



**TIMELINES, ARCHIVES, AND CURRICULA SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201
Held virtually via Zoom

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

Commissioners Present: Bob Allison, Giordana Mecgani, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Kristen Lafferty, Carolyn Goldstein, Beth Prindle, Joan Ilacqua

Commissioners Absent: Angela Hedley-Mitchell, Liza Stearns, Tatiana Cruz, Collin Knight, Kimberly Barzola, Dory Klein, Joe Bagley, Kimberly Barzola, Cedric Woods

Staff Present: Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Kayla Skillin, Archivist for Collections Management

Public:

A full recording of the meeting is available on [boston.gov/commemoration-commission](https://www.boston.gov/commemoration-commission)

SESSION BEGINS - 2:00 PM

I. WELCOME

- a. Commemoration Commission Manager Genesis Pimentel welcomed attendees.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting minutes from both June and July were approved.
- b. Genesis Pimentel asked for updates on action items from the previous meeting.
 - i. One action item was for Commissioner Dory Klein to connect with Boston Public Library's Digital Access Department. Commissioner Beth Prindle answered on behalf of Commissioner Klein who was absent. Commissioner Prindle let the group know that Commissioner Klein has been on vacation and unable to begin that work.
 - ii. Pimentel discussed that if there was time to review the Google Form Survey Kayla Skillin has been working on for outreach to archives, it should be done at the end of the call.

III. CURRICULA DISCUSSION

- a. Chair Bob Allison kicked off the Curricula discussion. He discussed how the City has tremendous historical sites and resources, and that this group should make



it a goal to have every school child in the City visit these sites during their time as students. He discussed the Downtown based program, Place Based Boston, that brings kids from the City and from the suburbs into Downtown, and how he is envisioning something different. He'd like to connect students with historical places like the Shirley-Eustis House, the Dillaway Thomas House, and more that are in their own neighborhoods, so that kids know and feel connected to their local histories.

- b. Commissioner Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai discussed how the Massachusetts Historical Society is the state sponsor of National History Day, and that MHS has a robust education program with a curriculum that has resources both in the City and in Massachusetts.
 - i. Action Item: Offered to have someone from MHS' education department visit.
 - ii. Next Steps: Commissioner Wongsrichanalai sets this up and connects with Genesis Pimentel.
 - iii. Timeframe: October or November meeting
- c. Chair Allison discussed how the Secretary of State's office offers a bus to every school in the Commonwealth to visit the Commonwealth Museum at the State Archives. He added that it would be good to encourage people to visit and support the educational work the sites do, and that it would be great to have more Boston students participate in History Day.
- d. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni mentioned that the subcommittee might be helpful in gathering information on historic houses, potentially doing a history resource per school.
- e. Commissioner Wongsrichanalai discussed the Archives Crawl with a Map to mark where you've been, and this is something that is already being worked on collaboratively, so it can be adapted to a school area or region of the City.
- f. Genesis Pimentel stated that this reminded her of the BPL Passport Program, and that there is potential for further collaboration.
- g. There was discussion on whether the Archives Survey should have a question about whether they have the capacity to host field trips.
- h. Commissioner Prindle stated that since the charge is to focus on underrepresented stories, then the types of resources offered can be tailored. She stated since it can be difficult to get kids out of classrooms, we should investigate if programs can go to classrooms, if they have digital repositories, what kind of curricula they have, and to tailor by age range.
 - i. Genesis Pimentel stated that when this is better fleshed out, teachers can be invited to give feedback.



- ii. Chair Allison stated that he viewed this project as a Boston 400 undertaking. He added that we can start with sites that have an education person and a curriculum, and then figure out how to support places that are operational or trying to be operational to become part of this project.
- iii. Action Item: Aggregate a list of historic houses, highlighting those with educational programs.
- iv. Action Item: Genesis Pimentel will find a full list of landmark petitions from the BLC.
- v. Action Item: Find full list of BPS schools.
- vi. Next Step: ARCGis Pro license acquisition to map these items.
- i. Commissioner Wongsrichanalai stated that we should aim for the 400th anniversary with this project, but the 250th presents an opportunity for a smaller scale prototype.

IV. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- a. This group would like a historic resource audit. There should be a way to track markers and plaques put up by the Arts Commission, Parks, and more.
- b. They feel like now is not the time for this subcommittee to begin asking for sponsorships, but that they would like to know the City's interest in alignment.
- c. Chair Allison commented that the Place Based Boston program came out of the Boston Bicentennial, and that what will be developed here can last a very long time.
- d. Commissioner Wongsrichanalai offered to have someone from MHS join the next meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There was no public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - 3:30 PM

- a. Chair Bob Allison motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni seconded the motion.