

# Mural Project Creative Brief

## Bellefonte, PA

**The purpose of this mural installation is to encourage active engagement with visitors and locals, highlight community assets, tell Bellefonte's story, educate visitors about Bellefonte, encourage economic growth, and improve overall quality of place.**

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### OUR HISTORY

Bellefonte was founded in 1795. The area had, and still has, a large railroad presence and is the county seat for Centre County. Spring creek runs through Downtown Bellefonte and is noted as a magnificent fly-fishing stream.

Bellefonte was one of the stops along the National Air Mail in the early years of U.S. transcontinental mail, Bellefonte airfields played an important role as a major refueling stop between New York and Chicago. Mail was flown for the first time from Bellefonte on December 18, 1918, Pilots flew an assortment of planes, including de Havilland DH-4s and Curtiss JN-4H "Jennies." (<https://centrehistory.org/article/bellefonte-airmail-fields/>)

Bellefonte was a major stop along the Underground Railroad and many of its community members were pivotal in protecting freed and runaway slaves. This is highlighted in the local art museum. Bellefonte was a safe place for slaves fleeing slavery, and it became a community where African Americans established themselves. William H. Mills, an African American man, owned a barber shop in Bellefonte, and his grandsons grew up to be part of the vocal group, The Mills Brothers. (<https://www.bellefonte.com/the-mills-brothers-bellefonte/>)

Bellefonte's community has a history of advocating for education. Penn State University (PSU) was founded with help from Bellefonte citizens. The first president of PSU, Evan Pugh, is buried in Bellefonte's Union Cemetery. Bellefonte is considered the "Brooklyn" of State College. (<https://libraries.psu.edu/about/collections/penn-state-university-park-campus-history-collection/evan-pugh> )

The Iron industry was fundamental to Bellefonte (Juniata Iron District). There were 18-19 ironworks in Centre County and several in Bellefonte. Iron making has been fundamental to the prosperity of Bellefonte since the very founding of the town. Between 1800 and 1850, Bellefonte produced over half of the iron used in the entire United States. Revolutionary War General Philip Benner was one of the first ironmasters in Bellefonte. Many of the Georgian structures built by the original ironmasters constructed from limestone quarried right at the furnace location, are still standing and many more still stand proudly in Bellefonte's historic district, including the Bellefonte Art Museum. ([https://www.bellefonte.com/historic\\_tour/bellefonte-ironmasters-walking-tour/](https://www.bellefonte.com/historic_tour/bellefonte-ironmasters-walking-tour/))

Pennsylvania Match Company, known locally as the 'Match Factory,' was founded in 1899 by Col. W. Fred Reynolds, Joseph L. Montgomery and S. A. Donachy. Mr. Donachy owned several patents for match-making machinery. They constructed their factory in Bellefonte, and production began in 1900. By 1911, the company was one of the eight largest producers of wooden matches in the US.

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### OUR MAKERS

- IRONMASTERS (iron industry & construction of today's historically significant buildings)
- Pennsylvania Match Company, known locally as the 'Match Factory'
- More Info: Matt Maris, Local Historia - <https://localhistoria.com/>
  - local historic walking tours of town

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## OUR DESIGN

- Original buildings -- Granite and marble
  - Churches – stone and brick
  - Victorian / Iconic Architecture
  - Historic Registrar / HARB
  - The Print Factory / 3DOTs – with a focus on literacy
  - Bellefonte Art Museum
  - American Philatelic Society
  - Bellefonte Historical and Culture Association (Summer Sounds)
  - Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society
  - Centre County Library and Historical Museum - Genealogy
  - Stage at Talleyrand
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## OUR NATURE

- Spring Creek
  - Natural Spring
  - Fly-fishing/Fisherman’s Paradise (the fish on the courthouse cupola; 1858)
  - Talleyrand Park
  - Frontier / Corridor of PA Wilds
  - Krauss Park
  - Hiking, Biking, and Amazing Mountain Views
  - Daffodil Drive, which features over 200,000 blooming daffodils from April through May
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## OUR PULSE

Victorian Christmas

Bellefonte Cruise

Children’s Fair on Curtin Street

Arts & Crafts Fest

Chalk the Walk

Under the Lights

Egg Hunt

Duck race in Talleyrand Park

Winter Market

Rising business community – women business owners

Charming, walkable & photogenic

Children’s Garden, Garden Club

Friday in the Fonte’

Movies in the Park

Summer Sounds at the Gazebo

Inviting / Welcoming Community

Bed and breakfasts & boutique hotels (The Gamble Mill Inn & Suites)

Bellefonte Art Museum

American Philatelic Society

Library

Bellefonte READS

Family Oriented

Farmers Market

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MURAL SITE PHOTOS

121 S Allegheny St, Bellefonte, PA 16823

