

AMERICA 250 YOUNGSTOWN MURAL PROJECT

Request for Proposals: Artist Concept Designers

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The America 250 Youngstown Mural Project celebrates the city's 250th anniversary of American independence by creating a public art installation that honors Youngstown's rich cultural heritage, diverse communities, and unique identity. This project will transform a prominent downtown wall into a vintage postcard-style mural featuring the word “**YOUNGSTOWN**” with each letter filled with imagery representing different aspects of the city's past, present, and future. This piece will go beyond traditional architectural landmarks to showcase the people, places, traditions, and stories that make Youngstown distinctive.

This RFP seeks talented local and regional artists to develop concept designs for approximately 3 letters each. Selected concepts will be combined and executed by lead local muralist Patrick McGlone of Overall Paint Company.

PROJECT GOALS

- Create a vintage postcard aesthetic that evokes nostalgia while celebrating present-day Youngstown
- Represent Youngstown's diverse communities through inclusive imagery and symbolism
- Incorporate community-identified themes from public survey
- Go deeper than just buildings to highlight cultural traditions, natural beauty, industrial heritage, neighborhood identity, and local gathering places
- Engage diverse artistic voices in the creative process to create a piece of art that resonates with the entire community

COMMUNITY SURVEY THEMES

The following themes emerged from community input and should guide your concept designs:

I. Major Themes Identified

- **Neighborhood Pride and Identity**
- **Cultural and Educational Institutions**
- **Local Food and Gathering Traditions**
- **Immigrant and Ethnic Heritage**
- **Sports and Community Pride**
- **Parks and Natural Beauty**
- **Industrial and Labor Heritage**
- **Nostalgia and History**

SCOPE OF WORK

Selected artists will create concept designs for approximately 3 letters from “YOUNGSTOWN”. Each letter should incorporate visual elements from the community survey themes that tell a cohesive story about Youngstown's identity.

I. Required Deliverables

- **Color studies** demonstrating palette choices that fit the vintage postcard aesthetic
- **Written narrative** (1-2 pages) explaining your creative choices, theme connections, and how your design represents Youngstown
- **Collaboration with lead muralist** Patrick McGlone to refine concepts for final execution

II. Design Considerations

- Designs should work within a *vintage postcard aesthetic*
- Each letter should tell a visual story while maintaining cohesion with other letters
- Imagery should go beyond historic architecture to include people, traditions, nature, and community life
- Ensure your designs will work at large scale on an outdoor wall
- Designs should be culturally respectful and celebrate Youngstown's rich diversity

III. Artist Role & Creative Ownership

- **Artists will receive credit** for their conceptual contributions to the mural
- **Overall Paint Company and the Economic Action Group** will collaborate with artists on final artwork to address practical considerations including building specifications, budget parameters, appropriate scale, weather durability, and visual cohesion across the mural.
- Artists will collaborate with Patrick McGlone throughout the design refinement process to ensure concepts translate effectively to the final mural

ELIGIBILITY

We welcome applications from:

- Local Youngstown artists and designers
- Regional artists from the Mahoning Valley and surrounding areas
- Artists from diverse backgrounds and mediums (illustration, graphic design, painting, etc.)
- Emerging and/or established artists
- Artists with or without prior mural experience (concept design only)

Age Requirement:

- Applicants must be 18 years or older. Artists under 18 may apply with parental or guardian approval and signature.

We are committed to diverse artist representation to ensure the mural reflects the full spectrum of Youngstown's communities.

COMPENSATION

- **\$1,000 stipend per selected artist** for concept design development (approximately 3 letters)
- Payment upon completion of artwork and design approval
- **Note:** This stipend is for concept design only. Patrick McGlone of Overall Paint Company will execute the final mural painting.

PROJECT TIMELINE

RFP Release: April 14, 2026

Application Deadline: May 1, 2026, 5:00 PM EST

Artist Selection: Early May 2026

Concept Design Development: May 2026

Design Review & Approval: Late May 2026

Mural Painting by Overall Paint Company: June 2026

Mural Unveiling: July 3, 2026

APPLICATION DETAILS

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit the following materials:

1. **Artist Statement** (max 500 words): Describe your connection to Youngstown, your artistic approach, and why you want to contribute to this project
2. **Portfolio** (5-10 images): Examples of your previous work (any medium), showing your range and style. Public art or design work is a plus but not required
3. **Preliminary Concept Ideas** (optional): Brief written description or rough sketches showing initial ideas for how you might approach this project
4. **Resume or CV** (optional)
5. **Contact Information:** Name, email, phone number, location
6. **Parental Consent Form** (if under 18): Signed permission from parent or legal guardian

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Artistic quality and creativity** demonstrated in portfolio
- **Understanding of major community themes** and ability to translate survey data into visual storytelling
- **Connection to Youngstown** and authentic representation of local culture
- **Diversity of artistic perspectives** to ensure inclusive representation
- **Compatibility with vintage postcard aesthetic** and project vision
- **Ability to collaborate** with lead muralist and project team to execute artwork

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your complete application package to:

kennedy@eagworks.org

Subject Line: America 250 Artist RFP - [Your Name]

Application Deadline: May 1, 2026, 5:00 PM EST

Applications may be submitted as a single PDF or as a zip file containing all materials. Portfolio images should be high-resolution JPEGs or PNGs. File size limit: 25MB total.

QUESTIONS

For questions about this RFP, please contact:

kennedy@eagworks.org

daniel@eagworks.org

nick@eagworks.org

Help us tell Youngstown's story through your art.

We look forward to seeing your creative vision for celebrating our community's past, present, and future.