

**ARIZONA AMERICA250 COMMISSION
HISTORY, HERITAGE, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: via Zoom

Subcommittee Members Present:

Ashley Harder, Chair

Stuart Rosebrook

Helana Ruter

David Turpie

Holly Henley

1. Call to order and welcome.

Chair Harder called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

2. Discussion and possible action on 3H meeting minutes from February 26, 2026, and March 26, 2026.

Tabled due to lack of quorum.

3. Discussion and possible action on joint History, Heritage & Historic Preservation and Travel and Tourism meeting minutes from April 23, 2026.

Tabled due to lack of quorum.

4. Update, discussion, and possible action on the Arizona Heritage Youth Council.

Executive Director Terech reported that the Heritage Preservation Youth Council (HPYC) is seeking a fiscal sponsor to support its efforts to establish a 501(c)(3) organization. The Council requires a fiscal agent to apply for and manage grant funding for upcoming projects. Discussions have taken place with the Arizona Preservation Foundation as a potential partner. The Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC) Board may consider this item at a future meeting. Kathryn Leonard has previously presented to AHAC on the HPYC; Chair Harder will follow up with her.

Additionally, two student members residing in the Town of Gilbert have partnered with the town to pursue designation of a historic property on the local historic register, working

closely with municipal staff throughout the process. The group also recently conducted a Southern Arizona tour to visit and study historic sites in Tucson.

5. Discussion and possible action on history, heritage, and historic preservation projects.

a. Dear America, Love Arizona postcards.

These postcards are currently on display at Arizona State Parks, various galleries, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the Arizona Capitol Museum, and more. A press release with all listed sites will be distributed soon. Additional completed postcards remain available for display. Chair Harder inquired whether the City of Phoenix and local libraries could receive their own distribution packages.

b. America's Potluck + America Gives Week of Service.

An email with further details will be sent to subcommittee members later this week or early next with details on how to sign up for food box packing events statewide in honor of America's Potluck and a Week of Service for America Gives. There will also be a social media campaign to encourage local neighborhood potlucks on July 5, 2026.

c. Bell Rededication and Recognition Ceremony.

The Bell Rededication and Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for October 1, 2026. Members were asked to save the date. The event will include volunteer and sponsor recognition. Information about the bell base was shared, including planned plaques and the mechanism used to prevent the bell from ringing. Outreach to media will begin in the fall. Arizona remains the only state currently known to have conducted a statewide bell tour, though Idaho is exploring a similar initiative.

d. TheirStory oral history platform.

Flyers are available for distribution. No submissions from Arizona have been received to date; however, outreach efforts have been limited. Members identified this as a strong opportunity for promotion through newsletters and social media channels.

6. Member share out on upcoming events or initiatives.

Helana Ruter shared updates on City of Phoenix plans. Following the retirement of the city's lead, individual departments are coordinating activities independently. Numerous events are

planned, particularly through library programming, including talks, musical events, and hands-on craft activities for children. Three celebrations are scheduled at parks throughout June and July, in addition to the *Fabulous Fourth* event at Steele Indian School Park. Chair Harder noted that the Commission is available to collaborate on the Fabulous Fourth. Additional programming includes a Public Works history walk in downtown Phoenix. There is also interest in extending programming into the fall.

Stuart Rosebrook shared that America250 has inspired a new annual event at Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott. On July 4 of the previous year, he read the Declaration of Independence on the Courthouse steps, and this will continue as part of expanded programming. Each Friday leading up to their parade will feature a heritage celebration, including posting of the colors, musical performances, a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, food offerings, and a children's parade. Events will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with ticket discounts available. Plans also include burying a time capsule (with items still being accepted) and identifying a speaker to deliver the Declaration of Independence in Spanish. Additional highlights include the sale of themed pies, participation of a restored historic wagon in the parade, and the recent dedication of a new Sharlot Hall statue. The Governor's Mansion will close after July 4 for restoration, with completion anticipated in November. A potential ceremony is under consideration.

David Turpie shared that the Arizona Historical Society will present an America250 exhibition in Tucson, curated by Jaynie Adams. The exhibit will open on July 4 and run through the end of the year. Admission on July 4 will be offered at a discounted rate of \$2.50 per person.

Chair Harder encouraged adding related events to the America250 Community Calendar.

[Arizona America250 Community Calendar Submission Form](#)

7. Report from Executive Director.

a. Arizona initiatives.

Megan Hammond with Libraries, Archives & Public Records provided an update on the Read250 initiative, which encourages Arizonans to read either 250 minutes or 25 minutes. The program was developed in partnership with an existing reading platform vendor to incorporate customized achievement badges. There are more than 230 public libraries statewide, and additional details on participation levels will be available later in the year, as libraries may join the program at any time. In March, seven library systems participated and collectively logged 72,000 minutes of reading. As of the meeting date, 4,250 participants have read a total of 963,402 minutes. Participation is expected to increase further as summer reading programs have recently begun. Members were encouraged to promote the program and direct interested individuals to participate through their local libraries.

b. National initiatives.

Executive Director Terech shared that an Arizona State University student was recently selected as one of the winners of America's Startup.

<https://america250.org/americas-startup/>

The Executive Director also provided information about the Great American State Fair. The Arizona Office of Tourism is taking point on development and staffing. The Arizona panels from the **Road to 250: Arizona Traveling Museum** will be featured along with other Arizona America250 collateral such as postcards and stickers.

8. Discussion and possible action on future meetings and a joint in-person meeting between Travel & Tourism and History, Heritage & Historic Preservation.

Agenda item not discussed.

9. Call to the public.

Stuart Rosebrook shared that Sharlot Hall Museum and the City of Prescott will continue carrying America250 themes throughout the year, with Route 66 and the Centennial serving as key areas of focus. A new exhibit titled *All Roads Lead to Prescott* will be launched. Stuart encouraged maintaining momentum with continued collaboration among museums.

10. Adjournment.

Chair Harder adjourned the meeting at 11:03am.