



UTILITY BOX ART DESIGN GUIDELINES & TIPS



Guidelines

The Utility Box Art Program is designed to enhance the San Luis Obispo community by adding works of art to the streetscapes on surfaces that are often targeted by graffiti. Artworks on utility boxes function as a form of communication to a moving audience with the goal of creating a safe, inclusive and interesting urban environment.

- Successful proposals will foster community pride and convey the sense of the San Luis Obispo; our culture, history, business, and amazing outdoors and open space.
- When designing your artwork, think of the vitality of Downtown, Historical District or neighborhood and its contribution to the city as a whole, such as arts, music, community events, outdoors, history, culture, and special attractions.
- Do your homework. If interested in a specific box location, do a site visit of the surrounding neighborhood to get a good feel of the architecture, community and history of that neighborhood. For a map of City of SLO Historical District Boundaries click [here](#).
- Use the template provided to propose a design concept. Be aware that some changes to the design may be required to accommodate site requirements. Field visits by the artists are recommended.
- Don't forget to complete the entire box. Designs must include all visible sides of the traffic signal/utility box.
- Remember to keep the design positive. Avoid offensive designs, or designs that contain advertising, religious art, sexual or illegal drug content, negative imagery or convey political partisanship.
- For safety reasons, designs cannot contain any representations of traffic lights, signs or signals or mimic the same colors of a traffic signal or sign.
- Please do not paint over any utility box identification numbers, codes, keyholes, meters or handles.
- Designs may not include any breach of intellectual property, trademarks, brands, images of illegal activity or involve the attachment of any object(s) to the box.
- Just a reminder that the finished artwork(s) will be in the public domain for several years and could be subject to vandalism.
- Selected artists will be subject to signing a public art agreement through the City of San Luis Obispo and be held subject to the those requirements, deadlines and restrictions.
- We love variety! Artists are encouraged to submit multiple designs. Up to three (3) design proposals will be accepted per artist/artist team.