



CARDINAL NEWS

SERVING SOUTHWEST AND SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA

Request for Proposals:

Graphic Novel Creators

Cardinal News has received grant support from Acton Family Giving and the Hearthland Foundation to create a graphic novel exploring Virginia's role in American independence, based on our Cardinal 250 series.

This project will produce an engaging, visually compelling educational resource aligned with Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) and designed to support fourth-grade history instruction across the commonwealth.

About Cardinal News

Cardinal News is a nonprofit newsroom serving Southwest and Southside Virginia. We report the untold stories of the region and amplify voices that are often left out of Virginia's political, economic, and cultural conversations.

Our Cardinal 250 project highlights the people and places across Virginia that played important roles in the nation's founding and include stories that have been overlooked in traditional histories.

Learn more at: cardinalnews.org

Project Scope

We will adapt 10–15 stories from the Cardinal 250 series into a graphic novel format. The final product will be:

- Each story chapter will be about 5 pages
- Published digitally
- Distributed to elementary schools across Virginia
- Potentially produced in print, pending additional funding or partnerships

Selected creators may be assigned one or multiple chapters, depending on scope and fit.

What We're Looking For

We are seeking graphic novelists, illustrators, and visual storytellers who can:

- Translate reported journalism into compelling visual narratives
- Create age-appropriate, engaging content for fourth-grade readers
- Balance historical accuracy with creativity and clarity
- Work collaboratively with our editorial team

We are especially interested in a diversity of artistic styles and perspectives.

Deliverables & Process

Selected creators will:

1. Develop a storyboard for assigned chapter(s)
2. Incorporate editorial feedback
3. Produce final, publication-ready artwork

All work will be subject to editorial review and revision to ensure accuracy, clarity and alignment with educational standards.

Timeline

- Selection of creators: May 31
- Storyboards due: July 4
- Final artwork due: August 15

Audience and Requirements

- Target audience: Virginia fourth-grade students
- Content must align with Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)
- Tone and visuals should be engaging, accessible, and age-appropriate

Compensation

Competitive, project-based rates commensurate with experience and scope of work.

How to Apply

Please submit the following to jobs@cardinalnews.org:

- Resume or brief professional background

- Portfolio of relevant work (links preferred)

Questions

Contact Dwayne Yancey at dwayne@cardinalnews.org