

MINUTES
TEXAS AMERICA250 COMMISSION
Bullock Texas State History Museum
1800 N. Congress, 4th Floor Boardroom
Austin, Texas 78701
September 19, 2024
11:00 AM
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

The Texas America250 Commission convened with the following designated Members of Commission Agencies: Margaret Koch, Presiding Chair, Bullock Texas State History Museum, Pat Hardy, State Board of Education and Rodney Franklin, Director of Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

I. Call to Order and Establishment of a Quorum, Introductions

Margaret Koch, serving as the Commission's presiding chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and called roll. A quorum was established.

Chair Koch called on the Advisory Panel to introduce themselves. Advisors present: Laura Casey, Texas Historical Commission, Emily Hermans, Texas Historical Commission, Brittany Petrilli, Texas Associations of Museums, Kierstan Schwab, TX PBS, Nathan Jones, The Alamo Trust, Ali James, State Preservation Board, Jacqueline Walker, Secretary of State, Lisa Berg, Texas State Historical Association, Monte Monroe, State Historian, and Ellen Cone Busch, Texas Historical Commission. Guests present: Steven McFarland, Harrison County, Fidel Santos, Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, John Espinosa, Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, and Jeremy Davis, Museum of North Texas History.

II. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from Meeting on August 8, 2024

Chair Koch called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last Commission meeting held on August 8, 2024, as presented. Pat Hardy so moved and Rodney Franklin offered a second. The motion carried and the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

III. Consideration of the Following Agenda Items:

Item 1. Update regarding Guidelines for licensing use of Texas America250 Logo

Legal counsel of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission is currently reviewing templates for a licensing agreement. The Commission will discuss the agreement and take potential action at the November meeting. No action needed at this time.

Item 2. Discussion/Possible Action regarding Financial Matters: Appointment of Budget planning task group

Governor's counsel confirmed budget planning involving the Commissioners must be open to the public. A separate meeting will be scheduled for the Commissioners and posted in accordance to open meeting requirements.

Pat Hardy reached out to contacts in Lt. Governor's office for more information on the potential for Legislative funding. [The Meadows Foundation](#) was recommended as a prospect for potential support.

Item 3. Update on introductory letters/press releases regarding Texas America250

Letters introducing Texas America250 Commission to the Congressional Caucus and other potential stakeholders may be ready for review in the December meeting. A summary slideshow about the Texas America250 Commission was created and is now available for Commissioners and interested parties to use in talking about national and state efforts. On behalf of the Commission, official thank you letters were emailed to guardians of the 74 Texas students who participated in the first round of America's Field Trip, Spring 2024. A media toolkit was distributed to Commissioners and Advisors for the second round of America's Field Trip for grades 3 through 12 beginning in September 2024 to amplify through their entities' social channels. Harrison County is reaching out to radio, tv, and web sectors for potential press opportunities in their area.

Item 4. Update regarding Nominations for Advisory Panel

Christine Jacobs from San Antonio Missions has been officially approved as the Texas America250 NPS liaison by the National Park Service (NPS). The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will appoint an advisor from the Houston area to help enhance outreach. The Commission aims to ensure that all seven geographical regions are represented in advisory panel. Currently, representatives are needed from the Panhandle Plains, Big Bend Country, and South Texas Plains. There are no specific qualifications for advisors, but they should be committed to highlighting history, promoting the anniversary, and promoting local and national events.

Nominations put forward included: Francisco Guajardo, the CEO of the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg, members of the Honorary Admirals of the Texas Navy, and representatives of the Texas Historical Foundation and East Texas Historical Association.

Additionally, Fidel Santos and John Espinosa of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, along with Jeremy Davis, Museum of North Texas History have agreed to support the Commission's efforts.

Item 5. Agency updates on America250 Planning

Chair Koch shared America250 updates following the recent AASLH conference. Several state commissions have decided to wait until after the presidential election in November to promote their work. Some states are forming an ambassador council composed of high school students to engage youth in the initiative. A member of the Congressional Caucus from Texas' Third District is interested in connecting with historic sites in their area, and Chair Koch will reach out to them to help facilitate outreach efforts. Our American Story, a national initiative of America250 funded by Walmart reached out to the Bullock as a possible host. They will be invited to the Commission meeting in October. Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," has been suggested as a notable Texan for the Our American Story project. Chair Koch met with Dan Goodgame, *Texas Monthly*, to build awareness of America250. *Texas Monthly* will consider a series highlighting what was happening in Texas during the time of the American Revolution and may recommend a writer for the Advisory Panel. Looking ahead, [National History Day](#) (NHD) will focus on topics related to the 250th in 2026 with the official theme being "Revolution, Reform, Reaction, and

History.” The Bullock Museum is planning a Texas Festivals exhibition in 2026 that celebrates community events. Pat Hardy is working on reaching superintendents to engage them in Texas America250 efforts. Monte Monroe suggested that the Commission connect with townships that are currently celebrating centennial events to explore collaboration opportunities for the Semiquincentennial. The Harrison County Texas America 250 Commission has launched their [website](#). Harrison County is willing to make the template available to other counties. The Texas Historical Commission is developing a plan that connects America250 programs and partnerships to the Texas bicentennial. The Museum of North Texas History is planning an exhibit featuring handcrafted ships in conjunction with the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Navy in October 2025.

IV. Adjournment

With no further business, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Pat Hardy made motion to adjourn the meeting, Rodney Franklin seconded, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.