

Background Information on Americans All

From Americans All to Americans All 2.0

Americans All evolved from educational and community projects developed by [the Coordinating Committee for Ellis Island, Inc.](#) (CCEI), a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1981. The Committee created educational materials to provide historical context for a traveling exhibit of sculptures depicting immigration and Ellis Island. Recognizing a broader need, it expanded the project to include diversity education and teacher training, leading to the development of Americans All in the 1980s.

The program was introduced to the nation at a [press conference](#) in 1989 hosted by six national education and civic organizations. During its existence, it had several Honorary Board Chairpersons, including actor [Ted Danson](#), the Honorable [Andrew Young](#), and Supreme Court Justice [Sandra Day O'Connor](#).

Conceived by a team of more than 70 scholars and curriculum experts led by co-developers [Dr. Gail C. Christopher](#) and [Allan S. Kullen](#), Americans All used printed materials, videos, recordings, photographs, posters, simulations, and teacher guides to help students understand immigrant groups' contributions to our nation's growth. The program received support from foundations, individuals, and businesses and conducted pilot programs beginning in 1990.

The People of America Foundation

The People of America Foundation (POAF) was established in 1995 as the parent organization of Americans All and manages and grows the program. The Foundation received recognition from the Internal Revenue Service as a publicly supported nonprofit in 1997, with that status reconfirmed in 2001. Its mission expanded to support excellence in K–12 social studies instruction and promote civic engagement in public and private schools.

In November 2003, a [meeting and television taping](#) were convened under a grant from The Hitachi Foundation to bring together representatives of various sectors with a stake in the education of the nation's youth. Its goal was to determine how best to expand the dissemination of the Americans All diversity-based social studies curriculum materials.

As funding priorities shifted toward STEM education, the Foundation looked for ways to sustain its broader educational mission. One result was the Heritage Honor Roll, which grew from the storytelling component of Americans All and provided a way to preserve the stories and contributions of individuals and groups through text, photographs, video, and audio, including stories created in multiple languages.

From Education to Community Engagement

In 2013, the Foundation created the Americans All Benefit Corporation as a marketing and operations arm to develop revenue-generating activities that could support its nonprofit mission. The organization expanded its storytelling and legacy-preservation resources and created the membership-based Social Legacy Network.

In 2019, Americans All broadened its focus to include support for non-academic school activities. They developed a community-based model in which individuals, families, schools, businesses, and professional service providers could participate. Its storytelling tool became a way to preserve personal and community histories, strengthen connections, and help local businesses build relationships with customers and clients.

Americans All 2.0 builds on that history by combining the organization's longstanding storytelling mission with a new community-based platform designed to connect people, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and professional service providers in ways that create shared value and ongoing support for schools and communities.

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