



## Call to Artists: PHILADELPHIA250 *Dare to Declare!*

**PHILADELPHIA250** ([www.philadelphia250.us](http://www.philadelphia250.us)) – the organization coordinating Philadelphia’s celebration of the Declaration of Independence’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026 – is seeking artists to help with civic engagement projects over the next four years.

Currently, PHILADELPHIA250 is seeking artists to create illustrations for a set of playing cards that will be used to facilitate community conversations about the Declaration of Independence and the ways its values resonate across different communities and constituencies in Philadelphia and beyond.

### Key Details

- Four artists will be selected to create illustrations that embody the four values that are the foundation of PHILADELPHIA250’s approach to this historical milestone: **Shared Prosperity, People’s Histories, Revolutionary Actions, and The Pursuit of Happiness.**
- One of the above artists will also be asked to create a design for the box the cards come in.
- One artist will be asked to create a “zine” that serves as an instruction book.
- Artists will own the copyright to their work, and PHILADELPHIA250 will pay a fee for licensing the designs and illustrations for this use. PHILADELPHIA250 will pay a fee of \$500 for the card designs, an additional \$500 for the box design, and \$1,500 to the artist creating the zine.
- **The deadline for applying is August 29. Information on how to apply follows this page.**
- For artists who are selected, the deadline for work to be submitted will be October 11.

PHILADELPHIA 250 is committed to championing policies and practices of cultural equity that will support a just, inclusive and equitable commemoration of the 2026 anniversary. We will seek and select artists who reflect the diversity of Philadelphia’s creative voices and artistic approaches, including people from historically marginalized communities

This is the first of many artist projects that PHILADELPHIA250 hopes to organize as part of its work in engaging the community around this important milestone. If you’d like to receive information about future opportunities, write us at: [programs@philadelphia250.us](mailto:programs@philadelphia250.us)

### Questions?

Contact us at [programs@philadelphia250.us](mailto:programs@philadelphia250.us).

# Call to Artists:

## PHILADELPHIA250 *Dare to Declare!*

### Scope

PHILADELPHIA250 is seeking five artists to create illustrations for a set of playing cards that will be used to facilitate community conversations about the Declaration of Independence and the ways its values resonate across different communities and constituencies in Philadelphia and beyond.

- Four artists will be selected to create an illustration that can be used on the obverse side of the question cards. Each artist will be asked to work on one of the core values described below.
  - One of these four artists will also be selected to create a design that can be used on the box that the cards will come in.
- A fifth artist will be selected to create a zine-like instruction manual for how the cards can be used.

PHILADELPHIA250 will provide printer's templates for the cards, boxes and zine. The artists are expected to submit either high-resolution digital files that fit into these templates or original art that can be scanned to fit into these templates. (Original art will be returned after scanning.)

### Fee

PHILADELPHIA250 will pay each artist a fee for an exclusive license to use the designs and illustrations they create on the card decks and/or instruction guide.

- Card designs: \$500
- Box design: \$500
- Zine design: \$1,500

This fee license will be for exclusive, non-commercial, non-financial use of the images on the card-deck and to illustrate the card-deck on our web page and social media. Should PHILADELPHIA250 wish to use the images for monetary purposes, such as selling the card decks or giving the decks as a benefit of membership, we will negotiate an additional license fee with the artist.

### Instructions

Send a short statement of interest, a resume, samples of your work, contact information for one reference who can speak to your ability to create this artwork, and your contact information to [programs@philadelphia250.us](mailto:programs@philadelphia250.us).

- The **statement of interest** should describe your artistic practice, explain why you are interested in Philadelphia250, indicate which commission you would like to be considered for, and indicate which "value" interests you the most.

The statement can be sent as a written document, one page maximum, formatted as a .doc or .pdf file.

Alternatively, the statement could be submitted as an audio or video file (one minute maximum).

- **Work samples** should show illustrative or graphic work similar to that which is being asked for in this project.

Work samples / image files can be formatted as .pdfs or .jpgs. Alternatively, artists can submit a link to a personal web page that shows your work. Facebook and Instagram links will not be accepted.

- **Reference information** should include name, email and a telephone number.
- **Include an email address and phone number** that we can use to reach you.

Please send all submission materials to: [programs@philadelphia250.us](mailto:programs@philadelphia250.us). To help us organize the submissions, please include "SUBMISSION FROM: Your Name" in the subject line.

## Selection Criteria

Submissions will be reviewed by PHILADELPHIA250 staff and a panel that includes artists and community-based curators.

PHILADELPHIA250 will use the following criteria to select artists for these commissions:

- Experience in producing two-dimensional illustration/graphics suitable for printing, as expressed by past work
- Interest in exploring the one of the four core values, as expressed in a statement of interest
- Suitability of the artist's visual style for the topic

PHILADELPHIA 250 is committed to championing policies and practices of cultural equity that will support a just, inclusive and equitable commemoration of this milestone. We will seek and select artists who reflect the diversity of Philadelphia's creative voices and artistic approaches, including people from historically marginalized communities

## Schedule

- Applications are due no later than August 29, 2022
- Artist announcement will be made sometime around September 6, 2022 Artist designs should be completed by October 11, 2022
- Card delivery is targeted for November 1, 2022

## Questions?

Contact us at [programs@philadelphia250.us](mailto:programs@philadelphia250.us).

# PHILADELPHIA250 *Dare to Declare!* Cards

## Background

In 2026, all eyes will be on Philadelphia as the site of the events that occurred in 1776 and the epicenter of an international celebration. As in past anniversaries, Philadelphia will serve as the premier national Host City in 2026. National and international events will bring unparalleled media attention and economic opportunity for our city.

PHILADELPHIA250 is the independent, nonprofit organization designated by the City of Philadelphia to lead the city's plans for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Our vision is that the 250th anniversary is a people-driven movement, resulting in a collective, inclusive moment for the City of Philadelphia. This "By the People, For All People" anniversary approach will showcase the breadth and diversity of Philadelphia's people, its patchwork of neighborhoods and rich cultural and heritage assets, to help deepen our understanding of America's many histories and lived experiences.

To achieve its goal, PHILADELPHIA250 is developing, in collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders, a framework for approaching the 250th and developing resources to guide this shared vision among Philadelphia's people and institutions. PHILADELPHIA250 is also developing its own series of public programs and partnerships rooted in four values: Shared Prosperity, People's Histories, Revolutionary Actions, and The Pursuit of Happiness — central to the Declaration of Independence. Our programs will engage the community at large in the planning for the 250th and stimulate a public conversation about the role the Declaration of Independence has played in Philadelphia – past, present and future. This work is beginning now, and will accelerate in the years leading up to 2026.

## Dare to Declare! Cards

One tool we plan to develop is the set of Dare to Declare! cards. This will be a playing-card style deck of cards that will have with conversation-starter questions on one side, and artist-designed images on the other. The questions and images will be centered on the four core values described below. In addition, we will develop a civic engagement guide, created in an easily accessible "zine" format, for how people can use the cards.

Our plan is to produce one set of cards in 2022. Based on the success of this prototype, we plan to issue additional editions of the cards in each year through 2026, and possibly special editions of cards. The card decks will be distributed for use in schools and public events. In the future, we may use the card for fundraising, including for sale in our online store, and as benefits for donors or membership.

## PHILADELPHIA250'S Core Values:

### Shared Prosperity, People's Histories, Revolutionary Actions, The Pursuit of Happiness

#### *Shared Prosperity*

Every community should enjoy and provide for the shared prosperity for all, advancing racial, social and economic justice and equity.

- PHILADELPHIA250 stands for a #SharedProsperity that brings sustainable growth to our communities, with a focus on racial, social, and economic justice and equity. PHILADELPHIA250

will explore social, cultural and economic systems that make up our communities to highlight successes and identify challenges so we can work together to ensure greater shared prosperity for all.

### ***People's Histories***

Everyone's stories should be told to ensure a more truthful understanding of our city and celebrate all of our diverse communities.

- PHILADELPHIA250 stands for an inclusive telling of #PeoplesHistories as a necessary step toward creating more complete and truthful historical narratives. PHILADELPHIA250 will amplify untold stories of our city — those of African-Americans, people of color, native descent, and immigrants and women — to ensure 2026 is a moment for all people and a celebration of everyone's history.

### ***Revolutionary Actions***

Everyone should be inspired by the example of the Declaration of Independence to continue seeking revolutionary, positive change for the good of all.

- PHILADELPHIA250 stands for #RevolutionaryActions that continue our tradition of pushing boundaries and bringing about innovation and ground-breaking positive change. PHILADELPHIA250 will spotlight and empower Philadelphians and organizations who exemplify these actions.

### ***The Pursuit of Happiness***

Everyone has a right to find purpose, meaning and enrichment in their lives.

- PHILADELPHIA250 stands for everyone's right to their own #PursuitOfHappiness to find purpose, enrichment, joy, and meaning in their lives. PHILADELPHIA250 will celebrate the national value that achieving happiness is a worthwhile goal, and that our city and country should continue striving to create a world that facilitates and honors each individual's path toward a life of fulfillment and joy.