



CALL TO ARTISTS

America250 Horse Public Art Commission Announced in Marion County

Marion County, FL – In celebration of the United States’ 250th anniversary, the Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA), in partnership with the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, is proud to announce a **Call to Artists** for the *America250 Horse Public Art Commission*.

This exciting public art initiative invites artists to submit original design proposals for a life-size fiberglass horse sculpture that will commemorate the nation’s Semiquincentennial (1776–2026) while honoring Marion County’s rich equine heritage as the Horse Capital of the World®.

The selected artist will receive a **\$3,000 commission** to design and paint a one-of-a-kind horse sculpture that reflects themes of American history, civic pride, and the local identity captured in the theme: *“Liberty Lives Here.”* The finished artwork will be installed on County property and unveiled as part of the America250 celebration on **July 3, 2026**.

Project Highlights

- Celebrate the United States’ 250th Anniversary
- Showcase Marion County’s equine culture and heritage
- Support and elevate local and regional artists
- Enhance public spaces with meaningful, permanent art
- Foster community engagement and cultural tourism

Artist Opportunity

MCA will provide the life-size fiberglass horse form. The selected artist will be responsible for creating a durable, outdoor-ready painted design. MCA will coordinate final coating and installation.

This opportunity is open to:

- Professional and emerging artists
- Artist teams
- Marion County-based artists

Artists with experience in public art, murals, or large-scale work are especially encouraged to apply.

Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Concept rendering (color or digital illustration) – *see last page for rendering*
- Artist statement (250 words max)
- Resume or CV
- Portfolio (3–5 images of previous public art works)

Deadline for submissions: April 24, 2026

Project Timeline

- Call Released: April 6, 2026
- Rendering Submission Deadline: April 24, 2026
- Artist Selected: by May 1, 2026
- Artwork Creation: May 1 – June 26, 2026
- Installation: July 2, 2026
- Public Unveiling: July 3, 2026

How to Apply

Submit materials via email to: jaye.baillie@mcaocala.org

Subject line: *America250 Horse Artist Submission*

For branding guidelines and additional resources, visit: marioncelebrates250.org

Follow updates on Facebook: Facebook Marion Celebrates America 250

About Marion Cultural Alliance

The Marion Cultural Alliance is the designated Local Arts Agency for Marion County, supporting arts, culture, and heritage initiatives. MCA also administers the renowned Horse Fever public art program, which has brought more than 80 artist-designed horse sculptures to the community.

Media Contact

Jaye Baillie

Executive Director, Marion Cultural Alliance

352-369-1500

jaye.baillie@mcaocala.org



