

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission Meeting Wednesday, July 17 at 10:00 AM Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center Agenda

- | | | |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 5 min. | Welcome | D. Merrill |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2024 Meeting [Attachment A]<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Motion: Steve Armstrongo Second: Jon Slifkao VOTE: Yes (12), Abstain (2) | |
| 10 min. | National/Regional Update | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• America 250 Commission• AASLH Updates | C. Tolosa, J. Mancini
S. Wands |
| 10 min. | Funding Update | D. Merrill, J. Mancini |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome of funding request for FY24• OPM budget book | |
| 40 min. | Affiliate Program Feedback | C. Tolosa |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affiliate program proposal [Attachment B] & application form [Attachment C] | |
| 30 min. | Subcommittee Updates | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community & Organizational Engagemento IDEA Self-Assessment Guide [Attachment D]o Fairs & Festivals [Attachment E]• Education• Motion to accept \$10,000 grant from National 250 Commission for use on education projects.<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Motion: Michael Wernero Second: Steve Armstrongo VOTE: Yes (15) *Note - additional commissioner arrived during the course of the meeting | A. Williams
S. Armstrong |
| 15 min. | Work Plan Update | C. Tolosa, R. Gonzalez |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calendar of Events• Communications Schedule• Municipal Outreach | |

- [Brand Guidelines](#) [Attachment F]
- Timeline for 2024

10 min. Public Comment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 10 AM



Attachment A

America 250 | CT Commission Meeting Wednesday, April 17, 2024 Minutes

Attendees

Commission Members

Hon. Denise W. Merrill, AM250 | CT Chair (In person)
Jason Mancini, AM250 | CT Vice-chair (In person)
Nicolas Angeli (Virtual)
Stephen Armstrong (In person)
Anthony Champalimaud (In person)
Rob Kret (In person)
Catherine Labadia (In person)
Deborah Schander (In person)
Elizabeth Shapiro (In person)
Jonathan Slifka (In person)
Joe Smith (Virtual)
Micheal Werner (Virtual)
Sally Whipple (In person)
Amrys Williams (In person)

CT Humanities (CTH) Staff

Dana Barcellos-Allen (In person)
Adrianna Chesnut (In person)
Mike Kemezis (Virtual)
Sheldyn Oliver (Virtual)
Cyndi Tolosa (In person)
Scott Wands (In person)

Members of the Public

Sarah Blecher (In person)
Jennifer Crookes (In person)
Mimi Madden (In person)
Jackie Mandych (In person)
Lee McFadden (In person)
Randall Nelson (In person)
Mary Pelletier (In person)
Sylvester Salcedo (In person)
James Taing (In person)

This meeting was livestreamed and recorded with the help of the CT Democracy Center. The recording can be accessed at the following link: [America 250 | CT Commission Meeting - April 17, 2024 - YouTube](#)

The meeting began at 10:08 a.m.

AM250 | CT Chair, Denise Merrill, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation thus far – noting that this group has been at work for nearly two years.

Minutes Approval (Discussion begins at minute-mark 9:20)

Motion: To approve the [AM250 | CT Commission Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2024](#).

First: Deborah S.; **Second:** Steve A.

Yes: 12*; **No:** 0; **Abstain:** 0

The motion passed unanimously.

****Members present during the vote.***

After the approval of minutes, Denise M. asked the Commission to give a brief round of introductions.

National/Regional Update (Discussion begins at minute-mark 12:08)

America 250 Commission (www.america250.org)

- Launched America's Field Trip Program – an essay contest for middle and high school students
- Launching a variety of tentpole programs – different programs during 2026 (not necessarily affiliated with state programs)
- There will be no funding available for state commissions via the National Commission

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

- Coordination with historic sites around the country
- Put together a field guide
- Currently putting together a program guide for low-cost programs that should be published within the month (CTH will share out this information once available)

A Common Cause for All

- National convening of state commissions and interested parties in Colonial Williamsburg; 40 states were represented
- Jason M., Rob K., Scott W., and Cyndi T. attended the conference on behalf of the AM250 | CT Commission
- Filmmaker, Ken Burns, is creating a 6-part series on the American Revolution (to come out in 2025); exciting opportunity to think about this story and Connecticut's part in that story
- 26 states have funding for the 250th ranging from thousands of dollars to millions
- Rob K. is working with...
 - a group of people to try and bottle what happened in Colonial Williamsburg and take it to Washington and have an event with the national 250 caucus to get elected officials and their staff excited about possible opportunities
 - John Dichtl, President & CEO of AASLH, to try and get more federal funding to the grassroots/local levels through existing entities such as Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Park Service (NPS), National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), & AM250 National Commission
 - Trying to get four people (two democrats, two republicans, two from the House, two from the Senate) to sign a letter intended for the Appropriations Committee that would support federal funding for AM250; currently have three people on board and need one additional signature (republican, House); Representative Michael Turner's name (Ohio) was suggested as someone to reach out to as a possibility for the fourth signature

Declaring Freedom Recap (Discussion begins at minute-mark 22:25)

- Held at Connecticut Central State University (CCSU) in New Britain, CT
- Days 1 & 2 hosted primarily by Matt Warshauer and CCSU along with the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies (CCSS)
 - Approximately 250 student participants and 100 educator participants

- o Excellent feedback from participants
- Day 3 hosted by the AM250 | CT Commission and funded by CTH
 - o Approximately 220 participants (in person and virtual)
 - o Focused on the four themes of the commission (Tell Inclusive Stories, Power of Place, Doing History, For the Common Good)
 - o Generally positive feedback with hopes of more specifics in terms of history/project ideas for people in the future as well as more breakout sessions
- Day 4 hosted by the Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) with support from the CT League of Museums (CLM)
 - o Mix of presentations and conversations with opportunities for facilitated breakout sessions

Highlights from Commission feedback included:

- Possibly combine Days 1 & 2, as well as Days 3 & 4
- Improve the continuity and coordination between all four days
- Mindfulness relating to funding
- Mindfulness relating to who is involved with the planning
- Mindfulness relating to the structures that the Commission is looking to accomplish; let the audience come to the Commission v. targeted audiences
- Conference with one day devoted to each AM250 | CT Theme or different tracks; run as an unconference
- Frequency of when to meet
- More work is needed to get people thinking beyond themes around the Revolutionary War
- If continued, what would the role of the Commission look like, CTH, other organizations, etc.

Funding Update (Discussion begins at minute-mark 56:31)

Denise M., Jason M., and Cyndi T. have spent time over the last 6 months pursuing potential corporate sponsors and private funders trying to get funding, etc. Received a grant from a foundation for \$100k that enabled CTH to hire additional AM250 | CT personnel and continue to seek private funding. Denise M. has put together a Leadership Committee that is also assisting in fundraising.

Nearing the end of the legislative session (two-year budget cycle). The state will not be proposing a new budget this year as the second year of the budget, meaning there is no additional funding proposed by the Governor for AM250 | CT.

Alternative routes of funding include:

- Funds from the remaining allotment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
- Bond funding – applied for bond funding in the name of the Commission to do things like upgrade historic sites, etc.; \$35m in the bond package

Funding Request Letter (Discussion begins at minute-mark 1:01:57)

Commission Leadership would like to submit a funding request letter to the Governor on behalf of the Commission. This letter was discussed by the Commission.

Motion: To empower AM250 | CT Chair Denise Merrill and AM250 | CT Vice-chair Jason Mancini to further investigate points to include in the funding request letter and said letter would be shared with the

Commission (who will be able to view the letter without comment or action), via email, before submitted.

Yes: 8; No: 0; Abstain: 6*

The motion passed.

**Due to the nature of the motion, all state employees (S. Armstrong, C. Labadia, D. Schander, E. Shapiro, J. Slifka, M. Werner) abstained from this vote.*

[Commission Work Plan](#) (Discussion begins at minute-mark 1:21:23)

Cyndi T. presented the Commission Work Plan document and the committee engaged in conversation.

[Public Comment](#) (Discussion begins at minute-mark 1:47:15)

Comments from the public were made during two separate portions of the meeting. For access to these comments, please fast forward to minute-marks 43:15 - 47:25 and

[Next Meeting](#)

Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Connecticut's Old State House (800 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103)

[Meeting Adjournment](#) (Discussion begins at minute-mark 2:05:24)

Motion: To adjourn the April 17, 2024, AM250 | CT Commission Meeting.

First: Elizabeth S.; **Second:** Rob K.

Yes: 14; No: 0; Abstain: 0

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 12:05 p.m.



Attachment B

America 250 | CT Commission Affiliate Program Criteria

Connecticut's Semiquincentennial Commission will plan and coordinate activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding; and enhance tourism, economic development, historic education and preservation, and outdoor recreation within the state; and coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, as well as private and public organizations and partners. The Commission will develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration, commemoration, and observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence through civic, cultural, and historical education events and programming; and will promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historic resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the semiquincentennial period.

To this end, the Commission welcomes organizations to participate in an affiliate program. Affiliates will have access to use the Commission's logo on marketing materials and to promote 250th-related events on the Commission's website, in newsletters, and through social media posts.

Affiliate organizations approved by the Commission will demonstrate that their values align with the Commission's [Values Statement](#):

1. Align initiatives with inclusive themes and values;
2. Make welcome as many people from across Connecticut's communities as possible;
3. Encourage people to consider the future repercussions of today's actions;
4. All projects, events, and programs should call for mutual respect and empathy;
5. All activities should be accessible to as many people as possible, bearing in mind and attempting to accommodate for physical limitations, as well as socioeconomic, language, and other potential barriers to access;
6. Share knowledge and resources with others whenever possible;
7. Center relationships and the process of developing trust, and be honest and candid with all involved in the process of planning programs, events, and initiatives.

Programming promoted as being 250th-affiliated will align with at least one of the following themes outlined on the [America 250 | CT](#) website:

- **Tell inclusive stories** that represent all of the people of Connecticut, past and present, focusing on those that continue the nation's reckoning with the totality of its past
- Honor the **power of place** in Connecticut, focusing on local stories that encourage and engage the unique identities and contributions of a community
- Engage the public in the process of **doing history** by inviting audiences to engage with the historical method and primary sources

- **For the Common Good:** Encourage civic engagement using the ideals outline in our founding documents

Affiliate organizations promoted by the Commission must reasonably provide access ([ADA compliant](#) or beyond) for all events, programs, exhibits, etc., and demonstrate that they are equitable, inclusive, and support a broad diversity of voices and perspectives. Affiliates must be nonpartisan in nature and programming may be reviewed for accuracy of historical interpretation. The America 250 | CT Commission may accept, reject, or reconsider an event promotion request in its sole discretion.

Groups/organizations seeking to become an affiliate of the Commission shall be required to submit an application. All applications will be reviewed by a subset of members of the America 250 | CT Commission in Governance subcommittee meetings (agendas and minutes will be [shared here](#)). Meetings are held via Zoom and simultaneously livestreamed via YouTube. It is not necessary for an organization to attend a meeting for their application to be reviewed.

2024 Governance subcommittee schedule:

Monday, August 12, 2024 - 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Monday, November 18, 2024 - 3:00-4:00 p.m.



Attachment C

America 250 | CT Affiliate Approval Request Form

The America 250 | CT Commission welcomes requests to become an affiliate organization. Commission Affiliates will be approved to utilize the Commission logo and access promotional opportunities for 250th-related events. Please review the policy and criteria [here \[link to final policy\]](#) prior to submitting your request.

Contact us at info@ct250.org with any questions.

** Indicates required question*

1. Email *

2. Organization Name *

3. Organization Contact Person *

4. Contact Person Email *

5. Contact Person Phone *

6. Organization Address *

Values Alignment

Organizations affiliated with the Commission should be in line with the commission's values statement. They must be equitable, inclusive, and support a broad diversity of voices and perspectives. Organizations should be nonpartisan in nature and any programming may be reviewed for accuracy of historical interpretation.

Please respond to the following series of questions regarding the Commission's Values Statement, and share your organization's values statement in the space provided (if applicable).

7. Does your organization seek to align its initiatives with inclusive themes and values? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. Does your organization seek to make welcome as many people from across Connecticut's communities as possible? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. Does your organization seek to encourage people to consider the future repercussions of today's actions? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. Does your organization seek to design projects, events, and programs which call for mutual respect and empathy? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

11. Does your organization seek to plan activities which are accessible to as many people as possible, bearing in mind and attempting to accommodate for physical limitations, as well as socioeconomic, language, and other potential barriers to access? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

12. Does your organization attempt to share knowledge and resources with others whenever possible? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

13. Does your organization center relationships and the process of developing trust, and seek to be honest and candid with all involved in the process of planning programs, events, and initiatives? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. (Optional) Submit a copy of your organization's values statement here.

15. Can you please share how your organization aligns itself with the values shared above? *

*This response should be brief and may refer to your organization's values statement if applicable.

Themes Alignment

Affiliate organizations wishing to promote programming as 250th-affiliated must align said programming with one or more of the themes outlines on the [America 250 | CT](#) website. Please review the information below and select all that apply to your organization's mission and activities.

16. Which of the following America 250 | CT Commission themes does your organization seek to align your programming with? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Tell inclusive stories that represent all of the people of Connecticut, past and present, focusing on those that continue the nation's reckoning with the totality of its past
- ☐ Honor the power of place in Connecticut, focusing on local stories that encourage and engage the unique identities and contributions of a community
- ☐ Engage the public in the process of doing history by inviting audiences to engage with the historical method and primary sources
- ☐ For the Common Good: Encourage civic engagement using the ideals outline in our founding documents

Partisanship & Historical Accuracy

17. Is your organization nonpartisan in nature? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

18. Programming that is promoted as 250th-affiliated may be subject to review for accuracy of historical information. If this is deemed necessary at any point, do you consent to this review? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Additional Information

19. Is there any additional information about your organization that you wish to share?

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms



Attachment D

Program Planning Guide for Welcoming Wider Audiences Strategies for Increasing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access

As a diverse nation, we are continually finding new ways to ensure all Americans can connect with our country's many stories and see themselves in our national narrative. The Commission has created this guide to help you and your organization tackle the challenges of engaging with people across differences so you can craft and carry out the best events possible, ones that align with the commission's mission, vision, and themes. We hope that this document will help you as you plan, publicize, implement, and reflect on your programs.

There are many ways of thinking about diversity in our communities. In this guide, we are emphasizing the legal framework of [protected classes under Connecticut state law](#). These are: age, ancestry, color, learning disability, marital status, intellectual disability, national origin, physical disability, mental disability, race, religious creed, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and status as a veteran. We encourage you to think about your own community, your organization and its mission, and the many audiences you do and can serve, and to use the questions below in ways that help you create truly excellent events that reach the widest possible audience.

If you have questions, please contact the Commission at info@ct250.org. When you are ready, we invite you to [share your event with us](#) so we may include it in our Community Calendar.

Planning:

- Are all the appropriate people meaningfully involved in the planning process for the event?
 - Be mindful of the phrase "nothing about us without us," and ensure that you are seeking out people from the groups and communities whose stories are being told from the outset as full and equal partners in conceiving, shaping, planning, and executing the program.
 - Be willing to listen and change your ideas.
- Are there partnerships that you could make with other groups or organizations that could shape the event in exciting or new ways?
- What potential barriers might there be for people's ability to participate, and how could you reduce them?
 - Think about price, location, time of day, access via public transit, language of the event, and other factors that could limit ease of access. The design of your event can signal belonging or exclusion from the outset.

Promoting:

- Have you sought out different channels for promoting your event that will allow you to reach a wider, more diverse audience?
- Have you thought about the language and images you are using to promote your event to ensure they are welcoming to the many different groups you wish to attend?
- How are you communicating or highlighting the ways you are making your event more accessible or family-friendly?

Implementing:

- Have you considered, and attempted to accommodate or address, various barriers to access? This may include socioeconomic, physical, language, or other challenges.
- Have you engaged with people from different backgrounds in the planning stages, and worked to implement your event in a way that will make those from different backgrounds/communities/affinity groups feel welcome?
- Is your event ADA compliant and accessible?

Reflecting:

- Was your event successful in attracting guests from different groups than you typically would see? If not, have you reflected on why they may not have participated?
- Did you watch for any accessibility difficulties, and if any were noted, were you able to address them with the resources available? What additional resources might you need to plan for in a future event?
- Of the changes made in the event planning process, have you identified which were successful (or unsuccessful) in achieving your goals of increased inclusion, diversity, equity, and access?
- Have you identified any additional strategies to incorporate for your next event?

Resources:

- [Americans with Disabilities Act Guidance & Resource Materials](#): Browse various guides relevant to the type of event you are planning
- [American Association for State and Local History 250th Programming Handbook](#): Includes a checklist for planning events and ideas for 250th-specific programming
- [Demographic information from Connecticut Department of Public Health](#): Links to various state, county, and town datasets
- [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Equity Resources](#): Includes strategy information, ideas/case studies for increasing accessibility, and datasets
- [US Census Community Survey Data](#): Data tables including demographic, language, disability, etc. information. Data can be pulled for the entire state, or specific zip codes.



Attachment E

**Fairs & Festivals
Proposed List**

DATE	EVENT	TOWN
7/4/2024	Boom Box Parade	Willimantic
7/6/2024	Bonanza	Hartford
8/4/2024	Meriden Puerto Rican Festival	Meriden
8/10/2024	West Indian Independence Celebration	Hartford
8/17/2024	Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian Festival	Hartford
9/7/2024 - 9/8/2024	CT Maritime Heritage Fest	New London
9/14/2024	Hartford Pride	Hartford
9/28/2024	The Gathering	Waterbury
	The Big E?	Westfield, MA



Attachment F

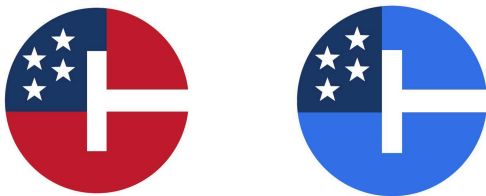
America 250 | CT Commission Brand Guidelines

Logo

America 250 | CT Logo



Small Scale



Color backgrounds

AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT

AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT

AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT

Black & white



AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT

Misuse

Do not distort the logo proportions.



Do not alter the logo opacity.



Do not use the logo on a busy background.



Do not introduce a new color to the logo or icon.



Do not scale any of the elements individually.



Do not change the typeface of the logo.



Do not remove "Connecticut" from the logo.



Logo Lockups

Administered by CT Humanities



administered by cthumanities



administered by



America 250 | CT Affiliate

Horizontal

AMERICA 250 AFFILIATE
CONNECTICUT

Vertical

AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT
AFFILIATE

Brand

Usage in text

When referencing the brand in text, please adhere to the following spelling & capitalization:
America 250 | CT

America 250 | CT may be abbreviated if necessary to:
Am250 | CT

Color

America 250 | CT Brand Colors

CMYK 100, 86, 34, 23
RGB 28, 54, 100
HEX #1C3664

Primary Color

CMYK 18, 100, 91, 8
RGB 190, 30, 45
HEX #BE1E2D

Secondary Color

CMYK 90, 48, 0, 0
RGB 51, 113, 231
HEX #3371E7

Tertiary Color

Please note: The tertiary color is Connecticut's primary blue. The vibrancy of the RGB values is preferred. When possible in traditional CMYK printing, please work with your printer to get the closest

possible match to the RGB tonality, or use the Pantone 285 as a spot color for best results. More information is available on the State's [Logo Guidelines](#).

Type

America 250 | CT Logo

Connecticut: Now Bold
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
1234567890

America: Poppins Bold
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz
1234567890

Typography

Headline: Poppins Bold
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz
1234567890

Copy: Poppins Regular
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz
1234567890

System Font

Heading: Roboto Bold
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz
1234567890

Copy: Roboto Regular
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz
1234567890

Logo Use

Content Guidelines

While we want the icon to be a statement of expression, it ultimately represents the state and any graphic or offensive imagery is not permitted.

- Nothing pornographic or lewd
- Imagery should be positive in nature
- Statements or imagery associated with a specific political party should be avoided
- No hate speech/imagery/symbolism
- The logo mark/icon should not contain any imagery when it is part of the full logo, only when it is on its own

Permission for Use

The America 250 | CT logo may be used for programs of [commission affiliates](#) and [projects funded](#) by CT Humanities and/or the Connecticut Office of the Arts. Further information about logo use in these situations is available on the [CT250.org website](#).