

250th Anniversary Commission

Arts & Cultural Heritage Committee Meeting

February 29, 2pm ET Via Microsoft Teams

The meeting commenced at 2:01 pm ET

Attending: Eileen Corcoran, Vermont Historical Society
Tom Hughes, Historian
James Lockridge, Big Heavy World
Laura Trieschmann, State of Vermont

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 approved unanimously.

III. Approval of the minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Public input

No public was present for comment.

V. Determine the formal ACHC legislative funding request to submit via Commission.V. Candidates for Committee Membership

We learned from Laura that the committee has through July to prepare a proposal for funding from the legislature via a formal Commission request. An ACHC proposal would be reviewed by the finance committee before inclusion in the overall legislative request. The conversation introduced the concept of requesting \$50,000 for distribution as grants to Vermont creatives to support 250th programming. These grants would be managed by an allied nonprofit agent with preexisting grant management infrastructure. The topic was tabled until a more complete committee attendance is possible, when Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup returns from time away and Jill Adams is formally appointed to the Vermont 250th commission as a representative of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs.

VI. Discuss each member's thoughts about outreach strategies including those outside of each member's institutional resources, with a goal to better achieve inclusive statewide creation of or participation in 250th programming.

This has become a standing agenda item that has been tabled until the next meeting when more complete attendance by ACHC members is expected.

VII. Share news of regional ACHC-relevant programming.

James shared that artist Doug Lazarus plans to create a multiple-subject portrait of historic Vermonters for exhibit at the Vermont State House.

James shared that Big Heavy World is coordinating a residency for musicians at the Vermont State House that will present an exhibit there in January, 2026.

VIII. Old business

No old business was discussed.

IX. New business

No new business was discussed.

X. Confirm next regular meeting date

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 18 at 2pm ET via Microsoft Teams. Note that there will be no ACHC meeting in March.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.