

THE WESTMORELAND MUSEUM of AMERICAN ART

Requests for Proposals:

Westmoreland County artists for *Bells Across PA*

The Westmoreland Museum of American Art is seeking proposals from artists living or working in Westmoreland County for the *Bells Across PA* art series to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026. The selected artist will execute their designs on a three-foot tall, ready-to-paint, fiberglass bell sculpture, and will be paid a \$1,250.00 honorarium by America250PA to cover materials, and to compensate their time and labor. Bells will be on display either inside or outside the Museum from **December 31, 2025–December 31, 2026**. Bells will also be featured in a 2026 Commemorative Map with artist information on America250PA's website and social media platforms.

We are looking for designs that reflect some aspect of the history of Westmoreland County. That could include, but is not limited to, agriculture, arts and culture, commerce, diversity, education, environment, government, healthcare, history/preservation, innovation/technology, nature, tourism, veterans, women, etc. Please bear in mind that the audience will be broad-based and consist of all ages, and designs should be appropriate for public display. Designs that are religious, political, or sexual in nature will not be considered.

How to enter

Artists of all levels, from acclaimed professionals to emerging talents, are encouraged to apply. Interested artists can apply via email with 1) a brief description about the design (100 words or less), 2) full color sketches or digital renderings of your proposed design (feel free to use the outlines below if that's helpful), and 3) an artist CV or resume (optional). In your description, please be sure to specify how your idea connects to some aspect of the history of Westmoreland County. You may submit photographs or other examples of relevant past work, if desired.

Completed applications should be emailed to:

submissions@thewestmoreland.org

SUBJECT LINE: 'Bells Across PA'

The deadline for submissions is **April 10, 2024**.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from The Westmoreland Museum of American Art and The GO Laurel Highlands Visitor Bureau. The selected artist will be notified by **May 15, 2024**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

Once selected, if your finished bell matches your approved design work and is completed prior to the deadline, you will receive a \$1,250.00 honorarium. 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.

Paints, topcoats, and weatherproofing

Although the exact placement of this bell has yet to be determined, in creating a design, please consider carefully the weather and other elements of nature, including sun, rain, wind, and dirt. We cannot guarantee that the bell 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 surface of each bell is primed by the manufacturer. Unless you have altered the exterior of the bell, you will not need to reapply a primer. Acrylic paint, artificial resin paint, or two-component paint can be used to paint the bells. A minimum of three coats of varnish is required using a two-part, hard gloss varnish. This step is crucial to the ultimate durability of your bell, and bells that are returned unvarnished or which are incorrectly varnished may not be exhibited.

Paint does not have to be the only medium. Hodge Podge your bell with photos or yarn bomb it! All forms of art are welcome!



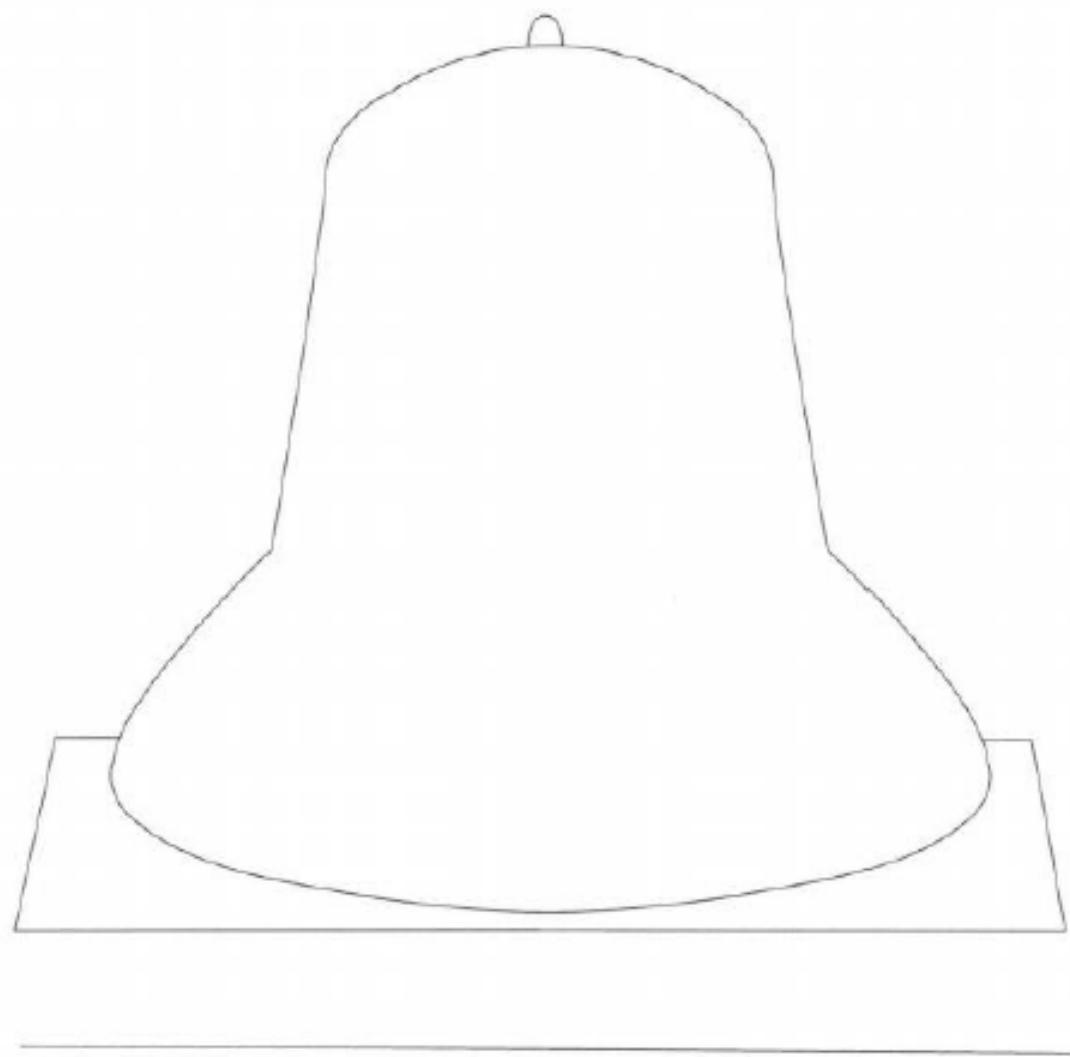
Installation and repair of bells

Each bell will be affixed to a one-foot base. 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 throughout 2026.

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.

FRONT OF BELL



BACK OF BELL

