

Arizona America250 Commission

Arts, Museums & Cultural Institutions Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2025

1. Call to order and roll call.

Chair Needham called the meeting to order at 10:31am.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Anna Needham, Chair

Caitlin Dichter

Sandra Kory

Wylwyn Reyes

Julianne Chen

Beverly Elliott

Bonnie Humphrey

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Verlon Jose

Evan Kory

Jessica Lewis

Ashley Harder

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from January 30, 2025.

MOTION Minutes of January 30, 2025, adopted as previously distributed. Beverly Elliott motioned; Caitlin Dichter seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion and possible action on arts and culture projects for the Semiquincentennial.

a. Two Lights for Tomorrow programming.

The Executive Director shared updates on the run of show and asked the group to share out the exhibitor application as well as promotion for the event. SOS Staff listed the exhibitors who have applied so far. Vincent Bradley, from the Historical Society, said that he has a large network with whom he can share the exhibitor application. The chair

asked if the ED was able to contact Rosemarie Dombrowski to be the poet at Two Lights, and the ED confirmed that she had. The ED shared that we have die-cut stickers with the Arizona250 logo that we will be giving away at the event. An artist has been commissioned to create a poster to commemorate the event and future tentpole events.

b. Traveling Museum.

The ED reported that planning will begin in earnest after the Two Lights for Tomorrow kickoff event. This will be the big initiative. The replica Liberty Bell at the Capitol will be taken along with art, documents, and other items in a traveling museum aimed to debut on Statehood Day in 2026. The goal is to have interactive exhibits which tell the story of the Revolution but also what was going on in Arizona at that time. A new ceremonial base for the Liberty Bell at the Capitol will be created while it is on tour. The base will have 50- and a 100-year time capsules. The base will be built by Sundt, and the Commission will vote soon on which design to approve. We will be soliciting municipalities to apply to have the museum come to their location. The hope is to have many stops, from towns to parks to schools. The chair shared the Google spreadsheet for members to log their suggestions for both the museum and other tentpole projects. Sandra and Wylwyn offered to liaise with their municipalities and provide details as soon as we have them. The ED mentioned that Virginia's traveling museum has a holographic Patrick Henry, and Beverley Elliott says that at U of A they have the tech to possibly do something similar and will connect the ED with a contact there. Bill Regner asked if the ED would be willing to speak to a Zoom of community leaders in the Verde Valley, and she agreed.

c. Saguaros250.

The Commission is working on fundraising, and as that succeeds, firmer commitments to projects such as this one can be made. Chair Needham explained that one idea being considered is for different communities to sponsor the fabrication of each saguaro. A discussion was held on possible inspiration for the statues as well as how to find manufacturers and sponsors. There is the potential for staff to be able to work on this project through the end of 2026 as the legislation does not sunset the Commission until 2027.

d. Passport250 and Art250.

Chair Needham asked members to come prepared with several suggestions at the next meeting to begin planning content for the digital app. The need for the app or at least a list of designated places to live on past 2026 was raised, possibly housed on the Arizona Office of Tourism's website.

e. Community college and university outreach.

Discussion was held on how to integrate 250 planning in existing events or create new events. The Commission can use its network and/or social media channels promote students who are doing graphic design, theater, or arts around the 250th.

4. Discussion and possible action on additional arts and culture projects.

None were raised at this time.

5. Call to the public.

No public comment was received.

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

DRAFT