

# *We the People*

HOLIDAYS AT THE WHITE HOUSE  
2022



*As our country gathers for the holidays, traditions may vary, but our shared American values—a belief in possibility, optimism, and unity—endure season after season.*

*For this year's holidays at the White House, we hope to capture the spirit embodied in the very idea of America: We the People. During your visit to the People's House, through rooms full of history and holiday décor, in the mirrored ornaments and reflective lights, our hope is that you feel at home and find yourself in the great story of America.*

*May the promise of We the People light our path forward into the New Year and bring us together always.*

*With faith and love,*

*Joe Jill*

# We the People

*These words are the foundation of our extraordinary country and the Soul of our Nation. At the holidays, Americans come together each year in fellowship and faith, reminding us that we are stronger in community than we are apart. Each room and design element throughout the White House holiday décor represents what brings us together during the holidays and throughout the year.*



- THE EAST WING -

## *We the People* ★ *Honor & Remembrance*

The bells that adorn the East Entrance of the White House symbolize the unifying and healing power of music, welcoming guests with melody and song.

Holiday greenery and red cardinals line the columns and beams of the East Wing Lobby. Many people believe that red cardinals signify the presence of lost loved ones. The idea of *We the People* recognizes the profound impact of those who came before us.

The first Christmas trees featured on the White House tour are adorned with mirrored Gold Star ornaments that are inscribed with the names of fallen service members.

The Gold Star trees honor the heroic men and women of our Nation's military who have laid down their lives for our country, those who are Missing in Action, and the families who carry on their legacies. May God bless our troops and their families.



Winter trees, woodland animals, and glowing lanterns line the journey down the East Colonnade, evoking the feelings of peace and tranquility after the first snowfall.



- LIBRARY -

*We the People,  
Words & Stories*

The Library celebrates how the stories we share bring us closer to the people we love, the world around us, and our unfolding history. With décor inspired by literature, history, and education, the Library honors how lines on a page can ignite our imaginations, spur spirited dialogue, and remind us of the connections that transcend culture, distance, and even time.

On display in the Library is a copy of the Declaration of Independence, printed circa 1845. This engraving was donated to the White House in 1985.



- VERMEIL ROOM -

*We the People,  
Kindness & Gratitude*

The décor of the Vermeil Room (French for gilded silver) represents the different ways we show appreciation for each other and give back to our communities. The smallest acts of kindness really matter.

The Vermeil Room is decked with presents wrapped in playful patterns of paper, spools of ribbon, and homemade gifts waiting to be discovered on a neighbor's porch. Illustrations of the Biden family's pets—Commander and Willow—make a surprise appearance in the Vermeil Room, reminding us of the gift of unconditional love. Boxes from Operation Gratitude, a non-profit organization that delivers care packages to deployed troops, first responders, and military families, are incorporated into the room's displays, signifying the joy and meaning that come from giving back to those who serve others.



- CHINA ROOM -

*We the People ★ Food & Traditions*

The design elements of the China Room are meant to remind us of family traditions passed down through generations, overflowing kitchens that smell like familiar recipes, and crowded dining room tables filled with laughter.

Wrapping the branches of the room's Christmas trees and mantels are garlands of wooden spoons, measuring cups, rolling pins, and cookies that are reminiscent of baking treats in your grandma's kitchen. Throughout the room are well-worn recipe cards, contributed by the volunteers from across the country who helped decorate the White House for the holidays.

The China Room, which was formalized by First Lady Edith Wilson in 1917, houses tableware used by past presidential families. Each set reflects the presidents and first ladies who selected their designs and recalls the State Dinners and celebratory meals that have brought together world leaders and diplomats.





- EAST ROOM -

*We the People* ★ *Nature & Recreation*

From the Everglades to the Rocky Mountains, from the Painted Desert to the Great Lakes, our country is home to breathtaking natural wonders—and they belong to us all. The East Room décor reflects the communion we find in nature. Groupings of snowy trees fill the corners of the room, with children ready to play outside. As part of the fireplace mantel displays, visitors see four iconic National Parks from around our country represented: The Grand Canyon, Yellowstone National Park, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Shenandoah National Park.

As the largest room in the White House, the East Room has hosted public receptions, ceremonies, bill signings, and other memorable occasions. It also features a portrait of President Theodore Roosevelt, who helped establish 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reserves, four national game preserves, five national parks, and 18 national monuments on over 230 million acres of public lands.

The Neapolitan crèche, with over 40 figurines, most dating back to the eighteenth century, is displayed here as it has been during every holiday season since 1967.

- GREEN ROOM -

*We the People*,  
*Songs & Sounds*

Music is woven into the harmony and history of our country. The healing and unifying power of music brings us together in common movement and melody. Inspired by the choral masterpieces and familiar carols that have defined the holidays for generations, the décor features sleigh bells, hand bells, and jingle bells to signal the sounds and songs of the season.





- BLUE ROOM -

*We the People* ★ *Unity & Hope*

In the Blue Room, renderings of the official birds from all 57 states, territories, and the District of Columbia adorn the Official White House Christmas Tree, illustrating the beauty and strength that comes from unity. The individual tree trimmings shine on their own, but woven together, this unified collection transforms a humble fir into a stunning symbol of *We the People*.

The centerpiece of the holiday season, an 18½ foot Concolor Fir from Auburn, Pennsylvania, stands floor to ceiling and fills the oval room. Every year, the room's chandelier is removed to accommodate the Christmas tree's full height. This year's tree was presented by the Shealer Family of Evergreen Acres Christmas Tree Farm, the 2022 Grand Champion Grower in the National Christmas Tree Association's annual contest.

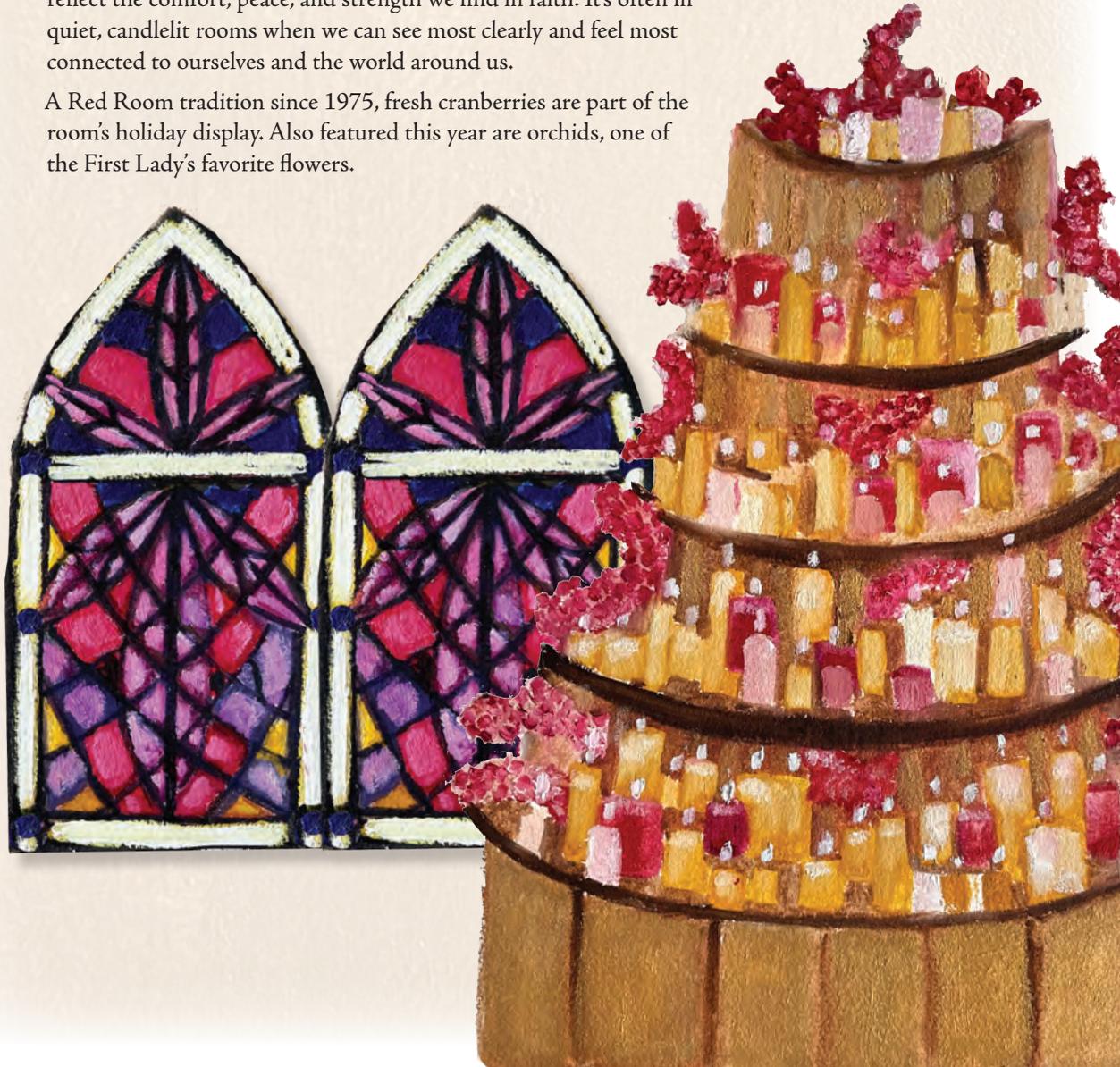


- RED ROOM -

*We the People* ★ *Faith & Light*

In times of both grief and joy, faith can light the way forward. In the Red Room, towers of candles and glowing stained glass windows reflect the comfort, peace, and strength we find in faith. It's often in quiet, candlelit rooms when we can see most clearly and feel most connected to ourselves and the world around us.

A Red Room tradition since 1975, fresh cranberries are part of the room's holiday display. Also featured this year are orchids, one of the First Lady's favorite flowers.

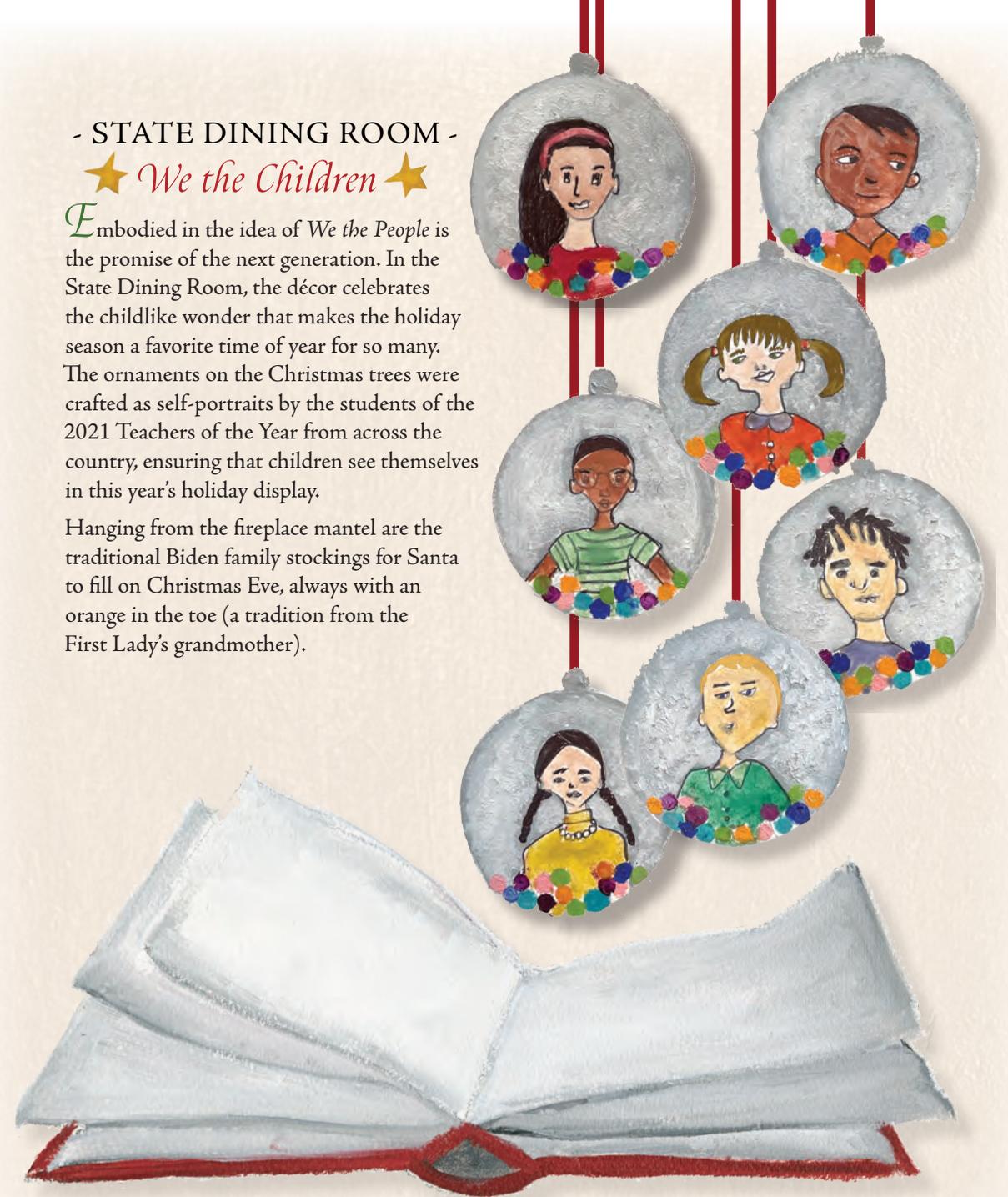


- STATE DINING ROOM -

★ *We the Children* ★

Embodied in the idea of *We the People* is the promise of the next generation. In the State Dining Room, the décor celebrates the childlike wonder that makes the holiday season a favorite time of year for so many. The ornaments on the Christmas trees were crafted as self-portraits by the students of the 2021 Teachers of the Year from across the country, ensuring that children see themselves in this year's holiday display.

Hanging from the fireplace mantel are the traditional Biden family stockings for Santa to fill on Christmas Eve, always with an orange in the toe (a tradition from the First Lady's grandmother).





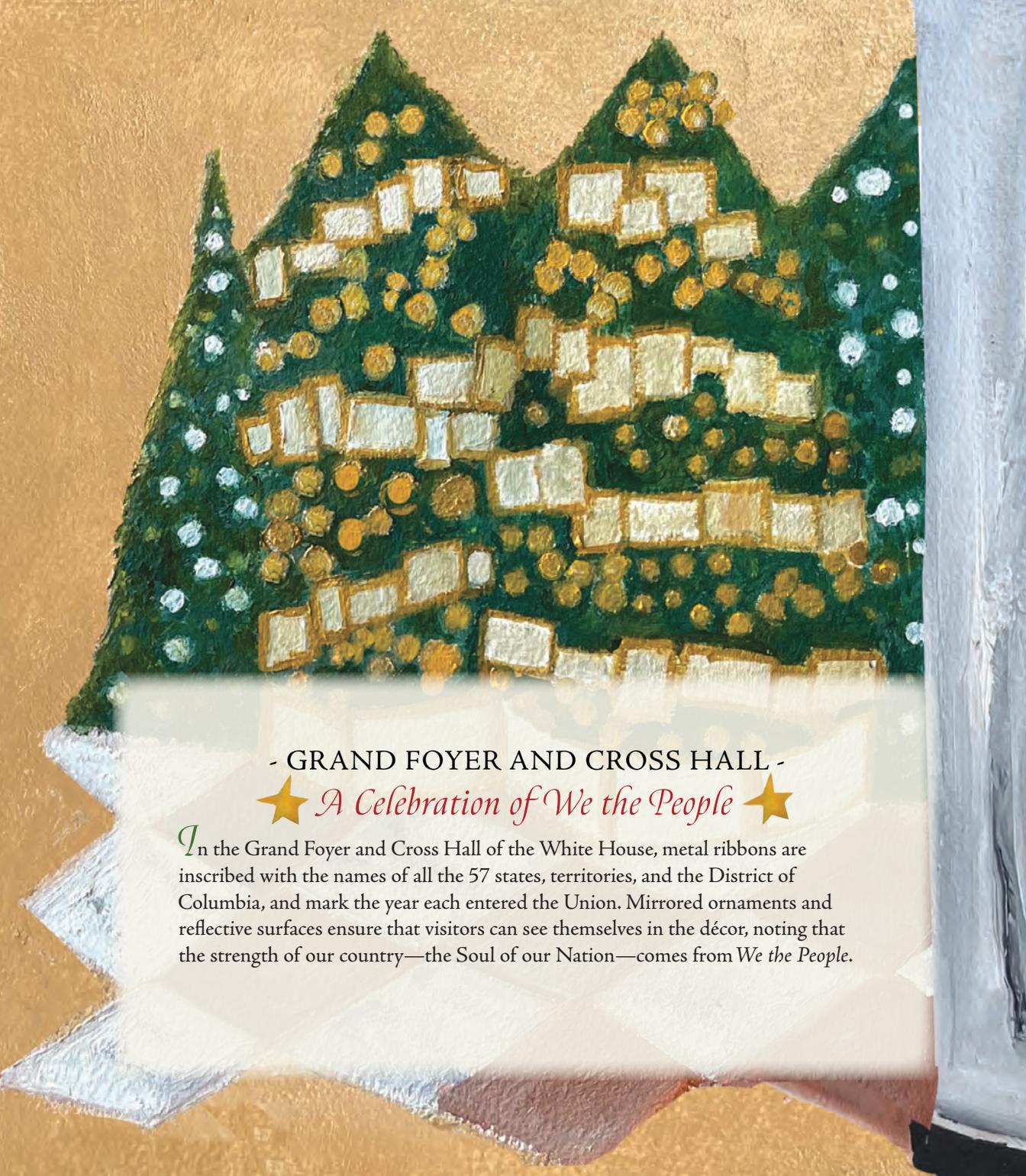
## THE GINGERBREAD WHITE HOUSE

A favorite of children of all ages is the official 2022 Gingerbread White House. Inspired by this year's theme of *We the People*, the display also includes a sugar cookie replica of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the birthplace of the United States.

Both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed there.



The Cross Hall features a new addition to the White House collection: a menorah created by the Executive Residence Carpentry Shop. The menorah was constructed using wood that was removed circa 1950 during a Truman-era renovation.



## - GRAND FOYER AND CROSS HALL -

### ★ *A Celebration of We the People* ★

In the Grand Foyer and Cross Hall of the White House, metal ribbons are inscribed with the names of all the 57 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, and mark the year each entered the Union. Mirrored ornaments and reflective surfaces ensure that visitors can see themselves in the décor, noting that the strength of our country—the Soul of our Nation—comes from *We the People*.

### SUGAR DOUGH:

1 cup (2 sticks) soft butter  
1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt  
1/2 cup confectioner's sugar  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

Yields approximately 24 pieces

### DIRECTIONS:

- Spray a 13" x 9" pan with cooking spray and line with a piece of parchment paper. Pre-heat oven to 335° F.
- In a large bowl, place the softened butter, confectioner's sugar, and salt. Mix by hand with a wooden spoon, or use a mixer if you have one. Mix until creamy.
- Add the vanilla extract and fold in with wooden spoon or mixer.
- Pour in the all-purpose flour slowly, stirring as you go. Combine until a soft dough forms.
- Press the sugar dough into the prepared pan.
- Refrigerate the pan of sugar dough for one hour. Once chilled, line the top of the sugar dough with foil and press down again.
- Bake dough for about 35-40 minutes until it is golden all over. Set pan aside and allow to cool. Remove aluminum foil once cooled.
- While the dough is baking, start making the lemon filling.

## Holiday Recipe LEMON BARS



### LEMON FILLING:

8 eggs, slightly beaten  
8 tablespoons (1/2 cup) fresh lemon juice  
4 cups sugar  
8 tablespoons all-purpose flour, sifted  
8 lemons, zested  
1/8 teaspoon fine sea salt  
Raspberry jam

- Beat the 8 eggs first, either by hand with a whisk or with a mixer.
- In a separate bowl, mix together the granulated sugar, sifted flour, and salt with a wooden spoon. Pour into the beaten eggs.
- Add the lemon juice and lemon zest to the mixture. Mix together with a wooden spoon.
- Spread a thin layer of raspberry jam on to the pre-baked sugar dough.
- Pour mixture on top of the raspberry jam.
- Bake at 300° F for about 65-75 minutes or until the filling is firm to the touch.
- Carefully remove from the oven and allow to cool.
- Place baked pan of your lemon bars into the freezer for two hours.
- Remove frozen lemon bars from the freezer. Pop them out from the pan. Cut into 2" x 2" squares.
- Dust the bars on top with confectioner's sugar. For extra holiday fun, draw a wreath on top of each square with red and green frosting, or have the kids decorate them with their favorite sprinkles or candy.

*Enjoy this treat from the White House pastry shop!*

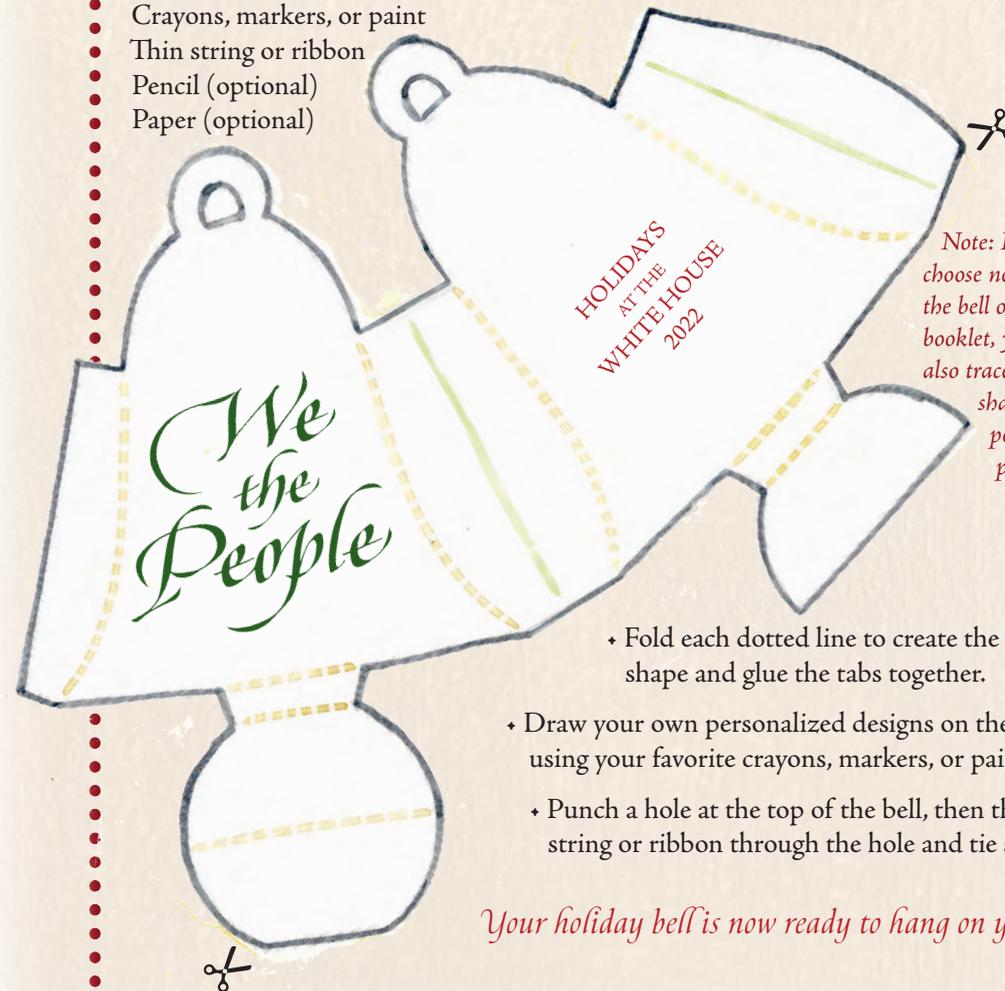
## Holiday Bell Ornament

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Scissors  
Craft glue  
Crayons, markers, or paint  
Thin string or ribbon  
Pencil (optional)  
Paper (optional)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Using scissors, cut out the shape of the bell along the black lines.



*Note: If you choose not to cut the bell out of this booklet, you can also trace the shape with pencil and paper.*

- Fold each dotted line to create the bell shape and glue the tabs together.
- Draw your own personalized designs on the bell, using your favorite crayons, markers, or paint.
- Punch a hole at the top of the bell, then thread string or ribbon through the hole and tie a knot.

*Your holiday bell is now ready to hang on your tree!*

## 2022 White House Holiday Facts and Figures

- ★ Approximately 14,865 feet of ribbon, over 300 candles, over 12,000 ornaments, and over 1,600 bells were used this year to decorate the White House.
- There are 77 Christmas trees throughout the White House.
- ★ The Gingerbread White House creation includes 20 sheets of sugar cookie dough, 30 sheets of gingerbread dough, 100 pounds of pastillage, 30 pounds of chocolate, and 40 pounds of royal icing.
- Over 83,615 holiday lights decorate the trees, garlands, wreaths, and displays in the White House.
- ★ Twenty-five classic wreaths adorn the north and south facades of the White House.
- It takes over 150 dedicated volunteers from across the country working a full week to decorate the inside and outside of the White House.



*The President and Dr. Biden thank the Executive Residence staff and the team of over 150 volunteers who dedicated their time, energy, and talents to transform the White House for the holiday season. Your hard work and creativity made this possible. Thank you to elementary school teacher, children's book author and illustrator, Daria Peoples, for her creative artwork throughout this book, which beautifully captures "We the People" at the holidays.*

*We invite you to share your experience using:  
#WHChristmas  
#WHHolidays*

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