

South Amherst America 250 Public Mural Proposal

Submitted By

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Project Title

America 250: South Amherst's Story

Project Overview

In recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America in 2026, we propose the creation of a large-scale public mural celebrating both the nation's milestone anniversary and the unique history, character, and future of South Amherst, Ohio. The mural will serve as a permanent piece of public art that honors the people, industries, landmarks, and values that have shaped our community while creating a visually compelling destination for residents and visitors alike. Located on a highly visible wall within the Village of South Amherst, the mural will become a community landmark that enhances the downtown environment, promotes civic pride, encourages tourism, and contributes to ongoing economic development efforts.

Project Goals

- Celebrate America 250 and commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary.
- Honor South Amherst's agricultural, railroad, sandstone quarry, and community heritage.
- Create a lasting community landmark and gathering place.
- Support downtown beautification and economic development efforts.

Design Concept

The proposed mural will blend historical storytelling with contemporary mural design featuring South Amherst history, America 250 themes, local landmarks, agriculture, railroad heritage, Ohio wildlife, and community identity.

Project Location

Approximately 25 feet high by 65 feet long exterior wall located within the South Amherst downtown district. Final location subject to property owner approval and village review.

Community Benefits

Downtown beautification, tourism, preservation of local history, strengthened civic pride, and support for economic development and local businesses.

Funding Strategy

The project team intends to pursue a combination of funding sources to minimize or eliminate direct financial burden on the Village of South Amherst. Potential funding sources include America 250 grants, Ohio heritage grants, arts and cultural grants, community foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, local business sponsorships, community donations, fundraising efforts, and in-kind contributions of materials, equipment, or services. Estimated Project Budget: **\$16,250**. At this time, we are seeking the Village's support in identifying funding opportunities, building community partnerships, and assisting with grant applications where appropriate. This project is intended to be a collaborative public-private partnership rather than a direct municipal expenditure.

Timeline

Phase 1 – Design Development and Approvals
Phase 2 – Community Review and Final Design
Phase 3 – Surface Preparation
Phase 4 – Mural Installation
Phase 5 – Protective Coating and Completion
Estimated Completion: Summer/Fall 2026

Conclusion

The America 250 Public Mural represents an opportunity to celebrate our nation's historic milestone while creating a lasting legacy for the Village of South Amherst. This proposal is not a request for immediate municipal funding. Rather, it is a request for community support, stakeholder collaboration, and authorization to pursue external funding opportunities that can bring this project to life while creating a lasting cultural asset for South Amherst. Respectfully Submitted,

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