

**MINUTES**  
**TEXAS AMERICA250 COMMISSION**  
**Bullock Texas State History Museum**  
**1800 N. Congress, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom**  
**Austin, Texas 78701**  
**January 9, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**  
**VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

The Texas America250 Commission convened with the following designated Members of Commission Agencies in attendance: 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, and Lynn Young, America250 Representative. Commissioner Tim Fennel was excused.

**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: Nathan Jones, Alamo Trust; Brittany Petrilli, Texas Association of Museums; Desmond Bertram-Pitts, Buffalo Soldiers National Museum; Kelsi Tyler, Humanities Texas; Ali James, State Preservation Board; Emily Hermans, Texas Historical Commission; John Espinosa, Granaderos y Damas de Galvez; David Preziosi, Texas Historical Foundation; Lisa Berg, Texas Historical Association; Nancy Foster, Museum of Western Art; Jeff Salmon, Frontier Texas; Ann Hobing, Lone Star Flight Museum. Additional attendees included: Fidel Santos, Granaderos y Damas de Galvez; Steven McFarland, Harrison County; and Molly Fortune, South Carolina250.

**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 November 14, 2024, as presented. 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. Report on discussion with Senator Cornyn's Office and Update on Congressional caucus members**

In December, Chair Koch had a call with the senator's office to discuss America250 and the Texas Commission. The point of contact Jill Wyman, Central Texas Regional Director, expressed interest in commemoration and mentioned they will be talking with the senator about joining the caucus, which now includes 23 Texas representatives. America250 Representative Lynn Young

shared that the Congressional America 250 Caucus now has over 250 members. With Texas still underrepresented, Lynn encourages individuals to reach out to their representatives and senators to join the bipartisan caucus.

## **Item 2. Discussion/Possible Action regarding national and state-wide initiatives**

The Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative has confirmed participation from 41 states in the lighting ceremony commemorating Paul Revere's ride on April 18<sup>th</sup> followed by a National Day of Service. A map of participating states can be found on Virginia250's [website](#). To move forward with participation at the state level, a legislative sponsor is required. Pat Hardy will reach out to TX Rep. Charlie Geren. Lynn Young and Jelain Chubb will assist with planning and submitting an event request to the State Preservation Board, caretakers of the Capitol. Harrison County, Texas will be participating in initiative.

Western States are planning to promote a cross-country Neighborhood Potluck on July 5, 2026. Additional details will be shared information becomes available.

The Neill-Cochran House in Austin has convened a group of local museums through Austin Museum Partnership to discuss potential Semiquincentennial collaborations and promotions.

The annual Texas State Fair offers an opportunity to share commemoration events with many Texas residents. Lynn Young offered to connect the Commission with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), who have a house on the fairgrounds. Pat Hardy will collaborate with Lynn on State Fair planning. The Chairpersons of the DAR and SAR America250 Committee will be invited to participate in the Advisory Panel.

Hawaii has proposed a simultaneous reading across the country of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 2026.

## **Item 3. Update on New Advisory Panel Members**

New advisory panel members are Ann Hobing, Senior Director of Education & Community Outreach, Lone Star Flight Museum; Nancy Foster, Director of Marketing, Museum of Western Art; and Jeff Salmon, Executive Director, Frontier Texas.

Nancy mentioned plans to display original colonies and state flags at the Museum of Western Art.

An invitation has been sent to the Texas Veterans Commission and response is currently pending.

## **Item 4. Reports on Progress**

Work on the independent website is progressing and is planned to launch this month. Additional photos for website are welcome.

An introductory letter has been drafted and is ready to be emailed to congressional caucus and legislature members. The Texas America250 newsletter will be sent to Commissioners and Advisors for distribution.

Several conference proposals highlighting America250 have been accepted. Session proposals for the Alliance for Texas History, THC Real Places, and the Texas Association of Museums conferences this Spring have been approved. Additionally, the Bullock team will be speaking about the 250<sup>th</sup> at the annual Social Studies Teachers conference in San Marcos.

**Item 5. Discussion/ Possible Action regarding Open Meeting Recordings**

The Texas America250 Commission meetings are recorded and available to the public upon request. The Commission is exploring the most straightforward way to have them accessible on the new website, or possibly through a YouTube Channel.

**Item 6. Update on Logo Licensing Agreement and Production Development**

The Texas Logo Licensing agreement will be used by the Commission for interested parties who wish to use the Texas logo and the words America 250 for their marketing and/or product. An agreement request form will be made available on the new website.

Texas America250 lapel pins have been ordered and are expected arrive in time for distribution to legislators during this session.

**IV. Public Comment**

Chair Koch called for anyone wishing to provide public comment on any matter pertaining to the Commission.

Molly Fortune, SC250, shared South Carolina's initiatives, focusing on heritage tourism and economic development in rural counties. She emphasized the connection between Saluda County's heritage and Texas notable figures and sites for tourism.

Emily Hermans, THC put a call out on information regarding TEKs content and America250. Pat Hardy will connect with Jan Miller at Texas Law-Related Education for more education details.

Molly Fortune offered to share South Carolina's budget request with TXAM250.

**V. Adjournment**

Next meeting is currently scheduled for February 13, 2025 at 11 am with a presentation from the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.