



LET FREEDOM RING
AMERICA250 GRANT APPLICATION FORM
CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

An electronic version of this application is available at <https://cccf250.org/planning/>

Contact Information

Contact Person Name: Howard A Crawford, CAPT, USAF, MSC (Ret)

Organization Name: American Legion Post 134

Address: 305 E. Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Phone: 610-696-2816

Email: captcraw@mac.com

Website: <https://www.legion.org/>

Year Incorporated: ??????

FEIN #: ????

Note: Please attach a copy of your 501c3 letter with this request. Per IRS regulations, grants can be awarded to nonprofit charities and municipalities, but NOT individuals nor businesses.

Organization Field of Interest

	Arts, Culture, Heritage		Environment, Animals		Education, Library
	Health & Human Services		Social Justice, Civil Rights		Religion
	Municipality/Governmental	✓	If other, please describe: veterans' service organization		

A lot	Some	A little	
✓			This inspires & engages a wide array of people in commemoration of America's founding with our Revolutionary Declaration of Independence.
✓			This connects Chester County's stories to the nation's past, present & future.
✓			This commemoration is truly by the people, for all people. We invite wide input & welcome all to actively participate.
✓			This examines & fosters fundamental rights of Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness for All.
	✓		We zoom in to CCCF250 planning meetings to share information & ideas.

Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:

\$250	\$1,250	\$2,250	\$5,250	✓	\$10,250
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Please BRIEFLY describe how this funding will help your programs, services, activities and/or events to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence, and our continuing journey toward liberty and justice for all.

What are you doing? When? Who will it impact? What difference do you aim to make?

What will it cost overall? Who are you partnering & coordinating with?

Please e-mail this Mini-Grant request with your 501c3 letter to grants@chescofc.org

Let Freedom Ring Mini-Grant decisions are made on the 25th of each month.

Questions? Contact Grants Officer Stephenie Stevens (610) 696-8211 grants@chescofc.org

For Good. For All. Forever.

Describe Briefly: As part of the America250 Mural Project, the American Legion, Post 134, is providing a prominent east-facing wall on the exterior of our East Gay Street building for a public mural — a lasting public artwork at the gateway to West Chester (see photo) to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The purpose of the America250 mural is to honor the history, diversity and evolving identity of West Chester and to uplift the shared story of the Borough — past, present and future.

What are you doing? The public mural will help tell West Chester's story — boldly and beautifully — as it invites public engagement and education. Its purpose is to celebrate West Chester's rich and layered history — including such themes as its Indigenous roots, abolitionist past, industrial development, immigrant and cultural communities, and vibrant civic life. It will reflect the historical significance of the Borough and its role in the broader American narrative, while drawing on local history, patriotism and a call to service among its residents.

When? More than a dozen applications have been received in response to a publicly released Call for Art. All submissions are now in the process of being reviewed by a community panel to select the winning proposal for this site. An announcement is scheduled for late January 2026, with work on the mural to begin when the weather permits in the spring.

Who will it impact? The mural will impact tens of thousands, all who drive into West Chester along Gay Street — residents and visitors alike, as well as pedestrians and those who live in the neighborhood. The impact will last well beyond the America250 festivities, as part of the Borough's growing collection of public murals which is become part of the fabric of our town. In addition, artists from all backgrounds, including historically underrepresented communities, were strongly encouraged to apply to create this original piece of public art.

What difference do you aim to make? This project will have a lasting impact on West Chester and all those who view it. The artwork will enhance the neighborhood's aesthetics and foster civic pride through beautification.

What will it cost overall? The estimated total cost of the mural project is \$16,500, with \$15,000 earmarked for payment to the mural artist to cover the mural's creation (materials, equipment, insurance). Additional funds will be used for the unveiling ceremony and other related expenses.

At present, the project has financial commitments from the West Chester Borough, Mayor DeBaptiste's office, and the American Legion. Combined these pledges provide almost 1/3rd of our goal. As well, arrangements are being made for a Dine & Donate night at a local restaurant with a percentage of proceeds going to the project, and a straightforward public Call for Donations campaign is being developed.

Who are you partnering & coordinating with? We are coordinating with West Chester's Public Arts Commission (contact: Jimmer Breen, Chair), for their experience in developing and orchestrating public mural projects, as well as West Chester's Mayor, Lillian De Baptiste.

