

The LAI SemiQ East Coast Tour: Land Use & History (1776-2026)

2026 will be a landmark year as the United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of its Declaration of Independence—also known as the Semi-Quincentennial, or “SemiQ.” LAI’s East Region chapters have come together to develop a special series of programs honoring this historic milestone. Each chapter will host its own event, highlighting the SemiQ through the unique lens of its city and its contributions to land economics and the built environment. This is not a single conference, but a multi-city, multi-chapter initiative offering in-depth explorations of the history of architecture, planning, real estate development, economic drivers, and other factors and how they have shaped the evolution of land use in key East Coast locations.

Here is a glimpse of the programs currently scheduled for the SemiQ East Coast Tours. Come to one, come to all, or pick and choose. All events will be on Thursdays and Fridays allowing participants to extend for the weekend. Please check the links noted below for the full calendar of SemiQ events and registration details. Early bird rates may be available for certain events, so secure your spot for the programs that matter most to you and your guests!

Event Location	Dates/ Link to More Info & Registration	Sample Activities & Highlights
<p>Sarasota, FL</p> 	<p>Thursday-Friday February 26-27</p> <p>Optional LED Wednesday Feb 25</p> <p>https://lai.org/event/one-by-land-two-by-sea-tours-a-semiq-2026-east-coast-tours/</p>	<p>Step into history, innovation, and paradise for the One-by-Land, Two-by-Sea Tours. Learn how the Florida Suncoast evolved over the past 250+ years with visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, the world's first net-positive energy botanical garden,• Mote Science Education Aquarium, the recently opened state-of-art aquarium with over one-million gallons of marine habitats,• Sarasota Bay History Cruise, and more. <p>As a precursor to the Tours, the FL Suncoast Chapter will host a Land Economics Dialogues (LED) event on</p>

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		<p>Wednesday, February 25. The focus will be on local water challenges, economics, and nature-based solutions. It is part of a Florida Suncoast series where prominent members from around the globe will provide their expertise and advice.</p>
<p>Annapolis, MD</p> 	<p>Thursday March 19</p> <p>https://lai.org/event/semiq-2026-east-coast-tour-annapolis-md/</p>	<p>The Baltimore chapter will host presentations on the history and land use of Annapolis, the country's first peacetime capital and where George Washington gave up command of the Continental Army. The city's historic district boasts more 18th-century brick buildings than any other comparable town in the nation. Sites to be visited will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryland State House, the oldest state capitol building in continuous use • Annapolis City Dock, now undergoing flood-proofing • U.S. Naval Academy, also undergoing flood-proofing • Banneker-Douglas-Tubman Museum and Kunta Kinte Memorial, highlighting Black history • Cocktails at historic home of William Paca, one of four signers of the Declaration of Independence with homes in Annapolis.
<p>Washington, DC</p>	<p>Friday March 20</p> <p>More info coming.</p>	<p>The George Washington Chapter event will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by the National Capital Planning Commission on the Pierre L'Enfant plan that shaped the City of Washington and the ongoing Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative.

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	Or email to: lai.communications@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion at the National Building Museum exploring iconic buildings, design excellence, and their impact on the evolution of the Nation's Capital. Tour of the National Capitol Building with introduction by the Architect of the Capitol and presentation by his staff.
Atlanta, GA 	Thursday-Friday April 16-17 https://lai.org/event/redlines-to-skylines-atlantas-urban-evolution-semi-q-east-coast-tour-2026/	The theme will be <i>Redlines to Skylines: Atlanta's Urban Evolution</i> . The event will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tours of significant urban projects like The Stitch and Centennial Yards. Presentations on Atlanta's evolution into a sports and entertainment destination, framed by history and land use. A tour of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site.
New York, NY 	Thursday-Friday May 14-15 https://lai.org/event/new-york-chapters-semi-q-2026-east-region-tour-program/	The event in New York City will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Museum tour and lunch at the historic Fraunces Tavern, with a talk by Manhattan Borough Historian Robert Snyder. Revolutionary War walking tour by Gotham Center Director Peter Aigner. Dinner with Gerard Koeppel, author of books on the 1811 Grid Plan and the Erie Canal. Walking tour of historical Greenwich Village & Lower Fifth Ave. by Justin Rivers of Untapped New York.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch and talk by Professor Benjamin Carp on the Great New York Fire of 1776. • Optional Evening Cruise and Sat. morning bike tour.
<p>Philadelphia, PA</p> 	<p>Thursday-Friday June 11-12 (tentative)</p>	<p>Philadelphia is the <i>Birthplace of American Freedom</i>. While this event is still in the planning stage, it is expected to include presentations and tours related to such sites as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were debated and adopted • Liberty Bell Center, the home to the iconic symbol of American freedom, the Liberty Bell.
<p>Boston, MA</p> 	<p>Thursday-Friday July 23-24 More info coming.</p>	<p>Boston is known as the <i>Birthplace of the American Revolution</i>. Highlights of this event are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A walk along the <i>Freedom Trail</i> with expert guides, including the Old North Church, Paul Revere's home, Faneuil Hall, the Old State House, and the site of the Boston Massacre. • A guided boat ride through <i>Boston Harbor</i> narrated by a member of the Boston Port Authority. • A visit to the Prudential Building <i>observation tower</i>. • A guided trolley ride through the <i>Back Bay, Downtown and Seaport</i> sections of Boston.

