



EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE
Virginia Museum of History and Culture

October 1, 2024

Meeting Notes

Goals and Objectives

The 250th Commemoration will provide timely opportunities to educate, engage, and inspire Virginians around our history and foundational values and beliefs that continue to be relevant to our lives. Over the next two years, the VA250 Education Committee will work with partners throughout the Commonwealth to accomplish the following goals:

- ★ Make History Come Alive
- ★ Spark a Civics Renaissance
- ★ Celebrate Democracy

Members Present

The Honorable Aimee R. Guidera, *Chair, Secretary of Education*
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, *Vice Chair, VA250 Commission, Senate of Virginia*
Chief Stephen R. Adkins, *Chickahominy Indian Tribe (Virtual)*
Stephanie Georgakis Abbott, *UVA Karsh Institute of Democracy*
Jamie Bosket, *Virginia Museum of History & Culture*
Christonya Brown, *Virginia Department of Education*
Angela Byrd-Wright, *Department of Education*
Kerry Canaday, *Virginia Tribal Education Consortium*
Mary Kate Cary, *University of Virginia (Virtual)*
Lee Ann Chisenhall, *Williamsburg-James City County Schools*
Christy Coleman, *Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation*
Paula Cook, *Sail250*
Maggie Creech, *Virginia Museum of History & Culture*
Hillary Crow, *US Chamber of Commerce*
Nick Down, *American Council of Trustees and Alumni*
Celeste Fetta, *Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*
Jodi Fesler, *SCHEV*
Sam Florer, *Virginia Museum of History & Culture*
Lanz Geisler, *Secretary of Education*
Judge Douglas Ginsberg, *US Court of Appeals (Virtual)*
Deecy Gray, *American Battle Monuments Commission (Virtual)*
Paige Hildebrand, *Frontier Culture Museum*
Erin Hill, *Virginia Public Access Project*
Joe Keiper, *Virginia Museum of Natural History*
Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill, *Campus Free Expression Project*

Anne McCrery, *Library of Virginia*
Hank Moseley, *Sail250*
Sarah Quesenberry, *Botetourt County Public Schools*
Alyson Ramsey, *Poplar Forest (Virtual)*
Andrew Richardson, *Frontier Culture Museum*
Bethany Spitzer, *Gunston Hall*
Michelle Wallace, *Virginia Department of Education*
Cheryl Wilson, *VA250 Commission*

Staff:

Katherine Dabney, *VA250 Commission*
Patrick Daughtry, *VA250 Commission*
Mike Frontiero, *VA250 Commission*
Trevor Grimm, *VA250 Commission*
Susan Nolan, *VA250 Commission*
Brian Shaw, *VA250 Commission*
Korin Taddei, *VA250 Commission*

Welcome, Purpose & Outcomes

Secretary Aimee Guidera, Chair, convened the first in-person meeting of the VA250 Education Steering Committee. She welcomed everyone who was in the room and those who joined the meeting virtually and thanked them for their time and support of VA250 and all the amazing programs, initiatives, and events that they are planning in their respective organizations. She invited Senator Mamie Locke, Vice Chair of the VA250 Commission, to welcome the attendees. Senator Locke reiterated the importance and impact of the work the Education Steering Committee is doing and shared that she is looking forward to all that is ahead.

Secretary Guidera then asked everyone in the room to briefly introduce themselves, their organizations, and share the programs, events or initiatives they are currently working on.

After introductions, Cheryl Wilson then gave an overview of VA250 initiatives, including updates on the mobile museum, and signature events that are planned over the next two years. Cheryl shared the success of the student art and written reflections contest, Expressions of Freedom, for which VA250 created a booklet she shared with student artwork, poetry and essays.

Ms. Wilson also shared VA250's plan to create an education portal on the VA250.org website that will become the central resource for teachers, students, and the public on all educational aspects of the commemoration.

Secretary Guidera then invited the members to break into their sub-committees for small group discussions about the programming they were assigned. These discussions were robust and very productive, with many new ideas and new connections made. Notes from these discussions are captured at the end of this document.

When the group reconvened each sub-committee chair shared an overview of the discussion, and outlined the most immediate events, resources needed, and ideas about collaborating going forward.

Cheryl Wilson then gave a brief overview of how VA250 can assist in marketing and branding programming as part of Virginia's 250th Commemoration. VA250 asks that all organizations use the VA250 logo or a uniquely branded logo on their website and on all materials related to the programming. She also asked that all programming that fits under the umbrella of "Virginia's History is America's Story" be included on the VA250 website and attendance and participation at those events be captured so that the economic impact of the collective work can be tallied and shared.

Next steps:

- Secretary Guidera asked if there are partner organizations that are missing from the Steering Committee – or someone who should be included, to please reach out to her.
- Harness resources for marketing and branding with VA250 including:
 - o Share programming dates with VA250 team to be included on website
 - o Share materials, resources, initiatives for inclusion in the VA250 Education Portal
 - o Track and report participation data for all programs
 - o Let VA250 know how they can help
- Subcommittees will continue to work to fill out the programming templates to identify program lead, partnerships, plans, timelines, and resources needed.
- Members are encouraged to participate in the Reading Revolution which is October 14-18 in Virginia schools. More information can be found at VA250.org/education
- Determine cadence to host virtual and in-person meetings going forward.