

**MINUTES**  
**TEXAS AMERICA250 COMMISSION**  
**Bullock Texas State History Museum**  
**1800 N. Congress, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom**  
**Austin, Texas 78701**  
**April 9, 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; Tim Fennell, Director, Travel Texas, Economic Development and Tourism, Governor’s Office; and Lynn Young, America250 Representative. Rodney Franklin, Director of Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, joined the meeting after roll call.

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

Presiding Chair Margaret Koch called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Chair Koch requested that AI note-taking through Zoom be deactivated during Texas America250 Commission meetings, noting that official 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 March 12, 2026 meeting minutes. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes.

Commissioner Lynn Young moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Pat Hardy seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as presented.

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

#### **Item 1. Presentation on Tiki Island Community Foundation’s programming in support of America’s 250th anniversary — Dedreah Pace, Founder & President, Tiki Island Community Foundation, Inc.**

Chair Koch welcomed Dedreah Pace, who presented an overview of the Tiki Island Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2026 to support community initiatives, education, heritage preservation, and resilience. The Foundation partners with residents and local organizations to build programs that strengthen civic engagement and community pride.

Ms. Pace outlined the Foundation’s America250 programming, including a Heritage Collection Initiative, historical education, and community engagement efforts. She stated the Foundation’s vision is to unite residents through programs that celebrate American history and preserve Tiki Island’s heritage during the nation’s 250th anniversary, with the goal of building a lasting community legacy. She also noted the island’s connection to eight founding families, bringing America’s founding story into a modern coastal community. Additional events are available on the Foundation’s [website](#).

Chair Koch thanked Ms. Pace for her presentation and invited comments. Monte Monroe, former State Historian and recent appointee to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, recommended coordination with the Rosenberg Library or the State Archives to properly archive the Foundation’s historical materials. Chair Koch also mentioned the opportunity to connect Tiki Island stories to the *Our American Story* national initiative through recording and submission. Advisory member Ann Hobing offered to connect Ms. Pace with colleagues at the Rosenberg Library.

Commissioner Pat Hardy asked how Ms. Pace identified connections to eight founding families. Ms. Pace explained that she developed a community program, *Revolutionary Roots*, and shared her personal research conducted for her DAR membership. Through this work, she identified multiple ancestral connections, including two signers of the Declaration of Independence, one signer of the U.S. Constitution, and five recognized patriots.

#### **Item 2. Report on Initiatives by Commissioned State Agencies**

Presiding Chair Koch called on Texas America250 Commissioners to share updates on their agencies’ initiatives for the Semiquincentennial.

**Tim Fennell, Director of Travel Texas, Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism,** reported that his office has been designated to represent Texas at the Great National State Fair on the Capitol Mall, scheduled for June 25 through July 10. Mr. Fennell mentioned the possibility of an exhibit as part of the activation, but stated that details remain limited at this time.

Additionally, the Governor’s Office has notified all state agencies that they should incorporate the Texas America250 logo on their websites.

Next, **Jelain Chubb of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC)** provided an update on upcoming America250-related events.

- April 18 – In partnership with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), TSLAC will host a workshop on researching Revolutionary-era ancestors at the Sam Houston Center in Liberty, Texas. Ms. Chubb encouraged Dedreah Pace to attend.
- April 19 – TSLAC will present excerpts from the American Revolution, along with an author chat.
- June 13 (Flag Day) – TSLAC will host a program focused on Texas annexation into the Union, featuring a display of the 28th star flag (July 4, 1846–July 3, 1847), with the State Historian serving as a featured speaker.
- June 27 – The Sam Houston Center will host a full-day celebration, currently in planning.

Commissioner Chubb also reported that they've received positive feedback on the more than 700 traveling exhibits distributed statewide.

Chair Koch then called on **Pat Hardy, representing the State Board of Education** on the Commission. Commissioner Hardy reported that she continues to reach out to schools to increase awareness of the Semiquincentennial and encourage participation in related initiatives. She also noted efforts to promote use of the Texas America250 logo within school districts.

**Lynn Young, representing America250**, was called upon to share national updates. She encouraged members to visit America250.org and review the national events calendar. She reported that the Congressional America250 Caucus, with 400 members, is the largest caucus in the history of the United States Congress. Commissioner Young expressed appreciation for the Texas America250 Commission's efforts to amplify America250 initiatives.

Commissioner **Rodney Franklin, Director of Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**, reported that several America250-related activities are planned at state parks, many of which will take place around July 4. Events include bike parades, potlucks, and community gatherings, with park interpreters available to engage attendees. He also noted that Texas Parks and Wildlife will add the Texas America250 logo to its website and press materials. Chair Koch inquired whether a centralized list of events would be available on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website or if information would need to be accessed through individual park sites. Commissioner Franklin responded that events are currently accessible through each park's individual site, and the department is exploring options to better promote and centralize this information.

**Margaret Koch** reported on activities from the **Bullock Texas State History Museum**. The museum hosted Texas History Day with more than 1,200 students participating. The Texas America250 Commission sponsored a prize, which will be discussed in detail at the May meeting. The museum's distance learning classes and gallery conversation carts have been revamped to include America250 topics. A new special exhibit on Texas festivals and how they have shaped and reflect state identity will open April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Bullock will host a public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 at 5 pm. Additional initiatives include the use of a pop-up banner for the 250th, recently displayed at the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission's Real Places 2026 conference, homeschool days, artifacts on view, a Juneteenth film screening and ongoing promotion through social media.

### **Item 3. Report on National Initiatives — Lynn Forney Young, America250 Commissioner**

After acknowledging Commissioner Young's previous updates, Margaret Koch presented a number of national initiatives and reports:

- Texas is one of America’s Field Trip lead project submissions. Award announcements are expected soon.
- The Freedom Plane, carrying eight founding documents, will land in Houston, with Commissioner Chubb representing the Commission at the arrival.
- May 17 – Freedom 250 National Day of Prayer
- May 25 – Memorial Day observances highlighted with the Freedom Truck in San Antonio
- June 4 – Austin PBS Educational Resource Fair
- June 9 – Presidential 1776 Competition for students in grades 9–12
- June 25 – July 10 – Great American State Fair in Washington, D.C.
- July 3 – America’s Block Party
- July 4 – Parade of Tall Ships and “Light Up the Night” events
- July 5 – America’s Potluck
- July 8 – Public reading of the Declaration of Independence
- Ongoing – America Gives initiative

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

Chair Koch opened the floor to public comment.

Advisor Bob Ward noted that he is working with a librarian at Texas State University to develop an educational resource page as part of efforts to promote scholarship related to the Semiquincentennial.

Nancy Foster highlighted several Kerr 250 events, including the *Stars, Stripes, and States* exhibit at the Museum of Western Art. She also noted participation in the July 8 simultaneous reading of the Declaration of Independence. Additional initiatives include a display of state flags along Interstate 10 en-route to Kerrville’s Louise Hays Park and a planned tree-planting initiative.

Fidel Santos extended an invitation to the monthly Laredo Chapter Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez America250 presentation series.

#### **V. Adjournment**

The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

With no old or unfinished business pending before the Commission, Jelain Chubb moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pat Hardy seconded the motion.

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