

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission Affiliate Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Notes

[Recording on YouTube](#)

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Meetings will be hosted quarterly & will seek to share resources with affiliate organizations.
 - b. 40 affiliate representatives logged into this meeting.
 - c. All representatives briefly introduced themselves and shared their organization's ideas for the commemoration. Introductions can be viewed in the first 30 minutes of the recording, as well as in the [meeting chat](#). Some ideas included:
 - i. Building or refreshing memorials or gravesites
 - ii. Showcasing CT "makers"
 - iii. Incorporating Commission's 4 themes in existing programming/events
 - iv. Developing exhibitions tied to themes
 - v. Collaborating with organizations within a town to tell stories
 - vi. Use the commemoration to discuss how our communities remember historical events & explore lesser-told stories

2. "Shaping a Commemoration Rooted in Belonging"
 - a. March 21, 2025, UConn Storrs
 - b. Call for Proposals due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, January 15
 - c. Registration will open on or around Feb 1 - hope to see you there!
 - d. Registration will be \$25-30 per person to offset food and parking costs, with scholarships available for any who need them

3. [Resources Page](#)
 - a. Bookmark this page for future access - it is not publicly available on the website.
 - b. Please submit any 250th-related programming, exhibitions, events, etc. to our Community Calendar - use [the form](#) linked from this page (abbreviated from publicly accessible form)
 - i. Items will be included on the calendar on the website & promoted on the Commission's social media as space allows
 - c. Please review [branding guidelines](#) and use the affiliate logo on any 250th programming - projects funded by CTH will receive additional information on branding from Grants staff
 - i. Questions on branding - info@ct250.org
 - d. [CT Humanities Grants](#) link will take you to comprehensive granting info
 - e. [Funding Opportunities](#) lists off grant lines, etc that we are aware of - will be updated as we learn of more opportunities
 - f. Recordings of these meetings will also be shared via this page in the future
 - g. For programming, education, etc. resources, visit the general "resources" page

4. [AASLH Program Handbook](#)
 - a. Available online; hard copy has been mailed to all affiliates as well

- b. AASLH has also made additional resources available to guide organizations in evaluating their program ideas and plan for the 250th. CTH and the Commission will be sharing these with the first resource, a strategy screen, available now.
 - c. [Strategy Screen](#)
 - d. We will be holding a workshop on using the program guide to plan for your 250th events on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 19 - please save the date!
 - e. The commission has also created a resource to aid in developing inclusive programs, that can be used in tandem with the strategy screen:
<https://ct250.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Planning-Guide-IDEA.pdf>
5. 2025 Goals for the Commission
- a. As we move into 2025, the commission hopes to highlight affiliates and local committees in as many ways as possible including in organizational and event spotlights on social media, inclusion in press releases when possible, and participation in opportunities to table at events
 - i. Please fill out your [social media form](#) if you have not done so
 - ii. Please remember to add your events
 - iii. If you would ever like commission information for a tabling opportunity, please let us know. We are developing a kit that organizations can borrow with some 250th swag and branded materials
 - b. We will continue to expand the affiliate program and hope you will participate in these quarterly gatherings. We hope to have at least one in-person gathering as well.
 - c. As we look ahead to reporting on 2025 and 2026 events and programs, we will be sharing a form to collect data such as attendance numbers, demographics, and any feedback on your programs. We will use this information within our annual report to the Governor to highlight the depth and breadth of activities in the state.
6. Volunteer Needs Brainstorm - National Day of Service
- a. Two Lights for Tomorrow - April 18 and 19, 2025
 - i. 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington & Concord - display 2 lights at your organization on April 18 & a day of service on April 19.
 - b. Future national days of service: September 11 and Martin Luther King Day
 - c. We are hoping to partner with the United Way or another partner to match organizations and individuals for volunteer projects. As part of that, we are looking for ideas for projects that might be helpful to recommend when we put out a call later this month. Ideas for projects that may need volunteers:
 - i. Clean-up of grounds
 - ii. Gravestone cleaning
 - iii. Spring garden planting
 - d. If there are other local organizations that you would consider partnering with on this type of project, please let us know so that we can have alternative partners in mind