



LEARN mural by Oklahoma artist Nick Bayer of Createco Studio for the new stage at McKinley Park. The project was funded through the City's Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) and the 1% for Art ordinance.

WHAT IS A MURAL?

Oklahoma City Municipal Code defines a mural as a work of art applied, painted, implanted or placed directly onto the exterior of any wall of a building. This includes private property.

If the proposed art includes words, logos, emblems or trademarks identifying any product, service or business, the artwork is considered a sign (not a mural) and regulated under sign code. Murals may contain a sponsor's name in the art marker area, which cannot exceed 10% of the total mural size or 2.5% of the surface area of the wall.

Any structure built for the support, shelter, or enclosure of people, animals, or movable property of any kind (like a retaining wall or fence) is considered a building. Murals can be painted directly, or applied to another surface and affixed, and can include a variety of materials like ceramics, paper, vinyl, etc.

Artistic graphics are defined as works of art that have historical, architectural or cultural significance for the State of Oklahoma, the City or a specific area or neighborhood. Examples include murals, attached paintings, mosaics, bas reliefs, wall paintings and frescoes.

Beyond their artistic and cultural value, murals also deter trespassing, vandalism, graffiti and other damaging misbehavior on the property and nearby.

WHAT IS THE OKLAHOMA CITY ARTS COMMISSION'S ROLE?

The Arts Commission advises the City of Oklahoma City on art and culture to ensure we preserve and enrich our aesthetic identity. It encourages exterior murals that are original works of art fostering positive community identity and appearance.

Murals should advance streetscape aesthetics and architectural features or character, helping to create a unique identity, sense of place and civic pride. They should encourage community interaction, and the preservation of local history and culture.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR REVIEW AND PERMITTING A MURAL?

It depends on the length of time for the mural to be displayed:

- **Temporary, Event-Related Murals** are limited to previously painted surfaces, and are intended to be painted and displayed for up to 6 weeks. Properties on the National Register for Historic Places or designated as a Historic Landmark are not eligible for these.
- **Short-Term Murals** are intended to be displayed for more than 6 weeks, but less than 2 years.
- **Permanent Murals** are intended to be displayed for more than 2 years.

To temporarily permit a mural while waiting for permanent status:

1. Apply via the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs for [Arts Commission review](#) and include a [Visual Arts Rights Act waiver](#).
2. Include a completed [Special Event Permit Application](#) for “Live Entertainment.” Staff will review the application, including compliance with Arts Commission standards, before forwarding to the Special Events Office. The fee for a special event permit is \$25, and can be paid online when the applicant is notified. Event permits can often be issued within 48 hours.
3. If you intend to display a Temporary, Event-Related Mural longer than 6 weeks, you must apply for a Short-Term or Permanent mural permit at the same time as applying for a Temporary, Event-Related Mural. The term of the Event’ Related Mural may be adjusted for established review and permitting delays. Mural displays longer than 6 weeks are not guaranteed and are subject to code review and permitting.

For a more permanent mural (not in a [Design Review area](#)):

1. Apply via the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs for [Arts Commission review](#) and include a [Visual Arts Rights Act waiver](#). No fee.
2. [Apply](#) via Development Services and pay fees for a permit (based on size of mural). Under applicant remarks add: Mural.

For a more permanent mural in a [Design Review area](#):

1. Apply via the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs for [Arts Commission review](#) and include a [Visual Arts Rights Act waiver](#). No fee.
2. Confirm which design review district you’re in [here](#).
2. Apply and pay fees for a Certificate of Approval (CA), and make payment (Administrative Review fee). Note that CA’s are valid for 2 years, then a formal inspection is performed. This gives you 2 years to complete the mural. If the mural is completed before then, you may request an early inspection.
3. [Apply](#) to Development Services and pay fees for a permit (based on the size of the mural). Under applicant remarks add: Mural.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH MURALS REVIEW AND PERMITTING?

There is no cost for Arts Commission review.

If the mural is located in a [Design Review district](#), there’s a \$100 fee (scheduled to increase on July 1, 2020 to \$200 if approved by City Council).

Mural permit fees by display surface size:

- less than 100 square feet: \$33
- 101 to 200 square feet: \$42
- 201 to 500 square feet: \$86
- more than 500 square feet: \$112

ARE THERE DESIGN STANDARDS USED FOR REVIEW?

The Arts Commission uses these design standards:

- A Mural shall be an original work of art.
- Murals shall be designed and constructed under the supervision of a qualified artist/muralist or ~~other~~ qualified professional who has sufficient knowledge and experience in the design and execution of such projects, as well as sufficient knowledge and experience with the application of the selected medium.
- Murals shall exhibit excellence in design, composition, material, and application while incorporating high-quality materials that will enhance the overall development and appearance of the site.
- Mural materials shall be securely attached to the building or structure to which it is applied. Engineering review may be required for certain attachments.
- Mural materials shall be durable and weather resistant to prevent premature deterioration or other unintended change in appearance.
- Mural materials shall be appropriate for outdoor location and climate, with special considerations for longevity and shall be graffiti-resistance, when reasonable possible.
- Mural materials used may be, but are not limited to, paint and other artistic mediums such as tile or mosaic.
- Murals may contain or encompass a sign or art marker; however, the sign or art marker must be less than 10% of the total mural area, or not more than two and one-half percent of the surface area of the wall onto which it is painted or applied, whichever is less.
- Murals may contain some, all or none of the following: electrical components, three dimensional structures, lighting, moving elements and/or images, and any method that causes periodic changes in appearance.
- Murals requiring review and permits shall be located in a manner that is visually and physically accessible to the public.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER MURAL GUIDELINES I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

- Murals shall not constitute or create a traffic hazard for passing motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians.
- Murals shall not obscure or detract from the significant architectural features of the said structure or have an adverse effect on adjacent properties or facing properties.
- Murals shall not compromise the proper function of any building or use or diminish public safety.
- Murals shall not incorporate recognized signs of hatred or discrimination against any race, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, marital status, familial status, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.
- Murals shall not incorporate depictions of illegal activities.
- Murals shall not be obscene or harmful to minors as defined by local law.
- Murals shall not consist of any reproduction, copy or mass-produced work of visual art of any type.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO AHEAD AND PAINT A MURAL WITHOUT A PERMIT?

Murals without permits are considered graffiti, according to § 35-144 of Chapter 35 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code. It states, “Graffiti means, without limitation, any letter, word, name, number, symbol, slogan, message, drawing, picture, writing, or other mark of any kind visible to the public that is drawn, painted, chiseled, scratched or etched on a rock, tree, wall, bridge, fence, gate, building or other structure” unless it is legally permitted as a mural or a sign.

Without a permit for a mural, you may be cited for a class “b” offense under City code. Each act of applying graffiti is a separate offense. Violations are subject to a punishment of up to six months in jail and a fine of \$750, plus court costs.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Robbie Kienzle, Arts Liaison and Program Planner, Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Oklahoma City Planning 405/297-1740 or send email to: robbiel.kienzle@okc.gov.

Randy Marks, Public Art Project Manager and Associate Planner, Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Oklahoma City Planning 405/297-1274 or send email to randy.marks@okc.gov.

