

**Arizona America250 Commission**  
*Arts, Museums and Cultural Institutions*  
*Subcommittee Virtually via Zoom*  
**Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2026**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Anna Needham, Chair, Jeannette Holverson, Julianne Cheng, Caitlin Dichter

**SUBCOMMITTEE ATTENDEES NOT PRESENT:**

Bonnie Humphrey, Beverly Elliott, Jeannette Holverson, Sandra Kory, Jeffrey Lazos Ferns  
Kelly Paisley, Wylwyn Reyes

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Verlon Jose; Ashley Harder; Evan Kory; Jessica Lewis

1. **Call to order, roll call, and welcome.** Chair Anna Needham called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. and staff conducted roll call.
2. **Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from January 29, 2026**  
The Subcommittee considered approval of the January 29, 2026, and February 26, 2026, meeting minutes. Caitlin Dichter moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Julianne Cheng and passed unanimously.
3. **Arts and Culture Projects for the Semiquincentennial**
  - a. **Stories250/TheirStory activations for oral history collection.**  
Members discussed ongoing participation in “Moments That Made Us” and the Stories250/TheirStory oral history initiative, noting that the Commission was an early adopter of this national project. Executive Director Laura Terech led a discussion on how to further promote TheirStory and suggested sharing the TheirStory link: [https://theirstory.io/America250/arizona/s/g19iG0t7e\\_/solo](https://theirstory.io/America250/arizona/s/g19iG0t7e_/solo) with everyone who has submitted an event to the statewide community calendar.  
Executive Director Terech reported she would prepare a flyer with a QR code to promote public art and story-collection opportunities. Members were informed that “Our American Story” will be in Arizona at the Oak Creek Arts and Crafts Show this Saturday and at the March 30 Road to 250 Traveling Museum stop at Navajo Technical University, Chinle Campus in Chinle, Arizona, where attendees may record stories in person.
  - b. **Public art projects.**  
The Subcommittee discussed the potential to structure a small grant program for arts and culture projects, noting that funds may be available because the Traveling Museum is not extending its run. Members noted the concept is under review with the fiscal sponsor to determine available funding, with interest in launching a grant application in mid-July for a 4–6-week or rolling period and exploring including a

poet laureate at late-summer Traveling Museum stops with prepared America250-related work.

- c. **Member share out on additional arts and culture projects throughout the state.** Julianne Cheng shared information about [AZ Speaks through Arizona Humanities](#), noting that the application remains open.

Jeannette Holverson shared that the Phippen Museum Junior Wrangler children’s workshops will take place on the first Saturdays in April and May, featuring art projects and learning about railway systems for approximately 15–20 children ages 3–15.

#### **4. Subcommittee Chair Transition**

A motion was made by Jeannette Holverson to appoint Caitlin Dichter as the temporary Chair of the Arts, Museums & Cultural Institutions Subcommittee due to Chair Anna Needham’s need to depart the call.

The motion was seconded by Julianne Cheng and passed unanimously; Caitlin assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **5. Discussion, possible action, and report from Executive Director.**

##### **a. Arizona initiatives.**

Executive Director Terech reported that the “5 C’s” art expo at the Flinn Foundation remains open through June and recommended calling 602-744-6800 in advance to ensure all exhibition areas are accessible.

She updated members on the “Dear America, Love Arizona” postcard campaign, noting more than 26,000 postcards were mailed statewide and that approximately 40,000 completed postcards are ultimately expected when including those collected at the Traveling Museum; organizations interested in displaying completed postcards were invited to contact her.

Executive Director Terech also highlighted a recent issue of the [Journal of Arizona History published by the Arizona Historical Society](#) as a resource connected to America250 themes.

##### **b. National initiatives.**

Executive Director Terech briefed the Subcommittee on new and ongoing national initiatives, including [America’s Startup Contest](#) and [America’s Soundtrack](#).

She reported that Arizona submitted items to the national America250 time capsule,

including a letter from the Secretary of State as Commission Chair and two copper commemorative ingots, and is awaiting confirmation of acceptance.

Members were informed that Arizona will participate in the Great American State Fair during the two weeks before and after July 4, with the Office of Tourism managing the booth, re-using Traveling Museum interpretive materials, and displaying completed postcards; volunteers are welcome to assist at the fair, although travel costs are not covered.

**6. Call to the public**

No public comments were received.

**7. Adjournment**

Acting Chair Caitlin Dichter adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.