

Arizona America250 Commission

Civic Engagement, Education & Community Service Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025

1. Call to order and roll call.

Chair Tighe called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Paul Tighe, Chair
KaRa Lyn Thrasher
Megan Hammond
Shawnte Rothschild

Dawn Wallace, Vice Chair
Andy Price
Colleen Coons

Glenn Carson
Hannah Rude
Troy Campbell

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Tracey Benson
Tim Carter
Christina Spicer

Shannon Roberts
Sharon Doyle

Tara Bartlett
Leah Landrum Taylor

Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Walker

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Jhenifer Shipe
Jay McCall

Neil Giuliano

Jackie Norton

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from October 24, 2024, and December 2, 2024.

MOTION Approval of draft minutes as written. Andy Price motioned, Hannah Rude seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion, possible action, and report from the Executive Director

a. Traveling Museum

The Traveling Museum is scheduled for its first official stop in Prescott on February 14. Subcommittee members are invited to the send-off ceremony on February 13 at the Polly Rosenbaum State Archives and History Building. Executive Director Terech shared

renderings of the interior and exterior of the vehicle. Tour stops are finalized, with more than 30 sites across 15 counties; the list of stops is available at: <https://www.america250az.org/initiatives/>.

b. Dougherty Foundation Scholarship

A press release for the Civics Legacy Semiquincentennial Scholarship went out earlier in the day. The scholarship will support Arizona students, and more information is available at: <https://doughertyfoundation.academicworks.com/opportunities/329>.

c. 5 C's Art Exhibition and volunteer recognition

"America at 250 – Uncovering the Five C's Through Art," a signature America250 Arizona event focused on the five C's of Arizona, will take place on February 3. All subcommittee members have been invited, and the RSVP link is available through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opening-reception-america-at-250-uncovering-the-five-cs-through-art-tickets-1980133279944>

d. Operation Freedom March

Operation Freedom March invites participants to complete sections of the Arizona Trail as part of a Military and Veterans Subcommittee initiative that is open to everyone. Additional information is available at: <https://aztrail.org/events/operation-freedom-march/>.

e. Historic Preservation Youth Council

The Historic Preservation Youth Council recently launched, and there is interest in seeing the council continue beyond the America250 Arizona celebrations.

f. Passport250

The Passport250 list is complete and available at azpassport250.com.

g. National initiatives

Laura highlighted two national initiatives:

America's Field Trip – A nationwide contest inviting students in grades 3–12 to share what America means to them as part of the nation's 250th anniversary, with a chance to earn memorable field trips to historic and cultural landmarks.

MY AMERICA – A nationwide, youth-driven art and civic engagement campaign to honor the past, reflect on the present, and inspire the future through artistic expression, civic action, and public commemoration. Arizona is currently leading in MY AMERICA submissions, which will be combined into a large mosaic American flag made up of thousands of tiles featuring messages, drawings, and poems from young people in all 50 states.

4. Updates, discussion, and possible action on projects and initiatives related to civics engagement, education, and community service in honor of the Semiquincentennial.

a. Cardinals Civics Summit wrap-up

Chair Tighe reported that the Cardinals Civics Summit was very well attended and well organized, with thousands of students participating. It was considered a great success as the first event of its kind, and the expectation is that it will become a continuing tradition.

b. Read250

The Read250 initiative has launched, and demand has been strong enough that another run of bookmarks is planned. In partnership with the State Library & Archives and Arizona public libraries, Arizonans of all ages are encouraged to read 25 books or 250 minutes in 2026, with prizes including bookmarks, stickers, and other giveaways.

c. “Dear America, Love Arizona” postcard campaign

Requests for “Dear America, Love Arizona” classroom postcard toolkits have been very high; within three days, the initial run of 5,000 postcards was fully requested. Additional funding has been secured to print more postcards and continue the initiative. The Arizona America250 Commission is offering classrooms a free, ready-to-use activity that encourages students to reflect on what they love about Arizona and their hopes for the nation’s future. Subcommittee members suggested that completed postcards be preserved in the State Archives or placed in a time capsule.

d. Vote250

Vote250 aims to support voter registration efforts, with a goal of 250 organizations or individuals hosting voter registration drives by 2026. Toolkits with all necessary information are available on the Commission’s website for anyone interested in hosting a drive.

e. Partnership initiatives with the Arizona Department of Education

Hannah Rude reported that the Arizona Department of Education has been working on multiple initiatives tied to Arizona history and America250 Arizona. The Department is still awaiting confirmation that schools may use the America250 Arizona logo on diplomas. The Department stands ready to support and help promote events and voter registration drives, and there is an America250 Arizona toolkit that is available broadly and is also distributed to teachers.

f. Community outreach and connecting with community service organizations

Colleen Coons introduced Leo Lawrenson from southern Arizona Rotary. Rotary has logged 98 active service projects toward a goal of 250, and this information will be shared with Executive Director Terech to add to the community calendar. An event is planned in Mesa on May 1 to celebrate America250 and Mesa-area service projects. Troy Campbell from the Interact district shared that they have a conference in February, where he will promote America250 Arizona.

g. “Day of the Volunteer” recognition and proclamation at state and municipal levels

The subcommittee is continuing to explore ways to honor volunteers through a “Day of the Volunteer” recognition or proclamation at the state and municipal levels. Members noted that more information will be shared as April and May approach and invited additional ideas in the meantime. Colleen Coons suggested that the May 1 Rotary event could be an appropriate launch point for this recognition effort.

h. Share-out from subcommittee members on additional events for possible promotion and co-branding

- Dawn Wallace inquired whether any America250 Arizona activities currently involve student government across the state, noting that on January 29–30 her child will attend the STUCO state conference, which gathers student councils from across Arizona. She offered to obtain a contact to explore potential collaboration. Members also discussed opportunities to engage student athletes and suggested outreach to the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) to see if it could incorporate America250 Arizona; Chair Tighe indicated he believes AIA would be receptive and offered to introduce Executive Director Terech to the AIA executive director. Additional ideas included working with National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society chapters.
- On February 17, KaRa Lyn Thrasher will attend the Youth250: Our Declaration event in Pennsylvania to represent Arizona’s work and collaborate with peers from across the country on Generation Z’s vision for the future. She noted there will be media opportunities and that she will ensure Arizona remains prominent in her conversations.

5. Public Comment.

No members of the public requested to speak.

6. Adjournment.

Chair Tighe adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m