

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Community & Organizational Engagement Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/live/gNJOARdCURO>

Attendees

Subcommittee
Amrys Williams
Margaret Khan
Catherine Labadia
Merle McGee
Tom Scanlon
Melvette Hill
Liz Shapiro

CTH Staff
Cyndi Tolosa
Rachel Gonzalez
Scott Wands

The meeting started at 1:05 p.m.

1. Welcome & Updates
 - a. [Affiliate/Local Committee Gatherings](#)
 - b. [Our Next 250 Webinar](#)

Amrys Williams opened the meeting with an overview of upcoming affiliate & local committee gatherings, which are organized by Council of Government region and will take place in early March. Cyndi Tolosa shared that the goal of these gatherings will be to connect organizations and local committees and give them an opportunity to discuss their programs and ways to collaborate. Subcommittee members & commissioners are welcome to attend. Most of those who have registered to date indicated they would like to discuss programming and marketing. Subcommittee members are invited to share with their networks to publicize as appropriate. Tom Scanlon will share with the Office of the Governor to see if representatives are able to attend one or more gatherings.

Merle McGee shared an update on Our Next 250, which is a project that Everyday Democracy is developing, intended to engage individuals in civic conversation. A toolkit is in development, and there will be a webinar tomorrow, February 13, which . Their goal is to schedule many of these conversations during Civic Season (Juneteenth through July 4). A. Williams noted that the Connecticut League of Museum's conference theme this year is "The Next 250" and invited Everyday Democracy to submit a session proposal. C. Tolosa noted that this project will make it easy for organizations to participate. Subcommittee members were sent the graphic marketing this webinar to share with their networks.

2. Outreach Plan
 - a. [Affiliate Program](#) - who's missing?
 - b. [Local Committees](#)
 - c. Upcoming conferences/programs to attend

C. Tolosa shared the list of current affiliates, and requested review to find any gaps or organizations which subcommittee members have a relationship with that are not yet involved. There was discussion of recruitment strategies, organizations which might be interested, and the appropriate messaging to use.

Discussion of local committees was tabled, as a recent mailing to town CEOs has brought in a good number of new contacts.

C. Tolosa shared that staff will be tabling at the Connecticut Library Association conference in late April and potentially will be participating in an event with the Central Connecticut Tourism District. A. Williams encouraged the commission to attend the Connecticut League of Museums conference in June. C. Tolosa asked that subcommittee members share opportunities if they know of them, as well as an indication of the type of content that would be needed for that audience.

3. Great American State Fair

The Great American State Fair is taking place in Washington, D.C., June 25 - July 10. All states have been invited to have a presence and fill a 30'x30' pavilion. More details to come as to exactly how Connecticut will participate, but C. Tolosa encouraged subcommittee members to consider what items might be appropriate to include.

4. Other Business

None shared.

The meeting ended at 2:03 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.