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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CITY OF SOUTHPORT

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City of Southport Announces Upcoming Exhibition Celebrating 250 Years of American Creativity

Southport, NC – The City of Southport, in partnership with the Brunswick Arts Council, is proud to announce *Crafting the American Story: Art, Identity, & History*, an exhibition opening at the Southport Community Building. Presented by the Fort Johnston–Southport Museum & Visitors’ Center and featuring works by Brunswick County artists, this special exhibition will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Drawing inspiration from 250 years of history, *Crafting the American Story* will shine a light on the history, culture, and creativity that define Brunswick County and the broader American experience.

Event Details:

Dates: February 21–28, 2026

Location: Southport Community Building, 203 E. Bay Street, Southport, NC 28461

Exhibit Hours: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. each day.

Opening Reception: February 21, 4–6 p.m. (open to the public)

“Art and history are inseparable,” said Jessie Labell, Assistant Director of Community Relations for the City of Southport. “This exhibition invites the community to see how the visual arts are not only shaped by the events and contexts of the past but also how they can help us make sense of history, adding emotion, resonance, and a deeper understanding to our shared American heritage.”

As part of the program, America 250 NC will present a One Day Wonder traveling exhibit “To Preserve the Blessings of Liberty: State Constitutions of North Carolina.” Featuring copies of the 1776 State Constitution and Declaration of Rights, the 1868 State Constitution, and a letter from John Adams known as “Thoughts on Government,” the exhibit explores North Carolina’s three state constitutions and key amendments, examining how they reshaped ideas of citizenship and expanded, or restricted, participation in the state’s political life. This exhibit will be available for a limited time on opening day only.

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About the Museum

The Fort Johnston–Southport Museum & Visitors’ Center, owned and operated by the City of Southport, is housed within the historic Garrison House, built in 1810 on the site of the original colonial fort. The museum offers rotating exhibits, Southport heritage displays, and serves as a welcoming hub for tourists exploring our local history and coastal charm.

About the Brunswick Arts Council

The Brunswick Arts Council works to support and promote the arts throughout Brunswick County, fostering opportunities for creativity, cultural expression, and community engagement.

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