



[Events](#) [What We Do](#) [Who We Are](#) [Get Involved](#) [FAQs](#)

ABOUT INTERSECTION PAINTINGS

DO INTERSECTION PAINTINGS/ STREET MURALS CALM TRAFFIC?

No. Our street murals are explicitly not traffic calming devices. Having said that, we have witnessed innumerable examples of how they serve as a very powerful community building strategy offering so many emergent benefits. Often, people initiate a project to slow down traffic but stay committed to the project because of all the wonderful things we see happening as a result of intersection paintings.

HOW ARE THE PAINTINGS MAINTAINED?

By the communities themselves. We do not initiate any of the projects but rather facilitate the successful collaborative visioning, planning and implementation of projects brought forth by community members. Paintings are semi-permanent and need to be repainted every 1-3 years.

WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH IS INVOLVED?

Informally, we encourage you to start talking/potlucking with your neighbors as soon as possible. Tell them you are thinking of initiating a project and invite their ideas and feedback. In general, we have seen that the more participation you are able to elicit, the greater the success and longevity of the project.

More formally, after your design has been approved by Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), they issue a petition that lists all the folks that you need to

get signatures from. Usually you need 100% consent from residents in the properties adjacent to the painting and 80% consent from a two-block radius.

HAS PAINTING THE STREETS BROUGHT COMMUNITIES TOGETHER IN A POSITIVE WAY?

We have consistently heard that it does and many of our core staff have personal experiences with this being the case. [Please see the research.](#)

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY CHALLENGES?

Sometimes fundraising and volunteer recruitment can be challenging for some sites. Sometimes neighbors are not supportive and may even complain. And sometimes people leave skid marks on the paintings soon after they are painted. Out of 56 paintings, we've had a handful die out as the community is unable to sustain enthusiasm and capacity to repaint regularly. These are a few examples of the challenges in planning, implementing and sustaining a project. But by far, the majority (approximately 50) get re-painted.

WHAT'S A TYPICAL BUDGET FOR A STREET PAINTING?

Typically, projects range between \$500-\$1200 in hard costs for paint, painting supplies and food.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PAINT?

Typically, an hour to clean/pressure wash the streets. Another hour or so to dry. An hour or two to chalk out the design and then 2-5 hours to paint depending on the complexity and size of the painting.

SHOULD WE ENLIST AN ARTIST TO SKETCH THE DESIGN AND TRANSFER IT ONTO THE PAVEMENT IN CHALK, THEN VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP FILL IT IN WITH PAINT?

Typically, an artist from the community volunteers to elicit and then interpret community feedback into a coherent design that successfully depicts the community's shared sense of place. If no such artist comes forward voluntarily, a stipend/honorarium will surely encourage one to step forward. The most important quality of the artist, however, is that they are collaborative and are able to facilitate the community's vision, rather than propose their own vision/ design.

CAN WE GET YOUR HELP TAKING OUR CONCEPT FOR AN INTERSECTION DESIGN INTO SOMETHING THAT WILL WORK AS A ACTUAL STREET MURAL?

Yes, City Repair provides technical support for conceptualizing the intersection design. Please refer to our technical assistance section at the bottom of this page.

IS THERE A MAP OF ALL THE CITY REPAIR INSPIRED WORK AROUND THE WORLD?

Yes! Please take a look [here](#).

PAINT LOGISTICS

WHAT IS THE LIFESPAN OF THE PAINTINGS?

1-3 years.

WHAT KINDS OF PAINT DO YOU USE?

1. Latex Cabot Solid Deck Stain
2. Water-based Zone Marking Paint
3. Duckback Walnut-based friction additive. 1 packet per gallon of paint.

WHERE DO YOU GET PAINT AND SUPPLIES, AND HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

We purchase paint from Miller Paint. For the year 2016-2017, the Zone Marking Paint costs \$16 and the Cabot Solid Deck Stain paint costs \$16. The price increases by a bit every year.

WHAT KIND OF PRIMER DO YOU USE?

Zone marking is it's own primer. One can put a layer of white paint down and then paint on top of that layer with colors. You just have to ensure that both the white and the color layers are the same kind of paint because Zone marking and Cabot deck stain paint don't mix well. The former is oil based and the latter is latex.

WHAT IS THE THE PURPOSE OF THE WALNUT SHELL ADDITIVE?

One packet of walnut shell anti-skid additive is required for each gallon of paint. You need walnut shell additive for both types of paint, both Zone marking and Cabot Deck Stain to ensure that the painting is not slippery.

CAN YOU MIX CABOT DECK STAIN WITH THE ZONE MARKING PAINT?

Nope, you cannot mix them to blend colors, or layer them on top of each other. You can use them side by side though.

DO BOTH KINDS OF PAINT NEED THE DUCKBACK WALNUT-BASED FRICTION ADDITIVE?

Yes.

WHEN IS IT BETTER TO USE THE SOLID DECK STAIN VS. THE ZONE-MARKING PAINT?

If you have a bigger budget and want a greater variety of colors.

IS ANY KIND OF SEALANT USED WHEN THE PAINTING IS DONE AND DRY?

No, there is no kind of sealant.

DO YOU USE A PRIMER?

Zone marking paint is its own primer. Also, we've had some community members have success with painting a layer of white first and then painting the design on top of the base layer of white paint. It is important to use the same kind of paint as the base layer.

HOW MUCH PAINT DO FOLKS TYPICALLY USE?

The amount of paint you need depends entirely on your design. Average intersections require 25-30 gallons of paint. We tell folks that usually a gallon of paint covers 100-200 sq. ft. The reason for the vast difference is how thick it is applied. Light colors like white and yellow might require multiple coats for desired coverage so one gallon will only cover 100 sq. ft. More textured roads require more paint. Dark colors don't need as much paint for good coverage.

WHAT KIND OF BRUSHES OR ROLLERS SHOULD BE USED?

Various sizes so that there's some for broader sweeps for background colors, thinner ones for outlining and details. Rollers are great for making it alter-able and intergenerationally accessible so that folks in wheelchairs and elders are able to participate.

VOLUNTEERS

ARE CONSENT FORMS NEEDED FOR ANY VOLUNTEERS WHO SHOW UP ON PAINTING DAY?

Yes, volunteers are required to sign a consent form. Lead placemakers are responsible for distributing the forms to volunteers on each day that the site is active. These forms cover our volunteers with City Repair's insurance.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CAN WE GET YOUR HELP IN BRINGING THIS TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Yes, City Repair provides technical support. Please contact us at info@cityrepair.org for more details.

PORTLAND AND CLOSE BY

City Repair will be taking applications for our Village Building Convergence (VBC) 2018 starting early Sept 2017. [Please review last year's applications](#) until we launch!

OUT OF STATE/ NON-VBC PROJECTS

If you are unable to fit within our ongoing placemaking program through the Village Building Convergence, then please [consult this page](#) for our customized services.



SIGN UP FOR OUR
NEWSLETTER

BUY THE PLACEMAKING
GUIDEBOOK

DONATE TO CITY REPAIR

[INFO@CITYREPAIR.ORG](mailto:info@cityrepair.org)

503.583.8532

