

250th Anniversary Commission

Arts & Cultural Heritage Committee Meeting

November 16, 2023, 2pm ET Via Microsoft Teams

The meeting commenced at 2:05 pm ET

Attending: Cynthia Davis, State of Vermont
Eileen Corcoran
James Lockridge, Big Heavy World

I. Land Acknowledgement

James shared the following land acknowledgement: We wish to acknowledge that in Vermont, we are within the unceded territory of the original inhabitants of N'dakinna (en-DAH-kee-NAH), the Abenaki, and in the southwest portion, the Mohican people. Their traditional and ongoing relationships with the land call us to learn to be better caretakers of the land as well. We offer respect to their ancestors, their elders, and their relations: past, present, and emerging. We recognize and wish to honor the responsibility that accompanies this acknowledgement of those relationships.

II. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was agreed to by James and Eileen.

III. Public input

No public was present for comment.

IV. America250: America's Stories

James suggested that the committee consider sharing the America250 'America's Invitation' initiative (<https://america250.org/americas-stories/>) so that, with more Vermonters participating in it, the state will earn a high profile within this national platform for exposure. The program gathers video statements by individuals describing, "Your reflections on our past, present, and future are helping us create the

most inclusive commemoration in history” and shares these videos on the official site of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission.

V. Foundation—setting for successful statewide Arts & Cultural Heritage engagement

James noted that planning grant programs are becoming available and suggested that the committee could ensure these opportunities are known to the arts and cultural heritage sectors of the state. Examples of current relevant grants include the Vermont 250th Community Planning Grants of the Vermont Historical Society and The Lake Champlain Basin Program’s Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Special Program and Core Grant Program.

Coordination within the committee could ensure that all opportunities for outreach are discovered, including those outside of traditional arts and cultural heritage outreach programs. Examples of pathways to wider exposure include communicating with town selectboard members via town clerks and seeking alliance for outreach with organizations like the Vermont Downtown Program, Chambers of Commerce, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns. A goal would be to feel that these opportunities are recognized by arts and cultural heritage stakeholders inclusively throughout the state.

VI. Old business

No old business was discussed.

VII. New business

No new business was discussed.

VIII. Confirm next regular meeting date

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 21 at 2pm ET via Microsoft Teams. This is a regular monthly third-Thursday meeting. James will poll the committee members to ask if this meeting should be canceled due to its proximity to holidays.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm ET.