

GENERAL 250TH MEETING:

09/08/25, Monday, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Martha Deiss, Israel Provoncha, Rich Strum, Phil Holland, Elsa Gilbertson, Eric Howard, Meghan Hill, Jonah Spivak

LINKS & RESOURCES:

- Today's Agenda (Sent as PDF, copied in notes below)
- [250th Art Exhibition Folder:](#)
 - [250th Art Exhibition Information Packet](#)
 - [K-2 Theme and Materials](#)
 - [3-5 Theme and Materials](#)
 - [6-8 Theme and Materials](#)
 - [9-12 Theme and Materials](#)
 - [Adult Education Theme and Materials](#)

NOTES:

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Changes to Agenda

- No changes

III. Approval of August Minutes

- Moved by Elsa, seconded by Jonah, accepted

IV. Public Comment

- No public comment

V. Old Business

- Art at the Statehouse (Eric)
 - [250th Art Exhibition Folder:](#)
 - [250th Art Exhibition Information Packet](#)
 - [K-2 Theme and Materials](#)
 - [3-5 Theme and Materials](#)

- [6-8 Theme and Materials](#)
 - [9-12 Theme and Materials](#)
 - [Adult Education Theme and Materials](#)
- Hopefully Martha and I will be meeting with David Schutz at the statehouse in the next week or two to discuss some final details:

Questions to get answered to inform the rest of the art packet:

- Size and type (2D, 3D, etc.) limitations
 - Does it have to be mounted and ready to hang in any particular way
 - How do we recognize the students names, grade, and school?
 - Consistent format options for artist statements (written, audio or video with QR Code)?
 - Criteria for selection or rejection (considering content/themes that may be off limits). Who is making the decisions?
 - Will there be a drop off site or sites around the state-- where and when?
 - Date the artwork is due
 - Will the work be open to the public? Any kind of opening or closing reception?
 - Is the artwork getting back to folks? if so, how?
 - Will there be any "winners" for semi-permanent display anywhere? Maybe by grade-band (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, AE), theme, etc.?
 - Permission slips? (See Vermont Public example)
- Folks will look over the documents at their earliest convenience
- CTE Update (Martha)
 - Only one CTE teacher came to AOE/PBS meeting.
 - He is all-in, but is a reenactor and may be a skewed perspective.
 - The goal will be for students who are participating to have something – storyboard, rough cuts, etc. for the VASS Conference.

- PBS is taking over a bit. PBS worried about “Unfinished Revolution” theme. AOE keeps pushing back to hold that theme and developing a parent letter and hosting a webinar for students and teachers about all perspectives.
- AOE CTE vetted the teachers, but Sam, the teacher has been recruiting other educators.
- If the criteria are not met, they will not be aired
- May/June was the initial deadline, but the National Public Television needs around January.
- Nothing should be going out without us seeing it.

- VASS Conference (Martha)
 - This is our one entry for the 250th.
 - Vermont Public will be tabling with Ethan Allen information
 - No passport needed for Ethan Allen information
 - Free and accessible to everyone
 - Toolkits will be coming out later than expected. Ethan Allen airing in November; toolkits in October
 - 250th will try to get a Table. Elsa Gilbertson will try to get one
 - A lot of arts based focus – podcasting and otherwise
 - Literacy connections
 - Ron sent an email to Elsa today.
 - Angy Grove reached out to Israel about Ethan Allen work
 - Rich Strum will also have a table and have Northern Department materials (missed name, sorry.)
 - Martha will share the selected session flyer for the VASS Conference and registration

VI. New Business

- Rich Strum: Those close enough to get to Fort Ticonderoga, they are doing clips on Wednesday October 8th. Free, but limited seating. PBS Website. Approximately 35 minutes of film from Ken Burns documentary.

- Jonah:
 - Preview screening of Ken Burns in Bennington on October 29, 2025 at 5:30 pm
 - Sharing the Spirit of America – July 8th Simultaneous reading of the declaration of independence. Schedule of times for simultaneous reading
 - Includes a study guide
 - Details about the signers
 - Is this something we want shared broadly?
 - Civic Season starts June 19th
 - Connect the dots between the oldest holiday (Independence Day) and newest holiday (Juneteenth).
- Elsa: Hope there will be a community bell ringing.
 - Request at 2:00 p.m. on July 4th to honor that.

VII. Adjourn

-

Next Meeting: TBD

-

Future Agenda:

- Project updates