

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Education Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDvPV3w8DME>

Attendees

Subcommittee

Stephen Armstrong, Chair
Bilal Sekou, Co-Chair
James Dowling-Healey
Rebecca Taber
Danielle Federowicz
Kathy Hermes
Jenny Heikila Diaz

Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Khalil Quotap
Misa Giroux
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 3:34 p.m.

1. Welcome & Updates

Stephen Armstrong opened with a recap of what the subcommittee has accomplished over the past year, including presentations at conferences, and webinars. Bilal Sekou echoed that the subcommittee has accomplished a lot with the available resources.

2. America 250 | CT Educator Resources

- a. [Local history project recognition program](#) - closed for 2025/2026, will open again for fall

Cyndi Tolosa shared the certificate with the governor's signature that will be sent to students whose teachers submitted their names as participants in a local history project. This program will continue in the fall. She also requested any feedback from subcommittee members on what resources may have been helpful to share with their colleagues. Danielle Federowicz shared that she used the resources the subcommittee/CT Humanities developed and customized them specifically for Bristol.

- b. Upcoming webinars

Steve Armstrong shared information on the webinar series he is running with the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies. There is potential for additional webinars in late summer or the fall, including one by D. Federowicz pending a professional development opportunity. Rebecca Taber shared that Connecticut's Old State House will be hosting a webinar with Mount Vernon 250 in September.

The subcommittee transitioned to discussion of the fall and the level of interest in the 250th after July 4. C. Tolosa shared that many municipalities are planning their main 250th events for the fall, and others concurred that it will still be of interest. Allison Norrie requested potential civics content for the fall, versus U.S. History based content that is now available. Kathy Hermes

requested information about Generation Citizens' upcoming civics day on May 20 in Connecticut, and R. Taber provided brief additional information.

K. Hermes noted that Connecticut Explored has an opportunity for an advertisement in the fall to promote continued engagement in the 250th. R. Taber offered to send any information to the Connecticut History Day network.

3. National Programs

- a. [America's Field Trip](#) - 2026 contest closed & winners will be announced in early June

C. Tolosa shared that America250's America's Field Trip contest has closed and winners will be announced next month - there is expected to be at least one winner from each state, and there was at least one judge from Hartford Public Schools.

- b. [My America](#)

C. Tolosa reminded the group of this free opportunity to participate in a nationwide project. D. Federowicz shared that her students participated.

4. Discussion

- a. Upcoming materials from the commission

C. Tolosa shared that State Historian Andy Horowitz has worked with the Department of Transportation and students at UConn to develop a series of posters about Connecticut stories and artifacts. Those posters will be publicly posted around the state at rest areas, and will also be available for download and free use. Additionally, the statewide traveling exhibition will be available soon for organizations and municipalities to utilize and a passport featuring sites around the state will soon be published.

S. Armstrong requested an overview of plans for July 4th; C. Tolosa provided an update on the commission's plans in Hartford and the national America250 commission's plans for America's Block Party.

- b. What additional resources will be needed for Fall 2026?

No specific items noted beyond what was discussed earlier in the meeting.

5. Other business as needed

K. Hermes shared that Connecticut Explored will be publishing 250th resources tied to the four themes of the commission, which she hopes will be helpful to educators. Pending availability, she may be able to have a limited number copies available to schools free of charge.

The meeting ended at 4:02 p.m.