



Commission Meeting

November 8, 2023

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Zoom Recording:

https://utah-gov.zoom.us/rec/share/n2Dwpniwg0gck_xYL10Lb9z1yfno-hwvliJV4j84RQZo77hl25eJrJt9qWEAIQgv.Jpl-aBpUn0BZlgdu

In Attendance

Mindy Benson, Co-Chair
Christine Durham, Co-Chair
Ronald Fox, Co-Chair
Kathryn Asay
Barbara Jones Brown

David Clark
Andrea Clarke
Sanch Datta
Alan Hall
Steve Handy

Luis Lopez
Douglas McGregor
Darren Parry
Kristy Pike
Byron Russell
Kim Wilson

CCE Staff

Nicole Handy
Jill Love

Jennifer Ortiz
Kat Potter

Ellen Weist
Jami Van Huss

Welcome - Ron Fox

U.S. Semiquincentennial Federal Commission report - Ed Perez, Deputy Director of Government Affairs and liaison for State and Territory Commissions.

The Federal Commission is working on what hopes to be the largest and most inclusive celebration in history. The federal commission is asking Americans to share their personal and community stories on their website. Media and strategic partnerships are being created, as well as State Commissions around the country. Mr. Perez invited commission members to attend the next federal commission meeting on November 30th. He also challenged commissioners to invite members of Congress to join the America250 Congressional Caucus. Senator Mike Lee is currently a member of the America250 Congressional Caucus.

The commission discussed how other state commissions are setting up policies surrounding partnerships. Mr. Perez will share a list of resources. State and local historians (AASLH) are also creating tools to share and gather information between state commissions. Nicole and other CCE staff are part of online forums and a group of western states working on their celebrations.

Museum of Utah Update - Kim Wilson

Although Utah has many museums around the state, Utah is one of the few states that does not have a State museum. Several years ago the Legislature approved and funded the Museum of

Utah, to be located on the north side of the state's Capitol Hill. The museum will be 17,000 square feet of exhibition space and include art collection storage, classrooms, multi-purpose areas, and state offices.

Construction will be ongoing for the next two years, with a substantial amount of construction done in December 2025 and the opening of the museum in spring of 2026. Floor plans and renderings were shared with the Commission. The Museum of Utah will focus on four key areas: Becoming Utah, Connecting Utah, Building Utah, and Inspiring Utah. The Museum of Utah will include the history of indigenous peoples, pioneers, and more.

Committee Reports - Each of the Commission's subcommittees has met once since the last Commission meeting in June to brainstorm ideas:

- **UNITE** - Christine Durham/Nicole Handy
The Unite Committee focused on collaboration with other groups. For example, creating community conversations by partnering with Utah Humanities. Partnering with the Women's Leadership Project at USU was mentioned, as well as working with the Governor's Disagree Better initiative. Other ideas included traveling groups, sharing stories, working with the Utah Film Center and Impact Partner on storytelling.
- **ENGAGE** - Mindy Benson
The Engage committee's ideas included a state-wide celebration with toolkits for cities to use for their celebrations. The committee discussed partnering with Stadium of Fire and broadcasting to different gatherings at stadiums around the state. Another idea was to have native tribes from each area participate as well. Many of these ideas are expensive and partnering with other groups will help off-set some of the expense.
- **EDUCATE** - Ron Fox
The Educate Committee is planning to work closely with Robert Austin at the Utah State Office of Education. There was a focus on different levels with elementary, secondary, and universities and community colleges. The committee would like to produce traveling exhibits and work to support the State Historical Society on their projects. Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution have school programming. The committee discussed collaborating with Channel One in schools and reaching out to billboard companies, as well as other civic groups.

Nicole and other CCE staff will help the committees collaborate as some of the efforts and relationships with outside organizations will overlap.

Partnership and Endorsement Process - Christine Durham

One purpose of the celebration and Utah's America250 Commission is inclusion. We want as many civic groups, nonprofits, community resources, and historical societies engaged with the celebration as possible. We also do not want to appear to be endorsing hate groups, extortionist, or secessionist groups. First we need to find out what criteria the federal commission and other state commissions are using to determine partnerships.

It needs to be decided what the priorities are and how they should be set. Ideas include creating a process for screening organizations. It was suggested that an application be created and a small committee review applications. Nicole will reach out to other states to see if there is a blueprint we could use for this process. The Executive Committee will come back to the commission with a proposal.

The commission should also identify groups it wants to partner with and approach those that can help with collaboration. In the meantime, commissioners can start sharing names with Nicole of organizations that they would like to collaborate with.

Budget/Fundraising Coordination - Nicole Handy

CCE has requested \$1M to be included in the Governors' budget. A budget committee is being formed to draft a budget and marketing plan before the legislative session in January. Nicole will send an email to commissioners and ask for volunteers for this committee, which will require some additional meetings between now and the middle of January. Members of the Educate Committee have already joined and we'd like to get members of the Engage and Unite committee to participate as well.

Commission business cards, indicias, and pins - Nicole Handy

CCE is creating America250 business cards and embossed gold stickers that can be added to a commission member's current business card. Nicole will send a form for commission members to either request business cards or stickers. CCE is also planning to have pins available before the legislative session.

2024 Commission Dates

- February 14, 2024 @10 AM (Zoom)
- May 8, 2024 @ 10 AM (In-person with remote option)
- August 14, 2024 @10 AM (Zoom)
- November 13, 2024 @10 AM (Zoom)

Nicole will send calendar invites to commissioners. The May meeting will be primarily in-person, but there will be a remote option. Commissioners traveling more than 50 miles will have their hotel and fuel expenses covered by CCE.

Meeting Minutes approved by America250 UT Commission on February 21, 2024