



America 250 | CT Commission
Governance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Attendees:

Arienne Orozco, Subcommittee Chair
(designated by the Secretary of the State, the Hon. Stephanie Thomas)
Steven Hernández
Jason Mancini
Sheldyn Oliver
Cyndi Tolosa

The meeting started at 12:02 p.m.

Commission Bylaws

Putting a structure in place will be important for when the commission may have questions about how members/subcommittees relate to one another, goals of the commission, etc.

Bylaws can also be structured as a teaching tool when discussing questions such as...

Why are we coming together?

What is it that we want to accomplish?

How are we organizing ourselves?

It would be great for the commission to model how to talk with one another in a group setting and structure conversations in a way that benefits collaboration, learning, and democracy. This is an opportunity to reimagine and reaffirm the social contract.

When crafting bylaws for this commission, it may prove helpful to use Rhode Island's document as a starting point and modifying, when/where necessary, through the lens of teaching. Vermont's document was a good example of displaying accessible language. The AM250 | CT Governance Subcommittee can reference both documents when drafting its own bylaws.

Create an opportunity to include an inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) value statement in the bylaws.

CT Humanities (CTH)* put together a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). When drafting the bylaws, it will be important to consider this.

**CTH is the administrative agent of the commission vis-à-vis Executive Order No. 22-2.*

The Governance Committee will work to have a DRAFT of the bylaws ready for the commission to review at the October 18, 2023 AM250 | CT Commission meeting.

Additional Responsibilities

The current structure of the commission:

The AM250 | CT Commission (as a whole) □ Subcommittees (working groups) □ Advisory Council (group of scholars, and others, who can inform the work of the commission; sizable in number; will meet 1 to 2 times a year)

Adjacent to the commission vis-à-vis CTH:

The 250th Leadership Ad Hoc Committee (visibility and fundraising; approximately 12 people)

Purpose: The 250th Leadership Committee is an ad hoc committee of the CT Humanities Board of Directors. CT Humanities will serve as administrative agent and act as the nonprofit fiduciary on behalf of any activities undertaken by the America 250 | CT Commission, established under Executive Order No. 22-2. This committee will assist the Board of Directors by (1) overseeing advancement strategy related to the 250th efforts, namely fundraising, constituent relationships, and external communications; (2) providing guidance to senior CTH staff on attracting private sector support for the 250th; and (3) operating with an understanding of and in cooperation with CTH Institutional Advancement Committee efforts to eliminate potential conflicts. The committee will act in alignment with the CTH mission, vision, and values to advance the goals of the America 250 | CT Commission.

Miscellaneous

The Governance Committee would like to invite [Chief Executive Officer of The Urban Assembly, David Adams](#), to the Fall AM250 | CT Commission meeting to talk about the importance of this work in the framing we've heard from our leaders, and the public.

The Urban Assembly is based out of New York, but also conducts work in Connecticut. The Urban Assembly focuses on social and emotional skills building; relational tools in the service of democracy.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Monday, July 17 – 2 p.m.
- Monday, August 21 – 2 p.m.
- Monday, September 18 – 2 p.m.
(in person or virtual – TBD)

The meeting ended at 12:41 p.m.