

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Education Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom
Minutes

[Watch Recording](#)

Attendees

Subcommittee

Steve Armstrong (Chair)
Bilal Sekou (Co-Chair)
Allison Norrie
Elizabeth Devine
Danielle Johnson
Tracey Wilson
Ruth Garby Torres
Jenny Heikkila Diaz
Daisha Brabham
Allison Rau
Tony Roy

Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Mike Kemezis
Misa Giroux
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at **3:32 p.m.**

1. Welcome & Updates
 - a. Cyndi Tolosa shared updates on the upcoming commission conference scheduled for March 21, 2025. The program is almost set and will include sessions for educators. Other upcoming conferences hosted by other organizations are at Central Connecticut State University on 2/8 and a conference in September hosted by CT Explored which currently has an open call for papers.
 - b. On the national level, a call with the America 250 Commission is scheduled for 1/29; staff will be able to share updates after that meeting.
2. America 250 | CT Educator Packet - [Draft](#)
 - a. Misa Giroux, Digital Humanities Education Manager at CT Humanities, shared a draft lesson plan for an eighth grade class and discussion questions to help refine to create a template for additional lessons for third, fifth, and high school.

Discussion Questions:

- i. Are the goals of the educational materials clear?
- ii. Are the educational materials provided appropriate for the suggested grade level?
- iii. Are the resources provided best? Are there any gaps in content that should be addressed by an additional resource?
- iv. Are students being asked to engage with one or more of the themes of America250 in Connecticut?

- b. Recommendations from the subcommittee to incorporate for the final draft included:
 - i. Adding various graphic organizers that can be easily printed
 - ii. Include primary sources
 - iii. Consider publishing a PDF of the lesson, but also Google Doc and Microsoft Word versions to enable teachers to easily post individual worksheets on their virtual classroom, make updates as needed for their own students, etc
 - iv. Prioritize selected standards based on what's relevant to the lesson plan
 - v. Include an activating question at the beginning of the lesson which connects the themes/content to today
 - vi. Try to frame subject of the lesson to ensure students can contextualize in the time period (i.e., Hannah Bunce Watson is an example of a woman who was a trailblazer; it was unusual for women to be in a role like this at the time)
 - c. An additional recommendation was made to prioritize providing professional development. S. Armstrong offered for the State Department of Education to partner with CT Humanities to offer this professional development.
3. Youth-Serving Organizations Convening(s)
- a. C. Tolosa shared updated plans for connecting with youth serving organizations. Staff will be scheduling small group calls to discuss the 250th with these organizations and see how they can incorporate the themes of the 250th in their programming.
4. Other Business as Needed
- a. S. Armstrong recommended offering some tips to town committees on how to work with students - a potential topic for a future town committee meeting.

The meeting ended at **4:29 p.m.**