



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution
State House, Boston 02133

Minutes
2nd Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee Meeting
November 21, 2022 – 11am, Virtual

Members Present: Chair Krauthamer, Ray Shephard, John Peters, Kerima Lewis

Outside Members Present: Michael Quinlin, Dave Slatery

Opening Roll Call and Approval of the Minutes

- Chair Krauthamer started the meeting and welcomed the members.
- The last meetings minutes were approved unanimously, being moved by Kerima Lewis and seconded by John Peters

Discussion with Michael Quinlin, Chair of Marketing & Outreach Subcommittee

Chair Krauthamer introduced Michael Quinlin, Chair of the Marketing and Outreach Subcommittee

- Michael Quinlin gave a short summary of the 1st Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee meeting, which took place on 11/15/22
- Two charges: First is outreach, second is marketing.
 - Outreach: Reach as many people as we can of the 7 million in state, through Mass Municipal Association, the Legislature itself, historical societies, through education, heritage groups, towns who have been holding anniversaries etc. Identify who then how, hoping the D&I Subcommittee can help with both.
 - Marketing: Create a narrative, or narratives, tell the story on how to get people to Boston and the Commonwealth for 2025/2026 and beyond.
- Ray Anthony Shephard – Estimate on numbers?
 - Quinlin, 2026 will be a busy year with 250th events and the FIFA World Cup that summer as well, 100,000's of thousands of fans, great opportunity to tell a story to visitors. Working with Boston and Gillette stadium to make sure fans see a rich fabric of our life here
- Kerima Lewis – Diversity today and what diversity meant during the time of the Revolution were very different things. Outreaching to Professors in African-American history would be important, make sure that story is told.

- Quinlin, Chair Krauthamer spoke about contextualizing 1776 in the last meeting. Have to dig deeper to get a fuller story, this includes for indigenous peoples and religious minorities as well
- Chair Krauthamer brought the discussion to action items, these two subcommittees should come together and create a list of specific groups, people and organizations.
 - Michael Quinlin agrees, wants to create a database that has everything in it. The Subcommittees might not need to be the ones creating the database, but they should help in submitting to that list.
- John Peters – Not all pretty when it comes to stories and narratives. During Plymouth 400 much talk about indigenous peoples was about the devastation. From my people, 70 went to fight in the Revolutionary War, and 2 of them came back. Need to find a way to talk about the whole history, not in a negative sense, but still provide our story
 - Quinlin, important to provide that counterpoint and to assert oneself, make sure the story you care about is out there. Felt that was an important part Peters played during the Plymouth 400 process.
 - Chair Krauthamer, Embrace the opportunities and challenges that Peters brought up, bringing up the history that does not always fit the narratives like Lewis mentioned. The terrible cost that was born from an otherwise glorious narrative, all part of the complicated story
- Chair Krauthamer: For a future conversation, both subcommittees have touched on the ideas of education and connecting with schools, how to do that reach out to schools and with certain individuals/educators in Boston area and across the commonwealth. Within higher education, are their partnerships between community colleges and school districts to sharing of resources that allows for further learning?
- Quinlin: Looking at previous celebrations, 1976 and 1876. Reality was in 1976, people were talking about similar issues, like womens rights, bussing, black rights, heated discussion. In 1876, something similar, talking about suffrage, reconstruction.

Identify issues, ideas, and/or questions to report to Commission chairs

What we should this subcommittee be doing, what should be putting in the report?

- Lewis: Thinking of historical societies, are there some that focus on the American Revolution specifically? Should we start by knowing who those entities are, and to know and focus our work?
- Peters: National Park Service is very much involved, and Lexington and Concord are probably some of the heavy hitters.
- Chair Krauthamer: What about Historical societies that focus on African Americans and women?
- Shephard: What degree can we create suggestions for libraries and historical sites. Also, how to be more inclusive and correct some of the errors, for lack of a better word, that guides show when conducting tour groups re: minority groups.
 - Suggestion was made that a Toolkit that can be made available for libraries and other institutions. Francis Jones Sneed: Western MA faculty member at Mass College of Liberal Arts, created DuBois in a box, literal kit that was for local

teachers and group, to learn about WEB DuBois. Thinking about somebody like Phillis Wheatley, artistic representations as part of this history.

- Slatery: On behalf of MCC and under new executive director, there are a lot of efforts and planning towards greater recruitment and presentation of underrepresented groups. MCC wants to help with better recruitment and grants for groups.
- Peters: We should talk about all sides of culture, not all controversy. Many don't know their own history that well and may not all be in the written record. All of the wars since America started, Peters tribe has participated in, and they have a park in Mashpee commemorating people from each of those different eras. There is a lot more that needs to be known and researched and this anniversary can help with those things.

Question asked: Who is going to come from out of state for the 250th, who is going to come to Boston, how do you market to a diverse crowd of visitors?

- Shephard said here has to be a compelling reason to attract visitors, broader than the commonly held story.
- Peters suggested that New England and Virginia will attract a lot of visitors because of places in history.
- Chair Krauthamer suggested that a compelling story can be about the movement of people who were escaping from slavery, sometimes with British, sometimes with revolutionaries, sometimes to Canada and elsewhere.

Chair Krauthamer laid out some action items

- Create a list of specific groups to share with Outreach and Marketing subcommittee. Thinking of those groups within the cultural sector; institutions and individuals that really are promoting diversity and inclusion,
- Also not losing site of Shephard suggestion that somebody be charged with creating a common set of resource that can be offered going back to the discussion on toolkits.
- Next step will be to schedule a meeting with the Education subcommittee.

Discussion started on what groups to put forward for report and the Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee: Members stated the following:

- Mass Historical Society
- Reenactor groups
- A list of books for all ages, preschool to adult books that tells fuller story of the Revolutionary era
- NAACP
- Individual academics and educators

Chair Krauthamer said more suggestions would be collected from the members going forward.

Closing Roll Call

- Kerima Lewis called a motion to adjourn, John Peters seconded the motion.
- All members present for the opening roll call were present.