



Martin Library Call for Art:

Request for Proposal

About the Project:

Martin Library, located at 159 E. Market Street in York, Pa, has served as a community destination for 90 years. The building's distinctive Palladian windows have defined Martin Library since its doors opened in 1935.

During a recent renovation, one of the library's original arched windows was saved. With the help of a local artist, Martin Library wants to repurpose the frame for a new art installation in its historic main lobby. The finished piece will be unveiled during Martin Library's 90th Anniversary Celebration on October 3, 2025.

Project Details:

Martin Library is seeking proposals from York County, PA residents. There are no restrictions on age or artistic background.

Artists are asked to design original artwork that will be visible as community members enter the Market Street entrance to the library. The iconic Martin Library window will frame the art piece within the architectural arch in the lobby.

Artists are asked to envision the future of Martin Library while honoring its history. Artists are invited to spend time at Martin Library, experience the energy reverberating within its walls, and create a vision of Martin Library in the future of York.



Dimensions:

Wooden window frame: 54 " x 65"

Interior glass panels:

Rectangles: 11 5/8"wide, 15 5/8" high

Arched panels: varied

The art piece will be attached to or placed on the window frame and wall mounted.

Window available to view by appointment.



Budget Description:

- A limited budget is available for this project.
- Please indicate your financial needs to complete the proposed work of art.
- This budget covers all expenses associated with, but not limited to, the project design, labor, fabrication, materials, tools, insurance and travel required to complete the artwork installation.
- The library will assist with delivery of the window to the artist's studio and transportation back to the library for installation.
- The artwork will become the sole property of Martin Library and reproductions of the artwork may be sold by the library.

Selection Information:

The selection committee will review the artist submissions and make a final decision. The selected artist will be notified, and a formal Artist Commission Contract will be agreed to by both parties. Artists whose work is not chosen will be notified by email.

Timeline:

- Submission deadline: Friday, August 1, 2025
- Selected artist meets selection committee, receives feedback, and signs contract by Friday, August 15, 2025.
- The completed piece should be delivered to Martin Library by Friday, September 26, 2025. Martin Library will arrange for transportation of completed artwork.
- The art will be unveiled on October 3rd, during the First Friday Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Martin Library's Opening. The artist is expected to be present at the celebration.

How to Apply:

Please send an email with all necessary attachments to Martin Library Director Mina Edmondson using the following email address and subject line.

Email: medmondson@yorklibraries.org

Subject Line: Submission: Call for Art (and your name)

Email Message: Include your name, address, and contact information with the best email address and phone number to use when contacting you.

Application Requirements:

Please attach the following to your email:

Artwork Images

- JPEG files are required for artwork images
 - *Please remember to attach. Do not send artwork images within the body of the email.*
 - Name artwork image "lastnamefirstname_image name"

Documents

- PDF or Word files are required for all documents
 - Include Proposal/Concept
 - Include rationale for or description of artwork
 - Name each document "lastnamefirstname_document"

Artwork Information Requirements

The information you provide here will be used on our website, in Press Releases, social media, on the plaque beside the display, with any reproductions, and other uses.

- Title of Artwork
- Medium

Artist Information Requirements

The information you provide here may be used on our website, in Press Releases, social media, with any reproductions, and other uses.

- Artist bio (3rd person, 300 words max)
- Artist statement (1st person, 300 words max)
- Artist photo (encouraged, not required)
- Social media links (if applicable)
- Website (if applicable)
- City, borough or township of residence within York County, PA.

Artist Agreement:

If selected, the following will be part of the Artist's agreement.

- Photos and/or videos may be taken during the creation process and used to promote the project.
- Images of finished artwork will be created and used to promote Martin Library on:
 - Traditional media outlets, social media, and in the library.
- Image of finished artwork will be created and used on merchandise to be sold in The YCL Store, not limited to:
 - Prints, notecards
 - Clothing, bookmarks, stickers
 - Mugs, water bottles
- The Artist will be given credit on or distributed with merchandise.
- All proceeds from sales will support and benefit the library's provision of service to the community.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We are excited to see your proposal!

About the Library: A Brief History of Martin Library

Martin Library, located in York, Pa at the corner of Market Street and Queen Street, has been a community *destination* for 90 years. The distinctive arched windows have defined Martin Library since the doors opened in 1935.

1935: The main lobby features intricate woodwork and is modeled after the lobby of Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

1955: The John E. Baker Children's Library was constructed.

1985: A three-story addition was added, including a second-floor reference and adult non-fiction. The basement programming space was also added.

2005: After Pfaltzgraff donated the Brownstone, carriage house and the land between the two buildings the large circulation desks were added to main floor and second floor. The 3-story atrium now encloses the former courtyard.

2021: Space on the main floors were re-envisioned to create more space for the community to gather and staff workspaces were relocated to the lower level.

Visit us!

Martin Library 159 E. Market Street, York, PA 17401

www.yorklibraries.org/york-martin