



**BELLS ACROSS PA**  
**CALL FOR ARTISTS**

[WWW.AMERICA250PA.ORG/BELLSACROSSPA](http://WWW.AMERICA250PA.ORG/BELLSACROSSPA)

## ABOUT AMERICA250PA

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the legislature and Governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event, and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.

## ABOUT BELLS ACROSS PA

America250PA is now accepting design submissions from Pennsylvania artists for the **Bells Across PA** art series to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026. The selected artists will execute their designs on three-foot tall fiberglass bell sculptures.

These bells will be adorned and magically transformed by local artists and sponsored by businesses or individuals as part of America250PA's efforts to celebrate the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States. Our goal is to place at least one bell in each of the 67 counties across Pennsylvania. We hope for many more!

## WHEN

Bells will begin to be placed in late 2024. All bells must be in place by December 31, 2025, and remain on display December 31, 2026. Exterior bell placement timing will vary depending upon weather conditions.

## WHERE

The bells will be displayed in various locations across Pennsylvania in each of its 67 counties. Public bell locations will be included on America250PA's 2026 Commemorative Map.

## ARTISTS DEADLINES

America250PA is now accepting applications from artists who wish to have their designs considered for selection. Each artist whose design is selected for the exhibition will be provided with a 3 foot by 3 foot, blank, ready-to-paint fiberglass bell and will be paid a \$1,250 honorarium; \$625 upon bell delivery and \$625 after a final review of the bell design ensuring it matches your approved bell design.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Bells Across PA** is open to all **PENNSYLVANIA** artists and groups from the acclaimed to the amateur. Painters, sculptors, craftsmen, multi-media artists, and other wildly creative people are all encouraged to apply. Each commissioned bell will receive one honorarium regardless of group size.

## HOW TO ENTER

Artists may ONLY apply via email and must complete the Application and Copyright Assignment below. Please refer to the Application Checklist to ensure you have submitted all requested documents.

Artists may submit more than one design but must complete the Application and Copyright Assignment for each design.

Applications should be emailed to:

[Info@America250PA.org](mailto:Info@America250PA.org)

SUBJECT LINE: **Bells Across PA**

## TIMELINE

America250PA will review your application as soon as it is submitted to ensure that it complies with the guidelines. Final approval will be decided by America250PA's Arts and Culture subcommittee. If approved, your design will become part of the portfolio shown to potential sponsors who have not yet chosen an artist. Artists will be notified if they are partnered with a sponsor.

America250PA encourages artists to submit proposals as soon as possible so that we can assemble a sizable and diverse portfolio for review by sponsors.

Follow America250PA on social media for updates and details.

**Facebook:** @America250PA

**Instagram** @America\_250PA

**Twitter:** @America\_250PA

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/america250pa>

**WWW.AMERICA250PA.ORG**

## DEADLINE TO RETURN FINISHED BELLS

A Bell Unveiling Ceremony will take place for each bell placed. This date will be agreed upon by America250PA, the sponsor, and the artist and will determine the date to return the finished bell.

## PAINTS, TOPCOATS AND WEATHERPROOFING

Although some bells may be positioned indoors, in creating a design, please consider carefully the weather and other elements of nature, including sun, rain, wind, and dirt. Not all bells will be placed indoors or in a weather-protected location.

Additionally, **Bells Across PA** is an interactive program that allows the public to touch and feel the designs. As such, designs should be created with durability and public safety concerns in mind. Although objects may be attached to the bells, artists should be aware that vandalism can and unfortunately does occur. Any object added to a bell should be attached in such a way that it cannot be easily removed.

The bells are finished in a white gelcoat suitable for sanding and will NEED to be primed. A primer compatible with fiberglass should be used to prevent the paint from flaking off. Any high-quality exterior paint can be used, following the paint manufacturer's instructions. A final clear coat is highly recommended to prevent fading. Possibly consider having the bell sprayed with a clear automotive coat at a local auto body shop for additional durability. Paint does not have to be the only medium. All forms of art are welcome! It is up to the artist.

Each bell is affixed to a 1 foot by 1 foot base that can be secured with sandbags or concrete blocks.

## INSTALLATION AND REPAIR OF BELLS

Artists will not be responsible for the installation of the bells, as America250PA will manage this process. Artists should, however, be available for any possible touch-up work that may be required once the exhibit is underway in 2026.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

Artists should bear in mind that the audience will be broad-based and of all ages, and designs should be appropriate for public display. Designs that are religious, political, or sexual in nature will not be accepted. As outlined below, designs will be evaluated to ensure they conform to these guidelines.

Please be aware that **any** changes made to the approved bell design will require completion of a new application and will delay delivery of the bell until the new design is approved.

America250PA may reject any design that, in its sole discretion, does not adhere to these guidelines.

Please include in your design two or more of the following America250PA focus areas that are specific to your county:

**Agriculture, Arts & Culture, Commerce & Workforce, Diversity, Education & Innovation, Environment, Government, Health & Wellness, History & Preservation, Legacy, Nature, Tourism, and Military, Veterans & Women**

## RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS

By submitting your application, you confirm that:

- You are the original creator of your design.
- You have not copied anyone else's original work
- Your design does not infringe on anyone else's intellectual property rights (for example, trademark, copyrights trade dress, design patent).
- To the extent anyone else has contributed to your design, you shall obtain a signed, written agreement from that person assigning all their rights in their contribution to you.

As part of the application process, you must sign the "Copyright Assignment" that accompanies this application. By signing, dating, and returning the original Copyright Assignment with your application, you are indicating your understanding that you are assigning the entire right, title, and interest to your design to America250PA. Please remember to keep a copy of these forms for your records.

Once selected, if your finished bell matches your design, as approved and without variation, and is completed prior to the agreed deadline, you will receive the remaining \$625 of the \$1,250 honorarium. **Any** changes to the bell design will result in rejection of the bell. America250PA will continue to own the entire right, title, sketches, and all derivative works, including the final work completed on the fiberglass bell. You will be acknowledged as the artist on a plaque attached to the base of the bell and in appropriate publications. However, the copyrights, including the rights to reproduce your design, create copies or reprint your design in books, will be owned by America250PA. If your design is not approved or selected for the exhibition, America250PA shall assign the entire right, title, and interest in your design back to you.

# APPLICATION AND COPYRIGHT ASSIGNMENT

## Bells Across PA – Call for Artists

**WHEREAS**, \_\_\_\_\_ [fill in name of artist], an individual having an address of \_\_\_\_\_ (“Artist”) is the author of the design and sketches (collectively referred to as the “Design”) attached to the application submitted to America250PA on the same date as the date of this Assignment;

**WHEREAS**, Artist understands and acknowledges that, as part of the application process, it is intended that America250PA, with an address of 2 N Main Street, Pittston, PA 18640, own the entire right, title, and interest in and to the Design.

**WHEREAS**, Artist understands and acknowledges that, if the Design is approved, he/she/they shall apply that design to a bell sculpture provided by America250PA thereby creating a “Finished Bell.”

**WHEREAS** Artist desires to transfer all of his/her/their right, title and interest in and to the Design, including, but not limited to, all derivative works which are based on the Design to America250PA;

**WHEREAS**, Artist understands and acknowledges that America250PA shall continue to be the sole and exclusive owner of the entire right, title and interest in and to the Design, including, but not limited to, all derivative works based on the Design if the Finished Bell is approved for exhibition, as described in detail in the Request For Proposals and Application to America250PA’s **Bells Across PA**, and that in such case America250PA shall pay to Artist a \$1,250 honorarium within 30 days of the completion of their bell.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and intending to be legally bound hereby, Artist hereby assigns to America250PA all his/her/their right, title, and interest in and to the Design, and to any derivative works based on the Design including but not limited to any rights it may have in the Finished Bell, together with all copyright applications and registrations, therefore. Artist acknowledges and agrees that, due to the nature of the public display of the Finished Bell, America250PA shall not be liable for any distortion, mutilation, modification, or destruction of the Finished Bell by accident, act of God or person. Artist hereby waives his/her/their rights under the Visual Artists Rights Act (“VARA”), 17 U.S.C. 106A, as against America250PA in the event of such distortion, mutilation, modification, or destruction. Artist further acknowledges and agrees that if the Finished Bell is vandalized, damaged, or otherwise modified and the Artist is unable or unwilling to promptly repair such alteration, America250PA shall have the right to make, or have made, such repairs, even if the repairs would constitute a distortion, mutilation, or modification under VARA. Artist hereby waives his/her/their rights under VARA in the event and to the extent America250PA deems such repair necessary. Artist represents to America250PA that he/she/they is/are the sole author(s) of the Designs and that the Design is an original work of authorship which does not infringe upon the copyright rights or any intellectual property rights of others, and that he/she/they has/have the unencumbered right to make this assignment. In the event the Design is not approved or selected for exhibition, as described in the Request for Proposals, America250PA shall assign [and hereby does assign] back to Artist all its right, titles, and interest in and to the Design.

Artist Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Bell: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home County of Artist: \_\_\_\_\_

County Depicted on Bell: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Artists should bear in mind that the audience will be broad-based and of all ages, and designs should be appropriate for public display. Designs that are religious, political, or sexual in nature will not be accepted. Additionally, corporate logos and advertising are not allowed on designs.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name for plaque, website, and other event materials: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed title for your bell (limited to 40 characters, including spaces and punctuation):

\_\_\_\_\_

### Focus Areas

Please list with America250PA Focus Areas your bell incorporates (see DESIGN GUIDELINES section).

\_\_\_\_\_

**Artist Statement**

Please attach an additional sheet with a brief description of yourself and your bell design. Also please attach a headshot.

**Bell Outline**

Please complete your proposed design on one of the outlines provided. Please feel free to enlarge these shapes if desired; however, please do not submit designs larger than 8.5” x 11”. Note that the more complete your design, the easier it will be for the panel and our patrons to review your submission. Please note that all application materials become the property of America250PA, and no materials can be returned to the artist. Please keep a copy of your application for your records.

**Assurances and Terms**

By signing this Application, I agree to all the terms of the attached Call for Artists, and all such terms are hereby incorporated into this Application. I certify that all statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that America250PA is not liable for damage or loss of materials submitted.

Artist(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Checklist**

Email the following to info@america250PA.org, please add **Bells Across PA** in subject line:

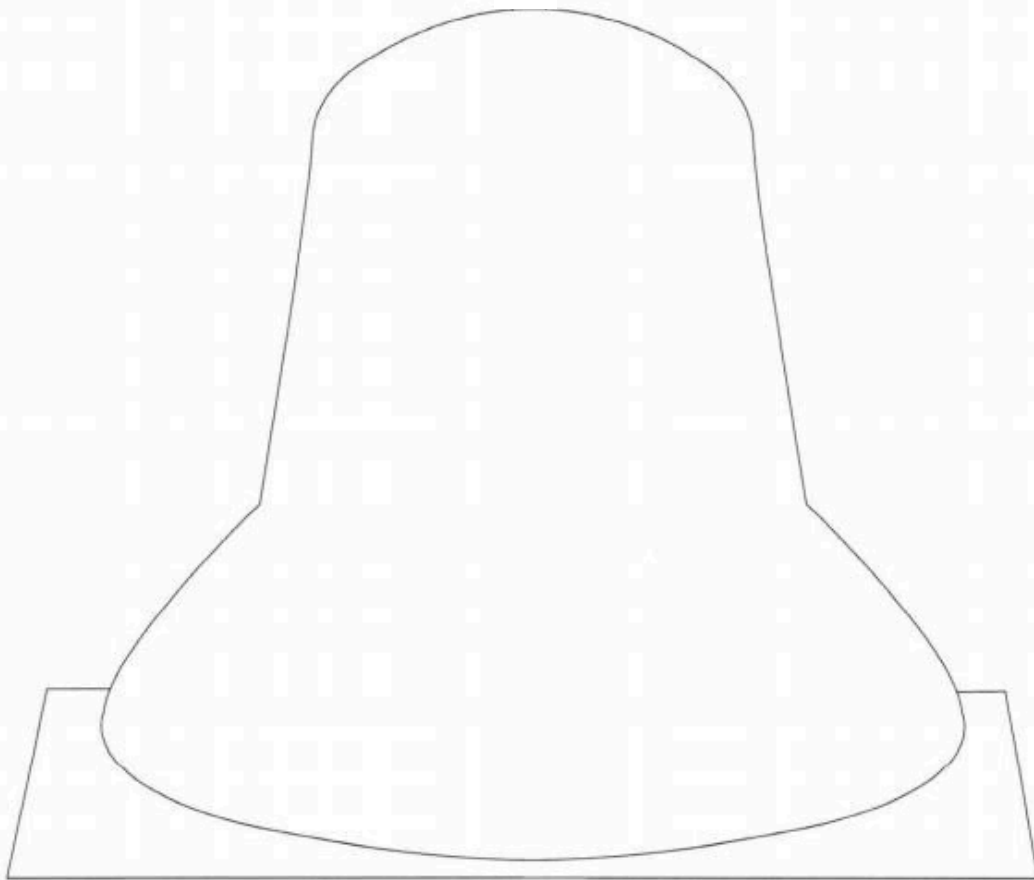
- Signed Application
- Signed Copyright Assignment
- Artist Statement including description of Bell design
- Bell Design
- Artist Photo/Biography
- Sample of Previous Work and Resume (optional)

For Additional Information:

- [www.America250PA.org](http://www.America250PA.org)
- Facebook: @America250PA
- Instagram @America\_250PA
- Twitter: @America\_250PA
- LinkedIn: @America250PA

Bells are 3 foot x 3 foot

## FRONT OF BELL





## BACK OF BELL

