

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Education Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs4y3_tlbMo

Attendees

Subcommittee

Stephen Armstrong, Chair
Bilal Sekou, Co-Chair
Allison Norrie
James Dowling-Healey
Jason Mancini
Rebecca Taber
Ruth Torres
Daisha Brabham
Danielle Johnson
Jenny Heikkila Diaz

Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Khalil Quotap
Misa Giroux
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 3:33 p.m.

1. Welcome & Updates

Steve Armstrong opened the meeting and Cyndi Tolosa gave a brief update on the commission's work since the last subcommittee meeting as well as upcoming events and plans.

Danielle Johnson shared how she is working with the Bristol 250th committee and her own students on local history projects. Rebecca Taber how the Connecticut History Day prompt is connected to the 250th and will be sharing projects after the program concludes.

Jason Mancini shared an update on funding for the state commission.

2. America 250 | CT Educator Resources

- a. [Updated resources page](#)
- b. [Local history project recognition program](#)
- c. Recent webinar/reminder of past PD
- d. Everyday Democracy Webinar

S. Armstrong proposed content-based webinars for teachers and requested feedback. After discussion, S. Armstrong and Bilal Sekou will connect to develop a strategy that comes via the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies. D. Johnson volunteered to be involved in some way; the subcommittee at large will be looped in when more details are available. C. Tolosa shared the America 250 | CT Commission planning guide, which can serve as a jumping off point for ideas to connect other areas of history to the 250th themes. There was discussion on ways to share the invitation to any future webinars to a wider audience.

C. Tolosa reviewed the resources listed on the agenda and requested assistance with sharing out the commission's local history project recognition program. A recording of the recent webinar will be shared, and on February 11 the commission will be co-hosting a webinar with Everyday Democracy on their "Our Next 250" dinner & dialogues program.

B. Sekou suggested featuring some work educators are already doing on the website to increase engagement; D. Johnson is willing to participate in this in some way.

3. National Programs

- a. [America's Field Trip](#) - 2026 contest open now - [flyer to share](#)
- b. [My America](#)

C. Tolosa reminded the group of America's Field Trip, which closes soon. Connecticut has had second place winners in the past but has not had a first place winner to date. Connecticut educators are also invited to participate in the "My America" project, which is creating a mosaic of the American flag with fabric squares decorated by students around the country. Educators may register free of charge.

4. Other business as needed

No other business.

The meeting ended at 4:14 p.m.