

Cultural Connections Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Chair: Iraida Muñoz

1. Call to Order

Chair Iraida Muñoz called the meeting to order at **12:00 PM**.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee members, community partners, and guests introduced themselves.

There was not sufficient quorum to approve the previous meeting minutes. Approval of the prior minutes was therefore postponed until the next meeting.

3. Attendance

Total Attendance: 15

Committee Members in Attendance – In Person:

- Iraida Muñoz
- Xiannglan Zhu
- Meta Vornehm
- Donna Maccea
- Elizabeth Berry
- Julia Stryzhenko
- Joslyn Kuchinski

Non-Members/Guests in Attendance – In Person:

- Eric Drouart
- Jessica Hagg

Attending via Teams:

- Yu Aloe Rioux
- Willinson Dom
- David Holler
- Silvia Petuck
- Luis Porres
- Representative from Rideable Nashua

4. 2026 Nashua Multicultural Festival – Date and Venue

The Committee confirmed that the **2026 Nashua Multicultural Festival** will take place on:

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Renaissance Park

Committee members who recently visited the site reported that the park is attractive and should require relatively simple decorations.

The Committee agreed that extensive decorations will not be necessary because the event is outdoors and the park already has decorative features. Professor Berry and Meta Vornehm will work together to develop a decoration plan, including waterproof decorations to be installed the day before the festival.

Additional site measurements and planning were completed by the planning committee the previous Monday.

5. Stage, Performers, and Media Coordination

Committee representatives, the stage manager, and the television/media team conducted an on-site review of the stage area.

The group discussed coordination among:

- Stage management
- DJ
- Television crew
- Cameras
- Performers

Because the Renaissance Park stage is a ground-level, walk-in stage rather than an elevated stage, volunteers will be needed to:

- Keep the performance area clear
- Assist performers with entering and exiting the stage safely

The left side of the stage is expected to be reserved for the television/media crew and stage management, while another area will be designated for performer access.

The Committee also discussed how sunlight and shade may affect television filming and photography. Performers will be encouraged to remain within the designated stage area.

The Committee continues to seek additional performers. Members are encouraged to share the performer application with their networks.

6. Performer Changing Area

The Committee discussed the need for a private space where performers, particularly those wearing traditional or cultural clothing, can change or prepare before performing.

A portable changing tent or similar temporary structure behind the stage was suggested as a possible solution.

7. Parking, Loading, and Unloading

The **High Street parking garage** was identified as the most convenient general parking option for festival attendees. Other City parking options are also available.

Loading and unloading will require careful coordination because vehicle access to Renaissance Park is limited and includes a narrow access point.

Performers, community organizations, and vendors will need to unload their materials and then move their vehicles rather than leaving vehicles in the loading area.

The Committee discussed obtaining hand trucks or carts and having volunteers assist organizations and performers with equipment.

Traffic and parking volunteers will be important during both setup and breakdown.

8. Sponsors and Community Tables

The Committee reviewed the current sponsorship and community-table status.

- Nine sponsors were listed on the current festival flyer at the time of the meeting.
- Applications are open for **20 community tables**.
- Only a small number of formal applications had been received, although several organizations had verbally indicated that they planned to participate.
- Priority will be given to essential local community resources and organizations serving Nashua residents.
- Organizations may be encouraged to share tables when appropriate in order to accommodate additional community groups.
- Committee members may distribute the community-table application information to interested organizations.
- Community tables are expected to be available at no cost.
- Artisans may also be considered depending on available space.

9. Wind and Table Safety

The Committee discussed potential wind concerns at Renaissance Park based on experience from another event at the location.

Because the festival site is near the waterfront, community organizations and participants should be encouraged to bring appropriate supplies to secure their materials, including:

- Table weights
- Tent weights
- Clips or clipboards
- Zip ties or similar materials

These precautions will help prevent papers, displays, table materials, and tents from being blown away.

Wind-safety instructions should be included in communications to vendors and community-table participants.

10. Food Vendors

Four food trucks/vendors are currently confirmed for the festival.

The Committee discussed the possibility of accommodating an additional food vendor. An additional location near the top of the hill may potentially be available if needed.

Interested food vendors should complete the official application through the City festival website.

11. Water, Restrooms, Trash, and Festival Logistics

Water

The Committee noted that there is no running water at the festival site.

Water will therefore need to be readily available for volunteers, performers, and attendees. Organizers reported that donations of water and other supplies have already been received or arranged.

Restrooms

Portable restrooms will be available at the festival site.

Because their location may not be immediately obvious to attendees, clear signage will be needed. Participants should also be informed in advance about restroom availability and location.

Trash

The Committee will continue coordinating with the City regarding additional trash cans and waste-management needs.

12. Weather Planning

The festival is planned as an outdoor event, and no separate indoor rain location is currently planned.

The Committee discussed preparing for rain with umbrellas and other basic weather precautions. Outdoor logistical needs will continue to be monitored as the festival approaches.

13. Children's Flag Scavenger Hunt / Passport Activity

Because there will not be a traditional flag parade this year, organizers are developing a new **flag scavenger hunt/passport activity** for children.

Children may receive a passport or similar activity sheet and visit different stations to identify flags and learn about different cultures.

Volunteers will be needed both before and during the festival to:

- Prepare materials
- Operate the activity stations
- Assist participating children and families

The Committee expressed strong support for continuing to develop this new children's activity.

14. Volunteers

Meta Vornehm, Festival Volunteer Coordinator, reported that volunteer recruitment is actively underway.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Festival setup and cleanup
- Setting up tables and chairs
- Helping performers and organizations load and unload materials
- Traffic and parking direction
- Assisting performers
- Providing general guidance to attendees
- Helping with the children's flag scavenger hunt
- Assisting with decorations before the festival

Volunteers are generally being asked to be available during an approximately **8:00 AM–6:00 PM** festival-day window, depending on their assignment.

Some decorating work is expected to take place on **Friday, September 25**, the day before the festival.

15. Festival T-Shirts and Decorations

Some Multicultural Festival T-shirts from last year remain available.

The Committee discussed making the remaining shirts available to committee members and supporters to help promote this year's festival.

A new T-shirt order is also being considered. Details regarding the new design, quantities, pricing, and distribution will be discussed further.

16. Marketing and Promotion

Marketing Coordinator **Joslyn Kuchinski** presented updates on marketing materials and local media outreach.

Joslyn also presented social media videos created to recognize and thank festival sponsors. Three sponsor-recognition videos had been produced and posted at the time of the meeting, recognizing:

- NCC
- Triangle Credit Union
- United Way

Professor Berry thanked the Committee for this initiative and emphasized the importance of recognizing festival sponsors.

The Committee emphasized that festival promotion needs to become more active and intentional during the weeks leading up to the event.

Planned promotional activities include:

- Social media promotion
- Newspaper interviews
- Radio interviews
- Nashua Community Television/media promotion
- Sponsor-recognition videos
- Community sharing of festival materials

Committee members were asked to share the following through their organizations and networks:

- Festival flyers
- Social media posts

- Performer applications
- Community-table information
- Other promotional materials

The Committee also discussed correcting online information that continues to show an earlier festival date.

17. Sponsor Recognition

The Committee reviewed the short social-media videos recognizing festival sponsors.

Members responded positively to this approach because it provides sponsors with additional recognition beyond their visibility at the festival itself.

The Committee plans to continue distributing sponsor-recognition and promotional videos through social media.

18. Community Announcements

Several community resources and announcements were shared:

- Transportation-related resources for individuals needing assistance accessing services.
- The **A Nation of Neighbors Kindness Challenge**, encouraging small acts of community service in connection with National Good Neighbor Day on September 28.
- A local **Window Dressers** program offering custom insulating window inserts to help reduce heating costs, with financial assistance available to qualifying residents and a community-build volunteer component planned for November.
- Donna Marceau, Mobility Manager from the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, reminded attendees about the RCCC transportation meeting scheduled for the following day. The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, 30 Temple Street, Nashua.
- Donna also announced “**Dial Donna**,” a new transportation pilot program funded through the Opioid Abatement Community Grant. The program provides assistance with transportation costs, including bus passes, Uber, Lyft, or taxi rides.

- David Holt reminded attendees about the upcoming **September 8, 2026 State Primary Election** and the importance of voting.

19. Key Follow-Up Items

The Committee identified the following areas requiring continued attention before the festival:

1. Continue recruiting performers and volunteers.
2. Finalize the performer changing-area solution.
3. Coordinate loading/unloading and traffic support.
4. Continue outreach for community-table applications.
5. Communicate wind-safety requirements to vendors and community-table participants.
6. Confirm water and restroom signage/logistics.
7. Continue development of the children's flag scavenger hunt/passport activity.
8. Continue festival marketing and social media promotion.
9. Correct outdated online festival-date information.
10. Continue sponsor-recognition efforts.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, September 30, 2026