

THE UNITED & STATES VERSAILLES

250 YEARS OF SHARED
HISTORY



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES



PROGRAM JOURNÉE-RENCONTRE

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026
AUDITORIUM

OPENING 9.30 AM

Welcome Address by Pierre-Emmanuel Lecerf,
Interim President of the Palace of Versailles

INTRODUCTION 9.45 AM

*A Shared Enlightenment? 250 Years of Franco-American Friendship
and Transatlantic Exchanges*

Laurence Cossu-Beaumont,
Professor at Sorbonne Nouvelle University
and Vice-President of the Institut des Amériques

MORNING SESSION

Chaired by Laurence Cossu-Beaumont,
Professor at Sorbonne Nouvelle University
and Vice-President of the Institut des Amériques

10.15 AM

*Lafayette between War and Diplomacy: A Key Figure
in the Franco-American Alliance*

Vincent Bouat-Ferlier,
Chief Heritage Curator,
Director of the Chambrun-Lafayette Foundation
Vergennes: Architect of a Grand Alliance
Bernard de Montferrand,
Former French Ambassador
and Former President of the French Society of the Cincinnati

BREAK 11 AM

11.15 AM

*From Empire to Independence. The Transformation
of Benjamin Franklin, 1774 – 1776*

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke,
Professor at Paris 8 University, Coordinator of the ANR America 2026
project and member of the American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia)
*Thomas Jefferson: Between Americanism and Francophilia;
Between Humanism and Slavery*
Laurent Zecchini,
Historian and journalist

12 NOON

*From the American Revolution to the French Revolution,
Influences and Echoes*

Timothy Tackett,
Professor Emeritus, University of California

N.B.: Presentations will be
given in French, with
simultaneous interpretation
provided in English.

AFTERNOON SESSION
Chaired by Laurent Salomé,
Director of the National Museum
of the Palaces of Versailles and Trianon

2.30 PM
*Americans in Versailles in the 19th and 20th Centuries:
New Archival Documents*
Vincent Haegeler,
Director of Versailles Municipal Library

3 PM
*Versailles in the American Cultural Imagination:
Marjorie and Eleanor Post, Major Patrons and Benefactors*
Wilfried Zeisler,
Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Hillwood Estate,
Museum & Gardens, Washington

3.30 PM
*Americans in Love with Versailles: Selected Portraits
from the 20th Century*
Claire Bonnotte,
Research Associate, National Museum of the Palaces
of Versailles and Trianon

BREAK

SESSION
Chaired by Valérie Lagier,
Chief Heritage Curator at the Franco-American
Museum of the Château de Blérancourt

4 PM
4.15 PM
The Significance of State Visits by American Presidents to Versailles
Françoise Coste,
Professor at Toulouse — Jean Jaurès University

4.45 PM
*A Contemporary Perspective: Versailles and the Shifting Dynamics
of the Transatlantic Relationship*
Gaëtan Bruel,
President of the French National Centre of Cinema (CNC),
former Cultural Counsellor in New York,
and first Director of the Villa Albertine (2019–2023)

5.30 PM
Book Signing in the Auditorium Foyer