

Arizona America250 Commission
In Person and Virtually via Zoom
Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2026

1. Call to Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Fontes.

Commission Members Present:

Honorable Adrian Fontes, Chair
Representative Justin Wilmeth
Sarah Webber

Jay McCall
Ashley Harder

Marcus Carney
Anna Needham

Commission Members Absent:

Chairman Verlon Jose, Vice-Chair
Senator Vince Leach

Paul Tighe

Neil Giuliano

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes for July 13, 2026.

The Commission considered the meeting minutes for July 13, 2026.

MOTION: Approval of draft minutes as written for July 13, 2026. Commissioner Jay McCall moved with a second from Commissioner Marcus Carney. The motion passed without objection.

3. Discussion and possible action on disbursement of arts funding.

Christina Park (Arizona Commission of the Arts) presented three options for \$25,000 in arts funding:

- a) Public Art in Rural Areas
 - a. \$5,000 in 4 communities
- b) Rural Festivals
 - a. \$2,500 for 10 festivals
- c) Videographer Fee / Participant honorariums for a “Celebrating Arizona Heritage” project.

Chair Fontes presented the May Hicks House Relocation Project to the Commission. Two sites were presented:

- 311 West Cherry Avenue – uses would be residential or business (i.e. City office space)
- 11 West Cherry Avenue – uses would be commercial (i.e. Coffee shop or Bar “Flag House”)

The Commissioners discussed the different options and long-term goals for arts and legacy projects. Commissioners asked the Arizona Commission on the Arts representatives when they would need the funding if Option C was selected, and the date of April 1, 2027, was provided.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Harder and Seconded by Commissioner McCall to allocate \$25,000 in funding if 11 West Cherry Avenue and the Flag House concept are selected by the Flagstaff City Council, with funds reverting to the commission for allocation to Option C with the Arizona Commission on the Arts if the proposal is not approved or an alternative use is selected.

AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION: An amendment was offered by Chair Fontes requiring the Flagstaff City Council to make a decision on their proposed uses for the May Hicks House by March 31, 2027. The amendment was seconded by Jay McCall and approved unanimously.

MOTION AS AMENDED: As amended, to allocate \$25,000 in funding if 11 West Cherry Avenue and the Flag House concept are selected by the Flagstaff City Council, with funds reverting to the commission for allocation to Option C with the Arizona Commission on the Arts if the proposal is not approved or an alternative use is selected by March 31, 2027. Moved by Commissioner Ashley Harder, seconded by Commissioner Jay McCall, and approved unanimously.

Chair Adrian Fontes needed to leave the meeting early, and Commissioner Wilmeth was selected as Acting Chair for the duration of the meeting by vote of the Commission.

MOTION: Assigning Representative Justin Wilmeth Chair duties for the remainder of the meeting. Commissioner Carney moved, Commissioner Anna Needam seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action on subcommittee meeting minutes approval and dissolution of subcommittees.

MOTION: This Commission commends and thanks the members of all the subcommittees and subcommittee members who have served in the commemoration of the Semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence. These subcommittees, having faithfully executed their duties as delegated by this Commission, are hereby dissolved. This Commission hereby adopts the minutes of all past subcommittee meetings as the respective final reports of each subcommittee. Commissioner Carney moved, seconded by Sarah Webber, and approved unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action on bell rededication ceremony, October 1, 2026.

Executive Director Terech brought up the upcoming rededication ceremony on October 1, 2026, and shared that Commissioners will receive special recognition.

6. PR & Media update from Agital/Go Fish Digital.

This item was not discussed. A media report will be shared when it becomes available.

7. Call to the public.

Gerald Paulus with the Mesa West Rotary Club spoke of the Time Capsule Foundation and his upcoming event “A Night at the Museum--America 250 Grand Finale (New Years Eve Gala 12/31/26)” and encouraged the Commission to sponsor the event or purchase a table.

Tonia Tunnell thanked the Commission for their work and highlighted Luke Douglas for his contributions as well as Natalie Cianciola, whose last day was 9/11/26.

Executive Director Laura Terech reminded the Commission that there would be no remaining meetings in 2026, and the Commission will resume in late January or early February 2027.

8. Adjournment.

Representative Justin Wilmeth adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.