

Cespedes, Christopher

To: Ann Arbor Public Art Commission
Subject: RE: Harriet Tubman sculpture

From: Jane DeDecker <[REDACTED]@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 1:00 PM
Subject: Harriet Tubman sculpture

Hello,

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, communities across the country are reflecting on the people and stories that shaped the path toward freedom. In my studio, I have sculpted a life-size work that speaks directly to that history—one that honors courage, perseverance, and the human pursuit of liberty.

This sculpture depicts Harriet Tubman leading a young child to freedom. In creating it, I sought to honor the countless steps she took—her tireless commitment, her bravery, and her selflessness. The work invites viewers to place themselves in the child's position, feeling both the uncertainty and the hope of that journey. Inscribed in the bronze are her guiding words:

"If you are tired, keep going. If you are hungry, keep going. If you want a taste of freedom, keep going."

The sculpture is the final casting in the edition and ready to be produced. My hope is to see it placed in a meaningful public setting as part of the America 250 commemoration, where it can engage the community and help us reflect on our shared history. This piece is figurative and powerful—it has a way of connecting with viewers, inviting empathy, and inspiring a personal understanding of the courage it commemorates.

I am motivated to find the right home for this sculpture and am open to collaborating—through adjusted pricing, donor engagement, or creative partnerships—to make placement possible. Should there be interest now or in the future, or if you know of a suitable fit elsewhere, I would love to share images and discuss opportunities for installation.

Thank you for considering this work and the chance to honor Harriet Tubman's legacy in your community.

Warm regards,
Jane