



**America 250 | CT Commission**  
**Community & Organizational Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday September 28, 2023**

**Virtual Meeting Attendees:** A. Williams (Chair), A. Horowitz, C. Labadia, D. Lord, L. Shapiro, J. Slifka, M. Tisdale, D. Merrill (Commission Chair).

**CT Humanities Staff Present:** M. Kemezis, C. Tolosa.

The meeting began at 11:04 AM.

**Minutes.**

Ms. Williams discussed a potential joint meeting with Education (S. Armstrong) at item 1.e. on overlap

Ms. Williams asked members for any additions to the agenda (none), reviewed agenda item 1.g., (spreadsheet), and the Action Plan and the steps that this meeting would take to address them.

Action Step 2, Benchmark 2 of Goal 1 was reviewed and modified with a note: 'Thinking about being broadly inclusive and keeping in mind how we can engage those who might not immediately come to the table when they hear 'America 250.'

Action Step 1 of Goal 1 was reviewed with regards to members' individual efforts add to the broad CTH sessions that were held in September '23. A Benchmark was added; 'Continue to host formal/informal informational and talkback sessions through a number of different networks to keep the wider community involved and engaged.'

Action Step 5 was added to Goal 1 with two Benchmarks. #1 regards development of an elevator pitch that commissioners can use in their routine work lives; #2 regards requesting / encouraging a tagline from the Marketing Subcommittee.

Chair Denise Merrill shared that the commission has sent informational letters to mayors and heads of towns. There is also a new Leadership Subcommittee that will focus on fundraising with meetings to come. Ms. Merrill and Ms. Tolosa shared about the in-person events that have happened as well.

Action Step 3 was modified at Goal 1 to include the wider outreach efforts of other subcommittees.

Ms. Shapiro mentioned that the marketing campaign is scheduled for a rollout in mid-October.

Agenda item 1.f. (missing voices) was discussed, Williams mentioned the tribal community.

Notes were added to Goal 2, Action Step 2 regarding creating materials in multiple languages and factors related to accessibility and, especially, necessary funding for this Action Step.

Ms. Shapiro mentioned the need for funding to secure media attention; discussion of methods ensued and it became clear of the need for involving the other subcommittees.

Public school involvement in terms of materials for curriculum was discussed. This led to discussing ready-made programs in Action Step 2, Goal 2 as a way to accommodate and inspire local efforts.

Williams directed members to look at and add to the list of contacts.

Mr. Lord volunteered to be the inquiry fielder and to re-organize the Action Plan

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15PM

#### Next meeting

The dates of the next meetings are 10/18/23 (full commission); 10/12/23 (subcommittee).