



## **Concord 250th Art, Literature and Music Subcommittee January 14, 2026 DRAFT minutes**

Pursuant to notice duly given, the Subcommittee met at the Concord Free Public Library at 129 Main Street at 9:30 am on January 14, 2026. Di Clymer, chair, called the meeting to order.

**Attendees:** Grace Bellavance, Di Clymer, Cassandra Dozet, Richard Fahlander, Jane Fisher, Caitlin Fitzgerald, Mimi Graney, Sandy Harper, Sherry Litwack, Zannah Noe, David Owen, Andrea Roessler, Tammy Rose, Priscilla Stevens, Carole Wayland, Kate Yoder, Leda Zimmerman.

**Attendees via Zoom:** Kelby Siddons.

**MINUTES:** On motion duly made (Kate Yoder) and seconded (Andrea Roessler), the Minutes of November 12, 2025, were unanimously approved.

**Funding Process:** Di will check with Chris Johnson about the level of funds that remain. The group is next meeting on February 4.

**Calendar of Events:** The draft calendar is attached to these minutes; it will be updated as events are added or changed. Thanks to Sandy Harper for documenting this.

### **Further Details of Programs Being Planned**

**Liberty Flag Project:** David Owen of the Scout House summarized this project, which is targeted to school children, asking them to design Concord's Liberty Flag. It is sponsored by the Scout House and the DAR. They tentatively plan to launch the project on Patriots Day 2026, with submissions due in the fall and the winner announced in January 2027. They are looking for funds to have a hand made flag of the winning design. David asked for the subcommittee's endorsement; motion by Di Clymer, second by Priscilla Stevens, the group unanimously endorsed the liberty flag project.

**Pianos on the Town:** Kate Yoder of Concord Conservatory of Music reported that the Select Board has given preliminary approval of the project and they are looking for collaborators and locations. They hope to have 6-7 pianos in locations in Concord and West Concord. Some will be painted by professional artists. They plan to have a celebration in West Concord in June (coinciding with West Concord Porch Fest), and the pianos will then be moved to their locations for 2-3 weeks. Kate will be in touch with the Concord Cultural Council and other local organizations. This is part of their celebration of CCC's 20th anniversary.

**Economic Vitality:** Mimi Graney coordinates the use of town property permits and it is helpful to know what kinds of events are planned. They are planning two Pride crosswalks starting on the first Saturday of June for Pride month. They are also looking for a one year loan of a sculpture for Junction Park and creating Black Heritage Trail markers. They have a grant from the Mass Office of Travel and Tourism and have set up an advisory committee for this.

**2026 Block Party:** Zannah Noe reported on plans for the block party on Monday, April 20. Because Lexington is having their parade on Saturday, she expects that more people will stay in Concord after our parade. They plan to have live music on the viewing stand in front of the town house, preferably local talent. They also plan a makers fair, with artisans and crafters doing items that are all about Concord—tee shirts, magnets, ceramics, and more to support a creative economy in Concord. February 12 is the first deadline for venues, so they can get an idea of what events might occur. She plans to have town criers and other costumed participants. It was pointed out that the weekend of April 17-19 will be tech week for Concord Players and *Brigadoon*, and very busy.

**Library:** Sherry Litwack shared upcoming library events. March 28 there is an Alcott celebration, featuring recent acquisitions to Special Collections. On May 23 they plan an installation on Margaret Fuller. Danielle Bradley was chosen as the third writer-in-residence; she will work on her own writing and do workshops, programs, and sessions with writers. She will be here from January to June, and this year the program is supported by Barefoot Books. There will be a meet and greet at the library on March 22.

**The Lantern:** Richard Fahlander reported that the lantern is in storage at South Bridge Boathouse and getting some repairs; it participated in 36 events last year. It will be ready for the lantern parade (sponsored by Art for All, the Scout House, and the Library) on March 7. The parade will gather at 6 and march off at 6:30 from Alcott School to the Scout House, with parking available at Alcott. It was noted that there is a major Emerson Hospital fundraiser at 51 Walden that day; Fahlander has spoken with the police and there will be access to streets. The theme is *brighter together* and there will be free workshops at the libraries, Art for All, and other locations for people to make lanterns. There will also be some commissions for professional artists to create lanterns. Following the parade there will be a party at the Scout House. He hopes this will become an annual event. The website is <https://www.concordlanterns.org/>. The big lantern will be in the Patriots Day parade; it is available for other events during the year.

**OARS:** Caitlin Fitzgerald said OARS is turning 40 this year and has several events. March 14 is "Sounds & Science" at Concord Art. They are looking at doing the Wild and Scenic Film Festival by streaming films in a variety of venues, partnering with others. This will be in April, specific date TBD. Other plans under consideration are The Noisy Puddle, a bingo game for kids; River Music in June as part of National Rivers Month (join the river-lution!); and Beavers and Beer at the Wright Tavern. The Concord River Race is on May 9.

**Concord Players:** Andrea Roessler reported that *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* opens February 13 and the spring musical is *Brigadoon*, opening April 24. They are planning a Ceili dance on March 6. She also reported on Sudbury's plans for the 250th; they have witness houses on May 2 and will celebrate the 250th on May 16 and July 4.

**The Umbrella:** There will be a reception on January 28 for the Ancient Light photography show. *To Kill a Mockingbird* opens in March.

**Concord Women's Chorus:** Jane Fisher noted that on Sunday, March 15, at First Parish, CWC will offer a program called *Winning the Vote*, featuring singer Diane Taraz. It will feature songs created to advocate for and against the issue. The CWC spring concert, *A Light Exists in Spring*, will be on Saturday, May 9, at 4:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church.

**What's Missing?** Sandy Harper commented that we might consider how to acknowledge America's 250th in 2026, as distinct from the 2025 Concord commemoration. How might we tweak our themes this year to reflect the celebration of US democracy? The group agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 9:30 AM in the Goodwin Forum, Concord Free Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane A. Fisher

*See next page for 2026 calendar*

**Concord 250 Art, Literature, and Music Subcommittee  
2026 Events Calendar  
Draft January 2026**

**January**

**28:** Opening reception for Ancient Light Photography Show, Umbrella Arts Center  
**Ongoing through June:** Danielle Bradley, Writer in Residence, Library

**February**

**??:** Forum on town markers  
**12:** First deadline for venues to apply for Block Party slots

**March**

**6:** Ceili dance, 51 Walden  
**7:** Lantern Parade, from Alcott School to Scout House  
**14:** Sounds & Science, OARS, at Concord Art  
**15:** Diane Taraz/Concord Women's Chorus, *Winning the Vote*, First Parish  
**22:** Meet and Greet with Danielle Bradley, Library  
**28:** Celebration of Authors, featuring Alcotts, Library  
**Ongoing:** To Kill a Mockingbird, Umbrella Arts

**April**

**19/20:** Liberty Parade contest opens  
**20:** Block party  
**24:** Brigadoon opens, Concord Players (through May 9)  
**TBD:** OARS film festival

**May**

**2:** Witness houses, Sudbury  
**9:** OARS Concord river race  
**9:** A Light Exists in Spring, Concord Women's Chorus concert, 4:00, Trinity Episcopal Church  
**16:** Sudbury celebrates 250.  
**17:** Brahms German Requiem, Concord Chorus concert, 3:00, Cary Hall Lexington  
**28:** Margaret Fuller installation, Library

**June**

**6:** Pride Day; Pride crosswalks installed  
**6:** West Concord Porchfest  
**6** and ongoing: Pianos on the town  
**TBD:** OARS River Music  
**TBD:** *Falstaff*, Opera 51

**July**

**TBD:** Sculpture installed in Junction Park  
**4:** Independence Day

**August**

**September**

**26:** Annual river clean up (OARS)

**October**

**November**

**December**

**TBD:** Liberty flag entries due

**January 2027**

**TBD:** Liberty flag winner announced