

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

APPLICATION

APPLICANT OR REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE PRESENT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL.

"No person shall carry out any construction, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, rehabilitation, or relocation of any historical landmark or any property within a historic district, nor shall any person make any material change in the lighting fixtures, signs, sidewalks, fences, steps, paving, or other exterior elements visible from a public right-of-way which affect the appearance and cohesiveness of any historical landmark or any property within a historic district. No such action shall be commenced without first obtaining a certificate of appropriateness for proposed new construction to ensure compatibility with the existing historic resources of the district (Ordinance 2009-03, Section 7, pg 7)."

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prior to the commencement of any work requiring a certificate of appropriateness the owner shall file an application for such certificate with the Landmark Commission. The application shall contain:

- Name of applicant (owner) Lanny Ramsey
- Address 520 SH-37
Mt Vernon Tx 75457 } office
- Telephone Numbers
903-537-4949 office

- Detailed description of proposed work (please use back side of the application if more space is needed)

Community engagement project: American 250
mosaic mural - sponsored by DAR and Franklin Co
Art Alliance. The American 250 Mosaic Mural Project
is a community-driven public art initiative designed
to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the U.S.
by bring residents together to create a lasting visual
legacy. Through broad participation in painting
individual mural tiles, the project fosters civic
pride, cross-generational collaboration, and a shared
sense of ownership in a permanent public
artwork

- o Location and photograph of the property and adjacent properties (historical photographs may be required by the Landmark Commission and should be submitted in advance of such request as a matter of courtesy)

South Facing wall of Ramsey building - (Flower Shop)
Corner of Houston + Main Street
Mural is 7ft x 12 ft

- o Elevation drawings of the proposed changes, if available (please attach to application if available)
- o Samples of materials to be used - *material is individual metal tiles*
- o If the proposal includes signs or lettering, a scale drawing showing type of lettering to be used, all dimensions and colors, a description of materials to be used, method of illumination (if any), and a plan showing the sign's location on the property
- o Any other information which the Landmark Commission may deem necessary in order to visualize the proposed work - *See handouts*

Time Line of Application/Procedures of approval, denial and appeal

Before any building permit shall be approved in historical districts required by Ordinance 2009-03, the Landmark Commission shall review the application at a regularly scheduled meeting within thirty (30) days from the date the application is received, at which time an opportunity will be provided for the applicant to be heard.

The Commission shall approve, deny, or approve with modifications to the permit within thirty (30) days after the review meeting.

In the event the Commission does not act within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the application, a building permit may be granted.

An applicant for a certificate of appropriateness dissatisfied with the action of the Landmark Commission relating to the issuance or denial of a certificate of appropriateness shall have the right to appeal to the City Council within thirty (30) days after receipt of notification of such action.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to adapt the property in a manner which requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, object, or site and its environment.
2. The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, object, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.
3. All buildings, structures, objects, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance shall be discouraged.
4. Changes which may have taken time place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, object, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.
5. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize a building, structure, or site shall be kept when possible.
6. Deteriated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should reflect the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historical, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures
7. The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken
8. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archeological resources affected by, or adjacent to, any project
9. Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural, or cultural material, and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment
10. Whenever possible, new additions or alterations to buildings, structures, objects, or sites shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the building, structure, object, or site would be unimpaired.

Date complete application was received

7 April 2026

Community Engagement Plan

America250 Mosaic Mural Project

1. Purpose and Vision

The America250 Mosaic Mural Project is a community-driven public art initiative designed to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States by bringing residents together to create a lasting visual legacy. Through broad participation in painting individual mural tiles, the project fosters civic pride, cross-generational collaboration, and a shared sense of ownership in a permanent public artwork.

The engagement plan ensures that the mural is not simply installed for the community but created by the community.

2. Community Engagement Goals

The project's engagement strategy is guided by the following goals:

- 1. Inclusive Participation**
Ensure residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities have opportunities to participate meaningfully.
- 2. Local Ownership**
Build a strong sense of pride and connection so community members see the mural as "our mural."
- 3. Education and Reflection**
Encourage participants to reflect on local history, national values, and what America's 250th anniversary means to them today.
- 4. Connection and Unity**
Use collaborative art-making to strengthen relationships among residents, organizations, and local institutions.
- 5. Lasting Impact**
Create engagement experiences that extend beyond the painting events and continue through the mural's installation and unveiling.

3. Target Audiences

Engagement efforts will intentionally reach a broad cross-section of the community, including:

- Youth and students (elementary, middle, high school)
- Seniors and retirees
- Families and caregivers

- Veterans and military families
- Artists and creative groups
- Civic organizations and nonprofits
- Faith-based groups
- Local businesses and employees
- Historically underrepresented or underserved populations

Special attention will be given to reducing barriers to participation, including cost, transportation, physical accessibility, and scheduling.

4. Engagement Strategies and Activities

A. Community Outreach and Awareness

Outreach will begin well in advance of painting events and will use multiple channels to reach residents:

- Local media (newspapers, radio, community newsletters)
- Social media and community Facebook groups
- Flyers and posters in libraries, schools, senior centers, and local businesses
- Direct outreach through partner organizations
- Presentations at civic meetings, school assemblies, and community gatherings

Messaging will emphasize that **no artistic experience is required** and that every tile contributes to the final artwork.

B. Community Partnerships

Partnerships are central to engagement and may include:

- Schools and youth organizations (classroom tile-painting sessions)
- Libraries and museums (educational programming and workshops)
- Senior centers and assisted living facilities (onsite painting sessions)
- Veterans' groups and service organizations
- Cultural, historical, and arts organizations
- Local businesses serving as hosts or sponsors

Partners will help recruit participants, host events, and amplify project visibility.

C. Tile-Painting Events

Tile-painting events will serve as the primary hands-on engagement activity. These may include:

- Open community paint days
- School-based sessions during class or after school
- Intergenerational events pairing youth and seniors
- Pop-up painting stations at festivals, markets, or civic events
- Mobile or off-site sessions for participants with limited mobility

Each event will include:

- Clear instructions and guidance
- Project background and America250 context
- Space for participants to reflect on the theme while painting

D. Storytelling and Reflection

To deepen engagement, participants will be encouraged (optionally) to share:

- A short reflection on what America, freedom, or community means to them
- The inspiration behind their tile design

These reflections may be collected through:

- Written cards or forms
- Photos and short quotes (with permission)
- Social media hashtags or digital submissions

Stories may be shared during the unveiling, on a project webpage, or in future exhibits.

5. Accessibility and Inclusion

The project is designed to be accessible and welcoming:

- All materials provided at no cost or minimal cost to participants
- ADA-accessible venues whenever possible
- Non-toxic paints and adaptive tools as needed
- Flexible scheduling (weekday, evening, and weekend options)
- Clear, plain-language instructions
- Multigenerational and family-friendly environments

Inclusion is treated as an ongoing practice, not a one-time consideration.

6. Volunteer and Community Leadership Roles

Volunteers will play an important role in engagement by assisting with:

- Event setup and cleanup
- Participant check-in and guidance
- Sharing project information
- Documenting events through photos and notes

Local leaders, educators, and artists may be invited to serve as:

- Community ambassadors
- Workshop facilitators
- Event hosts or speakers

This shared leadership model strengthens trust and sustainability.

7. Celebration and Mural Unveiling

Engagement will culminate in a public mural unveiling celebration that includes:

- Recognition of participants and partners
- Remarks highlighting community contributions
- Educational context about America250
- Opportunities for participants to locate their tile
- Media coverage and public documentation

The unveiling reinforces the collective achievement and the mural's role as a permanent community asset.

8. Evaluation and Impact Measurement

Community engagement success will be evaluated using:

- Number and diversity of participants
- Attendance at painting events

- Partner organization involvement
- Participant feedback and testimonials
- Community response to the installed mural

Findings will be used to inform future public art and engagement initiatives.

9. Long-Term Community Value

Beyond the anniversary year, the America250 Mosaic Mural will serve as:

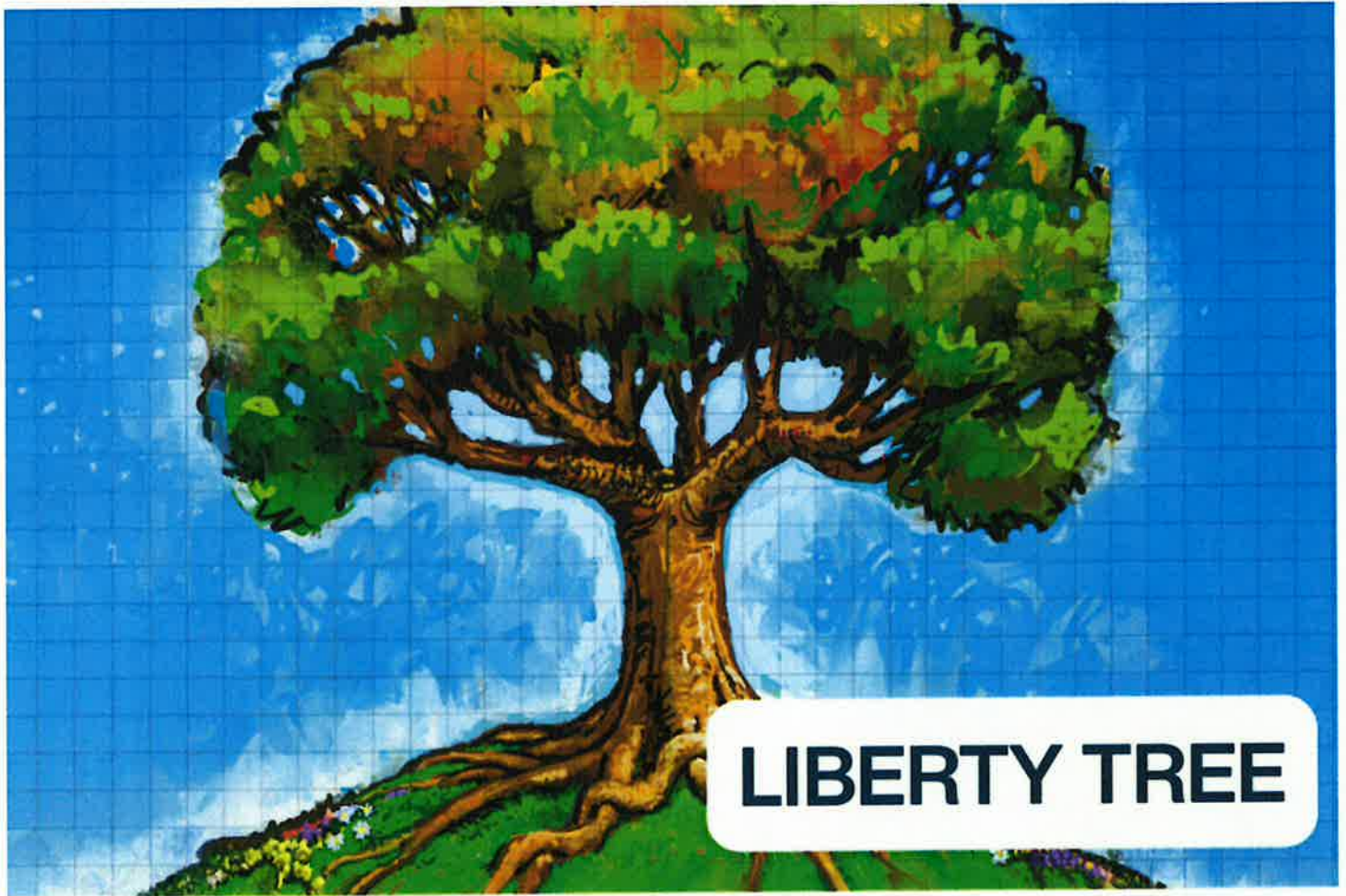
- A lasting symbol of shared civic values
- An educational and cultural resource
- A gathering point for reflection and pride
- A model for future collaborative projects

The engagement process ensures the mural's meaning endures long after its completion.





PATRIOT'S FLAG



LIBERTY TREE

