



**Pikes Peak Area Local Organizing Committee
America 250 - Colorado 150 Celebrations
Meeting Minutes
01.28.25
4:00-6:00 pm**

**Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation
1401 Recreation Way
Palmer Room**

Recap: previous actions/direction of the LOC

- Anton recapped previous actions of the LOC and discussed the planned direction
- The Pikes Peak Wonders Region is expansive and too big for a single LOC. We are proposing sub-LOCs for better planning at the local level.
- LOC leadership includes Anton Shulzki (retired Palmer HS educator); Nate Shull (Fountain); and Amy Long (Visit COS)

Vision, Mission & Goals

- Commemorative timeline: July 1 2025 - December 31, 2026
- Commission is at the State level - commemorate the 250th anniversary of America and 150th anniversary of Colorado
 - **Mission:** to celebrate Colorado by acknowledging our complete shared history, honor what makes Colorado unique, and recognize our shared destiny as we strive toward a more perfect union.
- An advisory panel is under the Commission - oversight/liaison/resource of the LOCs
- Nate presented draft vision, mission, and goals of our LOC
 - **Vision:** The Pikes Peak Wonders region will have the most diverse, inspirational, inclusive, and memorable programming and events executed throughout the A250-CO150 commemoration.
 - **Mission:** The Pikes Peak Area LOC is the central resource for all El Paso and Teller County community organizations to advocate and organize on behalf of a broad range of historically focused programs, cultural events, and initiatives to more effectively promote the region and its connection to the shared histories of the United States and Colorado.
 - Goals:
 - Create a central source for information of the LOC

- Identify all potential member organizations and contacts/representatives
- Provide leadership structure to the seven counties in the region to guide future execution
- Oversee goal-setting and resource allocation for regional commemorative events in alignment with SB2022-011 and with guidance from the America 250 - Colorado 150 Program Director and Advisory Panel members
- Foster an inclusive environment, encouraging participation and input from LOC members and the community at large
- Identify opportunities for community partnership: identify those 250-150 plans and promote alignment with the America 250 - 150 Commission's statewide commemoration
- Ensure efficient communication with the America 250 - Colorado 150 Advisory Panel to keep the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission apprised of local programs, events, and initiatives

State Update

- Katie provided an update from the state regarding funding through grants as well as the communication toolkit through a PR agency. The toolkit will be ready soon. Organizations can upload events to the commission's website and there will be a link back to the event's ticketing website. We can use the commission's logo for no charge. There is a brand style guide as well. Events will be searchable on the website.
- Organizations will feed event information up to the state level so they can help promote;
- There is a Civics "Bee" that middle school students can compete in. The final deadline to apply is February 4. Daniel's fund is supporting a \$100K scholarship for the winner. Locations have been chosen for 2025 for these Bees and destinations can apply to be a host location for 2026. Students enter by writing an essay. Each Bee can host about 28 students

LOC - new structure with sub-LOCs

Communication (Google Drive, Website, Calendar)

- Excel Spreadsheet with contact information
- All are welcome
- Other forms of communication include
 - LOC website (pending): to be used for internal communication, various resources, toolkit information, financial support information, newsfeed, link to PeakRadar calendar (theme page and feeds of all events happening).

- PeakRadar: We are casting a wide net and the “cost of entry” should be low to include as many events as possible.

Events (Categories, Ideas, Folding into Existing Events)

- General discussion of ideas for existing and new events
- Let the state PR team help amplify the events, especially diverse communities - the state has representatives in various communities
- PPLD is heavily invested in connecting to this project with a long list of ideas. History Symposium - unheard people of the Pikes Peak Region, oral histories from the bicentennial need to be transcribed and interns are working on it, reading programs will be themed, Then and Now photos.
- August 1 for Bonnets, Beards and Brews - Saturday
- Develop scalable ways to plug in and participate (tiers)
- How organizations can participate
- How individuals can participate
- We should keep the 4th of July event dispersed as it is now

Funding Opportunities

LOC Toolkit (PR and Marketing)

- This is coming from the state commission’s PR firm and will be ready soon

Future Meeting Dates

- Meet again in early March - every other month initially
- Meet monthly starting in September
- Meetings may end in early 2026 since we will be in the execution phase

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