

Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
Arts and Cultural Heritage Committee
May 16, 2024 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Members Present:

James Lockridge

Tom Hughes

Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup

Eileen Corcoran

- I. What would we seek legislative funding for via Laura?
 - The budget process for FY26 is underway. FY25 budget was completed last week. Laura needs information from committees about what to put into an ask for the 250th Committees. If she is successful in getting the request into governor's budget proposal, it would be in play from there with a decision by May 2025. Funding would be available June 2026-July 2027.
 - Research & Historical Committee went through discussion several months ago that they want to propose to governor. The proposal is for a small grants program run by an organization that already has grants program, not 250th. 100k for small grants and 150k for somewhat larger grants that would be associated with the Fall Festival of Arts and Humanities. 150k would be shared between R&S Committee and Arts Committee.
 - Laura has a document with information regarding grants for R&S and A&C – would like feedback asap from committees to put into budget proposal. Does not need details on how it would work, just needs broad 3-4 sentences for grant proposals. Regardless of funding, committee would like to prioritize 250th programming for 2026.
 - Eileen voiced support for the legislative funding idea. Thinks that this is the thing to concentrate on. Grant proposal should have broad inclusion of history, arts, and culture.
 - Committee discussed the language to be used in funding request. In section of document that addresses the Fall Festival, text starts to discuss theme of drawing from the past and how it plays into our present, the future.
 - Committee supports this direction, would like to keep participating in what the language looks like for legislature.
 - James: If it's looking positive within first 6 weeks of legislative session (around mid-February), committee should start working on actual criteria. Doesn't want to do unnecessary work if legislation doesn't pass the budget. Thinks this conversation would not have been productive for this session, next week.
 - All present committee members provided statement of support for Laura's legislative funding proposal.

- II. Is our committee intending to create any material or strategies oriented towards connecting the 250th to our arts and heritage community?
 - Should we rely on pre-existing institutions for this?
 - Eileen: White River Junction conference on Friday was very valuable, great to get people in a room to talk about the 250th. Focus was more on history, but still had great

discussions and introduced 250th to many folks. Must leverage presentations by getting people in the room. Committee should seek out conferences and meetings within creative sphere, to deliver 15-30 minute presentations on 250th. Folks can share interests, ideas.

- James: Creative Convening in June – is there 250th content?
 - Christopher: probably not, but can get it there. Starting to have series of meetings with larger art organizations to plant seeds for 250th. All of us should be meeting with folks to start discussing 250th. These can develop into larger projects as the anniversary draws nearer.