



Frequently Asked Questions

2016 UTILITY BOX ART REPAINTING PROJECT



1. What is the 2016 Utility Box Art Repainting Project?

The City of San Luis Obispo's Utility Box Art Project is an extremely popular community based art program that began in 2010. To date, there are 32 utility boxes throughout our community that serve as "canvases" for original art pieces painted by local artists, residents, students and community members which contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of our community while deterring graffiti and adding to the "curb appeal". In 2016, new boxes will be painted consistent with the temporary nature of this art.

2. How many boxes will be painted?

This is still TBD. Following the City Council's adoption of additional box art policy in July 2016, new box locations will be identified for new art murals. The exact location, or total number of boxes to be painted, is still to be determined.

3. When will you know which boxes will be repainted?

On February 16, 2016, the City Council directed staff to return with public art policy revisions that would address preservation and maintenance of the boxes. The project has been temporarily placed on hold until further policy modifications can be made. A Stakeholders Group (consisting of City Staff, Downtown Association, SLO Chamber, Arts Obispo, and local box artists) has been working to develop program enhancement for the City Council to consider which could address maintenance, preservation and possible expansion of the Box Art program. It is anticipated that Council could review these recommendations in July 2016. A link to the proposed policy recommendations can be found on the City's website for Public Art.

4. Will you be repainting the boxes or adding new ones?

The quick answer is that this has yet to be determined at this time. The current Public Art Policy identifies the "Box Art Program" as "temporary" art. "Temporary art", as defined in the City's Public Art Policy, is art that is on display for approximately 5 years. Similar to rotating art collections in museums or art galleries, the older art would be "refreshed" with new art. The 2016 Box Art Repainting project was intended to be a "refreshing" of the 2010 original Box Art that have reached this predetermined age for repainting. In response to community communications, the project has been temporarily placed on hold. City staff will be working with a Stakeholders Group to address maintenance, preservation and possible expansion of the Box Art program. It is anticipated that Council could review this recommendation in July.



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5. Should I still submit my design?

Yes. The deadline for art proposals has been extended to **July 1st by 5:00pm**. All proposals must be submitted by this date and time to be considered.

6. Can I paint a box myself?

Yes. The box art program shall be open to individual artists, a team of artists or community groups with a designated lead artist who have the vision and skills required to complete the project to the highest standards of innovation and technical expertise. Qualifying applicants must reside in San Luis Obispo County. Artists should carefully read the description of the project and Request for Proposals and decide if the project is suitable to their interests, capabilities and experience.

7. Is there an age limit?

There is currently no age limit, but applicant age is preferred high-school and above. As mentioned in question #4 above, the box art program is open all artists, a team of artists, high-school or college students or community groups with a designated lead artist who have the vision and skills required to complete the project to the highest standards of innovation and technical expertise. Younger budding artists are encouraged to team-up with a resident artist.

8. How do I submit my design?

Each interested and eligible applicant must apply to the "call for artists" and submit a box art application for consideration. This application can be downloaded from the City's website for public art (www.slocity.org). Designs must be submitted on the template provided. Proposals can be submitted electronically to mmudgett@slocity.org with the subject line reading: "Firstname_Lastname_PROPOSAL" or submitted on a USB Flash Drive (mailed or hand delivered) attention to: Parks and Recreation office at 1341 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Applications will be reviewed and designs recommended for selection by an Art Jury and Advisory Bodies. The SLO City Council will approve the final design selection and placement of the box art.



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9. Can design proposals be hand drawn?

Yes, design templates can either be completed digitally or by hand. If templates are completed by hand, they will need to be scanned for the final submission. As all proposals must be submitted electronically (either by email or on a USB Flash Drive).

10. What are the sizes of the utility boxes?

Dimensions of the large utility boxes are generally 5'5" H X 2'9" W x 2' D. Dimensions of the small utility boxes are generally 3' H X 2'2" W x 1'6" D. Art should cover all exposed sides including the top. Utility box size may vary; selected artists must be willing to adjust designs to the box assigned. Email the public art program for exact measurements of a box location. It is recommended that artists should perform a site visit if they are interested in a particular location.

11. When will I know if I've been selected for Box Art?

The tentative schedule for the 2016 Box Art Repainting Project has been adjusted to account for additional public engagement about the Box Art Program. These dates are subject to change but Artists can expect to hear about your proposed selection by late August. The tentative schedule is provided on the City's website for Public Art.

12. If I am selected as a Box Artist, can I pick the box location?

Artists can request a location on the design template. However, placement is not guaranteed. It is the Art Jury's role to provide the first review of the box art designs and make placement recommendations based upon adopted public art guidelines. Box art designs and their locations, as recommended by the Art Selection Jury, will be presented to Advisory Bodies and then the City Council for final approval.

13. What about the vinyl wraps?

Yes. Vinyl wrapping a box is allowed however the artist should be aware that the cost of a vinyl wrap may be a greater expense than paint. The City will reimburse up to \$200 (original receipts are required) for supplies.

14. I'm an artist who has painted a box in the past, how do I get hired again?

All artists must reapply to be considered for the 2016 Box Art Repainting project.



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15. When will the boxes be painted?

To provide for adequate review and community input, the approval process can take up to several months. The actual box art repainting is anticipated in the fall 2016. The tentative schedule of program events is provided below (and may be subject to change).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (updated 6.01.16)

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call For Artists Release | February 1, 2016 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application Deadline | March 18, 2016, 5:00pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation Commission Reviews Policy | May 4, 2016 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application Deadline REOPENS & EXTENDED | July 1, 2016, 5:00pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Council Update of Box Art Policy | July 19, 2016* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of box locations & Community Outreach | July-August 2016* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Jury Review & Selection | August 2016* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artist selection announced | September, 2016* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Body Reviews | September 2016* |
| o (Architectural Review Commission & Cultural Heritage Committee) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Council Review & Approval | October 18, 2016* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finalists Reception and Orientation (week of) | End of October, 2016* |
| o (MANDATORY for all selected "BOX ART" artists only) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installation of Artwork for "BOX ART" Project | November 2016* |

**The proposed timeline may be subject to change*

16. How long do I have to paint a boxes?

The City is providing the selected artists with approximately 2-weeks to complete the box art. Not all artists will need the entire duration of this time period. The art can be completed any time during this 2-week period. Painting will occur during the hours of 8:00am-5:00pm only. The City will provide a permit for each artist based upon their days/times needed during this 2-week period. The painting period is tentatively scheduled for November 2016.

17. I am a student and would like to submit a design, how do I do this?

Follow the instructions and apply. Identify your school affiliation and student ID number on the application.



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18. How can I be a part of the Art Jury?

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on the Art Selection Jury. Contact Public Art Manager, Melissa Mudgett at mmudgett@slocity.org for more information.

19. Do Artists get paid to paint a utility box?

Box Artists (or Art Team) selected for the 2016 Utility Box Repainting project will receive a stipend for their artwork design based on the size of the utility box. Large utility box is \$1,500; small utility box is \$700. In addition, artists may apply for a supply voucher for up to \$200 (original receipts are required). The stipend amount is all-inclusive and must cover every cost incurred by the artist in the course of designing and installing the artwork. The final selected artists will also receive a \$100 honorarium for their conceptual renderings; those works will become property of the City of San Luis Obispo.

20. How is the box art kept looking fresh and protected against graffiti?

Following the application of new public art designs to the 2016 utility boxes, City staff will apply an exterior UV protectant and anti-graffiti clear coat. This exterior coating protects the mural to ensure it will last for the duration of its public art display of approximately five years.

21. What types of paint materials can I use?

Artists must use the following materials:

- a. Paint Types require premium high solids 100% acrylic latex waterborne exterior wall and trim.
- b. Paint; low-sheen, eggshell or satin finish; minimum 1.5 mil dry thickness per coat.
- c. Paint Products (in recommended order):
 1. Nova Color (preferred)
 2. Sherwin Williams: Accolade Exterior Acrylic Latex, Satin
 3. Pratt and Lambert: Accolade Exterior Acrylic Latex, Eggshell
 4. Benjamin Moore: Aura Exterior Acrylic Latex #634 Low Luster
 5. Frazee #126 Mirror Glide Low Sheen Acrylic Latex
 6. Kelly Moore #1245 Acry-Shield Acrylic Latex Low Sheen

22. How can I find out more information?

We are happy to answer any other questions you might have regarding the SLO Box Art Program. Please contact Public Art Program at mmudgett@slocity.org.