

Arizona America250 Commission

In person and virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2025

1. Call to order and roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

Commission Members Present:

Chairman Adrian Fontes

Paul Tighe

Marcus Carney

Representative Justin Wilmeth

Ashley Harder

Anna Needham

Sarah Webber

Jay McCall

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes for October 6, 2025.

MOTION: Adoption of minutes from October 6, 2025, as written. Paul Tighe moved, JayMcCall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. **ASU Gammage Suff's event wrap-up.** Positive feedback has been received from the sponsors who attended. Agital was on hand for videos and photos, which will be utilized in future content.
- b. **A250 at the Phoenix Symphony, February 28th.** The Phoenix Symphony is putting on a Gershwin concert in honor of A250, running 2/27 through 3/1. If the Commission has an interest in putting on a similar event to *SUFFS*, this could be an option. There is also the possibility of issuing a proclamation and attending in a personal capacity as a Commissioner.
- c. **Promotion of signature events from partner organizations statewide.** The Executive Director shared that the Commission may choose to support some statewide events with additional promotion above and beyond submission on the community calendar. The first of which is the Marine Corps 250th Anniversary Cake Cutting Ceremony. Commissioners will receive an invitation.
- d. **PR, marketing, and website.** Katie from Agital shared that they have conducted stakeholder interviews to assist with putting together a comprehensive branding package. Planned posts around Election Day and Passport250 in addition to a social media calendar in development for November.
- e. **Traveling Museum.**

- i. **Authority to contract.** Executive Director Terech and Acting General Counsel shared that the process has moved from a Request for Proposal (RFP) to a Competition Impracticable (CI) due to one vendor bidding for the project. ED Terech outlined the cost estimates thus far for the vehicle as well as staffing and any potential additions as the truck is retrofitted for the purposes of an A250 AZ Traveling Museum.

MOTION: The Arizona America250 Commission will enter into a direct contact with the vendor. Paul Tighe moved, Sarah Webbed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Increase the previous allotment the Executive Director is authorized to spend on the Traveling Museum contract by an additional \$25,000. Paul Tighe motioned, Justin Wilmeth seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- ii. **Tour dates and outreach.** Chair Fontes asked Agital to be closely involved with the route planning so they can get in touch with local media for promotion. The launch date is still targeted for February 14, 2026, though that date might change depending on the retrofit and the delivery of the vehicle.
 - iii. **Content creation.** To help ensure a timely launch for the vehicle, it will be crucial to create and approve content in a timely manner during calendar year 2025. Staff will work with Commissioners and community stakeholders throughout the process.
4. **Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the use of the A250 AZ logo for fundraising purposes.** Commissioners discussed the use of the logo for fundraising purposes. While national A250 does not allow this purpose as it is considered commercial, other states do allow their state logos to be used in such a way. The decision made would set a precedent for future groups. Commissioners shared the importance of approval over materials to ensure the logo is not being used for political purposes or merchandising. Acting General Counsel has created a draft policy as a potential addition to the existing A250 AZ logo licensing form. The draft policy will be distributed to Commissioners ahead of the next meeting.
 5. **Commissioner update and possible action on subcommittee work.**
 - a. **Arts, Museums & Cultural Institutions.** The Arts committee is looking at transitioning from sculptures to murals due to the challenges of not knowing the price without knowing how many would be sold. Murals would be designated with an A250 plaque. Mural placement would be determined by an interest form with a goal for one in each county. The Commission would help with outreach for mural placement in mid-late 2026. Commissioner Harder suggested working with APS for potential signage.
 - b. **Civic Engagement, Education & Community Service.** The Civics group continues to work on the Dougherty Foundation scholarships for \$5000. The committee co-hosted a

Youth Town Hall with Kids Voting with 1200 kids participating. Planning continues around the Cardinals Civics Summit in January. Over 4000 kids have signed up. Still working on Read250 with libraries and 39 libraries are currently involved. The Arizona Department of Education is continually expanding the toolkit for 250. Working on a statewide postcard campaign for K-8 kids. Rotary Clubs are engaging to help promote their service events and may participate in the scholarship program. Considering issuing a proclamation for an A250 AZ “Day of the Volunteer.”

- c. **Fundraising.** The group hosted lobbyists at a recent event to connect to clients. Planning is underway to host a small business event on December 2nd at the State Capitol.
 - d. **History, Heritage & Historic Preservation.** The Heritage Preservation Youth Council put out a charter and an application to sit on their Council. Commissioner Tighe helped distribute statewide. They are hoping to recruit nine students to represent AZ and participate in Commission activities as well additional heritage projects. Commissioner Harder compiled resources into a blog post, which will be shared with Commission members.
 - e. **Military & Veterans Affairs.** There will be a cake cutting ceremony for the Marine Corps birthday at the Capitol on Monday the 10th at 11am. The Secretary will be a guest at the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. MVA members will be participating in Veterans Day events across the state. The group is continuing to support Operation Freedom March.
 - f. **Municipal Outreach & Tribal Affairs.** Secretary Fontes convened with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. There was good participation at Ak-Chin. The Secretary spoke about A250 and the Commission will continue to engage with Tribal partners. Jay McCall shared that he provided information about the Semiquincentennial at a nonprofit event for Southern Arizona and at a Knights of Columbus men’s conference.
 - g. **Travel & Tourism.** The Travel & Tourism group is working on statewide itineraries for the 250th that will be pitched to tour operators.
6. **Call to the public.** No public comments were received.
 7. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:51am.