

## Homecoming and Picnic RFP Inquiries

1. How much of Ohio would you like to see showcased at this event? (ie. All Ohio sports teams, amusement parks, metro parks from across the state, etc.?)

We are open to visioning how much of Ohio to showcase, but we prefer wide representation.

2. Can you share the Patriotic Pops timeline (setup, sound check, etc.)?

This is a short draft of the Commons-only portion of the festival ; this is subject to change.

<b>Thu 7/2</b>	Park Setup (Tents, tables, decorations, etc.)
<b>Fri 7/3</b>	Dark For RWB
<b>Sat 7/4</b>	
8a	Stage load in; Vendor Load in; Restroom Load in.
11a	Orchestra Sound check; Commons Security in place.
12p	Lunch
1p	"Pre show" (prior to orchestra) entertainment load in on stage
2p	Park Closure and Security Sweep; CPD, CFD, Volunteer and T-shirt Security onsite
3p	"Doors" and Picnic open to public
3:30p (TBC)	Opening remarks and welcome from Stage
4p-7p	Stage Entertainment TBD; audience flows freely between venues.
7:30p	Stage "Dark" for Orchestra
8p	Orchestra program begins
9p	Intermission

10:15p (approx)	Orchestra program ends with Drone finale. Event ends.
10:30p	Event Closure; all tear down follows.

3. Is the intent to use the Columbus Commons throughout the day in addition to the statehouse lawn?

Yes, correct.

4. Regarding the event budget: Is the Columbus Commons donating the space, or are you paying a fee?

-We are paying a fee. Approx \$32,000.

5. For food, are you planning on having food trucks for both the daytime and evening events, or are you planning on hiring a catering company for 1 or both parts?

-We have not made a decision on food and are open to discussing what different food scenarios could look like for the best overall event experience.

6. Will the CSO performance cost come out of this budget?

-Yes, however, we are anticipating receiving a grant to cover a significant portion of their costs.

7. Are there AV needs during the day for a dj or anything else, or is AV limited to the evening event? Will you want video coverage of both daytime/evening?

-We expect to have A/V needs throughout the day; we would like photo and video coverage of the day and evening.

8. Are you envisioning family entertainment like bounce houses, etc.?

Yes, family fun activities like bounce houses, the commons carousel, etc. but also educational activities like interpreters and the COSI science show.

9. Are you envisioning tenting a lot of the Commons for face painters, etc.?

-We expect to bring in tents, but have not determined the size of tent coverage. We are open to various scenarios based on the activities of the day.

**10. Will America 250-Ohio (or its partners) contract and cover the base venue rental and required venue services (e.g., Pavilion, lawns, Commons staff, security, maintenance), or should these costs be assumed in our \$350,000 all-in budget?**

These costs are assumed in the \$350,000 all-in budget.

**11. Is the Symphony's performance contract already secured and funded outside of the \$350,000 budget, or should proposer budgets include Symphony performance fees, production support, and hospitality?**

The symphony's contract is not secured because they have applied for a grant to cover the majority of their costs.

**12. Should proposers assume that the drone show vendor, equipment, and related production costs are to be managed and paid out of the \$350,000 budget, or is this element being contracted and funded directly by the Commission?**

The drone show and related production costs will be paid out of the \$350,000.

**13. The Commons has in-house AV (sound, lights, video screens) available as part of the Pavilion rental, but these systems are limited in scale. For an event of this size, supplemental systems (expanded sound coverage, video walls, enhanced lighting, etc.) may be needed. Should proposers assume that all supplemental AV/production enhancements come out of the \$350,000 budget in addition to the Commons rental fees?**

Yes, that's correct.

- 5. Will the Central Ohio Homecoming & Picnic follow a model similar to Picnic with the Pops, where attendees bring their own food, blankets, and chairs, supplemented by food trucks and vendors? If so, are F&B vendors expected to be self-contained (covering their own costs in exchange for sales) or should the event budget include infrastructure support (tents, utilities, water access)?**

We have not made a decision on food and are open to discussing what different food scenarios could look like for the best overall event experience. I am checking with the Columbus Commons, the primary venue, on how they handle this with their other clients and will let you know.

- 6. The scope references branding, media relations, and social media in conjunction with America 250-Ohio. Which elements are already resourced by the Commission (e.g., statewide brand identity, campaign spend) versus what is expected of the event management partner within the \$350,000?**

The statewide brand identity is already developed and we would expect to receive earned media. We plan to spend an additional \$5,000 outside of the \$350,000 all-in budget on paid advertising. The Commission will lead branding, marketing, media relations, but looking for a thought partner to make sure we are utilizing every possible channel and opportunity.

- 7. Will venue and city permit fees (road closures, fireworks/drone permitting, police/fire) be paid directly by America 250-Ohio, or should they be included in the \$350,000?**

The estimated costs of permits, road closures, fire/police are included in the \$350,000 budget.

- Are there specific insurance requirements (limits, endorsements) that proposers should plan and budget for as the prime contractor.**

We are checking with the Commons, the primary venue site, on their insurance requirements and will respond when we have that info.

**8. The RFP requires the consultant to be Ohio-based. Does this requirement extend to subcontracted vendors (AV, staging, security), or will an Ohio-based lead consultant with national partners meet the requirement?**

An Ohio-based lead consultant with national partners is acceptable. It's always preferable to use an Ohio-based subcontracted vendor but not required.