

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission

Affiliate Meeting

Wednesday, July 22 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Notes

Recording: https://youtu.be/dw5Q6WmG_ig

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Commission Updates & Reminders

Cyndi Tolosa shared some updates from the last couple of months, including:

- The commission exceeded its affiliate goal, with a final count of 260 approved affiliate organizations.
- 250inCT.com will continue to be live; please continue submitting events.
 - [CT Visit](#) - [Webinar](#) on adding events
- Many museums helped encourage educators and students to participate in a [Local History Project](#) - 182 students participated and received certificates signed by the Governor and Commission Chair Denise Merrill
- July 4 was a busy day for the commission in Hartford, including a ceremony recommitting to the ideals of the Declaration in the morning and Hartford Bonanza in the afternoon, which was unfortunately rained out during the headlining concert & prior to the fireworks. The commission also participated in a reading of the Declaration at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library on July 8.
- If your organization applied for an affiliate stipend, those have all been processed. If you have not received your stipend, please get in touch. Those organizations who have accepted a stipend are reminded to please utilize sponsor signage (information at www.ct250.org/signage) and submit your final report of 2026 activities via the form [here](#). A template to gather data is available on the linked page as well. Reports will be used to build the commission's comprehensive final report to the Governor & legislature, and will be used to help develop a roadmap for Connecticut's 400th anniversary in 2036.
- A reminder that if your organization wishes to use the phrase "America250," per the national America250 commission you must have a fully executed sublicensing agreement on file for non-commercial use. Submit your agreement to info@ct250.org for processing if you have not already done so.
 - Sublicensing [Information](#) and [Agreement](#)
- Submit an [Affiliate Spotlight Form](#) if you'd like your organization to be featured on the commission's social media.

3. Affiliates gave updates on their 250th projects, including:

- Rain Daugherty shared that New London will be hosting a signing of the recommitment for their designee, and has the CT Maritime Heritage Festival coming up in September.
- Michael Morand shared that New Haven has had some recent events, and that the New Haven Museum has a 250 exhibit on view now. The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library has their original copy of the Declaration on view now through September and hosted their annual reading of the Declaration and other documents on July 8.

- Jennifer Matos shared that the Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library recently opened their “Connecticut’s Revolution” exhibit, which will remain on view through June 2027.
- David Wold shared that the Sons of the American Revolution Branch #11 participated in and encouraged other organizations to participate in readings of the Declaration. They have also participated in educational and Liberty Tree initiatives.
- Allison Smith shared that Mystic Seaport Museum has been presenting America 250 themed programs throughout the summer and have additional programs upcoming.
- Erin LoMonaco shared that the Connecticut River Museum’s July 4 boat parade was almost triple its typical size.
- Elizabeth Ross-Norman shared that Opera Connecticut presented a free concert inspired by an abolitionist.

Helpful Links

Event Calendar

- [Event Calendar](#) [This is no longer being updated, but is still active until all events are migrated]
- [CT Visit Calendar](#)
- [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