

# ARTIST COMPETITION

## CALLING ALL BUNCOMBE COUNTY ARTISTS — DESIGN A COMMEMORATIVE TREE PLAQUE

**Celebrate America's 250th anniversary in Buncombe County by creating a commemorative tree-planting plaque design that captures the spirit of North Carolina and the resilience of the American spirit.**

**The America 250th NC Committee in Buncombe County invites local artists to bring their creativity to the "Beyond the Liberty Tree" initiative — honoring the enduring legacy of liberty through tree plantings across Buncombe County and beyond.**

**Submission Deadline:** January 15, 2026

### **Questions?**

Visit [www.buncombecounty250.org](http://www.buncombecounty250.org) or Email [info@buncombe250.org](mailto:info@buncombe250.org)

\*America 250 NC is North Carolina's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of our state in the development of the United States. The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is the statewide entity charged with leadership of the commemoration for NC. The Buncombe County America250 NC Committee promotes engagement and involvement in America250 NC programs across Buncombe County NC.



# Criteria for Consideration

The Buncombe County America 250th Committee invites Buncombe County artists and designers to participate in the "Beyond the Liberty Tree" (BLT) Commemorative Tree Plaque-Design Competition. This initiative celebrates the 250th anniversary of the United States by commissioning a commemorative plaque design that honors the enduring legacy of liberty through tree plantings. Submissions will be reviewed by a selection panel representing the Buncombe County America 250th Committee. The winning artist will be commissioned to produce one hundred plaques for installation across Buncombe County as part of the America 250th celebrations.

## Eligibility

Open to Buncombe County resident artists and designers.

## Opportunity

Artists are invited to submit a 100-word narrative description and full-size fabricated prototype of their commemorative tree-planting plaque for the BLT Commemorative planting initiative. The top three (3) finalists will be awarded a \$250.00 stipend of reimbursement for their design and material costs.

## Finalist Award – Contract

The winning artist may, at the sole discretion of America250 NC, enter into a contract to produce 100 commemorative plaques to accompany the 100 BLT commemorative tree plantings statewide. The estimated contract for design and fabrication is valued at \$10,000.00.

## Timeline

The competition will officially launch on **October 28, 2025** at the first America250 NC Buncombe County Public Listening Session.

Applicants must submit an email stating their intention to participate no later than **December 28, 2025** to [info@buncombe250.org](mailto:info@buncombe250.org)

Prototype submissions and accompanying narrative must be dropped off no later than 3pm on **January 15th**, at 1 Village Lane, Suite 1 Asheville, NC 28803. The A250 NC selection panel will review all entries and announce the three finalists, and winning entry on or before

A contract will be awarded to the winning artist for the production of 100 commemorative plaques to be fabricated by the artist and delivered to America250 NC through **April 7, 2026**.

## Production Expectations

The selected artist will enter into a formal contract with America250 NC no later than **February 7, 2026**, and should be prepared to begin production immediately upon notification. The artist will be responsible for producing and delivering the 100 plaques. Applicants are asked to carefully consider their production capacity when submitting proposals to ensure timely and high-quality completion of all pieces. The estimated contract costs for design and fabrication of the 100 plaques shall not exceed \$10,000.00.

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# Artist Application – America250 NC Commemorative Tree-Planting Plaque

## Name of Applicant – Primary Contact (Name, Address, Email, Phone):

(Provide Name, Street Address, Email, and Phone Contact Information for Applicant)

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## Title of Entry:

(Inspirational Title of Entry)

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## Confirmation of Design Requirements:

(I the artist/applicant, acknowledge the prototype submitted conforms to the following program requirements):

1. The plaque shall be constructed of durable materials, suitable to withstand elements.
2. The plaque shall incorporate the America250 NC logo:



3. The dimensional requirements shall conform to the following tolerances:
  - a. Incorporate a commemorative plate inscribed with the following:

"This tree is one of 100 planted across North Carolina in 2026 to commemorate the semiquincentennial of our nation's founding in 1776.

Its roots strengthened through 250 years of striving, its branches reach upward in aspiration that we may together "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Dedicated by:

(Insert Donating Parties Name– (To be provided by A250 NC))

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4. Above ground elements of the plaque should rise a minimum of 14" and a maximum of 24" above finished grade. Width shall be between 8" and 14".
5. Design should include a stake that may be installed 24" into the ground.
6. Must be able to be designed and manufactured at a cost not to exceed \$100.00 each, at a volume of 100 total plaques.

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## Agreement:

*I the applicant do acknowledge that I have read the program information listed above, and thereby approve and acknowledge that this is a work-for-hire volunteer submission for which I will not be compensated unless my entry is chosen as one of three finalists. I do hereby provide America250 NC the right to use the materials, images, narrative description and likenesses thereof for use for promotional or commemorative use.*

*Furthermore, I hereby acknowledge that if selected:*

- a. *I retain the agency and abilities to fabricate the signs myself and/or oversee their fabrication.*
- b. *I can provide the requested 100 signs which will be created as close facsimiles of my prototype within the timeframe listed.*

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Submission Instructions

All submissions should be received no later than 3pm on January 15, 2026. Late entries will not be accepted. Artists can submit their application and supporting materials by one of two methods:

- a. Physical Drop Off: Drop off the completed forms and all materials to the address below no later than 3pm on January 15, 2026.  
– Or –
- b. Mail In: Mail nomination forms and all materials in time to be received no later than 3pm on January 15, 2026:

America250 NC Buncombe County Committee  
C/O Glenn Stach, Director A250 NC Buncombe County Committee  
1 Village Lane, Suite 1  
Biltmore Village  
Asheville, NC 28803

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