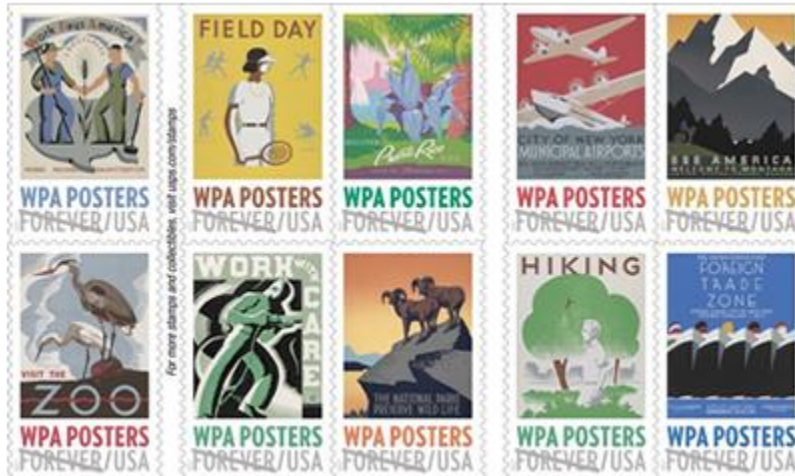


## WPA Poster Stamp Designs



**HYDE PARK, NY** — The U.S. Postal Service today (March 7, 2017) dedicated the visually striking posters of the Work Projects Administration (WPA) as a booklet of 10 designs and 20 Forever stamps during a first-day-of-issue ceremony at the [Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum](#) in Hyde Park, NY.

The posters were created by Depression-era artists employed by the Poster Division of the WPA Federal Art Project. The booklet features 20 stamps of 10 different designs originally created to support the civic-minded ideals of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

"It is undeniable that Franklin Delano Roosevelt understood the importance of visual design and how it could communicate powerful messages of optimism, hope and perseverance. It is also fitting that these WPA posters are being memorialized on postage stamps, because President Roosevelt had a lifelong fascination with stamps as artwork," said Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Megan J. Brennan, who dedicated the stamps.

Brennan was joined at the stamp dedication ceremony by Paul Sparrow, director, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum; Anthony Musso, author and historian; and David B. Roosevelt, grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. "These stamps commemorate the work of my grandfather's most ambitious New Deal program and the artwork generated from the WPA artists," said Roosevelt. "Much of the artwork adorned public buildings built by WPA employees. Perfect examples include the post offices in Poughkeepsie, Hyde Park and Rhineback, to name only a few in the Hudson Valley, and many others around the nation."

The stamps feature 10 illustrative posters from the Library of Congress collection. Formed in 1935 as the Works Progress Administration — renamed Work Projects Administration in 1939 — the WPA provided millions of jobs during the Great Depression. Lasting until 1943, the WPA's Federal Art Program's Poster Division was absorbed into World War II programs.

WPA artists greatly advanced silkscreen-printing, an economical medium, also employing woodblock and lithographic processes. At the height of the Federal Art Program, cities in 18 states had Poster Project offices, printing 2 million posters of approximately 35,000 designs.

Posters were displayed in public spaces and municipal buildings to encourage domestic travel, education, health, conservation and other civic ideals, while stimulating morale and the economy. Decades of obscurity followed the posters' disappearance from the American scene but appreciation of the posters' distinctive style and artistic influence has grown since their re-discovery.