

Arizona America250 Commission
Arts, Museums and Cultures Subcommittee
Virtually via Zoom
Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2026

SUBCOMMITTEE ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Anna Needham, Chair, Jeannette Holverson, Julianne Cheng

SUBCOMMITTEE ATTENDEES NOT PRESENT:

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

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 11:01 a.m.
2. **Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from January 29, 2026**
The subcommittee reviewed the April 23, 2026, meeting minutes; however, due to a lack of quorum, the minutes could not be approved and will be brought forward at a future meeting.
3. **Arts and Culture Projects for the Semiquincentennial**
 - a. **Stories250/TheirStory activations for oral history collection.**
The Stories250/TheirStory flyer has been distributed. Arizona Humanities shared the flyer through its newsletter and will share it again; the Arts Commission will also distribute the flyer. The flyer link was dropped into the chat, and members were encouraged to share broadly. As of the date of the meeting, there were no submissions from Arizona.
 - b. **Public art projects.**
Public art projects remain to be determined, but planning is progressing, and the subcommittee is nearing a concrete plan. Members noted that once the Bell Rededication Ceremony is complete, there should be a clearer path forward for the public art initiative.
 - c. **Volunteer Recognition/Bell Rededication Ceremony**
Volunteer recognition was discussed in the context of the Bell Rededication Ceremony. The subcommittee anticipates that volunteer recognition activities will take place during the Bell Rededication Ceremony on October 1, 2026. The subcommittee briefly revisited earlier discussion of the Bell Rededication Ceremony and associated volunteer recognition. Additional details about the ceremony and recognition elements will be shared at a future meeting.

d. **Member share out on additional arts and culture projects throughout the state.**

Subcommittee member Julianne Cheng shared information about [AZ Speaks, a program of Arizona Humanities](#), and highlighted the upcoming [Americans traveling exhibition adapted from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian](#). The exhibition is scheduled to come to Arizona in 2027 and is designed for small-town museums, libraries, and cultural organizations, with local partners developing complementary exhibits, programs, and educational resources that tell local stories and invite reflection on American Indian histories and representations.

Subcommittee member Jeannette Holverson shared [youth outreach opportunities at the Phippen Museum](#), including the Junior Wranglers Youth Art Program and the Phippen Museum Youth Mini Camp 2026, featuring hands-on art activities focused on Old West themes and scheduled sessions in June and July for ages 5–14 in Prescott, Arizona.

4. Discussion, possible action, and report from Executive Director.

a. Arizona initiatives.

The subcommittee received an update on America's Potluck Week of Service with Arizona America250, scheduled for July 5–11. An upcoming email will provide participation details, including options such as volunteering with food banks, hosting workplace potlucks, organizing food drives, planning meal-packing or community meals, and creating "250 Challenges" (e.g., 250 meals, cans, volunteer hours, or dollars).

Planned activities include dedicated Arizona America250 volunteer shifts at St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix and a JustServe-supported volunteer event at Midwest Food Bank in Gilbert, with registration links to be shared via the forthcoming email communication.

The update also noted ongoing opportunities to request "Dear America, Love Arizona" postcards for display by emailing staff to arrange delivery.

b. National initiatives.

The subcommittee received an update that Arizona will participate in the Great American State Fair, a 16-day national exposition taking place June 25–July 10, 2026, in Washington, D.C., spanning from the U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument. The event will feature all 56 U.S. states and territories in a World's

Fair-scale celebration, including live music, carnival rides, and interactive partner activations that highlight each state's people, traditions, and unique character.

5. Call to the public

No public comments were received.

6. Adjournment

Chair Needham adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

DRAFT