



## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

State House, Boston 02133

Representative Carole Fiola

Senator Edward J. Kennedy

House Chair

Senate Chair

### **Meeting Minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> Commission Meeting September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Members Present: Fiola, Kennedy, Barrett, Vieira, Comeau, Simon, Singleton, Kleespies, Lawson, Shepard, Carnahan, Love, Allgor, Casper, Cullen, Peters, Woods, Miranda, Slatery, Moreau, Lewis, O'Donnell, Chandler, Krauthamer, Hiscoe, Hollister, Taylor, Orrall, Quinlin, Renkas

#### **Opening Roll Call**

- Chair Fiola called the opening roll at 3:01pm and welcomed Commission members to the meeting.
- The minutes for the previous meeting were approved unanimously by those present.

#### **Subcommittee Assignments, Structure, and Updates**

- Chair Fiola thanked members for filling out the poll. Using those preferences, the Chairs assigned members who responded to the poll to one of four subcommittees.
- Four members were also chosen as subcommittee Chairs;
  - Chairing the Education Subcommittee, Representative Roy
  - Chairing the Finance Subcommittee, Senator Barrett
  - Chairing the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, Barbara Krauthamer from UMass Amherst
  - Chairing the Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee, Michael Quinlin from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism

<b>Education</b>	<b>Outreach and Marketing</b>	<b>Diversity and Inclusion</b>	<b>Finance</b>
<i>Representative Roy - Chair</i>	<i>Michael Quinlin - Chair</i> Representative	<i>Barbara Krauthamer - Chair</i>	<i>Senator Barrett - Chair</i>
Michael Comeau	Vieira	Kerima Marie Lewis	Senator Fattman
Casey Cullen	Brona Simon	David Weeden	Ken Hiscoe
Thomas Moreau	Suzanne Taylor	Ray Shepard	Suzie Barry
Abby Chandler	Gavin Kleespies	Brian Boyles	Michael Lawson
Ryan J Woods	David O'Donnell	John Peters	David Slatery
Erin Kelly Miranda			
Paula Pratt Renkas			
Scott Casper			
Catherine Allgor			

- Chair Kennedy made a motion to approve the creation of the subcommittees and the Chairs of those subcommittees. Senator Barrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chair Fiola stated members will receive communications from Subcommittee Chairs regarding next steps in the next week or so. Members are also allowed to attend any Subcommittee meeting they want as a non-voting member, by emailing staff and the Chair of that subcommittee. All subcommittee meetings will also be public meetings.
- Chair Fiola took a moment to remind members of the mission of the subcommittee:
  - Developing a comprehensive plan for promoting and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Revolution;
  - Identifying all opportunities for individuals, municipalities or other actors across the commonwealth to participate in celebrations of the anniversary and recognize the particular history of their geographical areas;
  - Investigating and promoting under-represented voices in the American Revolution including, but not limited to, women, native peoples and persons of color;
  - And finally, by submitting a report that will include an overview of the commonwealth's particular role in the American Revolution and notable battles, events and figures of the era.

- Discussion unfolded regarding a Boston history museum, and efforts by the Massachusetts Historical Society according to Catherine Allgor to find a space downtown in Boston as a “pop-up”, maybe turned permanent space to exist as a central point during the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebrations, and Paula Renkas reiterated that it should be interior space.
- Suzanne Taylor and others also discussed how that ties into the ongoing celebrations of Boston’s 400<sup>th</sup> in 2030.
- Chair Fiola suggested that discussion can continue in the Subcommittees on how to tie in this museum space and 400<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

## **Update from Revolution 250**

### **Updates regarding Boston Tea Party Celebrations**

Nathaniel Sheidley from Revolutionary Spaces presented on projects and programs they are taking on in regard to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. These projects are ongoing through 2023

- Their organization comprises two separate spaces, Old State House, Old South Meeting House
- Events include:
  - January 2023, 225th Anniversary of the Sacred Cod, Replica of the Cod, from the Old Statehouse
  - A Year of Conversations, including panels on
    - Exploring the Tea Party in historical context
    - Wide ranging conversation with leaders and icons,
    - Celebrating and educating about activism today
  - Challenge and Reflect exhibit on the power of protest
  - Exhibit on Power of petitions,
    - Powerful antislavery petitions were presented, broader exhibit, other groups who did not have the franchise at those times
  - Day-long poetry workshops with youth, Boston poets
    - Phillis Wheatley Peters– Celebrating her legacy
  - History Slam
  - Retelling of the Meeting of the Bod of the People at Old South Meeting House
  - Celebration of American Protest Music

Evan O’Brien, the Creative Manager from Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum presented on their own projects and programs in regard to the Boston Tea party.

- The reenactment of the Tea Party will be taking place in December 2023, with expected thousands of participants along the waterfront observing. Planning a commemorative year leading up to that day, starting one year before on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2022
- Goals of bringing awareness to the significance of the event, creating programming to encourage public education, engage with schools both locally and nationally with various educational initiatives, and encourage visitation to the City of Boston

- Running a program for descendants of the Boston Tea Party
- Boston Tea Party Participant Grave Marker Project
- Tea Donation, kids across the Commonwealth can donate
- Phillis Wheatley Exhibit
- Full Reenactment, carefully choreographed and taking place over 30 minutes, throwing tea from two vessels
  - With that engaging the historical, hospitality and travel communities
- Also will be a tie in with Sail Boston coming that summer, many statewide, national and international partners
- Paula Renkas asked if there was an official list of original participants in the Tea Party and was told there would be an update in the coming months, and it will be posted on the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum website.

### **Closing Roll Call**

Chair Fiola is looking at all of these great events and wants to make sure we find ways to encourage schools and educational opportunities for students outside of Boston. Michael Lawson encouraged the group to look at and work with local organizations, like Concord that has a committee that are scheduling and programming events.

Casey Cullen stated that the National Convection of Social Studies Teachers, 4500-5000 teachers will be coming around the time of the Tea Party, and that they had just opened up the EMK Institute for them.

Chair Fiola asked for a motion to adjourn, Chair Kennedy motioned, and the motion was seconded by Senator Barrett and the motion was passed. Chair Fiola then took a closing roll call around 4:15pm.

*Next Scheduled Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am*

# Revolutionize the Way We Commemorate

An inclusive and contemporary slate

A year of city-wide events

A founding narrative in which we all have a stake

## Boston Tea Party 250th Anniversary Renewing the Founding Story



## Experience the Power of Place

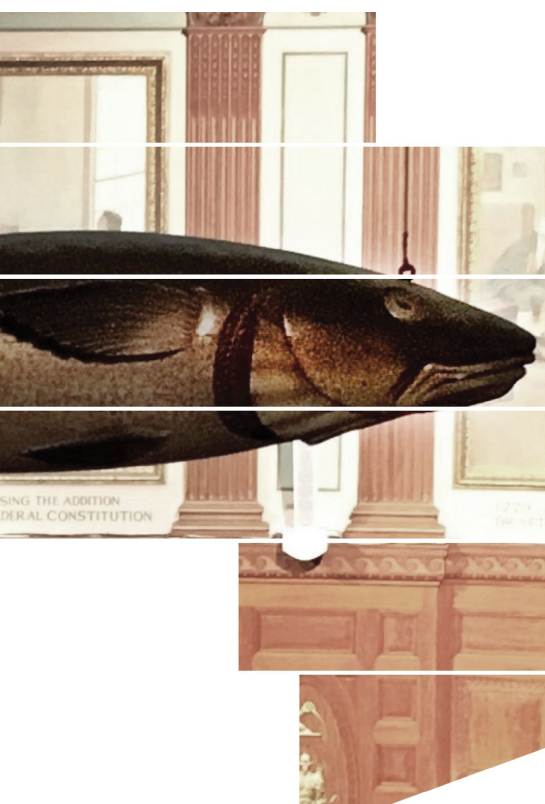
Boston's fervor for freedom builds

Conversations, culture, content and commemorations that swell into the 21st century

## A Rising Tide of Opportunity

All eyes were on Boston in 1773, as they will be in 2023

Intersecting with the flow of summer tourism, the surge of returning students, the frenzy of Fall activities, culminating in a rich December



## Starting with Joy

### Follow the Cod

Bridging history with civic life

Marking the 225th anniversary of the procession of the Sacred Cod from Old State House to New State House

## A Year of Conversations

### Wide-ranging panels

Exploring the Tea Party in historical context

Engaging civic and thought leaders

American Icons

Educating and celebrating activism today

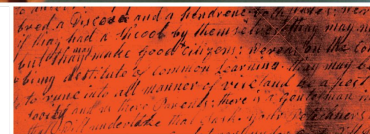


## Challenge and Reflect

### Exhibit exploring the role of violence in American Protest Movements

Is violence in protest ever justified?

Asking hard questions



## Write the next chapter in the unfinished struggle

### New exhibit on the power of petitions

1773 as an inflection point

Women, Black, and Indigenous Communities

# Poetry comes alive

## Day-long youth workshop with Boston poets

Living the legacy of Phillis Wheatley Peters

An opportunity to write and make voices heard



# Power(Point) of the People

## History Slam: Moments that Changed America

Making collective  
meaning of our past

Fun and fast-paced for  
all ages



# Revolutionize the Retelling

## Summer premiere of an imaginative and immersive theatrical experience

*The Meeting of the Body of  
the People at Old South*



# Come out and sing

## A celebration of American protest music

Harkening back to the rich  
Revolutionary tradition

Carried through history to  
songs today



# Boston at its Best

**A season to celebrate and honor today's changemakers**

High-octane speakers

A reflective civic ritual at Old South

The Boston Tea Party play remount



# Something for Everyone

No matter whether you call Boston home, encounter a transformative experience at any time of year.

Explore the struggle to create and sustain a free society through many modalities and imagine the possibilities for the future.



## Conversations

- Wide-ranging discussion panels
- Day-long youth poetry workshop
- History Slam: Moments that Changed America

## Content

- Violence in American protest movements
- Power of petitions

## Culture

- New theatrical production *Meeting of the Body of the People*
- Celebration of American protest music

## Community

- Follow the Cod
- Civic ritual at Old South Meeting House



250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



# 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party

1773-2023

## A Commemorative Year

# 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Year

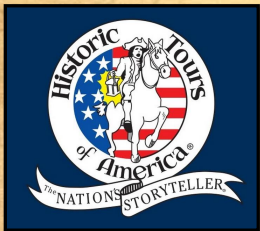
December 16, 2022-December 16, 2023



Creating a series of programs throughout the commemorative year.

Special exhibits, in-person & virtual performances, signature events, etc.

The commemorative year will culminate in the grand-scale 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party & Reenactment on December 16, 2023.



## Programming Goals

Bring international awareness to the Boston Tea Party's pivotal role in the lead up to the American Revolution.

Create dynamic, inclusive, collaborative programming to encourage public education, conversation and engagement.

Engage with school systems and educational initiatives both locally and nationally.

Encourage visitation to and engagement with the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, affiliated organizations, museums, hotels, restaurants, and communities.



## Partnerships



Revolution 250



Revolutionary Spaces



GBCVB



British Consulate-General



British American Business Council of New England



East India Company

## Boston Tea Party Descendants Program



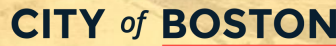
Linking descendants of Boston Tea Party participants around the world.

Membership available with proof of lineal descendency.

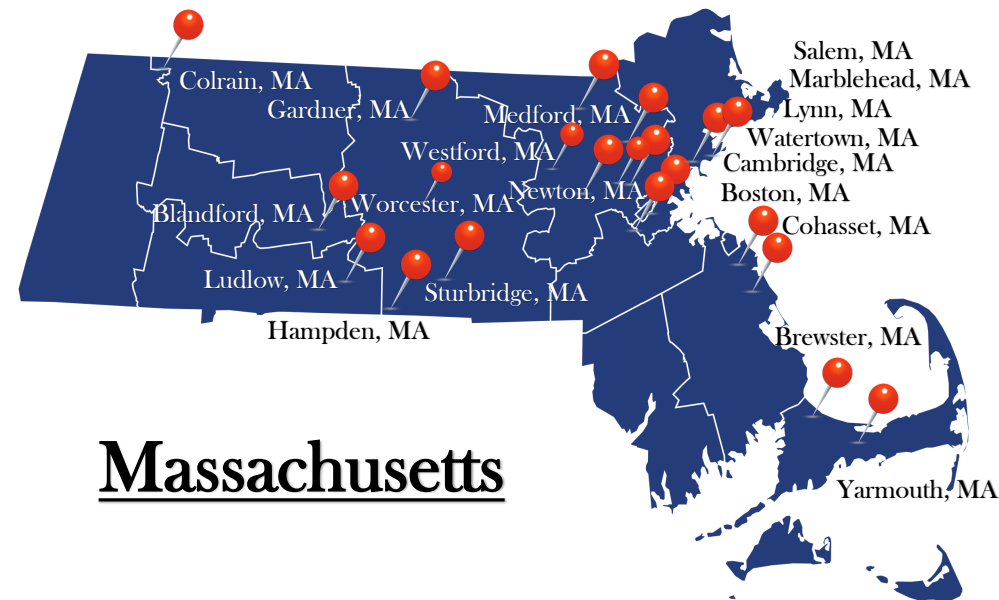
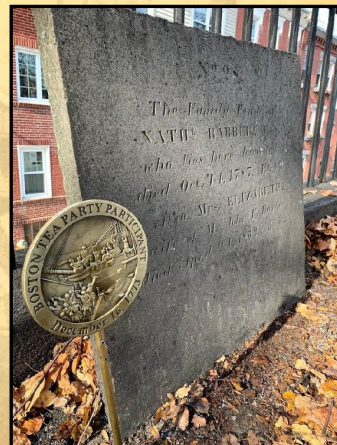
Creation of dedicated website, online content, in-person events, newsletters, social media engagement, interviews, etc.

## New England Historic Genealogical Society

### Partnerships



## Boston Tea Party Participant Grave Marker Project



## Massachusetts

## Boston Tea Party Participant Grave Marker Project

### Massachusetts

Watertown, MA  
Salem, MA  
Yarmouth, MA  
Ludlow, MA  
Newton, MA  
Brewster, MA  
Blandford, MA

### Connecticut

Bantam, CT

### New Hampshire

Haverhill, NH  
Wolfeboro, NH

**Recent  
Ceremonies**

## Boston Tea Party Participant Grave Marker Project

### Vermont

West Fairlee, VT  
St. Albans, VT  
Wardsboro, VT

**Upcoming  
Ceremonies**

### Maine

Moscow, ME  
Whiting, ME  
Northport, ME  
Rockport, ME  
Warren, ME  
Belfast, ME  
Jay, ME  
Bethel ME

Turner, ME  
Hallowell, ME  
Gorham, ME  
Biddeford, ME

## Boston Tea Party Participant Grave Marker Project

### Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA  
Coaldale, PA  
Choconut, PA

### Virginia

Alexandria, VA

### Ohio

Chillicothe, OH  
Cincinnati, OH

### Michigan

Dearborn Heights, MI

### New York

Cazenovia, NY  
Utica, NY  
Richfield Springs, NY  
Carlisle, NY  
Schohaire, NY  
Chenango, NY  
Brooklyn, NY

**Upcoming  
Ceremonies**



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
**EDUCATION**

December 16, 2022 - March 16, 2023

**PROTEST**

March 16, 2023 - June 16, 2023

**REPRESENTATION**

June 16, 2023 - September 16, 2023

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

September 16, 2023 - December 16, 2023

**COMMEMORATION**

## Educational Outreach



## Tea Donation



Regional stops  
across  
Massachusetts in  
2023



## Phillis Wheatley Exhibit

*BTPSM Wardrobe Team  
recreating the dress worn on  
frontispiece*

*Photographed and displayed in a  
new exhibit*

## *250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Boston Tea Party Reenactment*

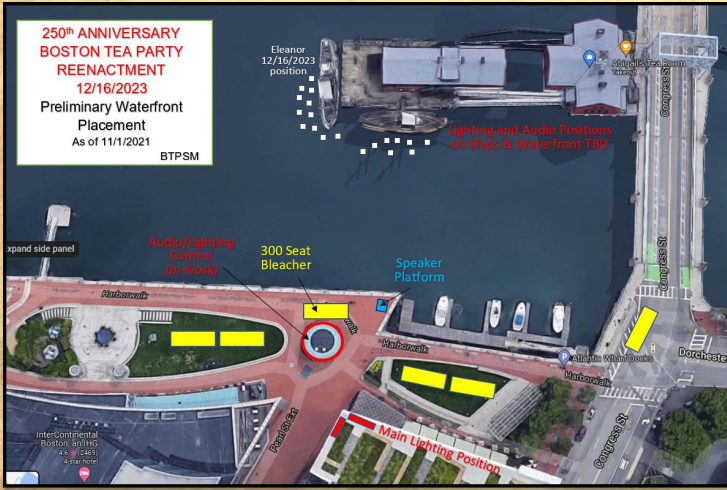


December 16, 2023

Professionally produced performance, supported by theatrical lighting and sound design.

Scripted and choreographed combination of Boston Tea Party anecdotes and accounts woven into a 30 minute performance.





*2023 Waterfront Plan*

Throwing tea from 2 vessels.

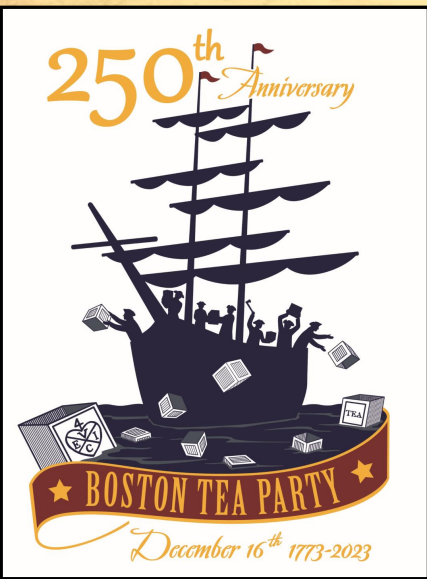
Expanded spectacle, audio, lighting, projection, and fireworks.

Thousands of spectators expected.

## Community Engagement



Endless opportunities for participation and collaboration!



## *BostonTeaParty250.org*

Dedicated website to serve as a centralized location for all **Boston Tea Party 250** information.

Will be used to promote all BTP250 themed programming, partners, sponsors, and participating organizations.