

# AMERICA 250

## CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission  
**Community & Organizational Engagement Subcommittee Meeting**  
Tuesday, October 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.  
via Zoom  
Minutes

### Attendees

#### Subcommittee Members

Amrys Williams

Jonathan Slifka

Andy Horowitz

Margaret Khan

Liz Shapiro

Catherine Labadia

Merle McGee

### CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa

Scott Wands

Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at **2:05 p.m.**

#### 1. Welcome & Updates

- a. A. Williams shared a brief update from the New England Museum Association conference; there were some 250th-related sessions.
- b. S. Wands shared that CT Humanities recently had a grant deadline with 62 total applications, many of which had 250th connections.
- c. L. Shapiro shared that the Freedom Trail will be receiving some funds for 250th work from DECD/SHPO.
- d. M. Khan has been sharing information about local commissions with the CT Library Association and encouraging libraries to get involved in local committees.
- e. A. Williams shared that the CT League of Museums co-hosted an event with the State Historical Records Advisory Board at the Greenwich Historical Society to aid organizations in finding ways to tell new Revolutionary era stories using archives.

#### 2. Confirm 2025 Meeting Schedule

##### **Community & Organizational Engagement Subcommittee Draft Schedule**

Thursday, February 13, 2025 – 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Thursday, May 8, 2025 – 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Thursday, August 14, 2025 – 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Thursday, November 13, 2025 – 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

##### **Alternate Draft Schedule**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 - 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 - 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 - 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 - 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

A. Williams requested feedback on proposed draft schedules. There were no strong preferences among the subcommittee; but a slight preference for Tuesdays. 2025 meetings will follow the Alternate Draft Schedule.

3. Local Committee Meeting - 11/26

a. Brainstorm: [Programming ideas](#) to embrace themes

C. Tolosa shared the format of local committee meetings, which begin with 15 minutes of updates and information from Commission staff, followed by a 15 minute presentation from a local committee, and concluding with 15 minutes for discussion and questions. For the 11/26 meeting, town committees requested assistance with tying programming into the Commission's themes. Subcommittee members brainstormed ideas to share, including:

- Open up a discussion of who is on each town's committee - organizations they represent, demographics
- Civics scavenger hunt
- Civics hack-a-thon
- 250th themed storytelling day (along the lines of StoryCorps or Moth Radio Hour)
- Posters on "what freedom means" for students - hang at town hall or libraries
- Haikus, videos of original songs
- Cooking class - 1776 or cultural
- Committees meet with teens at local youth center to get their ideas
- Kids interview librarians/adults about what the town was like and/or vice versa on what the kids want to see the town look like in the future
- Community meal/potluck
- Town cookbook/contribute to state cookbook
- Some sort of town wide display/exhibit
- Poster board in town hall and/or libraries - sticky notes & pens and invite people who come into spaces to share ideas; take pictures and share out via email lists/social media
- Some sort of "race/contest" to share ideas with CTH - first x number gets a grant
- Favorite book that represents freedom/the American dream/etc
- Put together kit - sticky notes & markers for towns - we can give them out to make it special/easier for towns to do
- Statewide social media tag to share what towns are doing in the state and/or weekly e-blast
- Find ways to fully explain/get people engaged in AASLH programming handbook

4. 2025 Goal Setting & Action Plan

a. Review [accomplishments & goals](#) and set plans for 2025

C. Tolosa asked that the subcommittee review the document outlining 2024 accomplishments and 2025 goals to confirm that all accomplishments are included and the goals are what the subcommittee would like them to be. Feedback included:

- Clarify what collateral would be loaned out to local committees
- Ensure that we are encouraging local organizations and town committees to embrace the four themes of the commission

5. Other Business - None to discuss

The meeting ended at **3:15 p.m.**