REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTWORK

All cancellations must carry the name of the exhibition or event-(the name cannot be the name of the parent post office or any other post office within the state), followed by the word Station or Sta., the city, state, and five-digit ZIP Code (do not include the ZIP+4 add-on), and the month, day, and year. Pictorial cancellations that endorse the ideals, policies, programs, products, campaigns, or candidates of religious, anti-religious, commercial, political, fraternal, trade, labor, public interest, or special interest organizations will not be approved. However, cancellations may be approved that recognize events such as meetings or conventions sponsored by or involving such organizations, providing their designs do not include words, symbols, or illustrations referring to ideals, policies, programs, products, campaigns, or candidates. For example, if a church was celebrating its 100th anniversary, a picture of the church building could be incorporated into the artwork for the handstamp. However, a crucifix, Bible, Star of David, etc. could not be approved as part of the artwork. If there is doubt as to whether a proposed cancellation meets these requirements, contact your Retail Specialist.

The size of the artwork should be no larger than 4 inches horizontally and 2 inches vertically. However, it is recommended from previous events that it is best to have handstamps produced in a size of 3-1/2 inches horizontally and 1-1/2 inches vertically. This prevents the cancellation mark from covering too much area on the article to be cancelled. This size also does not interfere with the address block.

The artwork must be camera-ready (black ink, slick paper) or on plain white bond paper with black ink. Lettering must be typewritten, mechanically produced or professionally hand lettered. This is very important because it allows the rubber stamp manufacturer to produce a quality handstamp.

