

# AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission

## Affiliate Meeting

Wednesday, January 28 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

### Meeting Notes

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry5xhugVFBk>

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Cyndi Tolosa opened the meeting and invited new attendees to introduce themselves; several newer affiliate organizations were present and shared brief updates of their plans.

#### 2. Commission Updates & Reminders

- a. Annual Report - 2025: The 2025 Annual Report to the Governor was presented at last week's state commission meeting and will be shared out once it has been finalized.
- b. Regional Gatherings for planners:
  - i. The state commission is planning gatherings for affiliate and municipal planners, based on Councils of Government, in the March 3 - 12 timeframe. Please visit the link to see when and where your area's gathering is planned, and RSVP to let us know you will be attending.
  - ii. The state commission will be hosting Northeast Regional 250th planners to Ridgefield on April 13, 2026. More details to come.
- c. Local History Project: Educators, historical societies, municipal planners, and museums are invited to work with students on local history projects. The commission has started a recognition program for participating students.
- d. Other participation opportunities: Organizations and municipalities are invited to participate in nationwide programs that have been spearheaded by other states, including America's Potluck on July 5 and The Spirit of America on July 8. Additional events and details are available at the link. Connecticut's commission will be participating in The Spirit of America in partnership with the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale.
- e. Newsroom: We are updating our newsroom page with articles about 250th happenings in Connecticut - feel free to check in to see what's happening around the state and share articles about your work if they aren't already listed.
- f. National Updates
  - i. Federal grants survey: Commission representatives have been in touch with Connecticut's federal legislators, who have offered to assist as they can with any federal granting issues. If your organization has pending federal grant funds or an application which has been rejected, please submit the form at the link

- ii. [Connecticut's relationship with national](#): The linked page includes details about the state commission's relationship with the national America250 commission.
- iii. Sublicensing [Information](#) and [Agreement](#): The national America250 commission owns their logo and the wordmark of "America250/America 250." Affiliates and municipalities wishing to use the national logo or phrase on their programming must have in place a sublicensing agreement with America 250 | CT; the logo and phrase **may not** be used for commercial purposes with or without a sublicensing agreement. Organizations hoping to sell merchandise, tickets, etc., or who do not wish to sign the agreement should use alternative phrasing to America250 - approved alternatives are included on the information page.

- g. [Affiliate Spotlight Form](#): Affiliates are invited to complete this form to be featured on the commission's social media pages.
- h. [Submit 250th Events](#): Please share your events with us! Events are uploaded to the calendar at least weekly, and are shared via a monthly events e-news and other platforms.
- i. [Spread the Word](#): Please share the linked flyer with organizations who may wish to join the affiliate program.
- j. Poll - Would you like to be added to the monthly call commission staff holds with municipal planners? Respond to [info@ct250.org](mailto:info@ct250.org) and we will forward the invitation.

There was some conversation about sublicensing and America250 merchandise. Danielle from Bevin Bells was able to share that their company holds a license to sell branded merchandise as the only U.S. bell manufacturer. She may be reached at [Danielle@bevinbells.com](mailto:Danielle@bevinbells.com) for those who would like information on partnering with them.

### 3. Breakouts by Interest

- a. Youth Programming & Engagement
- b. Large-scale Event/Festival Planning
- c. Connecting "Regular" Programming to the Themes
- d. Marketing

### 4. Report Out

Representatives provided brief updates of their breakout conversations. Of note, Elizabeth Lamont shared an opportunity to partner with social media content creators here: <https://ctcollab.com/>.

### Helpful Links

#### Event Calendar

- [Event Calendar](#)
- Event Bulk Submission (For affiliates & municipalities only): [Google Sheets](#) or [Excel](#)
- [Commission Events](#) (now includes national initiatives)

#### **Commission's Network**

- [Affiliate Resource Page](#)
- [Private Facebook group](#) for planners (municipal & affiliate)
- [Local Commission Listing](#)

#### **Funding Resources**

- [Federal Grants](#)
- [CT Humanities Grants](#)
- [Funding Resources](#)

#### **Planning Resources**

- AASLH [Field Guide](#) and [Programming Guide](#)
- [Recording from Planning Workshop](#)
- [2025 Conference Recordings](#)
- [Classifieds Board](#) - to share/find services for your programming
- [Media Checklist](#)

#### **Education Resources**

- Educator [Curriculum](#)
- [Local History Project](#)
- [Flyer](#) for education resources