



Call for Artist Submissions

West Chester's America250 Mural Project

Issued: October 4, 2025

Submissions are now being accepted for West Chester's America250 Mural Project, organized by Mayor Lillian L. DeBaptiste and the West Chester Borough's Public Arts Commission (PAC). In celebration of our Nation's semiquincentennial (250th anniversary), PAC invites artists to submit proposals for a public mural that honors the history, diversity, and evolving identity of West Chester, Pennsylvania. The goal of this mural is to uplift the shared story of the Borough - past, present, and future.

Background & Theme

In 2026, the United States will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As part of this national milestone, the Borough of West Chester seeks to create a lasting public artwork that celebrates its rich and layered history—for example its Indigenous roots, abolitionist past, industrial development, immigrant and/or cultural communities, and vibrant civic life.

The submitted designs should:

- Reflect the historical significance of West Chester and its role in the broader American narrative (e.g., founding, expansion, conflicts, progress).
- Celebrate the diversity of the people who have called—and continue to call—West Chester home.
- Emphasize unity, resilience, and a hopeful future rooted in inclusion and community pride.

Artists are encouraged to draw on local history, voices, and imagery, as well as patriotism and a call to service among West Chester residents, while using a bold, imaginative visual approach that invites public engagement and education.

Benefits

- The selected design will be installed on the prominently located east facing wall of the American Legion building (305 E. Gay St. West Chester, PA 19380) within the West Chester Borough and will be on full public display for all residents, workers, and visitors.
 - West Chester has a population of over 20,000 and is home to West Chester University's more than 17,000 students. It serves as the County Seat of Chester County, has over 600 businesses, and a vibrant nightlife. All of this, plus dozens of nearby attractions, makes West Chester a premier destination for travelers.
- The selected artist and artwork will be featured in the PAC's digital and print publicity and across Borough promotional channels.
- The artist will receive a \$1,000.00 award upon selection, plus compensation in the amount of \$14,000.00 upon completion of the mural. (\$15,000.00 total.)
 - This compensation is to account for all expenses involved with the mural's creation (e.g., materials, equipment, insurance, etc.).



Eligibility & Criteria

- Artwork must be original and created specifically for this project and project location (see attached wall photos/details).
- Submissions must demonstrate alignment with the project's theme.
- Artists must be capable of executing the full-scale mural painting on site.
- Artists may submit up to two (2) proposals.
- The selected artist must be open to revisions, if applicable.
- Prior to installation, the Artists must provide an insurance certificate documenting sufficient coverage.
- Submission grants permission for the West Chester Borough to publicly share selected works (in part or in whole) for promotional purposes.
- The selected Artist must allow the West Chester Borough the right to utilize the artwork and/or its likeness (in part or in whole) for promotional and other purposes.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions must include the following:

- A digital rendering (PDF or JPG, maximum 3MB) of your mural concept.
- A written explanation (max 150 words) of how your design reflects the mural's theme.
- Name, mailing address, email, and phone number.
- Artist bio and 1–3 examples of past work (optional but encouraged).

Email all materials to WestChesterPublicArts@gmail.com with the subject line "America250 Mural Submission"

(Failure to comply with the above submission guidelines may result in disqualification.)

Timeline

- Call Opens: October 4, 2025
- Submission Deadline: December 6, 2025
- Artist Notified: By January 31, 2026
- Installation Period: Spring 2026



Important Notes

- Artists from all backgrounds, including historically underrepresented communities, are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Collaborative team proposals are welcome (though there is no change to award and/or compensation).
- The chosen mural may incorporate elements from multiple submissions, if applicable.
- Final execution will require a signed artist agreement outlining timeline, materials, maintenance terms, and Rights of Use.

Questions? Email Jimmer Breen (PAC, *Chair*) at WestChesterPublicArts@gmail.com.

Let's tell West Chester's story—boldly, beautifully, and together.



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