

Cultural Connections Committee Minutes

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Date/ Time: 7/29/2026 12:00-1:00PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00PM by Chair Iraida Muñoz.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee members, community partners, and guests introduced themselves.

3. Attendance- 20 people

Members in Attendance (In-Person): 11

Daniel Healey, Iraida Muñoz, Xiannglan Zhu, Meta Vornehm, Jenn Hosking, Donna Marceau, Elizabeth Berry, Lynne Boyer, Julia Stryzhenko, Marina Vaz, Joslyn Kuchinski

- Non-Members in Attendance (In-Person): 5

Loick Muyuka, Tori Markiewicz, Irvin Perez, Carlos Andres, Eric Drouart

- Attending via Zoom: 4

Yu Aloe Rioux, Vengerflutta Smith (member), Anya Gatchell, Emily Vassar

4. Multicultural Festival Planning Update

Sponsor Recognition

- The committee continues producing short appreciation videos for festival sponsors using engaging social media content.
- Videos have been completed for United Way, Nashua Community College, and Triangle Credit Union, with additional videos planned for the Adult Learning Center, YMCA, and Southern New Hampshire Medical Center.

Food Vendors

- Due to venue limitations, the festival can accommodate **only four food trucks**.
- Soel Sistas has confirmed participation, while additional culturally diverse vendors are being recruited.
- The committee is also exploring ways to encourage attendees to visit nearby restaurants during/after the festival.

Performers

- The online performer application is now available through the City of Nashua website.
- Members were encouraged to recruit performers from across the community.

- Community table and artisan applications are also being developed, though available space remains limited.

Festival Promotion

- The festival will again include live accessibility options through Educational Television and Facebook Live for community members unable to attend in person.
- Sponsorship opportunities remain open until **August 14**.

Student Engagement

- The committee thanked Nashua High School South students for attending and discussed increasing student involvement through volunteering, performances, and community participation.

5. Guest Presentation - Election Information Presentation

Speaker: City Clerk **Daniel Healey**

Topics included:

- State Primary Election: **September 8, 2026**
- General Election: **November 3, 2026**
- Polling hours (6:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.) and ward voting locations.
- Voter registration requirements, including proof of identity, age, domicile, and citizenship.
- Same-day voter registration procedures.
- New identification requirements, including that student IDs are no longer accepted as proof of identity.
- Check registration status on Secretary of State website or City Clerk office
- Sample ballots available on city website
- Absentee ballot eligibility, application procedures, and submission deadlines.
- Volunteer opportunities for election workers and voter registration assistants.

6. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes for the April, May, and June meetings were sent by email before the meeting.
- Drafts have been submitted as required. Approval had been postponed until enough members were present in-person.
- Elizabeth Berry moved to approve the minutes, and Meta Vornehm seconded, all members present approved April, May and June minutes.

7. Community Announcements

- Nashua Public Library's **Passport to Turkey** cultural program (August 8).
- **A Nation of Neighbors** kindness initiative.
- **Conservation Kids** environmental education event at the library (8/13).

- Free pilot bus service between Nashua and Lowell.
- FrancoFest New Hampshire celebration Concord (8/22).
- Nashua School District back-to-school event at Holman Stadium (8/19) plus current employment opportunities.
- Monthly small business resource networking meeting in Concord

8. Adjournment

The next committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026.**