

# AMERICA 250

## CONNECTICUT

### America 250 | CT Commission Education Subcommittee Meeting Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom Minutes

#### Attendees

##### Subcommittee

Steve Armstrong (Chair)  
Bilal Sekou (Co-Chair)  
Rebecca Taber  
Sally Whipple  
Ruth Torres  
Allison Rau  
Jenny (JHD) Heikkila Diaz  
Tony Roy  
Peter Moran  
Malik Champlain  
Matt Warshauer  
Jason Mancini

##### Staff

Cyndi Tolosa  
Mike Kemezis  
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 3:32 p.m.

#### 1. Welcome & Updates:

All present introduced themselves and shared a brief professional update.

Updates from C. Tolosa: Save the Date for the Commission's 2025 Conference: March 21, 2025 at the University of Connecticut. A call for proposals will be going out early the week of 11/4 and we encourage anyone who has an idea to submit a proposal. This will be a one-day conference with opening and closing keynote addresses, 4 tracks aligned with themes of the Commission and 3 breakout sessions per track. The conference will seek to include organizations centered around arts, culture, history, and tourism, as well as municipalities and education.

M. Warshauer also shared details of a conference which will be focused on Connecticut in 1775 that will have a history/museum/education focused. This conference will be in the spring, date to be determined.

M. Kemezis shared information on CTHistory.org licensing content through Creative Commons and ensuring open access to content.

#### 2. Education Resources [This section begins at 27:00 in the recording]

C. Tolosa shared that the [One-Pager](#) has been updated with feedback from the last subcommittee meeting. The one pager will be disseminated through CCSS and other organizations that work with teachers. S. Armstrong opened the floor for any final feedback. P. Moran shared a information on "Civics Education for Connecticut Students," which is a field trip program funded by the US Department of Education, for potential addition to the one pager.

C. Tolosa shared updates on the America 250 | CT Packet [Outline](#) and requested feedback on the outline, asked for interest in joining a working group to assist CTH staff in putting together the packet, and to share sources that folks feel should be included. Discussion on this project included:

- T. Roy recommended use of the new CCSS standards to guide an outline and pair each standard with a primary source.
- J. Mancini recommended broadening the outline to include bigger civics-based questions that tie back to the themes of the commission.

S. Armstrong requested that anyone who wishes to be included in the working group should contact C. Tolosa and R. Gonzalez.

3. Demographic Survey [Results](#) [This section begins at 37:00 in the recording]

C. Tolosa noted that the results from the commission's demographic survey have been released. There were some notable demographic gaps, including Hispanic/Latino and Asian Americans, so this is something that should be considered as the subcommittee moves forward with its work.

4. Youth Engagement [This section begins at 39:10 in the recording]

C. Tolosa shared that the demographic survey also highlighted that the Commission is lacking in youth engagement. Staff will be looking towards planning a convening of youth-serving organizations to engage with leaders and think about how the 250th can be woven into what they are doing in 2026, with the aim of getting students engaged in the 250th through organizations they are already involved with. The subcommittee reviewed the [Invitation List](#) and added some additional organizations.

Discussion on youth engagement included:

- B. Sekou recommending a connection with student governments
- Ensure that local committees are aware that students and teachers may be getting in touch and develop some resources for local committees to use

The meeting ended at 4:34.