

Culture Connections Committee Minutes

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Date/ Time: 1/28/2026 12:00-1:00PM

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Roll Call and introductions were conducted by Chair Donna Marceau at 12:01PM.

3. Attendance-21 people

Members in Attendance (In-Person): 10

Donna Marceau, Iraidá Muñoz, Xiannnglan Zhu, Lynne Boyer, Sandra Pratt, Jen Hosking, Elizabeth Berry, Meta Vornehm, Daniel Healey, Bernadette Melta- Plante

Non-Members in Attendance (In-Person): 6

Jessica, Hagg, Anya Gatcher, Danielle Gone, Connor Schofield, Caroline Lucey, Joslyn Kuchinski

Members Attending via Zoom:2

Nonny Egbounu, Marina Vaz

Non-Members Attending via Zoom: 3

Yu Aloe Rioux, David Holt, Eric Duarte

4. Approval of October 2025 Meeting Minutes

The October meeting minutes were approved by all attending members.

5. Approval of bylaws:

Meta noted several sections that need to be amended. The committee discussed them:

- 2.2-x. “At least two of the community members of the Committee will be from the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) community and at least two of the community members will be from the deaf community.”

Meta raised that we may not currently meet this request, so these criteria may need to be modified. Jenn added that this request comes from RFA. Daniel mentioned that since the regulation was established some time ago, he will check whether it is still being applied. He also recommended revising the language to state that we would actively enroll members of the LGBTQ and Deaf communities.

- 3.1 “The purpose of the Culture Connections Committee is to facilitate communication between the ethnic community and city government.” She suggested that it should include a broader range of communities.
- 5.3 There is a typo: “role call” should be corrected to “roll call.”
- 6.1 The meeting arrangements and procedures for changes are not clearly defined. She recommended separating them into regular meetings and special meetings.

A motion to adopt the amended Sections 3.1, 5.3, and 6.1 were subsequently passed.

Daniel will conduct further research on Section 2.2-x and report back to the group.

3. Committee Membership and Voting Procedures

Iraida highlighted that Committee members must attend meetings in person to vote and that online participation is not sufficient for quorum. She detailed the membership application process, which involves submitting a resume and being appointed by the mayor after a review by the personnel Committee.

4. Committee members fill in

Daniel noted that the committee is currently not in compliance and pointed out the absence of the school district’s designated representative, as Sharon Saunders has never showed up to these meetings since she started in her role as secretary of the committee. Iraida mentioned Claudia Decker is a school teacher from Nashua High School North, but is not the school designee, she is part of the committee as a community member. The committee is actively working to fill vacancies and strengthen representation in order to meet RFP requirements.

5. Multicultural Festival

Nashua outlined the shift in managing the Multicultural Festival, moving from a subcommittee to a workgroup to align with city practices regarding advisory committees. This change is intended to enhance support from the mayor's office for future festivals. Multicultural Festival was restructured from a subcommittee to a workgroup to align with city regulations.

6. The moment of silence for Alderman Gloria Timmons

During the meeting, Donna raised the moment of silence in honor of our friend Gloria Timmons, who passed away last October.

She was a pioneer for Cultural Connections Committee and a true leader for our community.

Here is her obituary: <https://www.anctil-rochette.com/obituary/Gloria-Timmons>

7. An appreciation speech

Bernadette Melton-Plante and Elizabeth Berry deliver speeches expressing their gratitude to Donna for her outstanding leadership and contributions to the Cultural Connections Committee as she stepped down as chair.

8. Nomination and election of Officers

- Bernadette nominated Iraida for President. By anonymous ballot, Iraida was elected as the chair of the committee.
- Elizabeth stated that she would like to remain in her current role as Vice Chair, and Donna also nominated her. By anonymous ballot, Elizabeth received a majority of the votes and was elected.
- Donna nominated Xianglan Zhu for Secretary. By anonymous ballot, Xianglan received a majority of the votes and was elected as the Secretary.

9. Community Announcements

- Chinese Culture Society of Great Nashua will host a Chinese New Year Celebration event at Westwood Park of Nashua YMCA on Feb 15th. It is a free event and open to the public. All community members are welcome.
- Marina Vaz highlighted the transportation equity meeting aimed at addressing issues related to limited access to personal vehicles, including discussions on fare increases and weekend service.
- Nashua DPHCS provided updates on new Saturday classes at Nashua Community College
- Meta announced two interfaith events, a sacred music concert and a book group focused on the Dalai Lama's work.
- Nashua Community college will start new ELL class offer.
- A French speech contest will be held by ...
- David Holt provided updates on recent legislation, including an anti-masking bill and a housing bill that restricts rentals to individuals unlawfully present in the U.S. He emphasized the need for transparency in law enforcement actions related to

immigration. Holt recommended subscribing to the American Friends Service Committee of New Hampshire's statehouse watch and the Kent Street Coalition for tracking legislative developments.

- David Holt provided details about the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, which offers free red cards, and emphasized the importance of staying informed about immigration-related legislation.
- Nashua DPHCS raised concerns about a proposed bike registration fee, questioning its fairness and potential impact on non-English speaking constituents, and mentioned submitting testimonies against the bill. Jenn H. Clarified this bill has been killed.
- Nonny Egbonu would like to encourage elderlies to connect to the "Let's Talk" Zoom meetings on Thursdays.
- DPHCS announced the legislative breakfast 1/30 at 7am at the Southern NH Medical Center 10 Prospect Street Nashua.
-

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb 25th, 2026 at noon- Nashua City Hall Auditorium with a virtual option for nonmembers as needed.