

MINUTES
TEXAS AMERICA250 COMMISSION
Bullock Texas State History Museum
1800 N. Congress, 4th Floor Boardroom
Austin, Texas 78701
October 10, 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 Jelain Chubb, State Archivist & Director, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Tim Fennel, Director, Travel Texas, Economic Development and Tourism, Governor's Office, and Lynn Young, America250 Representative.

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, Kierstan Schwab, TX PBS, Christine Jacobs, National Park Service A250 liaison for Texas, Ali James, State Preservation Board, Jacqueline Walker, Secretary of State, Steven McFarland, Harrison County, Fidel Santos, Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, John Espinosa, Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, Gary Pinkerton, Alliance for Texas History, Christina McKinney, Governor's Commission on Women, and David Preziosi, Texas Historical Foundation.

Tim Mulvey from Our American Story was introduced as a guest.

II. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Chair Koch called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last Commission meeting held on September 19, 2024, as presented, along and the subsequent budget review meeting on October 3, 2024. Pat Hardy so moved and Jelain Chubb offered a second. The motion carried and the minutes of the previous meetings were adopted.

III. Consideration of the Following Agenda Items:

Item 1. Presentation from Our American Story, an Initiative of America250

[Our American Story](#) is an initiative aimed at collecting inspiring stories from Americans across the nation, with no specific criteria for storytelling. Our American Story is hoping to reach as many regions as possible by traveling with mobile trailer sound booths and utilizing existing recording facilities in 30 locations across the country. Opportunities for partnership include facilitation of storytelling sessions and long term preservation of collected stories.

Item 2. Update on Texas America250 Website

A standalone website will be created for the Texas America250 Commission. As work continues to grow, a unique website outside of the Story of Texas landing page will provide greater flexibility. The Bullock Museum team will continue to monitor and manage webpages and calendar for updates and additions.

Item 3. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Proposals

Chair Koch gave an update to the Advisory Panel on the results of the Open Meeting via Zoom on October 3, devoted to budget allocation. The Commissioners discussed several key areas for fund distribution of money received from America250, including technology, marketing/advertising, legal fees, and miscellaneous expenses that might arise. In addition, a proposal was made for an exceptional item request to the Legislature in the amount of \$5 million. The Texas America250 Commission suggests that legislative funding would provide up to \$10,000 for each Texas county for locally hosted events, a temporary, FTE to aid in the fair and proper distribution of funds, and advertising and media record keeping. It is important to note that SCR23 will need to be amended to secure state funding for these initiatives. Commissioners Young and Hardy have volunteered to approach their legislators on feasibility of this request.

Item 4. Agencies' and Advisory Panel updates on their America250 Planning

Advisor Kierstan Schwab from Texas PBS shared a promotional teaser for Ken Burns' documentary, *The American Revolution*, which will premiere in Fall 2025 with supporting events planned throughout the state.

Jelain Chubb provided updates from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). TSLAC is set to launch a reading program aimed at K-12 students, encouraging them to read or listen to 250 hours of U.S. or Texas history, culture, or literature. Adults will have the opportunity to volunteer and read to children at their local libraries, also aiming for 250 hours. Libraries will receive passports to help track participation, and TSLAC is working on incentives for those involved in the program. This initiative will be announced at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference in April 2025, with the program ending Summer 2026. TSLAC also plans to develop a curriculum packet for educators.

Christine Jacobs highlighted National Park Service initiatives. NPS is currently working on a national film that focuses on the role of the National Park Service in inspiring a more perfect union. The film is set to be shown in all National Park theaters and may be available in other cultural institutions. A request for proposals for the NPS Historic Preservation Grant will be announced this fall for the Commission's consideration. NPS offers free passes to all national parks for 4th graders and their families. Christine suggested a potential partnership with TSLAC's reading program as families could benefit from both initiatives.

Steven McFarland will share updates from Harrison County's Commission October 21st meeting during next month's meeting.

Gary Pinkerton called for nominations for panelists to participate in the Alliance of Texas History's Annual Conference to discuss events in Texas during the American Revolution.

The Granaderos y Damas de Galvez created an educational coloring book titled *American Independence: The Spanish Secret*, which will highlight the Spanish role in the American Revolution. This project aims to support the upcoming commemoration.

Chair Koch reported that Representative Self, a member of the Congressional Caucus for America250 plans to hold a meeting of historical associations in his 3rd district to raise awareness of the Semiquincentennial.

IV. Public Comment

Chair Koch called for anyone wishing to provide public comment on any matter pertaining to the Commission; no public comment registrations forms were received.

V. Adjournment

The next Texas America250 Commission meeting will be held November 14, 2024. Agenda items are due by November 1st.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.