The master plan may include, but is not limited to, the following five key strategies that will drive program development and delivery in each of Arizona's 15 counties:
    - Create and leverage opportunities to increase awareness and a shared understanding of what it means to be an Arizonan;
    - Create and leverage opportunities to participate in, commemorate and learn from Arizona's history, heritage and diverse culture;
    - Deepen Arizona's approach to educating Arizonans about their State's diverse heritage, natural resources, people and cultures;
    - Leverage Arizona's Centennial as an opportunity to develop a sense of conservatorship among Arizonans for future generations; and
    - Establish funding opportunities to support major events and activities at the state and local level.

- E. The Commission's master plan shall devise a timetable and budget for completion for all parts of the master plan and the Commission shall submit an initial draft of the master plan to the Governor by November 1, 2008. The master plan must be completed by the opening of the 49<sup>th</sup> Legislative First Regular Session (January 2009).
4. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Commission may:
    - A. Designate advisory and honorary boards or special committees, which may include persons who are not members of the Commission, to assist it in planning, developing and coordinating specific activities of the Centennial. Members of the advisory committees shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission without compensation;
    - B. Apply for, accept, and receive grants, and private gifts of money and other things of value, including real or personal property and personal services to assist it in carrying out its functions under this Executive Order;
    - C. Adopt an official flag, seal and other emblems for the celebration of Arizona's Centennial, notwithstanding AHAC's ability to issue a commemorative seal, and copyright them in the name of the State; and
    - D. Consult, cooperate with and seek advice from AHAC, appropriate State departments and agencies, public schools, post-secondary educational institutions, local public bodies, learned societies and historical, patriotic, philanthropic, civic, professional and related organizations. All State agencies shall provide reasonable assistance to the Commission as requested in order to ensure a fully coordinated State effort for commemorating the Centennial of Arizona's statehood.
  5. In carrying out these responsibilities, the State anticipates that:
    - A. The members of the Commission will create a not-for-profit corporation to raise funds and to assist in the implementation of the master plan relating to the Centennial commemoration of Arizona's statehood in 1912;
    - B. After proper incorporation, the not-for-profit corporation will apply for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3));
    - C. In addition to funds received from the general public or other public sources, the not-for-profit corporation may receive funds from state agencies at such times and in such amounts as may be appropriated for the Arizona Centennial or made available to the not-for-profit corporation from state agencies from their sources of revenue;

- D. The Arizona Office of Tourism (“AOT”) will serve as fiscal agent for the Commission and as such may enter into contracts to carry out the powers and duties of the Commission;
  - E. The AOT shall provide the staffing deemed appropriate and necessary to fulfill the objectives of this Executive Order; and
  - F. Upon incorporation, the not-for-profit corporation shall assist with staffing the Commission.
6. The Commission shall make a written annual report giving an account of its proceedings, transactions, findings and recommendations to the Governor and the legislature by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, beginning January 31, 2009.
7. The Commission and this Executive Order shall expire July 1, 2013.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

  
**GOVERNOR**

**DONE** at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 16 day of June in the Year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

**ATTEST:**

  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**