Lex250 Monument Call for Artist | December 20, 2023



PROJECT OVERVIEW

In April 2025, Lexington will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington that took place on April 19, 1775. As part of the 250th celebration, the Lex250 Commission and the Town of Lexington are commissioning a permanent commemorative artwork to serve as a monument to reflect on the anniversary of the Battle of Lexington, its lasting impact as a global event, and consider how Lexington's story resonates across generations.

This call is an invitation for artists interested in creating a permanent, non-figurative sculpture guided by the vision and values identified by the Lex250 Monument Project Advisors. This is a two phased process, where artist/artists teams will first submit their qualifications, and then the selection panelists will select 3 –5 artists/artist teams to submit concepts for the Lex250 Monument. The two phases are as listed below:

PHASE 1	National 'Call for Artists' to submit qualifications and the selection of semi- finalists
PHASE 2	Semi-finalist artist/artist teams to submit concepts and the selection of the final artist/artist team

Historical Background

The Battle of Lexington is said to mark the beginning of the American Revolution. The foundational story of Paul Revere has been told many times, where he signaled the people of Lexington to prepare for the British Red Coats approaching to quell murmurs of revolution. As the first offense, a band of around 77 militia men including a number of enslaved and freed Black people stood ground on the Battle Green facing the full force British army. The events that took place on April 19, 1775, confirmed the need for revolution and roused 16,000 New Englanders to join forces and begin the Siege of Boston, resulting in its evacuation by the British the following March¹. The Battle of Lexington lit sparks well beyond Boston, charging militia in Philidelphia to band together and ultimately bringing congressmen to unite the thirteen colonies to form a solidified defense for the revolution². u

Lexington prides itself on this historical moment, with annual reenactments and claiming the title as the *Birthplace of American Liberty*. Throughout Lexington, the events of April 19, 1775, are reflected in the historic buildings and monuments surrounding the Battle Green, as well as through exhibits in the Lexington Visitors Center, tours and annual Patriots' Day celebrations.

¹ "Battles of Lexington and Concord", Brittanica. Web. Oct 29 2023. https://www.britannica.com/event/Battles-of-Lexington-and-Concord

² The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America, Gary B. Nash Print. 2005.

Beyond the Battle of Lexington, the town also holds a rich history of abolition, with residents like Fredrick Douglass, and lives on in the history of the Lyceum³. Lexington also has had several waves of immigration, with a history of movement within Black communities in the town since its inception and more recently, growing Asian and Latin communities.

Site Description

The proposed site for the monument is Belfry Hill, a property owned by the Town of Lexington leading to the Belfry⁴, which is located on the top of a hill. Belfry Hill sits on the overlapping land of Massa-adchu-es-et, Pawtucket, Agawam tribes. It should be noted that due to indigenous perspectives on borders and the sources available about the region, this land might have been home to other groups of indigenous people.

The Belfry is a replica of the original belfry tower that was located on the Lexington Battle Green and rung out on April 19, 1775. Belfry Hill is opposite the Lexington Battle Green and Buckman Tavern, at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Clarke Street. Within the Belfry Hill, there is a small park area with benches and a pathway leading up to the Belfry. Belfry Hill also hosts a marker, dedicated in 2022, to commemorate Lafayette's Tour.

Belfry Hill is part of the Lexington Battle Green Master Plan⁵ and will be renovated alongside the development of the monument, and to improve ADA accessibility to the area prior to the 250th anniversary celebration. This area is also located in a Historic s Commission, which reviews all renovations and installations in accordance with their guidelines⁶. See **Appendix C** for a site plan diagram and more information on the proposed site.

Awards

Funding for the Lex250 Monument comes from a generous donation from a private citizen to the Town of Lexington to commemorate this historic moment. Grant awards will be made at each phase of the artist selection process as follows:

PHASE 1	A stipend amount of \$1000 will be awarded to each Semi-Finalist for initial concept development and participation in the initial meetings and engagement event, as outlined in the concept development grant agreement (see Appendix B). Three to five (3-5) grant awards will be available.
PHASE 2	From the initial concepts, one artist/artist team will be selected as the final awardee for the project and will be eligible for funding up to two hundred-fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) through a public art grant agreement. The text of this grant agreement will be provided to all semi-finalists along with their invitation to proceed to present their concepts. The \$250,000 is inclusive of all the associated project costs, including: Complete design and development of the artwork (and any base/pedestal if one is desired by the artist) Engineering documents and approvals Artists' fees for creation, coordination, community engagement, and insurance(s)

³ https://www.lexlyceum.org/why-a-lyceum/#History

⁴ https://www.tourlexington.us/historic-sites-museums/pages/belfry

⁵ https://www.lexingtonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2196/Battle-Green-Master-Plan-PDF?bidId=

⁶ https://www.lexingtonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2048/Historic-Districts-Guidelines-PDF

- Materials (including base/pedestal if one is desired by artist)
- Fabrication
- Installation coordination*
- Transportation and delivery
- Contingency
- 2-year warranty from the artist and foundry for the completed artwork
- Maintenance Plan and Budget

*Installation is to be coordinated between the selected artist/artist team, Town of Lexington's Department of Public Works.

How to Apply

Submissions will be received via an online portal here: https://mapc.ma/Lex250MonumentCall Submissions will be accepted until 11:59PM ET on Monday, January 25, 2024.

If artist/artist teams would prefer to submit a physical copy, please mail or deliver materials to:

ATTN: Lex250 Commission

1625 Massachusetts Avenue Lexington, MA 02420

An optional Artist Q&A Session will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday**, **January 3**, **2023 at 5:30PM ET**. Please RSVP here: https://mapc.ma/Lex250monumentQandA

Questions about the Call for Artist must be submitted in writing by **Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 11:59PM.**

Please send your written questions to Lex250Monument@mapc.org

Responses to questions received will be posted by **Wednesday**, **January 10**, **2024** on the project website: https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/lex250-monument/.

The Town of Lexington reserves the right to withdraw this Call for Artists at any time without penalty.

PROJECT VISION & VALUES

Project Vision

In April 2025, Lexington will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. This call for artists invites the opportunity to create a monument to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775, and its lasting impact on the world. The vision for the call is to ask artists to consider how Lexington's story resonates across time, and will remain relevant for generations to come, for visitors and residents alike. The Lex250 Monument Project Advisors ask artists to consider these central questions in envisioning the monument, and to consider the six guiding values for this work.

Central Thematic Prompts

- What is Lexington?
 - What does Lexington represent across time, from 1775 to today? Who are we now?
 Who do we say we are?
- Reflecting the Events of 1775

- Lexington is known as the "Birthplace of American Liberty" because of the battle that took place on April 19, 1775. What forces, factors, and sparks brought about this event? What is the role of revolution in promoting peace and changemaking?
- What are the ways Lexington has responded to the ideals of liberty in the last 250 years?

Evolution of American Democracy

O How have the founding principles of our democracy and union evolved into our reality of the United States today? Where do those principles stand? What are the promises and perils of liberty and democracy, as it has changed over time?

Guiding Values

The Lex250 Monument Project Advisors developed a list of six guiding values and corresponding goals to guide the development of artists concepts and inform the vision for a monument. A successful monument will be:

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ENGAGING	The monument will engage visitors and residents with the history of Lexington, and their relationship to it. In its design, the monument will be thought provoking, educational, and elicit an emotional response from visitors of all	
	ages.	
	The monument will encourage interaction and allow visitors to experience the	
INTERACTIVE	work in more ways than just viewing. The monument design should also be	
	accessible for viewers of all abilities.	
	The monument will honor and capture the fight for democracy, the exchange of	
INSPIRATIONAL	ideas and a lifelong dedication to liberty. Residents and visitors should be	
INTOINATIONAL	inspired to engage in dialogue on central topics of liberty and democracy in	
	action and ponder their own role in it.	
	The monument will be reflective of the many experiences, stories and identities	
INIOLUON/E	that compose Lexington, inclusive of race, ethnicity, and gender. The monument	
INCLUSIVE	will symbolize and commemorate the journey, changes, and evolutions of the	
	town of Lexington and the communities that came before.	
	The monument will provide enduring relevance to visitors and residents beyond	
TIMELESS	the 250 th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. While the monument will honor	
HIVILLESS	the events that took place on April 19, 1775, it will be a feature within	
	Lexington's commemorative landscape.	
	The monument's proposed location is Belfry Hill, adjacent to Lexington's	
SITE-SPECIFIC	Historic Battle Green and The Belfry. The monument's scale and design should	
	be proportional to Lexington's other surrounding monuments and historical	
	landmarks including the Lexington Historic Battle Green, The Belfry, and Visitors	
	Center.	

Additional Considerations

The installation of the monument should take place before the 250th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 2025. With this timeline, it is important that the artist/artist team plan their timeline accordingly. The artist/artist team will have the opportunity to coordinate and connect with the landscape architect responsible for renovating Belfry Hill.

SELECTION PROCESS

Eligibility

The Call for Artists for the Lex250 Monument is open to all interested artists and artists teams at least 18 years old. Artists and artists teams that identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) and female are strongly encouraged to apply.

Process Summary & Timeline

PHASE 1: SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATIONS			
Call for Artists/Artist Teams Launched & Applications Open	December 20, 2023		
Artists Virtual Q&A Session (Optional) RSVP here	January 3, 2024 at 5:30PM		
Deadline to Submit Written Question to	January 7, 2024 at 11:59PM		
Lex250Monument@mapc.org			
Answers to All Written Questions Posted on Project Website	January 10, 2024		
Deadline for Phase 1: Submission of Qualifications	January 25, 2024 at 11:59PM		
Application Review & Selection of 3-5 Artist/Artist Teams as	Week of January 29, 2024		
Semi-Finalists for Concept Development			
Public Announcement of 3-5 Selected Artists/Artist Teams &	Week of February 5, 2024		
Invitation to Semi-Finalists to Submit Initial Project			
Designs/Concepts			
PHASE 2: CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS & F			
Pre-Proposal Meeting with Project and Technical Advisors	Week of February 5, 2024		
(This meeting will be conducted virtually and is mandatory for a	l		
selected Semi-Finalist Artists/Artist Teams)	March 4, 0004		
Deadline for Phase 2: Selected Artists/Artist Teams to Submit Concept Proposals	March 1, 2024		
Selected Artists/Artist Teams Presentations to Technical Review	Week of March 4, 2024		
Committee (Mandatory for all Semi-Finalist Artists/Artists Team			
Public Forum Meeting where Artists/Artist Teams present	Week of March 11, 2024		
Monument Concept Proposals (Mandatory for all Semi-Finalist			
Artists/Artists Teams)			
Selection Panel Recommends Final Artist/Artist Team to	Week of March 15, 2024		
Monuments & Memorials, Historic Districts Commission and			
Town Select Board			
Final Artist/Artist Team Completes Signed Grant Agreement witle City & Award is Publicly Announced	Week of April 15, 2024		
Final Artist/Artist Team Moves to Final Design, Fabrication &	Spring 2024 – Winter 2024		
Installation			
Final Artist/Artist Team Complete All Necessary Sitework for	October 1, 2024		
Installation			
Targeted Date for Completion & Final Installation	March 15, 2025		

Process Details

Phase 1: Artist/Artist Teams Selected for Concept Development

- Artists/Artist teams will submit applications as outlined below in response to "Call for Artists".
- The Town of Lexington's Lex250 Monument Project Team and the Selection Panel will review the artist's/artist team's applications and qualifications. This review will determine which artist/artist team will be invited to submit initial design concepts based on the required qualifications.
- Three to five (3-5) selected artists/artist teams will be identified as semi-finalists and invited to submit concept proposals.
- Artists/Artist teams identified as semi-finalists who accept the invitation will be required to enter
 into a grant agreement to receive a maximum stipend of \$1,000 per artist/artist team (not to
 exceed \$5,000 distributed equally across all artists/artist teams) for initial concept and design
 development.

Phase 2: Concept Development and Final Artist/Artist Teams Selection

- These contracted semi-finalist artists/artist teams will be given 3 weeks for initial concept and design development.
- Semi-finalists will be required to have a preliminary virtual meeting with the Project Advisory Group, Selection Panel and Technical Review Committee for a virtual site visit, where artists can ask questions about technical aspects of the site and the Call for Artists.
- Semi-finalists will submit monument concept proposals for review, including detailed sketches/images of monument concept designs, interpretive/commemorative narrative overview description of design/concept, informed engagement plan, proposed project timeline, technical requirements, general installation needs/plan, itemized project budget (see example in Appendix D), and a recommended maintenance plan.
- The Town of Lexington's Lex250 Monument Project Team and Selection Panel will review the Semi-finalists' monument concept designs to confirm they meet the minimum concept submission requirements.
- Semi-finalists with complete monument concept submissions will meet with the Technical Review Committee for a detailed technical review of the proposed concepts and receive feedback prior to a public review and selection process.
- Semi-finalists will revise, as needed, and present monument concept designs at a public forum for public feedback to help select the final monument design.
- Using details submitted in the concept proposals and input from both the Technical Review
 Committee and public feedback, the Selection Panel will identify one Artist/Artist Team to
 recommend to Lex250 Commission to put forward to the Historic Districts Commission and the
 Monument & Monument Memorials Committee, and Town Select Board for final approval.
- The Final Artist/Artist team will enter into a Public Art Grant Agreement with the Town of Lexington for the development, creation, and implementation of a public art monument as outlined in this Call for Artist in exchange for an all-inclusive grant stipend not to exceed \$250,000. Funding is inclusive of all associated project costs as specifically outlined on page 3 of this Call for Artists. A copy of this public art grant agreement will be provided to all selected Semi-Finalist Artists/Artist Teams when invited to submit concepts.

SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATIONS APPLICATION

Artist/Artists Teams seeking to be considered for this project should submit their application and qualifications using our online submission form here: https://mapc.ma/Lex250monument

Submission Requirements

Artist/Artist Team Information

- Contact information for Team Lead (full name, email, phone number, and mailing address).
- Bios (for you and/or your team).
- Resumes for lead artist and key team members if applicable.
- Written descriptions of 3-5 examples of relevant projects, including public art design and fabrication, community engagement & commemorative work. Identify which team members are associated with each project. Upload this as an attachment to your submission form.
- Images of or links to information about the projects listed above.
- Website (if applicable)

Artist Statements

Please provide a written response (250-word maximum) to each of the following questions:

- Why does this opportunity interest you/your artist team?
- What approach or values do you/your artist team bring to commemorative artwork?
- How do you/your artist team approach community engagement in your artistic practice?

Three References

Artists/artist teams should provide three references for project work listed above. If the team has not worked together previously, at least one project reference per team member is required. Upload these as an attachment to your submission form.

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS & REVIEW CRITERIA

Basic Requirements

Artists/Artist teams will be evaluated for eligibility based on the following:

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

Artist/artist teams must be 18 years of age or older.

Application Completeness

Submitted applications must be complete and include all the above-referenced documents (artist/artist team information, commemorative statements, and references). Applications with missing or incomplete documents will be considered ineligible.

Expertise & Experience

Artists/artist teams must demonstrate experience through completed projects in the following areas: public art design & fabrication, commemorative artwork development, and community engagement.

References

Artists/artist team must supply a minimum of three references for the completed work or at least one reference per team member. Qualifying references must have had a supervisory role related to the project or held commissioning or approval authority over the project.

Review Criteria

Artists/Artists teams will be evaluated on the following qualitative criteria:

Alignment with Values

Artist's/Artist team's prior work and written statements on their interest in the project as it aligns with project values developed by the Project Advisors.

Commemorative Connection

Artist/Artist team demonstrates meaningful engagement in their approach to commemorative artwork, communicating a strong understanding of the significance of this monument. Artist statements will be evaluated for alignment with commemoration priorities.

Community Engagement

Artist/artist team demonstrates cultural sensitivity through prior work and articulates an understanding of the local community context.

Quality

Artist's/Artist team's relevant project experience demonstrates a high standard of quality of permanent, non-figurative sculptures. Qualifying project experience will also be reviewed for the artists' ability to meet deadlines on prior projects, manage project budgets, and ensure the delivery and maintenance of a durable product and demonstrate reliability and overall high-quality project management.

Diversity

The project team reflects the overall project goal to strive for diversity, particularly of women and BIPOC artists, by including project partners that represent eligible categories of certification based on the criteria used by the Massachusetts Office of Supplier Diversity.

See **Appendix A** to review the rubric that outlines the weighted criteria for artist/artist team selection.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project Development

In 2021, Lexington's Semi-quincentennial Commission was formed to lead the Town of Lexington's commemoration of the 250-year anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. The Semi-quincentennial Commission, also known as Lex250 Commission, is comprised of representatives from multiple Town Committees and is charged with coordinating efforts for the celebration around the 250th anniversary. The Town's charge to the Lex250 commission includes investigating opportunities for a "possible permanent memorial". After the committee formed, a smaller committee found a private donor to support the monument with a generous gift of \$250,000. The Lex250 Commission and the Town of Lexington partnered with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to support the development of the Call for Artists and facilitate the process of commissioning the monument.

MAPC conducted initial research about the site, stakeholders, and Lexington's existing commemorative monuments to inform the development of the Call for Artists and initial stakeholder engagement. Representatives from the Lex250 Commission and the Town worked with MAPC to identify community stakeholders including public historians, representatives from relevant Town committees, and cultural organizations to frame initial conversations around the monument.

To provide context for Lexington's contemporary commemorative landscape, the MAPC team conducted six informational interviews with regional stakeholders. Interviewees included local scholars with expertise in Lexington's history, including the Battle of Lexington, public history and memorialization, and the Town's equity initiatives on diversity and equity. These stakeholders

provided context on honoring the diverse histories and offered suggestions on groups and individuals to connect with further.

Building on conversations with the Lex250 Commission, the Town, and the informational interviews, an initial stakeholder meeting was held in August 2023. The meeting was posted on the Town's website and in the Lexington Observer, and outreach included direct emails to representatives of local committees and organizations and over 50 community residents attended the meeting.

The stakeholder meeting included a brief introduction to memorialization, the proposed site, and the scope of the project. Attendees participated in smaller breakout discussions and were asked to share meaningful commemorative artworks and the histories and stories that they would like to be remembered in Lexington through this process. At the meeting, everyone was invited to self-nominate to serve as project advisors and selection board panelists if they were interested in further shaping the Call for Artists process and development of the monument.

Following the stakeholder informational meeting, a nomination form was distributed to broader networks for interested community members to self-nominate for either a Project Advisor, a Selection Panelist, or both. The role of the Project Advisors is to develop the vision and values for the Call for Artists and the monument, and the role of the Selection Panel is to apply the vision and values in the selection of the artist(s). The nomination form was open until Monday, September 25, 2023, and posted on the Town's website and the Lexington Observer, as well as emailed out to all individuals registered to attend the Stakeholder meeting and local community group leaders. In total, 21 people nominated themselves for the Project Advisor role and 12 people selected the Selection Panelist role. The number of project advisors has solidified to 16 members after the nominee confirmation and an initial orientation meeting.

Project Advisory Group Members

Dawn E McKenna Deepika Sawhney Denise Moehring Glenn Parker Heather Hartshorn Howard Wolk Jianing (Jolene) Cai Kamala Raj
Kathryn Allamong Jacob
Matthew Siegal
Patricia Elen Costello
Richard Canale
Robert Bellinger
Rosemary Trowbridge

Project Partners

Town of Lexington
Lex250 Commission
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

Project Website

For more information, visit the project website at https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/lex250-monument/.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Rubric for Artist/Artist Team Selection

- Appendix B: Concept Development Grant Agreement
- Appendix C: Site Plan Diagram & Site Considerations
- Appendix D: Sample Budget Template