

## MONROE COUNTY Keystone Project

February 2025

All 20 Municipalities in Monroe County, PA can get a 4' x 4' wooden Keystone shape for an artist from their respective areas to create on, depicting historic scenes, prominent historical figures, locations, landmarks, wildlife, etc. from within the municipality they are from.

Municipalities will take the Keystone shapes completed with artwork and display them in a prominent location each within their municipalities and publicly display the decorated keystone symbol (each should be sealed for weather and long-term outdoors wear) for at least the entire year of 2026, with installation by December 2025 (with encouragement to keep the keystones permanently fixed at the chosen location even after 2026).

An interactive Keystone Map will be developed and available for the public to use by 2026, to go and find all the keystone symbols in all the 20 municipalities within Monroe County, PA.

### **For Artists:**

Keystone Shape should be coated, first and foremost initially with white exterior paint, coating on the front, back and all sides of the Keystone shape.

Front of Keystone can be created on with exterior paints. Any other material used should be for exterior use and be able to withstand year-round outdoor weather.

Keep any additional materials within 2 inches of the surface of the front of the Keystone shape and not additionally heavier than 2 lbs.

In the event the keystone shape needs to be repaired due to weather damage, or anything else, chosen artists should be available to repair their artwork at permanent sites of the Keystone shapes.

No sharp objects shall be permitted to be affixed to the Keystone shape. Please keep work safe and permanent, as individuals and families will be visiting these artworks at each municipality many times during 2026 and well beyond, as these artfully decorated Keystone shapes will spark

(additional) tourism, interest and education within each municipality and offer a bit of pride to the residents and visitors to Pennsylvania and particularly Monroe County, and all it has to offer.

## Request for Proposal Requirements

1. Please provide front side sketch on the Keystone shape (attached) of each of the Keystone shapes you desire to **submit for proposal by April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. All works will be juried and best designs will be selected and artists contacted, and a schedule for drop off of their Keystone shapes will be created **by the end of May 2025**. Keystone Shapes will be available to winning artists in **June 2025**. Artists will have 8 weeks to create on, finish and seal Keystone shapes. Keystone shapes will be received at the respective municipalities by **September 2025** and start to be permanently placed at their respective locations within each municipality before 2026, and will be **on full display starting January 1, 2026**. Artists must be able to travel to downtown Stroudsburg to pick up supplies and drop off finished works (Truck or larger car or SUV suggested, to transport).
2. The Keystone shape consists of 1 piece of cutout plywood in the shape of a keystone 4'x4'x1" thick in size that you must depict your tentative design onto, directly from the sketches you submitted to the Arts and Culture committee for America250PA Monroe. Actual Keystone shapes must look like the winning sketches depicted.
3. Keystone shape will be received by chosen artists 100% ready for at least one (1) coat of outdoor paint on the front, back and all sides.
4. **Required:** a garage, canopy or tent or enclosed area to create/work on the shape.
5. Once the submitted Keystone shape designs have been approved, artists will have a maximum of 8 weeks to finish the Keystones and contact us for the next step, which is to contact the respective municipality each keystone will be placed within, to set up a receiving time and date, and the Keystone to be placed in its (permanent) spot in each municipality.
6. The Arts & Culture Subcommittee Chairs will be contacting each selected artist on occasion to document your progress, discuss any questions, etc.
7. Exterior latex/acrylic paint, acrylic spray paints can be used on any part of the Keystone shape. (artist will be responsible if incorrect materials are used. If you have questions, please call prior to using a questionable product.) Please use quality acrylic paint that will not fade or run. All artists must supply their own extra products/accessories to the Keystone if that is part of the original design that was chosen. *We can help with materials suggestions!* **All Artists are**

**responsible for any damage to the Keystones once in their possession.** If you have questions please call our Arts & Culture Team.

8. If depicting artwork, it must cover entire front of the Keystone shape. If adhesives are required to affix things, please use clear outdoor silicone, gorilla tube glue or exterior landscape adhesives. **Suggestion:** use spray-foam insulation to build up areas. (Ask about molding spray foam, its easy.) Artist's mediums/accessories to use: fabric, ceramics, plastic (waxed or treated for weather) , duct tape, sand, foil, glitter, wood, foam or Gesso, and lightweight materials – overall cannot exceed a combined extra weight of 2 additional pounds, these items must be stiffened and weather-proofed by you by using non-yellowing outdoor varnish.

9. Nothing Political, Religious, no Mascots, Business names or logos, no club or organization can be depicted, anything depicting any kind of violence and must be non-prejudicial. These Keystone shapes are an art installation for all and family friendly. Remember: The finished Keystone shapes are the property of the municipality they are displayed in.

10. **ARTISTS:** a small plate/plaque will be attached to the artfully created Keystone shapes as soon as they are placed, and a map developed showing where all the Keystone shapes are located throughout Monroe County and your names will be published as the creators of these chosen Keystone shapes. PLUS, the whole 250<sup>th</sup> year celebrations will be heavily advertised through all media sources of Monroe County, PA.

For more information on this please contact: Jody Singer of Origins Gallery by cell (text) 570-730-1848 or at [originsgallery1@gmail.com](mailto:originsgallery1@gmail.com), or Erik Diemer, MC Controller at [erokdiemer@gmail.com](mailto:erokdiemer@gmail.com)

Please fill out the following and RETURN to: Erik Diemer MC Controller c/o Keystone Project America250PA Monroe, 1 Quaker Plaza, Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
OR email: [originsgallery1@gmail.com](mailto:originsgallery1@gmail.com)

**Deadline for submissions on or before: MARCH 31, 2025.** Submissions now being accepted for the America250PA MONROE Keystone Project (The sooner the Better!)

Artist's Name:

E-mail address:

Physical Address:

Contact Number (day): \_\_\_\_\_ (evening): \_\_\_\_\_

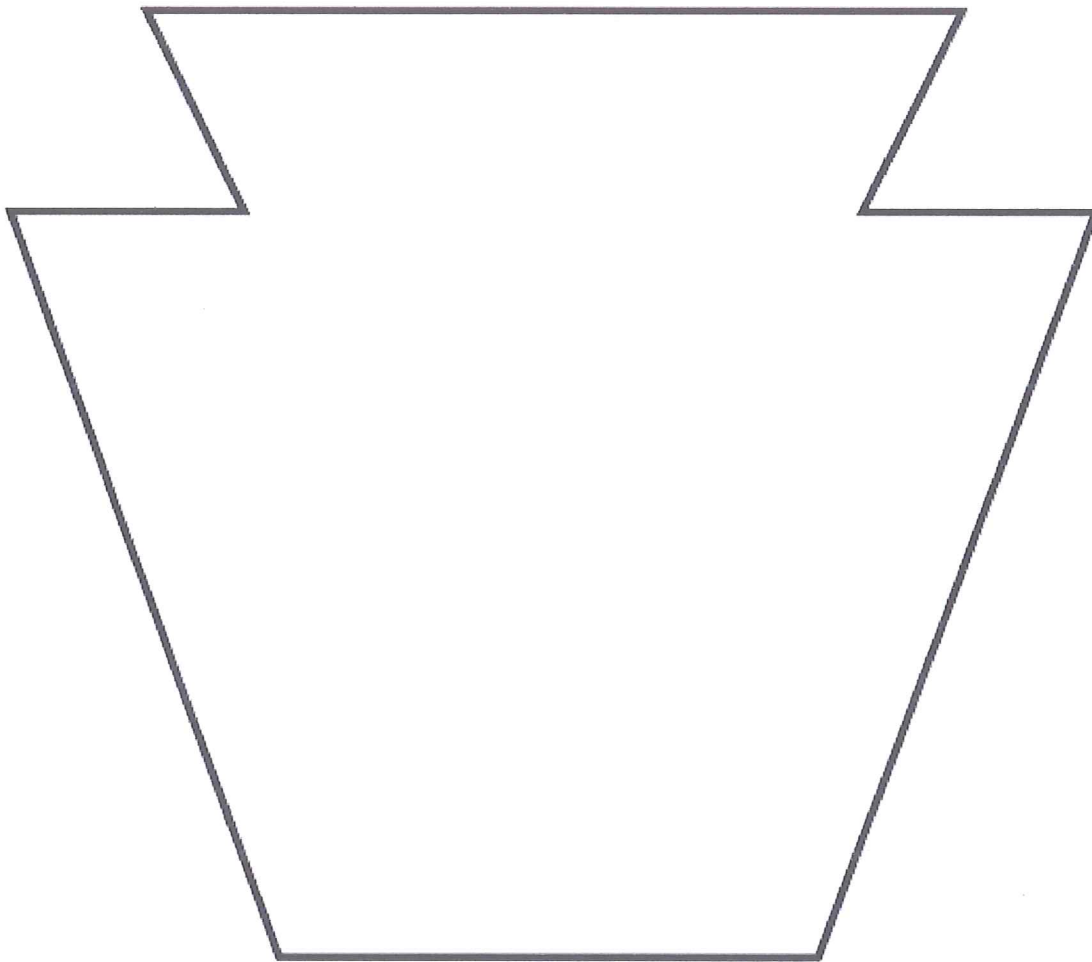
Describe your Sketch and Proposal – (front only, on the attached sheet)

List and describe what materials you will affix to/use to create a sculpture that the residents will appreciate, within the Keystone shape's structural theme:

Please sketch your proposal from the front, so those jurying the works can see clearly what your intention and design for this sculpture is, which will help the jury make the decision on your submission.

Each artist can **submit only 1 design per application**. (you may submit more than one on separate applications).

4' x 4' Front View



Tell us about your sketch: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What materials will you use: \_\_\_\_\_

## Release of Ownership of Creative Design/Intellectual Property

I, \_\_\_\_\_ release ownership of my creative design/intellectual property to **America250PA Monroe**, Monroe County Commissioners and each respective municipality within Monroe County, and their affiliates, to be used in advertising, marketing, research and development including uses business, commerce and promotions for America250PA Monroe on all social media sites and sources

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact info:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:**

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or Deliver form to:

Erik Diemer MC Controller  
c/o Keystone Project America250PA Monroe  
1 Quaker Plaza, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Information email: [originsgallery1@gmail.com](mailto:originsgallery1@gmail.com) or [erokdiemer@gmail.com](mailto:erokdiemer@gmail.com)