

Cultural Connections Committee Minutes

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Date: 6/25/2025 | Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chair Donna Marceau.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Roll call and introductions were conducted by Chair Donna Marceau at 12:00 p.m.

3. Attendance-**24 people**

Members in Attendance (In-Person):8

Xianglan Zhu, Donna Marceau, Gloria Timmons, Elizabeth Berry, Iraidia Muñoz, Bernadette Melton-Plante, Jen Hosking, Meta Vornehm.

Non-Members in Attendance (In-Person): 10

Emily Vassar, Mariana Poore, Martha Ackerman, Tori Markkiewicz, Manisha Chourasia, Jessica Hagg, Keilani Zelenezki, Mari Ann Melizzi Golja, Irma Elizabeth Palaeros, Michell Roman.

Members Attending via Zoom: 2

Sandra Pratt, Marina Vaz

Non-Members Attending via Zoom: 4

David Holt, Loick Muyuka, Sarah Lemlay, Yu Luo Aloe

4. Approval of May 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Approval of the May meeting minutes was made.

5. Presentation & Discussion

1. Today's presentation was led by Irma Elizabeth Palacios from Nashua Community College speaking on their offerings.

6. Special announcement- Former alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja announced that after 20 years, the committee has decided not to hold the Nashua Goes Back to School event due to certain safety concerns that some community members and the event committee have regarding safety and crowding.

7. Nashua Multicultural Festival Planning updates

Multicultural Festival Updates- Iraidia Muñoz- chair of the festival planning committee, announced that our event would indeed be taking place under certain safety parameters. Iraidia began by listing events held in the city, such as Nashua Pride, which was very successful and doubled its attendance, according to her perception and the good weather. She also spoke about the Nashua Library's cultural event, held the previous week called Passport Series, where Puerto Rican culture was highlighted and several cultures

actively participated, with more than 100 people attending. She also brought another example of the success of the United Way event and its now traditional Baby Shower, which also doubled its attendance. Iraida was able to demonstrate how all of these events were able to be carried out safely and effectively, while also serving the purpose of each event. Iraida explained the planning committee's hybrid plan, which will allow participants to present their dances and music or performances in a pre-recorded format, while also broadcasting them on live television/ YouTube channel in a safe manner for everyone. They are also working on a virtual community table model where agencies can present services and interact with participants virtually and interactively, while also being present at the Nashua Library on the day of the festival. This committee meets every other Friday at 3 o'clock via zoom.

9. Announcements

- Transportation meeting normally meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 10am 6/26/25.
- Welcoming NH Table July 10th from 9-11am (zoom)- ACLU Legal Director Gilles Bissonnette- more info welcomingnh@miracoalition.org
- We are One Festival- Saturday August 16th, 2025 11-6pm Veterans Memorial Park 889 Elm St. Manchester, NH- more info: nhbwhp@gmail.com

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., Presentation by GSOP.