CLARE
GALLERY
at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Catherine Wynn
chat_cat@cox.net

New Exhibit: *Founding Mothers,* October 22 – December 13, 2026

Hartford, CT — *Founding Mothers* is our fourth and final exhibition focused on "Voices left out at the founding of our country." When the Gallery started this journey to celebrate our country's 250th Anniversary, we wished to create special exhibitions that connected our Gallery's mission to our country's diversity of voices. It seems fitting to end with the women, "the Ladyes" who helped found this country through their tireless work, strength, ingenuity, command and commitment for freedom for all. This exhibition includes thirteen poster designs, a bibliography for further study, and an interactive component where the audience is invited to participate, writing reflective thoughts, which will be added to the exhibition throughout its duration. Our audience's responses will become part of the collective voice as we end our year together. Please also visit our "Past Exhibitions" on our website to view this year's artists and exhibitions.

During the fall of 2025, the Gallery Committee targeted specific revolutionary women to highlight based on their particular story and how their work shaped the battle for our new country. Next, the Gallery partnered with twelve students from the course "Elements of Graphic Design" at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts (under the mentorship of Associate Professor Nancy Wynn). The team of students researched, collaborated, and designed thirteen posters celebrating what the Committee deemed to be the "founding women of our nation." Their stories were diverse in class, race, and how they served, but their commonality was courage and strength to stand for what they believed to be the promise of a better future. The exhibition highlights each woman, while collectively showcasing the amazing work these women accomplished in difficult, inventively secretive, and sometimes life-threatening events.

Additionally, the audience is encourage to engage with the exhibition to share their voice by writing answers to prompts such as: Which women did you admire and why? Are there any women's stories that make connections to your life? Where do we see unexpected displays of power and courage? How might you be courageous now? If you were to write one of the women a note, what would you say to them now? Furthermore, a virtual panelist talk is on November xx from 7-8:30 p.m. Panelists are students from the course; Erin Bartram, historian, Museum educator at The Mark Twain House & Museum, and founder and editor of *Contingent Magazine*; and Associate Professor Nancy Wynn, MFA, from Merrimack College. All are welcome, but registration is required through the Gallery website. Lastly, two exhibition receptions are on Sunday, December 13. Both will be part of the Parish's Community Sundays with the first at 9 a.m. and the second at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

The Clare Gallery primarily features exhibitions that emphasize world religions or interfaith themes, as well as social justice themes, on either a global or local level. The Gallery is housed in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT. The Center is part of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church, a vibrant and active downtown faith community. The Clare Gallery's hours are from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and Sundays from 9–11:30 a.m. The Gallery is open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is accessible to all. More information may be found at spsact.org/clare2.