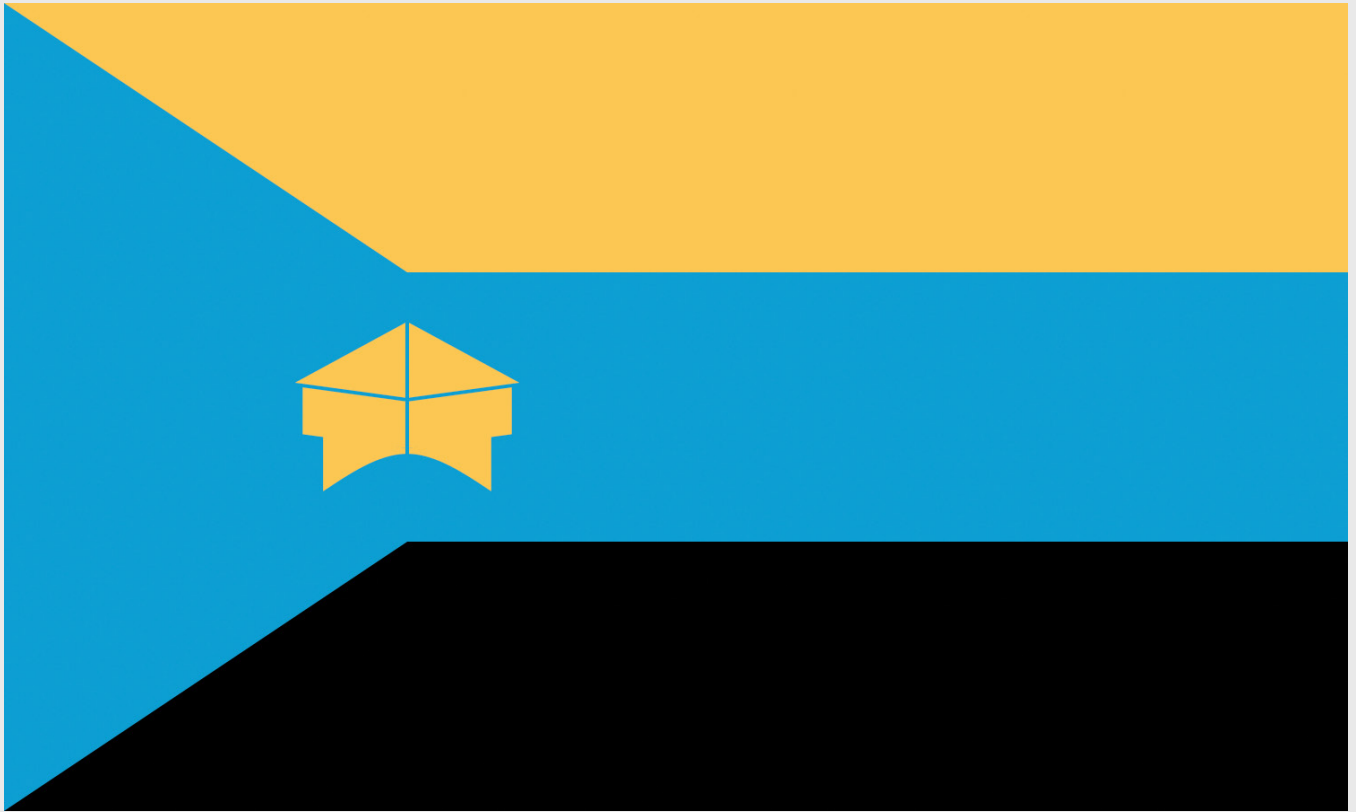


Flag Design #1

This simple design encompasses a great deal of symbolism which I feel represents the history and whole of Toledo. The sky blue at the bottom is triangular in shape symbolizing a shard of glass to represent our glass industry that earned us the title, Glass City. It is also representative of our precious water resource, the Great Lake Erie.

The black diagonal line is symbolic of the Black Swamp as well as the Toledo Strip that ultimately defined Toledo's place in Ohio. The upper lime green triangle is an ode to all the vibrant plant life found at our Metro-parks and a thriving Toledo. The black flower also represents the unique biodiversity found in our Metro-parks. Last but not least, is the wheel inside of the flower.

This is representative of Toledo's innovative nature to keep moving forward, our various methods of transportation that made us a hub for trade, and of course our auto industry.



Flag Design #2

MEETING: Toledo's identity is defined by many meetings; this flag speaks to stories of convergence in Toledo.

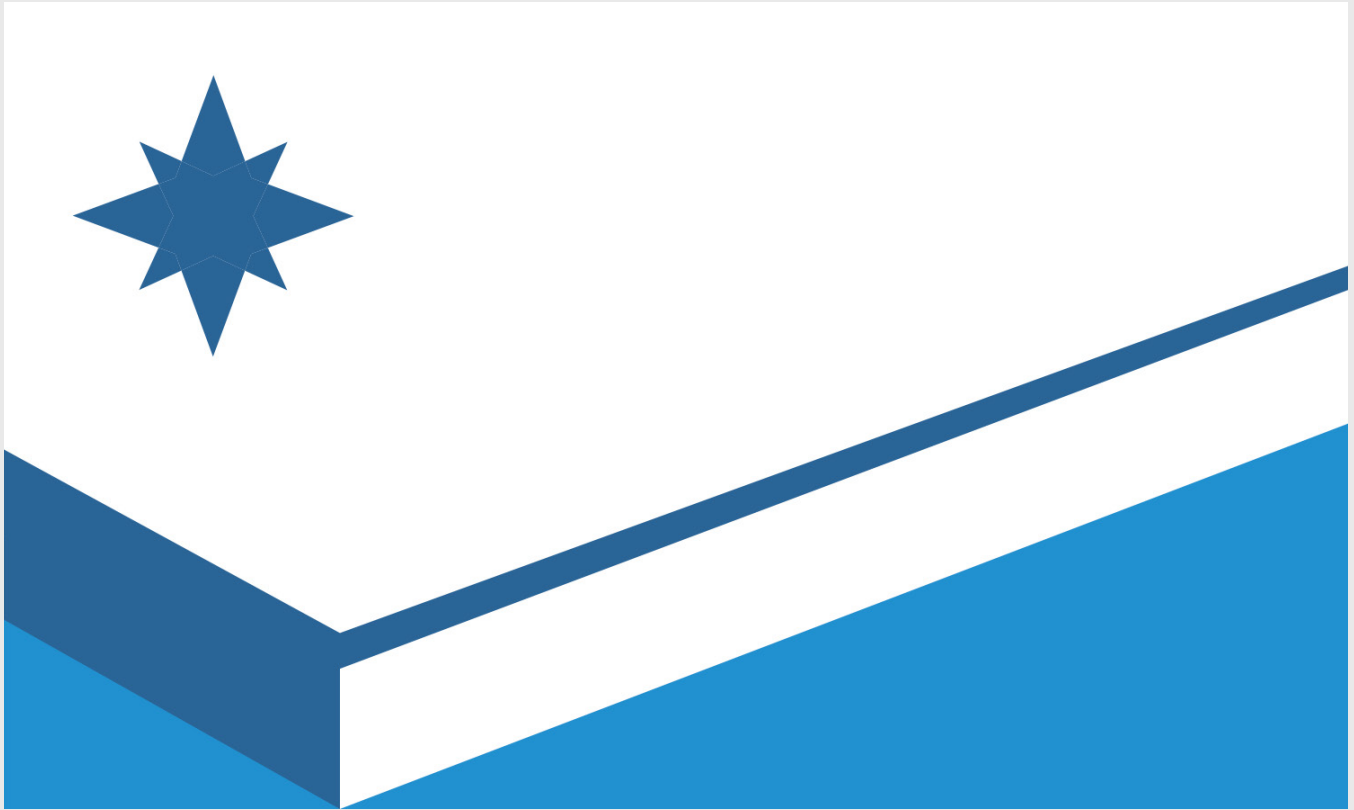
NATURE: The three horizontal bars represent the meeting of natural features that shape Toledo. The center blue field represents the heart of our Great Lakes City, the Maumee River flowing into Lake Erie. The lower black field represents the Great Black Swamp which bounded Toledo and the swamps and marshes historically found throughout our Frogtown. The upper yellow field represents the sand of the ecologically precious Oak Openings that fringe Toledo.

HISTORY: Foundational to Toledo's complex, deep, and personal story is the historical meeting as settler colonizers converged with and displaced Indigenous peoples through violence and systematic removal. Recognizing this historical convergence, the flag includes an icon representing the legendary Fort Industry blockhouse with the base erased by a shape symbolizing the ancient Indigenous earthworks that existed in several locations in Toledo. This icon provides continuity with Toledo's foremost symbol while acknowledging that the foundation of human history here is that of Indigenous inhabitants with a complex, deep, and personal history of their own.

FUTURE: We build toward Toledo's future on a strong foundation of community and ideas (black). For the uncertainty of tomorrow we gird ourselves and re-center our relationships with invaluable natural resources that offer resiliency and joy and shift from Rust Belt to Water Belt (blue). As Toledo moves forward we gaze and see a bright horizon of promise (yellow).

TRADE: Toledo is a place of convergence for trade as a significant historic portage route and current meeting place of waterways, roads, and rails. The blockhouse and earthwork merge to form a north arrow, a significant navigational icon for our city of commerce, and the black and gold fields allude to major industries and trade goods associated with Toledo.

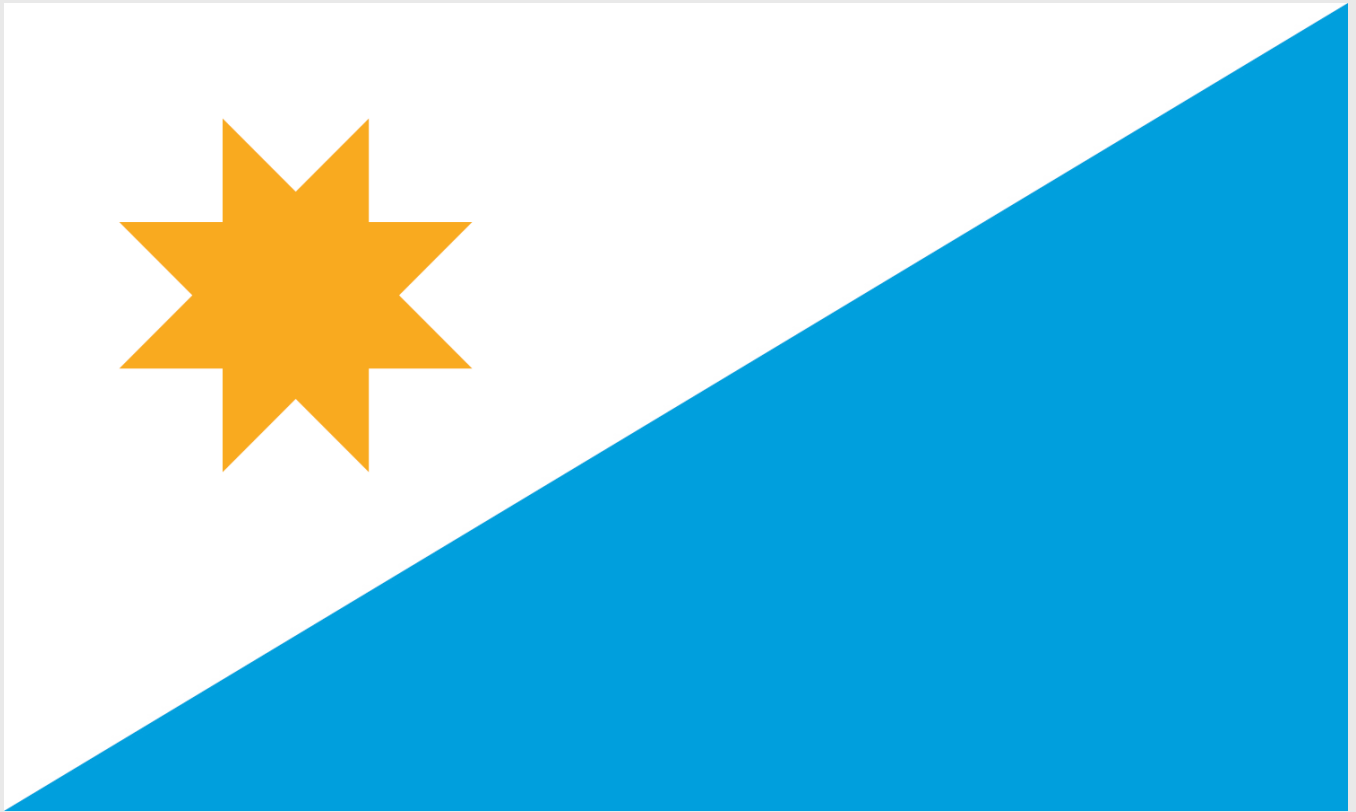
PEOPLE: Toledo is made strong by the diverse people that call our city home. The lines breaking through the blockhouse spread in four directions calling to the four corners of the world and our desire to foster a welcoming and inclusive home for all people in Toledo, our place of meeting.



Flag Design #3

This flag design takes a different approach to draw a greater sense of self reflection and identity through the historical and contemporary lens of Toledo's title of "The Glass City." Using the nature of glass as an element for exploration, this flag's composition and coloring function to simulate a pane of glass. The use of the primarily white coloring signifies transparency and clarity, allowing for observers to both take a reflective approach to and see through to the potential that lies just in reach, much like looking in a mirror. The blue hues symbolize the Maumee River, the vital natural resource and historical lifeline of the city. Ever apparent and always flowing, the dynamic angling is directed upward to reiterate the forward-looking perspective that Toledo continuously strives for.

Finally, the bold star acts as the city's location in northwest Ohio. The star is a guiding symbol, pointing to Toledo's ambition and its special place within the state. It also serves as a reminder of the city's role as a bright beacon of innovation and community spirit in the region, a true spark of light for industry and community for both residents and visitors.



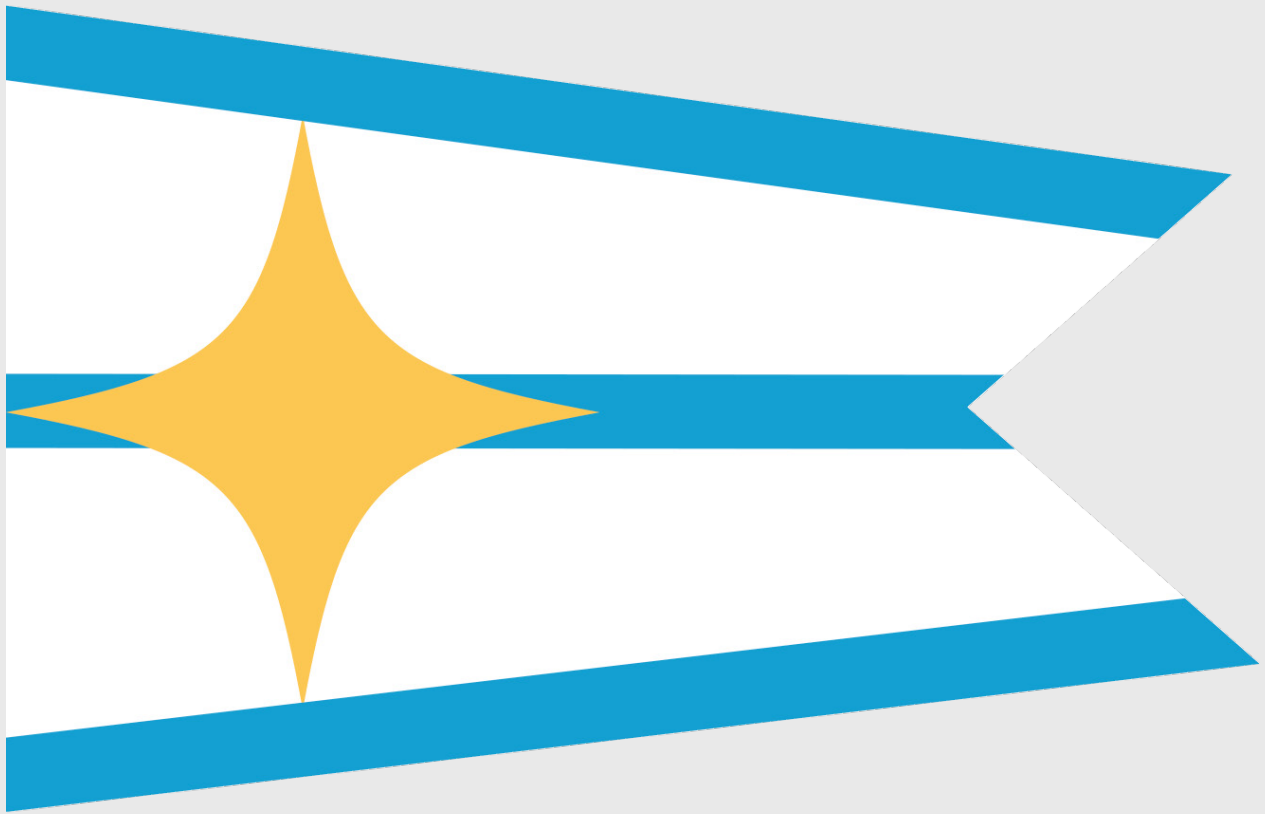
Flag Design #4

The Toledo Spark flag embodies Toledo's industrious spirit and highlights our most precious natural resource. The essence of this design is captured in the phrase: "Toledo: Industry on the Maumee."

Design: The flag is divided diagonally from the lower-hoist side corner to the upper fly-side corner. The upper triangular field is white and the lower triangular field is bright blue. The diagonal angle may vary for flags of different lengths. An eight-pointed solid golden yellow star, The Spark of Industry, is positioned on the hoist side of the white triangular field. On a typical flag, the Spark should be $\frac{7}{16}$ (.4375) the total width of the flag.

Meaningful Symbolism: The Spark of Industry embodies the hard work and pioneering spirit of Toledoans. Each of its eight points represents a cornerstone industry that has shaped our city: Healthcare, Energy, Arts, Education, Automotive, Agriculture, Transportation, and Glass. Positioned in the northwestern corner, The Spark signifies Toledo's location in Northwest Ohio. The diagonal division, reminiscent of a maritime signal flag, symbolizes Toledo's connection to the Great Lakes region. This diagonal also represents the Maumee River, our greatest natural asset, flowing through Toledo into Lake Erie. Its positive, upward direction signifies Toledo's forward momentum. The flag's colors are deliberately chosen to reflect our region: Golden yellow symbolizes hot glass and Toledo's heritage as the Glass Capital of the World. White signifies limitless potential and opportunities. Bright blue represents our natural water resources, vibrancy, and optimism.

Additional Considerations: The Toledo Spark flag purposely moves away from the iconic blockhouse at Fort Industry. The history of Fort Industry is somewhat ambiguous, yet it is upheld as Toledo's initial settlement. However, the treaty signed there resulted in the displacement of Native peoples from Northwest Ohio. These historical complexities suggest caution in elevating the Blockhouse as a symbol of our city's identity. The Toledo Spark flag's deliberate simplicity lends itself to dynamic creative interpretation. This use of the flag can emphasize the diversity of Toledo's population and serves as a versatile symbol of unity and expression.



Flag Design #5

The City of Toledo “Waterways” Flag incorporates several elements to invoke the City’s position as a true Water Belt city.

The flag’s triangular swallowtail shape mirrors the Flag of Ohio, unique among state flags and paying tribute to Toledo’s home. The colors utilized - light blue, yellow, and white - are consistent with the City’s official color palette. The three light blue stripes represent the major bodies of water that Toledo relies on: Lake Erie, Maumee Bay, and the Maumee River. In place of a chevron is a yellow “Sparkle” that pays tribute to the City as an epicenter for the American glass industry and the sun sparkling on Toledo’s waters, serving as a symbol of hope and beauty for Toledoans. Set upon a field of white, the elements will glisten in a wavy Toledo breeze.



Flag Design #6

I am honored to present my design for the new City of Toledo flag, a symbol of our collective optimism and commitment to fostering a thriving community. This flag embodies a vision of Toledoans not only excelling but also actively contributing to the well-being and enrichment of our city.

The design thoughtfully incorporates colors from the City of Toledo's current branding, ensuring a harmonious integration with our existing community initiatives. The blue in the flag represents our treasured water resources and the natural splendor preserved within our metroparks. Yellow signifies the vibrant energy that flows through Toledo, driven by new and established businesses, educational opportunities, infrastructure improvements, and our celebration of an increasingly diverse culture. White, at the center of the design, stands for the optimism rooted in our community, symbolized by the central circle which embodies unity and hope.

Curved lines within the flag pay homage to our waterways and the evolving infrastructure that shapes our city. Uniquely, this design features a reversible composition that presents the same imagery regardless of orientation, while subtly forming an abstract representation of "TOL." This approach not only ensures the flag's easy identification but also mirrors Toledo's bold and progressive spirit.

This flag is more than a visual emblem; it is a call to action. I invite every Toledoan to volunteer, contribute, participate, and celebrate. Embrace the growth and inclusivity that define us, for it is this collective engagement that fortifies our community. Let this flag stand as a constant reminder of our core values: strength, dedication, and the joy we derive from our shared efforts.

Together, let us continue to build a brighter future, united by our passion for doing better and doing good in Toledo.



Flag Design #7

This proposed flag design for Toledo is a compelling symbol of unity, heritage, and progress. Central to the design is a modernized blockhouse, representing Toledo's historical roots and industrial strength. Historically a symbol of a fortress, this modernized version now embodies the trajectory from challenging pasts into a new era. It depicts Fort Industry, a structured "T" for Toledo, a leaf form representing, nurturing, and celebrating the city's natural environment, and the iconic Veteran's Skyway Bridge at top. Its angled silhouette, inspired by a flint arrowhead, honors ancestral homelands of Indigenous tribes.

The four elongated points of the sunburst at the top left represent cardinal directions, and recognize Native American traditions of the medicine wheel and Toledo's geographical position as a vital crossroads in America. The sunburst, reinterpreted from the city's seal, is positioned relative to the Northwest stage of the flag rising on the horizon and the Skyway Bridge. Landmarking city center, the sunburst is placed above horizontal blue bands that represent the Maumee River and the tributaries of our watershed. The total eight points also recognize and pay tribute to the ReFlag Toledo project and the eight stronghold industries it identified.

The flag's color seeks to harmonize and embody cultural connections for all of Toledo. Dark blue envelops the flag, inviting openness, ingenuity, and symbolizing the city's contributions as global innovators. Dark blue also echoes the colors of our historical University of Toledo, past Toledo flags, and the Ohio state flag. Light blue signifies the city's water resources, vibrant cultural roots, and stability. The large white band calls for unification of all Toledoans and symbolizes our perseverance. Rising and glowing, red symbolizes Toledo's unwavering indomitable spirit.

This flag design is more than just a symbol; it is a visual testament to Toledo's rich history, diverse culture, and a beacon for a bright future. By reimagining the blockhouse, we open the door to a new, prosperous future unique to only us. This design seeks to unite the city's population, honor its heritage and inspire hope for generations to come. It challenges, but also captures our ethos and vigor.



Flag Design #8

A golden sun the color of molten glass rises and sets over the Maumee River and Lake Erie honoring the land that was the Great Black Swamp and its native inhabitants whom we owe for being stewards of this land.

The red color is used in the current state of Ohio flag. The black semi circle represents the Great Black Swamp on which Toledo is built. Five red stripes for the (now) 5 tribal nations that once inhabited the Toledo region, five black stripes for each of the Great Lakes and the region Ohio is located in. The feather with a slight stained glass motif represents the tribal nations' current flags. A blue that matches the state of Michigan flag represents Toledo's short and tumultuous history of once being a part of the Michigan territory and signifies the exchange of Toledo for the Upper Peninsula.

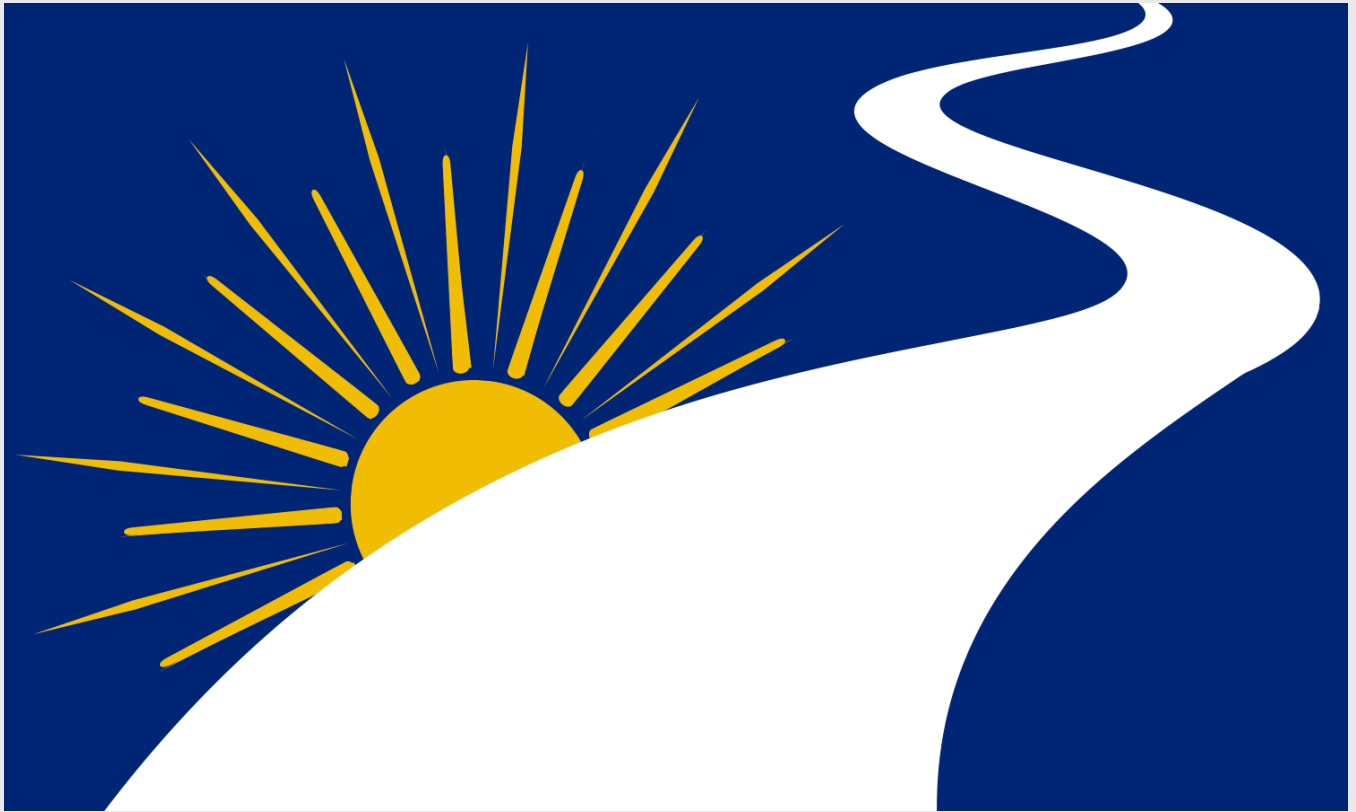


Flag Design #9

Each yellow star represents a different side of Toledo, highlighting the city's diversity and community.

The larger star in the center represents the unity of our city and its key values and aspirations, such as progress, innovation, community, and resilience. The light blue color is inspired by the Anthony Wayne Bridge which is better known as the High Level Bridge. The blue also references the importance of our waterways, as the quality of our rivers and streams directly impacts the quality of life for all our residents.

The straight lines juxtaposed with curved lines in the center show the strength to persist and the courage to grow and change.



Flag Design #10

I wanted something that combined our previous flag and our city seal that would also look good alongside the Ohio and US flag.

17 sun rays to represent Ohio as the 17th state admitted to the union

Sun and the yellow pulled from past Toledo flag/seal of Toledo

Same colors as us and Ohio so when flown side by side it connects them but the yellow makes Toledo stand out

River represents Maumee river also pulled from the seal of Toledo

Rays mimic the Prince Rupert's drop, which are made of glass and nod to Toledo known as the Glass City, which represent Toledoans resilience and ability to withstand hits without shattering