

## **Frequently Asked Questions for Street Painting Program**

- **Where can I place/install a street painting?**
  - Paintings can be located on any local street, cul-de-sac, or alleyway as designated in Salem Transportation System Plan. You can use [this link](#) to see street designations and determine if your location qualifies. If you are unsure whether a location qualifies or would like to discuss potential location, please contact staff.
- **What images can I use?**
  - A street painting can be any image so long as it does not include any of the prohibited elements listed in the next question. They can be as general as geometric shapes/designs or more specific like landscapes or concept art. Because of the nature of the street surface, type of paint, and size of the painting, finer or more intricate details are often difficult to include and can be the first things to get muddled as the painting endures wear and tear from traffic.
- **What images are not allowed?**
  - No words or letters from any language, numbers, recognized signs, symbols, logos or emblems are allowed to be included in a painting's design. Designs cannot contain copyrighted imagery or optical illusions or 3-D designs.
- **Do people vote on the image?**
  - The applicant for a painting is responsible for submitting the proposed art/design with their application to the city. Before submittal, it is recommended (not required) that the proposed design be shared with neighboring property owners. Once an application is submitted to the City, a notification letter with the proposed design will be sent to property owners abutting and adjacent to the proposed location. Those property owners have an opportunity to object to the design and installation of the painting, but it requires more than 40% disapproval to deny the permit.
- **What type of paint do I need?**
  - A paint, preferably latex-based, with a non-slip additive.
- **How much paint should I expect to need?**
  - The amount of paint will depend on the size and complexity of the design, the number of coats of paint, and whether you apply primer (recommended) to the site first. Primer is recommended (but not required) as it will help the paint adhere to the street surface and may reduce the number of coats needed for colored paint. The street surface is slightly porous and absorbs a fair amount of paint. The City of Portland has seen an average use of 25-30 gallons for intersection painting installations and our program has seen similar quantities used. A gallon of paint typically covers 100-200 square feet. Lighter colors often require more coats than other colors to get the best appearance.

- **Where can I get the paint and non-skid additive?**
  - Larger paint retailers and local paint retailers should be able to provide paints that meet the requirements for use on the road.
- **Is the paint safe for vehicles to drive on?**
  - To be approved, the paint will need to meet the Oregon Standard Specifications for Construction 2021 for slip resistance requirements, page 937 ([https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Business/Specs/2021\\_STANDARD\\_SPECIFICATIONS.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Business/Specs/2021_STANDARD_SPECIFICATIONS.pdf)) . Most paint retailers carry paints and non-skid additives that meet the required specifications and should be able to help with questions and provide information.
- **Does the City provide the paint?**
  - No, the City does not provide the paint or the non-skid additive. The City can provide the specifications for the paint and non-skid additive and local retailers should be able to provide it.
- **Can I use any color or are there limits?**
  - Paintings can include any color, there are no limits to the number of colors that can be used. Because the paint is being installed on a street surface and will have vehicle traffic, brighter or bolder colors tend to stand out more and may remain more visible as they get dirty or begin to wear. In previously installed paintings we have typically seen designs that use a limited number of colors.
- **What is the typical budget for a street painting?**
  - A typical painting project ranges from \$500 to \$1200 in hard costs for paint and painting supplies.
- **What does the approval process look like?**
  - The best way to go through the process is to work with the city early and once you believe you are ready to submit your application. That application will include contact info for the applicant who will become the point of contact for the project. It will also include your design, the location and how it will be laid out in the street, and a list of the paint you will be using, the additive you will be using. Once the application is submitted it will be reviewed by staff to assure all aspects meet requirements and specifications. A desired date for installation will be determined with the applicant, and staff will prepare and send a notification letter to all property owners that are adjacent to and abutting the proposed street painting location. The notification letter will include a request for comments in support of or in objection to the painting by a certain date. If at least 60% of neighbors do not object to the painting, then the project will be approved and set for the desired date. The City will create the necessary Street Closure Permit and Traffic Control Plan and provide signs and barricades to the applicant for those closures.

- **How far in advance should I plan to apply?**
  - The simple answer is the earlier the better, but in general street painting permit applications should be submitted at least 30 days before your desired installation date. This will provide adequate time to complete the required steps in advance of on the desired installation date.
- **Do I need permits to close the street?**
  - A Street Closure Permit and Traffic Control Plan are required for all Street Paintings. The City will provide the Permit and a Traffic Control Plan to the applicant ahead of the installation date.
- **How do I close the street? What to use? Where to put it?**
  - Once the application has been approved the City generates a Street Closure Permit and Traffic control plan for the date of installation at the specified location. The Traffic Control Plan will show what barricades and signage are necessary and where it should be located to safely and effectively close the street.
  - 24-48 hours prior to your install/closure date, the applicant will be able to pick up barricades and signs from the City. These items will be adequate to meet the requirements of the Traffic Control Plan. You will generally set the advance signing first before you block off the area to be painted. You will remove the signage and barricades in the reverse order they were installed. After the installation of the painting is complete, all materials will need to be returned to the City within 48 hours.
- **Do I need to do any outreach? Are there any required notifications?**
  - **Before application**
    - Prior to submitting your application, you are not required to do any public outreach. Although, since these paintings are in public spaces and will be seen by your neighbors and community members you may consider working with neighborhood Associations, Homeowners Associations, or other community members, social groups, or friends. That said, it is not a requirement to do outreach beforehand.
  - **After application**
    - Before an application can be approved property owners abutting and adjacent to the proposed location will be notified and can object to the installation of the street painting. If more than forty percent (40%) of those notified property owners object, then the application will be denied for that location. Because of this it may be a good idea to work with those people on the design or otherwise know ahead of time that it is a design they like and would approve though that is not a requirement.
- **How long does it take to install/complete a painting?**
  - We have generally seen groups request to close a street from a Friday afternoon or evening through Sunday afternoon or evening. This way the street surface can be blown or swept clean and have a layer of primer applied Friday evening, if desired. The bulk of

the painting then takes most of the day Saturday and finishing touches and/or a block party can be done on Sunday before the street re-opens.

- **How many people do I need to do the painting?**
  - This depends on the size/scale and complexity of the design and how much community involvement is desired. Street paintings can include as many people as the applicant would like to help install the painting. Please keep in mind that it may take several volunteers to help coordinate large groups. If children are assisting, it may be best to give them big areas of single color to help paint or jobs like clearing brushes and rollers. Feedback received from other groups compared street paintings to managing a very large groups of school children. Just be sure there are enough people to complete the painting in at least 48 hours from start to finish.
- **How do I clean the street before painting it? Can I power wash the street the day before?**
  - The street can be hand swept or cleared with a leaf blower prior to painting. With advanced notice, it may be possible for a street sweeper to come through the week of the proposed painting installation. Power or pressure washing the street is not allowed due to the amount of material that would be caused to enter the stormwater system.
- **What if it rains on the day I planned to paint?**
  - If there is inclement weather that would prevent the project from happening on the planned dates, it can be rescheduled. City staff can adjust the dates on the Street Closure Permit, as needed. The applicant will need to coordinate with the City, neighbors, and volunteers on any changes to the painting date and/or associated block party (if applicable).
- **Can a painting be denied?**
  - Yes, if more than forty percent (40%) of the abutting and adjacent property owners that are required to be notified object to the installation of the painting then the permit application will be denied. If this occurs, you could go through the process again for a new proposed location or design.
- **How do I decide when to do the painting?**
  - Ideally, warm dry weather will be needed for a day or two before and during the installation of the paint. This will give it the best opportunity to adhere and dry between coats. For our area, late spring through the end of summer provide the best opportunities for installation. Think late May or early June through the end of August or early September.
- **How long does the paint typically last once applied to the street?**
  - The anticipated lifespan of these paintings is about 3 years, but this will vary based on the location they are installed, and the amount of traffic and the amount of paint used (coats of paint).
- **Who is responsible for maintaining the paintings?**
  - There is no required maintenance of a street painting once it is installed. Eventually, the painting will begin to deteriorate from vehicle wear and tear. If the original applicant or

another party would like to refresh a given painting at any point in the future, it could be done by going back through the original application process. Since we are in the early stages of this program the City has yet to determine if a new round of notifications would be required for refreshing an existing painting, but it would be required for a new design.

- **Can businesses or organizations sponsor painting?**
  - Yes, a business or organization or anyone else can sponsor or financially aid a painting but the same rules still apply, it cannot include advertising, logos, etc. Any organization or business can provide funding and support for a painting if they so choose.
- **Can I host a block Party in conjunction with the painting?**
  - Yes! Block Parties can be a great way to bring the community together and reveal the finished painting to the community. There are some considerations for holding a block party for a painting which are outlined below.
    - **If you wish to hold a block party during the same closure as the painting, please consider the following.**
      - The street closure for the painting can be used as the street closure for a block party. No vendors would be allowed in the street without additional permitting, insurance, etc. though you would be allowed to provide food or snacks but not for profit.
    - **If you would like to host a block party at a later date, after the painting has been completed, please consider the following.**
      - To host a block party at a later date you will need to apply for a Community Event Permit to be able to close the street for the event. Again, no vendors would be allowed but food can be provided to attendees if it is not for sale.
    - **Use of Amplified Sound for a Block Party**
      - The City cannot issue permits for the use of amplified sound in residential areas per Salem Revised Code Chapter 51. If your event is not in a residential area, you may be able to have amplified permitted, though in most cases based on the required street classifications this will not be likely. Music can still be played if it conforms with code and does not generate complaints. If you have questions, you are welcome to contact City staff for more information.
- **Do paintings have any calming or slowing effect on traffic?**
  - No, street paintings are not intended to calm traffic, some drivers may occasionally slow to view or observe a painting but there is no discernable calming effect on traffic.
- **What are community benefits of street murals/street paintings?**
  - Street paintings add color and a brightness to the communities they are installed in and they commonly bring their local community together from their beginnings as an idea to

their completed installation. The sponsor or permit application for a painting often brings design ideas to neighborhood association meetings for community feedback on selecting a design and they often work with neighbors of the intended location to approve the design to be sure it's well received. When the time comes to install the painting, it is often done with the assistance of numerous volunteers as a sort of community work party and often wraps up with a community block party.