

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 17, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jL88g_9XyOs

Attendees

Commissioners

Denise Merrill, Chair (In Person)
Jason Mancini, Vice Chair (In Person)
Arienne Orozco (In Person)
Steve Armstrong (In Person)
Deborah Schander (In Person)
Jonathan Slifka (In Person)
Sally Whipple (In Person)
Kathy D'Amato (In Person)
Joseph Smith (Virtual)
Nicolas Angeli (Virtual)
Andy Horowitz (Virtual)
Amrys Williams (Virtual)
Anthony Champalimaud (Virtual)
Liz Shapiro (Virtual)
Michael Johnson (Virtual)
Melvette Hill (Virtual)
Michael Werner (In Person)

Staff

Megan Baker (In Person)
Cyndi Tolosa (In Person)
Rachel Gonzalez (In Person)
Scott Wands (Virtual)
Dana Barcellos-Allen (Virtual)

Members of the Public

Tanya Pohrt (In Person)
Claudine Casey (In Person)
Kia Baird (In Person)
Deb Mathiasen (In Person)
Linda Christensen (In Person)
Sylvester Salcedo (In Person)

The meeting began at **10:05 a.m.**

Welcome

This section begins at minute mark 1:46 in the recording.

Denise Merrill called the meeting to order and briefly summarized the commission's charge. Two new commissioners will be joining, but were not able to be at the beginning of the meeting to comment.

- Melvette Hill, who will represent the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, & Opportunity. M. Werner, current designee, will continue on the Governance subcommittee and participate in M. Hill's absence.
- Margaret Khan, who will represent the CT Library Association. M. Khan will also serve in place of Doug Lord on Community & Organizational Engagement subcommittee.

Jason Mancini acknowledged the location of the meeting and shared some brief remarks about the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation's history.

Discussion of the motion to approve minutes from the April 17, 2024 meeting begins at minute mark 8:58 in the recording.

1. Motion for approval of the minutes from the [April 17, 2024 Meeting](#) [Attachment A]
 - a. Motion: Steve Armstrong
 - b. Second: Jon Slifka
 - c. VOTE: Yes (12), Abstain (2)

National/Regional Update

This section begins at minute mark 9:50 in the recording.

J. Mancini provided updates from a state/territory commission convening hosted by the America 250 Commission in Washington, D.C., including:

- Almost all established commissions had representatives in attendance.
- [Polling data](#) on public sentiments showed that we should seek ways to engage Gen Z, as that generation is broadly disconnected from the 250th
- The national commission's tentpole program will be [America Gives](#)/days of service so we should consider ways to engage Connecticut residents in this.
- A 2nd place winner from [America's Field Trip](#) is a Fairfield, CT resident.

Cyndi Tolosa added that we will be receiving all of Connecticut's entries to America's Field Trip in the coming weeks and will share out when received. Additional important information from the convening included:

- The national commission will be establishing a funding directory for broad use.
- Changes in the way that the national commission is operating mean that we should reconsider signing on with them to receive a \$10,000 grant.

J. Mancini noted that the America 250 PA Commission will be hosting a convening in September and there will be another convening in Virginia in March.

Scott Wands shared updates from the American Association for State and Local History, including:

- They are building out a [resource page](#) on their website.
- A [programming handbook](#) has been published for organizations to use in planning 250th events & programs.
- There will be an annual conference in September with opportunities for CT Humanities to share out 250th updates with other states & territories.

Arienne Orozco noted that the National Association of Secretaries of State had their conference recently and there was some conversation of 250th-related activities. D. Merrill and A. Orozco agreed that it may be worth proposing a session for a future conference.

Funding Update

This section begins at minute mark 23:07 in the recording.

D. Merrill provided a brief update on the funding request that was put through the legislature after the April Commission meeting, noting that the Commission received a small amount of additional funds for administration and \$10 million in bonding funds for capital projects. Fundraising is underway, and the Leadership Committee for CT Humanities is currently planning a fundraiser at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich with Geno Auriemma as the featured speaker.

J. Mancini expanded on the process for use of capital funds, which are available through the Good to Great program, administered through a partnership with the CT Department of Economic & Community Development, via Liz Shapiro, and CT Humanities. While bond funds have been approved, they remain unallocated until they are put on the governor's bond agenda and authorized by the bond commission. Additional funding opportunities will be made available through the [National Park Service](#) and the [Institute of Museum & Library Services](#). On the state level, the Office of Policy and Management will be featuring the 250th on the next biennium's budget book.

C. Tolosa called attention to the [grants](#) that have been awarded through CT Humanities to 250th themed projects to date. [Attachment B]

Affiliate Program Feedback

This section begins at minute mark 32:35 in the recording.

C. Tolosa described the premise of the Affiliate program, which is intended to raise the profile of the Commission and tie us to projects around the state. To that end, staff have created [criteria](#) for Commission affiliates [Attachment C], which are rooted in the guiding values, as well as an [application form](#) [Attachment D]. Approved affiliates will be authorized to use an America 250 | CT Affiliate logo and have a streamlined process to submit events to the Community Calendar. The proposed criteria document was read aloud prior to opening the floor for discussion.

The criteria was discussed by the Commission, with the conclusion that the affiliate criteria and application form can be put into use with minimal edits. The Governance subcommittee will serve as the application review committee, and will bring any applications with which they have concerns to the full Commission for review. Affiliate organizations will be denoted on the Community Calendar, using a coding system which will be determined by staff.

Subcommittee Updates

This section begins at minute mark 1:04:53 in the recording.

Amrys Williams provided an update on the [IDEA Self-Assessment Guide](#) that the Community & Organizational Engagement subcommittee has been developing [Attachment E]. This document will be published for organizations to use in planning 250th events and programs, as a means for them to reflect on their processes and consider the principles of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access in all phases of planning. Discussion of the document ensued. This document was approved for use after some minor revisions. The Commission hopes that this document can, among other things, help organizations engage with Gen Z and reinforce the need for historical accuracy in event and program planning.

At 1:28:04 in the recording, the conversation shifted to the Education subcommittee's work.

S. Armstrong presented the education subcommittee's plan moving forward, which includes developing a one-page document explaining America 250 for teachers (to be distributed through superintendents and other educational leaders), tying publicly available 250th-related educational resources to the new Connecticut Council for the Social Studies standards, and creating a series of teacher's guides that can be used to help teachers in lesson planning for the 250th at all grade levels. In the course of this discussion, it was noted by J. Mancini that the \$10,000 grant available from the national commission might be put to use by the education

subcommittee, potentially as a reward program for Red, White, and Blue Schools. After discussion, a motion was put forth. Discussion of this begins at minute mark 1:39:00 in the recording.

2. Motion: To accept a \$10,000 grant from the national America 250 group for use on education projects.
 - a. Motion: Michael Werner
 - b. Second: Steve Armstrong
 - c. VOTE: Yes (15) *Note - additional commissioner arrived during the course of the meeting

Work Plan Update

This section begins at minute mark 1:44:30 in the recording.

- C. Tolosa provided an update on staff progress since the last Commission meeting, including:
- An online [calendar of events](#) where organizations can share 250th programming.
 - A revamped communications schedule, with a monthly e-newsletter being sent to roughly 450 subscribers and increased social media presence in coordination with CTHistory.org
 - On the regional and municipal level, Commission representatives have presented to most Councils of Government. A Zoom meeting was held recently with approximately 30 municipalities in attendance, and our [contact list](#) of municipal committee leaders is growing.
 - [Brand guidelines](#) have been drafted for use with affiliate organizations [Attachment G].
 - Work on a museum makeover program is being done in coordination with Conservation Connection out of the CT State Library.
 - Andy Horowitz, in his role as State Historian, is beginning to frame out an exhibit for 2025 on Connecticut's role in the American Revolution.

Public Comment

This section begins at minute mark 1:48:19 in the recording.

Brief statements of introduction were made by all members of the public present, with public comment from S. Salcedo.

The meeting ended at **12:01 p.m.**

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., location to be announced



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)
Michael 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 Mandyck (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
 - Excellent feedback from participants
- Day 3 hosted by the AM250 | CT Commission and funded by CTH
 - Approximately 220 participants (in person and virtual)
 - Focused on the four themes of the commission (Tell Inclusive Stories, Power of Place, Doing History, For the Common Good)
 - 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)
 - 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.

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Attachment B

250th-Related Grants CTH Fund

Total Grants: 13

Total Dollar Amount: \$159,887

Good to Great Fund

Total Grants: 8

Total Dollar Amount: \$2,125,434

CTH Fund: FY23

Total Grants: 4

Total Dollar Amount: \$76,186

1. *Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House Interpretative Plan*

Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution, Inc.

This project will plan a new interpretation for the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House that will reinvigorate and expand the museum's visitor experience as well as provide direction for the interior restoration of the house to support this new interpretation of the Trumbull family home. The completed project will include a professionally informed understanding of the history and evolution of the house with recommendations for new visitor experiences critical for the re-opening of the museum.

2. *Reinterpretation at Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center*

Keeler Tavern Preservation Society, Inc.

Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center continues a major reinterpretation, reexamining the stories we tell at our site and prioritizing previously marginalized and/or underrepresented voices and experiences. This project includes research, development, and prototyping for two new tours: "American Dream" explores the promise and myth of that "dream" through the lens of our 20th-century residents; "In Service" shares stories of those who provided and sought services at our site across centuries.

3. *Spirit of Revolution: The Connecticut Line Explored!*

Connecticut Explored Inc.

CTExplored will create Spirit of Revolution: The Connecticut Line Explored, a non-competitive online multiplayer digital simulation. It will immerse players in the world of the Revolutionary War to imagine themselves as part of the Continental Army's Connecticut Line from 1775-1781. Players choose an identity from a mix of diverse characters, making decisions that put the fate of the revolution in their hands. The educational game includes age-appropriate curricula to enhance the experience.

4. *Lafayette's Connecticut 1824 Bicentennial Tour*

Norwalk Historical Society

The 1824 Project involves developing an educational and informational website to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the 1824 tour of a Revolutionary War hero, Marquis de Lafayette. It coincides with the 50th anniversary of the American Revolution, with a focus on his time in CT. Lafayette played a critical role in securing victory over the British and cemented himself as a hero of both America and France. The project will honor Lafayette's legacy by partnering with the towns he visited in CT.

CTH Fund: FY24

Total Grants: 9

Total Dollar Amount: \$83,701

5. *Perspectives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color During the Civil War*

New England Civil War Museum

The New England Civil War Museum is proud to re-imagine its tour experience, creating a more inclusive narrative that interweaves the perspectives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals from the American Civil War era. In collaboration with historians, descendants, and researchers in the field of BIPOC genealogy and research, the museum will introduce a sustainably inclusive tour framework to the public at the museum's annual Living History Day, September 28, 2024.



6. *Historical Video of the Stony Creek Quarry in Branford Connecticut*

Stony Creek Museum Inc.

The Stony Creek Museum is producing a video of the 150 year history of the Stony Creek Quarry and the thousands of immigrant laborers who provided granite for hundreds of iconic buildings and landmarks around the country including the Statue of Liberty , the Brooklyn Bridge etc. The video uses the expertise of a local historians, a Yale geologist, and local oral history of life in the quarry. Completion planned in 2024 with broad distribution to schools, libraries, and social media.

7. *"Tools for Coming Together" at the Webb Deane Stevens Museum*

NSCDA-CT/ Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum

Webb Deane Stevens Museum's Tools for Coming Together programming uses Wethersfield's colonial history to help people see & empathize with one another as we approach America 250, and features distinguished talent from CT and beyond. Symposia, lectures, performances, & film screening explore the relationship between individuals & community, elevating resonance & dissonance between CT's complex past & current concerns over issues like political speech, "cancel culture," & legislative dysfunction.

8. *Connecticut's role in the founding of United States of America*

Connecticut Heritage Foundation Incorporated

The Museum of Connecticut History (MCH) at the Connecticut State Library (CSL) seeks funding to support planning for a new CT250 exhibition highlighting items from CSL's collection and key objects from other institutions statewide. With the help of consultants and a steering team, MCH/CSL staff will interpret the state's role in the American Revolution and the founding of the nation and develop an Exhibit Plan that will direct the installation of a CT250 exhibit at the MCH in the future.

9. *The Wide Awakes: Campaigning for Lincoln*

Connecticut Museum of Culture and History

This exhibition at the Connecticut Museum will feature the stories of the Wide Awakes, a nationwide political campaign organization founded by young adults in Hartford who supported Abraham Lincoln during the 1860 presidential election. Open from September 2024 to March 2025, we hope the exhibition will stimulate conversation and reflection about what it means to be politically active in the United States - both past and present - particularly among young adults.

10. *Liberty's Daughters in Northeastern Connecticut: Women, Textiles, and the Nonimportation Movement in the Revolutionary Era*

Windham Textile & History Museum

The project combines an exhibit, demonstrations, material culture, and videos to examine the role played by women in northeast Connecticut and the rest of southern New England in the non-importation movement that presaged the American Revolution. It specifically focuses on women's production of domestic textiles and the ways the Revolution changed that role and empowered women. Its goal is to make recent scholarship available to the general public in a local context.

11. *New Haven Museum presents, "Champion for Freedom: The Reverend Alexander Heritage Newton Story."*

New Haven Museum

New Haven Museum, (NHM), will premiere the documentary, "Champion for Freedom: The Reverend Alexander Heritage Newton Story," by preservationist Dolly Marshall with remarks by independent scholar John Mills and a discussion and Q & A moderated by Andre Keitt at CT's Old State House on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 1 pm. The free Juneteenth event is part of NH250.

12. *Maritime Trades in the Connecticut River Valley: Surfacing Stories of African Americans and Indigenous Workers*

Connecticut River Foundation at Steamboat Dock

The Connecticut River Museum received funding to support the work of a Lead Project Scholar who will work to rediscover stories of those African, African American, Indigenous, and other non-European people who were part of the substantial maritime trade industry beginning in the 17th century and continuing through the steamboat era. This under-researched focus will be the basis for a 2026 exhibit and will broaden scholarly knowledge of maritime trades in the River Valley.

13. *The Future is Here – Building a Better Future for the Ancient Burying Ground Association*

◆ Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc

In its recent history, the Ancient Burying Ground Association (ABGA) has successfully reached organizational goals and priorities to present more programs, build its online presence, and increase participation. The ABGA is now prepared to revisit its mission and vision to create a three-year strategic plan with the assistance of consultant Kathy Craughwell Varda. The plan will set goals and develop an action plan to insure the sustainability and growth of the organization for a better future.

Good to Great Fund: FY23

Total Grants: 8

Total Dollar Amount: \$2,125,434

1. *Tell Us Your Story Project*

Connecticut Aeronautical Historic Association

We're hearing visitors share their own personal stories as they experience the aircraft and exhibits, and we want to build a recording studio to save these memories for future generations. Our recently open exhibits provide emotional impacts to our visitors with their interactive displays proving a link with the visitor. In addition, a large number of veterans who come to the museum and many have flown the aircraft on display we want to encourage them to share their own personal stories.

2. *Restoration and Reinterpretation of the Hurlbut-Dunham House*

Wethersfield Historical Society

The Phase 2 Restoration of the Hurlbut-Dunham House will complete repairs on structural and exterior woodwork, repair windows, provide interior storm windows, repair brownstone sills, and headers, provide a new energy-efficient HVAC system, in addition to plaster repair and painting on the interior of the house. This project will provide a stable building, a healthy climate-controlled environment for visitors, and allow one of the servants' rooms to be interpreted and opened to the public.

3. *Bush-Holley House Preservation and Environmental Upgrade*

Greenwich Historical Society

The Bush-Holley House Preservation and Environmental Upgrade project will provide critical and timely environmental upgrades to protect this 18th-century National Historic Landmark and its collections that include historic artifacts and artwork original to the house and used in its dual interpretation of the Bush and Holley eras. The completion of this project improves the visitor experience and paves the way for the future restoration and interpretation of the back kitchen and slave quarter.

4. *Transforming Connecticut Landmarks Visitor Centers*

Antiquarian & Landmarks Society Inc.

Connecticut Landmarks will implement improvements to its visitor centers at 5 historic house museums to better connect with visitors and other arts and culture resources in our communities. Additionally, signage and marketing collateral will cohere to the organization's identity as a trusted source for heritage tourism experiences across the state.

5. *Historic Norwich - Site work at the Greenleaf House/Leffingwell House Museum Campus*
Norwich Historical Society

The Norwich Historical Society and our partner, the Society of the Founders of Norwich, plan to create a campus where the c. 1675 Leffingwell House Museum will be the museum space and the Greenleaf house will be the handicapped accessible multipurpose event space. We plan to build off of our 2019 Good to Great grant by implementing site improvements at both properties which includes handicapped accessible parking and access, constructing outdoor event space, and other landscape enhancements.

6. *The EPTN Indoor/Outdoor Archeological Museum*
Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation

Recognizing the connectivity between Native history and culture with CT's emphasis on tourism and visitor experience, the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation (EPTN) is eager to (1) promote our proud heritage and culture (2) develop public programs that value our ancestry, traditions, and way of life, and we will capitalize on the walking tours on our reservation that bring alive our insights and concerns that surely will preserve and foster the well-being for our next seven generations.

7. *Hill-Stead Museum's "Downstairs" Stories*

Hill-Stead Museum

Implementation of state-of-the-art access control will be utilized to secure the museum rooms and the administrative space—formerly the 1901-1946 working part of the residence.

Secure accessibility will allow for expanded behind-the-scenes interpretation of the other family of individuals, the servants, who called Hill-Stead home in the rooms that were once theirs, and also interweave these voices into the existing tour narrative more deeply and consciously throughout tours of the museum.

8. *Pratt House Culture Campus*
Essex Historical Society

EHS seeks to create a "Culture Campus" at Pratt House, expanding our capacity to host collaborative events, such as America's 250th in 2026. We seek to increase the underused site's public relevance by physically connecting it to the town park, adjacent to the Town Hall and Essex Library, by a wooded walk or 'campus connector', natural amphitheater for programs, converting a reproduction barn into a Welcome Center and installing handicap ramps into the house.

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Attachment C

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 D

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.

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Attachment E

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.

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Attachment F

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

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Attachment G

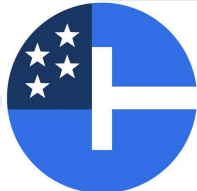
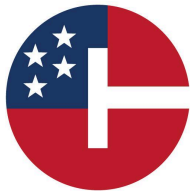
America 250 | CT Commission Brand Guidelines

Logo

America 250 | CT Logo



Small Scale



Color backgrounds



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	CMYK 18, 100, 91, 8 RGB 190, 30, 45 HEX #BE1E2D	CMYK 90, 48, 0, 0 RGB 51, 113, 231 HEX #3371E7
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Primary Color

Secondary Color

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](#).