
memorandum

Date	January 15, 2025
To	Governor Tim Walz, Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan and Members of the Minnesota Legislature
From	Co-Chairs Briana Joyner and Bill Von Bank
Subject	Governor's Committee on Minnesota America 250 Committee Report

The Minnesota America 250 Committee is delighted to submit to you our first action plan that outlines the Committee's goals, mission, and recommendations. The Committee will submit an updated action plan annually each subsequent year that includes any update on the action plan, implementation benchmarks, and related deadlines and schedules.

The action plan includes the following sections for review:

- **Introduction**
- **Committee Membership**
- **Committee Meetings and Descriptions**
- **Activities for 2025**

Attached is a detailed version of our action plans for Minnesota America's 250 Committee Report.

We appreciate your continued guidance and support of this work for Minnesota and beyond.

Thank you,

Governor's Committee on Minnesota America 250

Briana Joyner
Bill Von Bank
Molly Huber
Elliot James
Jeffrey Kolnick
Carla Manzoni
Wendy Petersen-Bjorn
Emily Thabes
Michael Minks
Deah Urdahl
Kevin Majjala
David Kelliher

**Annual Report of the Governor’s Committee on Minnesota America 250
January 15, 2025**

Introduction

The Governor’s Committee on Minnesota America 250 was created by Governor Walz through Executive Order 23-11 in September, 2023.

Its purposes are to:

- Develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and subsequent historic events in American history through civic, cultural, and historical education and programming for all Minnesotans.
- Encourage civic, historical, educational, business, and other organizations throughout Minnesota to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the American Revolution and subsequent historic events.
- Coordinate with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, as well as state and local commissions and private and public organizations and partners, in planning and carrying out this work.

Committee Membership

Appointing Authority	Appointee	Role
Governor	Briana Joyner	Co-Chair
Governor	William (Bill) Von Bank	Co-Chair
Governor	Molly Huber	Committee Member
Governor	Elliot James	Committee Member
Governor	Jeffrey Kolnick	Committee Member
Governor	Carla Manzoni	Committee Member
Governor	Wendy Petersen-Biorn	Committee Member
Governor	Emily Thabes	Committee Member
Governor	Michael Minks	Committee Member
Governor	Vacant	Committee Member

Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC)	Vacant	Committee Member
House Majority	Vacant	Committee Member
House Minority	Rep. Dean Urdahl	Committee Member
Senate Majority	Vacant	Committee Member
Senate Minority	Vacant	Committee Member

Support	
Organization Role	Name
MNHS Vice President for Public Policy and Government Relations	David Kelliher
MNHS Senior Vice President for Learning Initiatives	Kevin Maijala

The Committee currently has several vacancies, including appointments by the Legislature, Governor. and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Committee Meetings

During 2024, the Committee met three times:

- Thursday, September 12, 2024 - 3:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
- Friday, November 22, 2024 - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and,
- Monday, December 16, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Full committee meetings will occur on a monthly basis, increasing to bi-weekly as needed. Sub-committee meetings occur on a monthly basis, increasing to bi-weekly as needed.

The MN America’s 250th Committee has formed four sub-committees to collaborate on various parts of our collective work. Sub-committees are described below:

1. Reports Sub-Committee

The Reports sub-committee develops the annual report to the legislature/Governor's office and serves as spokespeople for the committee.

2. Finance Sub-Committee

The Finance sub-committee develops budget needs and identifies potential funding sources for MN America's 250th Committee activities.

It is important to note that the Committee is currently working without funding, either public or private. Committee members will continue conversations with funders, public and private, on funding needs for the state's commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

3. Partnerships and Outreach/Community Engagement Sub-Committee

The Partnerships and Outreach/Community Engagement sub-committee connects and builds relationships with community partners to help shape Minnesota's commemoration of America 250.

4. Program Development and Strategy Sub-Committee

The Program Development and Strategy sub-committee develops, gathers, and recommends program ideas that align to America's 250th themes: Unfinished Revolutions, Power of Place, We The People, American Experiment, and Doing History. Other possible themes relevant to the commemoration of America 250 are likely to emerge.

Activities for 2025

In 2025, Committee members will:

- Continue to monitor activities of the national America 250 Commission and participate in their virtual and in-person briefings as funding allows.
- Network with historical, cultural, educational, civic, and tourism organizations across the state to promote America 250 activities in Minnesota.
- Establish and maintain a web presence aggregating and sharing information on America's 250 MN programming throughout the state, including a visual common calendar of activities happening around Minnesota.
- Begin the process of developing original content related to America's 250.