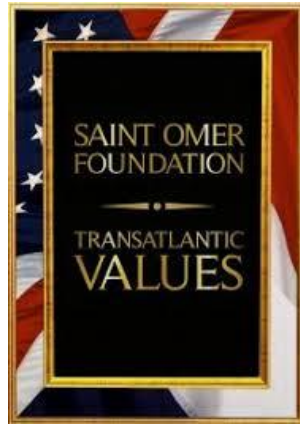




2026 : Saint Omer and the Independence of the United States of America

Faithful to its transatlantic tradition, which started more than 300 years ago with its American students, the city of Saint Omer is fully joining in the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of American Independence. Several of these students went on, after their time in France, to become Founding Fathers of the United States.

The Saint Omer – Transatlantic Values Foundation is supporting these events and backing initiatives connected with the America250 program. It is offering a program built around four major themes.

In order to bring to life and pass on the transatlantic values of freedom, humanism, and commitment that have historically united France and the United States, the Saint Omer – Transatlantic Values Foundation continues its work inspired by its motto: “Culture and leadership, values for action.”

Heir to an exceptional history linking Saint Omer to the intellectual and political origins of the United States, the Foundation works to promote intercultural dialogue, civic reflection, the transmission of history, education, and artistic creation. Through conferences, cultural projects, educational initiatives, open to all, it showcases a shared heritage founded on these values.

In an international context where these values deserve to be defended and shared more than ever, the Foundation brings together all those who believe in the importance of culture, history, and commitment as driving forces for action and mutual understanding between peoples.

Joining the Foundation means taking concrete part in this ambition to : support cultural and educational projects, contribute to historical research, encourage Franco-American exchanges, and promote Saint Omer, an emblematic place of transatlantic friendship.

The Foundation gratefully welcomes anyone wishing to support its mission. Become a member:

[**JOIN THE ASSOCIATION**](#)

Provide financial support via a donation:

[**BECOME A PATRON**](#)

Every contribution helps to continue and develop initiatives that foster remembrance, dialogue, and the future.

We would be delighted to count you among the partners and friends of this human and cultural adventure.

Édouard-François de Lencquesaing,

President, Saint Omer Foundation – Transatlantic Values

PROGRAM 2026

A. CHARLES CARROLL LECTURE SERIES

Dedicated to Charles Carroll and American Independence based on the Foundation supported PhD thesis by Guillaume Pruvost :

1. The European Sources of the American Ideal and American Independence

From Charles Carroll's French and English education to Americans in France between 1776 and 1792.

Speakers: Émilie Mitran and Guillaume Pruvost

Location: Paris

Date: 27 May 2026

2. From Social Exclusion to Political Prominence

From "foreigner" to Founding Father of the United States: Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the journey of a Catholic leader.

Speaker: Guillaume Pruvost

Location: Saint Omer

Date: September 2026

3. Charles Carroll and His Specific Role in the Process of Independence

The pen and faith: Charles Carroll of Carrollton's commitment to American Independence.

Speaker: Guillaume Pruvost

Location: Lille

Date: October 2026

4. Charles Carroll: Withdrawal, Civic Engagement, and a Contemporary Perspective on Politics

Charles Carroll or the temptation of withdrawal: the common good as a guiding principle.

Speakers: Guillaume Pruvost and André Flajolet, former Member of Parliament

Location: Saint Omer

Date: tbd

5. Charles Carroll, a Key Figure in the American Industrial Revolution

A lecture devoted to Charles Carroll's economic and industrial role in the emerging United States.

Location and date : tbd

B. DEMOCRACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY THROUGH THE LENS OF FOUNDING FRANCO-AMERICAN PRINCIPLES

A reflection on the political and philosophical legacy of the principles that led to American Independence and their relevance in contemporary democracies.

Speaker: Ambassador Philippe Étienne

Location: Paris

Date: 15 December 2026

C. "CRYPTOR IN THE CITY & INDEPENDENCE"

A project supported by the Embassy of the United States in Paris, combining Street Art and artificial intelligence around figures connected with American Independence.

This series of urban artworks will appear throughout France, marking different locations linked to this shared transatlantic history.

In Saint-Omer:

- Charles Carroll will be represented at the BAPSO, near the Jesuit Chapel;
- John Carroll will be honored at Lycée Ribot, the former Jesuit seminary.

D. VALUES AND MUSIC

Saint Omer Harmonic Orchestra – American Concert

A program dedicated to the great American composers: Sousa, Bernstein, Gershwin, and Copland.

- Saint-Omer and Ecques: 12 June 2026
- Reclinghem: 13 June 2026
- Serques: 14 June 2026

The official opening took place on **9 May 2026** at the Jesuit Chapel in Saint-Omer, followed by a cocktail reception.

Jazz Festival

An opening event with an American theme on **4 July 2026**.

Recital at the Saint-Omer Theatre

“American Epic”

Works from the 19th and 20th centuries performed by:

- Stéphane Huang, cello
- Arthur Hinnewinkel, piano

Date: 8 November 2026

The recital will begin with an organ prelude at the cathedral at **3:00 p.m.**, followed by a tea time, before the recital at **5:00 p.m.**

Membership link for the Saint-Omer – Transatlantic Values Foundation (Standard membership: €25; free for students):

[**JOIN THE ASSOCIATION**](#)

Help fund the Foundation’s initiatives:

[**BECOME A PATRON**](#)