

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Affiliate Meeting
Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom
Meeting Notes

[Watch the Recording](#)

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Commission Updates

- a. [Next Commission Meeting](#): 7/16/25, 10:00 a.m. at Manchester History Center: All are welcome to join, either in person or remotely via the [YouTube livestream](#).
- b. [Affiliate Spotlight Form](#): Please submit this if you have not already done so! We try to highlight one affiliate per week on social media.
- c. [Submit 250th Events](#): Please submit any of your upcoming events that tie in to the Revolution and/or the themes of the commission. These don't need to be just about 1776! [Themes: Power of Place, Tell Inclusive Stories, For the Common Good, Doing History]
- d. [Spread the Word](#): If you know other organizations that might be interested in becoming involved, please invite them to apply to become an affiliate!
- e. [Education Curriculum](#): The commission will be publishing curriculum materials tied to the new CT Social Studies standards at the end of this month, and hosting a professional development session for teachers. More information on the session & registration is available [here](#). Curriculum content will also be downloadable from the website.
- f. [National Updates](#): The national commission and White House Task Force are planning several initiatives, and Connecticut's commission will continue to convey those plans to affiliates. Organizations discussed the political implications of the 250th given the current polarized climate. It was noted that organizations are not required to participate in any specific initiative, and that the CT commission encourages organizations to plan programming connected to the four themes of our state's commemoration.

3. Discussion

In the interest of time & since the group in the meeting was not too large, it was decided to stay together in the main meeting room for discussion. Discussion topics included:

- Key dates for commemorative events
 - Discovering Amistad can bring their ship to coastal places throughout the state and participate in planned programming (Stamford, Bridgeport, New Haven, New London, Mystic, Norwalk, Norwich, and depending on the CT River levels,

- Middletown & Hartford) - Contact Chris Menapace to discuss bringing to your area - c_menapace@discoveringamistad.org
- Hartford is planning a festival for July 1-5, 2026
 - Ridgefield has a [calendar of events](#) throughout the year
 - Amrys from CT League of Museums & a member of the state commission shared that the hope is for events to occur throughout the state, throughout the year - the commission hopes to provide a platform to share events statewide and raise awareness of what individual organizations and communities have planned.
 - The American Legion/VFW statewide group is planning for monthly programs and partnering with organizations, as well as encouraging local groups to work with committees in their area.
 - What the state commission can do to better serve organizations
 - Assistance in getting Connecticut VIPs to events - Please submit any programming (events, exhibits, etc) to the community calendar [via this form](#) - commissioners & staff refer to this when sharing events with media, VIP requests, etc.
 - Develop/provide a Connecticut timeline of the year 1776 - information on our signers, etc.
 - Ridgefield's website has a timeline which spans the Revolution & separates out national events from those centered in Connecticut/Ridgefield - this is available [here](#).
 - Plans for exhibits tied to the 250th
 - The Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library is planning an exhibit & looking for artifacts from around the state to supplement their collection; related to this, there will be a discussion on July 17 between the State Librarian and State Historian.
 - Discovering Amistad is redesigning their Long Wharf exhibit, as well as the exhibit on their ship. They also have planned a traveling version of the exhibit to connect with places that the ship can't go.
 - Connecticut Museum of Culture & History is planning an exhibit for April through November 2026, looking at the meaning/interpretation/promise of the phrase "the pursuit of happiness," as well as how Connecticut residents have connected with the ideals of the Declaration of Independence throughout the years
 - Other places: Fairfield Museum, Litchfield Historical Society
 - Links & Resources Shared:
 - [National Archive's "100 Documents"](#) - vote on the most important documents in US history
 - CT League of Museum's [Awards of Merit](#) - nominations are now open
 - Many projects that are being discussed are CTH funded and included on the [CT250 website](#)
 - WPAA TV has produced a book about Moses Y. Beach aligned with 5th grade standards - [Information here](#)

Helpful Links

[Affiliate Resource Page](#)
[Facebook Group for CT Organizers](#)
[250th Planning Workshop](#)
[AASLH 250th Planning Handbook](#)