



Utah Multicultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026 | 11–12:30 p.m.
Utah State Capitol - Elk Room | Google Meet
Approved

Members: Tyler Clancy, Emmie Gardner, Rhiana Medina, Shawn Newell, Kevin Nguyen, Nune Phillips, Trhas Tafere, Sydney Jorgeson, Elizabeth Klc (designee for Tom Ross).

Absent: Luna Banuri, Meredith Lam, Rich Nye, Tom Ross, Lita Sagato

Guests: Colton Judd, Jenny Hor, Lily Ward, Hannah Revis, James Ostergar, Eddy Thompson, Igor Limansky.

Welcome –Shawn Newell, MCC Co-Chair
Shawn Newell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Minutes Roll Call

Motion from Nune Phillips to approve the Minutes, Emmie Gardner seconded the minutes.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas – 9

Emmie Gardner
Rhiana Medina
Shawn Newell
Kevin Nguyen
Tyler Clancy
Nune Phillips
Elizabeth Klc
Trhas Tafere
Sydney Jorgeson

Nays – 0

Absent – 4

Luna Banuri
Meredith Lam
Rich Nye
Lita Sagato

Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs Updates – Igor Limansky, MCA Director

- Commissioner invitation to Utah Museum of Utah Opening June 9th from 5pm - 8pm.
- The commission noted the absence of Commissioner Luna, who is currently managing a family crisis.
- Members were invited to a special tour of the Museum of Utah, scheduled for that evening.
- Division updates highlighted the success of the Multicultural Leadership Day, which hosted over 200 students. The capacity grant process has closed, with 10 winners to be announced soon, and the "Magnify Utah" community passport program is set to launch at the end of the month.

Commissioner Highlight : Rhiana Medina

Shared by Eddy Thompson

Commission Leadership and Norms: Limansky

- The group discussed adopting formal bylaws to govern these roles in the future, with a goal to review draft bylaws during the August meeting.

Vote for co-chair Nominations - Rhiana Medina

- The commission officially voted in new co-chairs: Rihanna Medina and Nuna.

Commissioner Newell nominated Rhiana Medina to co-chair. Kevin Nguyen seconded the nomination.

MOTION: Shawn Newell nominated Commissioner Rhiana Medina to co-chair. Sydney Jorgenson seconded the nomination. The motion passed on a 9-0-4 vote.

Yeas – 9

Emmie Gardner
Rhiana Medina
Shawn Newell
Kevin Nguyen
Tyler Clancy
Nune Phillips
Elizabeth Klc
Trhas Tafere
Sydney Jorgeson

Nays – 0

Absent – 4

Luna Banuri
Meredith Lam
Rich Nye
Lita Sagato

Vote for co-chair Nominations - Nune Phillips

Commissioner Newell nominated Nune Phippils to co-chair. Sydney Jorgenson seconded the nomination.

MOTION: Shawn Newell nominated Commissioner Rhiana Medina to co-chair. Sydney Jorgenson seconded the nomination. The motion passed on a 8-1-4 vote.

Yeas – 8

Emmie Gardner
Rhiana Medina
Shawn Newell
Kevin Nguyen
Tyler Clancy
Nune Phillips
Trhas Tafere
Sydney Jorgeson

Nays – 1

Elizabeth Klc

Absent – 4

Luna Banuri
Meredith Lam
Rich Nye
Lita Sagato

Thanks to Shawn Newell for his service as Co-Chair for the Multicultural Commission.

MCC Retreat Summary - Eddy Thompson

- The commission reviewed norms established at a recent retreat, emphasizing active listening, mutual accountability, and maintaining "thoughtfulness" in communications.
- Members were encouraged to attend meetings in person to build stronger interpersonal connections.

Literacy Strategy

- Literacy has been selected as a primary statewide focus for the commission, with specific attention on improving third-grade reading proficiency to 80% by 2030.
- The data subcommittee presented an overview of legislative efforts (SB127 and subsequent 2026 updates), which mandate science-based reading curricula, educator training, and increased accountability for Local Education Agencies (LEAs).
- Ongoing efforts include a statewide readathon scheduled for October and collaborations with philanthropic groups and community leaders.
- Members explored the potential for intergenerational literacy programs, including a proposal to engage older adults in reading efforts with students.

Subcommittee Breakouts and Next Steps

- Programs Subcommittee: Emmie Gardner: Identifying key players, partners, and organizations that are pushing literacy initiatives. Next steps: Identify Public and charter schools. Parochial schools data. Identify homeschooled kids, public library initiatives, and youth with disabilities.
- Data Subcommittee: Sydney Jorgenson shared legislative literacy overview. Rich Nye provided reading scores via email to commissioners.
- Subcommittee Storytelling: Nune Phillips: Understand the experience of Multicultural communities. Listen to communities and build out strategies. Nune created a framework and avenues for partners to share stories. Will continue to refine their approach, with a focus on avoiding duplicate efforts and building trust within diverse communities.

Other Business and Open Comment – Commission Discussion

- Establish Tom Clancy and team to a subcommittee (Eddy to follow up)
- Igor Limansky - future Meetings and 1 commitment

Upcoming meetings for the subcommittees were coordinated, and the next full commission meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2026.

Upcoming events: Shawn Newell Author event with Lamarque Ward, invitation to Juneteenth and other community events.

Adjourn

MOTION: Nune Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting.