

**MINUTES**  
**TEXAS AMERICA250 COMMISSION**  
**Bullock Texas State History Museum**  
**1800 N. Congress, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom**  
**Austin, Texas 78701**  
**March 12, 2026**  
**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, Jelain Chubb, State Archivist & Director, Texas State Library and Archives, Pat Hardy, State Board of Education, Rodney Franklin, Director of Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Tim Fennell, Director, Travel Texas, Economic Development and Tourism, Governor’s Office. Lynn Young, America250 Representative, was excused.

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

Margaret Koch, Presiding Chair of the Texas America250 Commission, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Chair Koch requested that AI note-taking through Zoom be deactivated during Texas America250 Commission meetings, noting that meeting recordings are available upon request.

In the interest of time, Chair Koch invited members of the advisory panel to introduce themselves via the Zoom chat. The chat record was saved and filed for recordkeeping purposes.

Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

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

Chair Koch asked if there were any discrepancies in the February 12, 2026 meeting minutes. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes.

Commissioner Pat Hardy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Tim Fennell seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **III. Consideration of the Following Agenda Items:**

#### **Item 1. Presentation on "An official publication for the U.S. Semiquincentennial" — Chris Atkins, Group of Nations**

Chris Atkins was unable to join the meeting; therefore, Chair Koch shared details on the initiative.

Group of Nations, in partnership with America250, will publish a commemorative publication to be assembled and distributed following the July 4 celebrations. Each state will have the opportunity to contribute a brief summary for inclusion in the national publication at no cost, with additional paid advertising opportunities available.

Due to the nature of the content submissions, Commissioner Tim Fennell of Travel Texas, within the Office of the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism, will connect with the Governor's communication team on potential submissions.

#### **Item 2. Presentation on Carroll ISD America250 initiatives — Cam Bryan, School Board President**

Cam Bryan presented on the America250-related activities taking place within Carroll ISD in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Carroll ISD has installed 250th anniversary signage across all district venues, which will remain in place throughout the year. In addition, the district is incorporating curriculum-based activities, including research projects, fine arts initiatives, and participation in the My America program.

The district also plans to engage the broader community through schoolwide events and assemblies, as well as collaborations with local organizations, veterans, historians, and civic leaders.

With the slogan "Protect the Tradition," Carroll ISD expressed strong enthusiasm and pride in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.

Commissioner Jelain Chubb commended Mr. Bryan on the district's efforts and provided information on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's (TSLAC) Reading Challenge, encouraging Carroll ISD to participate. Commissioner Pat Hardy also applauded the presentation and expressed interest in sharing it with other school boards to encourage broader participation.

#### **Item 3. Report from Task Group Conveners on TXAM250 Goals**

- a) Encourage Texans to unite in commemorating the Semiquincentennial. — Advisor, Ann Hobing

Advisor Ann Hobing shared updates on ongoing efforts to encourage Texans to unite in celebrating the Semiquincentennial.

She noted her enthusiasm following the Carroll ISD presentation and indicated she would follow up with the district to include its events on the Texas America250 website. The task group has divided regions of the state among its members to support direct outreach and encourage participation across Texas through social media cross-postings.

Advisor Hobing inquired about the possibility of adding a search function to the website calendar to allow users to search for events by city; the Commission agreed to explore this enhancement.

She also encouraged all members to share the Texas America250 newsletter, promote the TXAM250 QR code page, and amplify mentions in [The Texan](#) magazine (beginning on page 70).

Roshan Manjunath of Art Worldly asked Ms. Hobing to tag him in future posts so that he may also share and repost the content.

Following the report, Chair Koch noted that the Bullock Texas State History Museum has increased its social media activity related to the Semiquincentennial to support broader public engagement and sharing efforts and commended the Texas State Library and Archives for their promotion as well.

Commissioner Pat Hardy requested to be connected with task group members working in the Dallas–Fort Worth area.

- b) Promote scholarship and research that illuminates the history of the American West and Texas’s role in the formation of the nation — Advisor, Bob Ward

Tabled until April meeting.

- c) Recognize the service and sacrifices of veterans and their families who have protected our liberties and independence for future generations — Advisor, Krystal Matthews

Advisor Krystal Matthews provided an update on efforts to recognize the service and sacrifices of veterans and their families who have protected the nation’s liberties and independence for future generations.

Following the circulation of a Veterans Story Survey, the task group received 86 submissions, some of which included photographs. The group is currently reviewing the responses and working to organize a potential exhibit.

Discussions are also underway regarding how to appropriately present and incorporate stories that were submitted without accompanying photos.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Chair Koch announced that the Bullock Texas State History Museum will participate in a nationwide simultaneous reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, a national initiative that originated in Hawaii. She noted that all states and territories have signed on to participate.

Fidel Santos invited meeting attendees to the Granaderos de Damas Zoom meeting taking place the evening of March 12, featuring the Vice Chairman of the Louisiana America250 Commission, who will

present on the Galvez story as it relates to the state of Louisiana. He added that Commissioner Margaret Koch will be presenting at the April 9 Granaderos presentation.

Mr. Santos also shared that Louisiana was approved to include the Louisiana America250 logo on the diplomas of 2026 graduates. Commissioner Pat Hardy volunteered to investigate how Texas might similarly include the TXAM250 logo on Texas diplomas.

Mari Tamez announced the March Bexar America250 Symposium, which will focus on the role of donativos, featuring three speakers discussing donations, including those from Las Misiones, 1718 Presidio soldiers, and American Indians in Texas.

Dr. Judy Staveley shared that *The Platform* magazine will feature the Bexar Heritage article in its March issue, and she encouraged all advisors to continue sharing stories to promote the Semiquincentennial.

## **V. Adjournment**

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 9, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

With no old or unfinished business pending before the Commission and a quorum no longer present, Presiding Chair Koch made the executive decision to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.