

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Maine State Archives is seeking a Maine artist(s) to create a specialty Christmas tree ornament that will commemorate Mainers' response to the Halifax, Nova Scotia Explosion of 1917. The ornament is commissioned as a **three-part design**, with one section to be presented to the representatives of Halifax, Nova Scotia as part of the Halifax Explosion Centennial Commemoration ceremony on Nov. 20, 2017 in Capitol Park, Augusta.

The Halifax contingent will then take the second section of the ornament to Boston to present the city with its annual Christmas tree delivery as an expression of gratitude and appreciation for Boston's support after the explosion. The third piece of the ornament will remain with the Maine State Archives in Augusta. Such a design allows for the ornament to be reunited at a future event.

All Maine resident artists are invited to submit an ornament design.

- The theme of the ornament is the humanitarian aid that Mainers and Boston residents provided to Nova Scotia at the time of the fatal and devastating Halifax Explosion during World War I. This maritime disaster took place on Dec. 6, 1917 when the SS Mont-Blanc, a French cargo ship bound for Bordeaux, collided with the Norwegian SS Imo in the Narrows section of upper Halifax Harbor. The Mont-Blanc was carrying explosives for the war effort, which were ignited during the collision, resulting in an explosion that caused 2,000 deaths and 9,000 injuries. The community of Richmond was obliterated by the blast, Dartmouth was heavily damaged, and a resulting tsunami wiped out a community in the Tufts Cove area. The rescue response was immediate from across eastern Canada and the Northeastern United States, despite blizzard conditions that impeded travel.
- The ornament shall consist of three parts that can be displayed individually, but can also connect together. The sections will represent the State of Maine; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Boston, Massachusetts. Each of the three sections must be equipped to hang from a tree independently.
- The ornament pieces shall be no smaller than 4"x4" and no larger than 8x8", and are not required to be identical in size. The medium used to create the ornament shall be hardy enough to withstand transport and to last for decades to come.

Please send your concept draft of the ornament, either on paper or in PDF or .jpg format, along with a cover letter about yourself and the piece, to the Maine State Archives for consideration no later than **Friday, Oct. 13**, in person at the Cultural Building in Augusta, via email or by physical mail. Please include daytime contact information as well as details about the materials that will be used in the ornament's construction. Questions can be directed to Archivist David Cheever via email.

EMAIL: David.Cheever@maine.gov

MAIL:

Attn: State Archivist David Cheever
Maine State Archives
84 Statehouse Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap and the Maine State Archives staff will choose a winning design and announce the chosen artist no later than Tuesday, Oct. 17. **The completed ornament must be presented to the Maine State Archives no later than Monday, Nov. 13, 2017,** at which time the monetary award will be presented.

In addition to a \$500 monetary award, the artist will be recognized during the commemoration ceremony on Nov. 20 and images of the completed ornament will be shared widely with members of the media and the public. Please note: If more than one artist collaborates on the ornament design/creation, only one \$500 prize will be awarded, but will be split between them.