

## Mural Application Process

The City supports mural projects initiated by artists, community groups, businesses, and building owners. Projects are considered temporary and applicants are required to maintain the mural for a minimum of two years.

### Goals

- enable and support artistic expression in public space
- encourage opportunities for diversity and cultural representation ([see Culture Shift](#))
- support emerging artists to create murals in local neighbourhoods

### Services Offered

- wall priming
- paint and supplies (brushes, trays, rollers, etc.)
- protective anti-graffiti coating service
- mural permits

### Additional Support

We will be offering more support to artists or organizations that identify as part of an equity seeking group or underserved community. Discuss this with our team during the intake process.

### Eligibility Requirements

The project must:

- have an artistically-driven intention
- have signed property owner permission
- be fully visible from public space

## Ineligible Projects

- content that is offensive or hateful
- murals that convey direct political messaging, irrespective of the cause or ideology involved
- structures such as bridges, overpasses and city-owned retaining walls
- copyrighted or pre-existing artwork
- designs that could confuse drivers
- large areas of negative space

## Approvals by Other Departments

Some projects may require approvals from other City departments:

If you want to paint signage or advertising elements for a business please contact: [signs@vancouver.ca](mailto:signs@vancouver.ca)

If you want to paint a mural in a park or on Vancouver Park Board property, please contact: [artsinfo@vancouver.ca](mailto:artsinfo@vancouver.ca)

For a mural on hoarding please contact: [Engineering.ClientServices@vancouver.ca](mailto:Engineering.ClientServices@vancouver.ca)

## Complex Projects:

- heritage sites - [heritage sites](#) may be protected and require the applicant to proceed through Development Services. Please check the [Heritage Register](#)
- historic areas - Gastown or Chinatown may require review by a Historic Area Planning Committee ([CHAPC](#), [GHAPC](#))

- cultural heritage – be mindful that the location may be of significance to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh) Nations; in this case further staff review may be required; collaborations between local Nations and Urban Indigenous artists are encouraged
- public property - City-owned buildings are ineligible unless led by tenants and must undergo review by the City's Property Management team
- artwork that memorializes or commemorates individuals or historical events in temporary mediums is sensitive and subject to additional considerations and staff review, and longer timelines

## How to Apply

Applicants must first email staff to determine eligibility: [murals@vancouver.ca](mailto:murals@vancouver.ca)

The following will be required:

- signed [Mural Support Contract](#)
- [recent wall photos](#) - Google Street View images not accepted
- [wall dimensions on photo](#)
- [rendering](#) - draft artwork superimposed on photo of the wall
- total square footage of project
- artist contact information

## Neighbour Notification:

Ensure all who may be impacted by the mural, such as neighbouring residents and businesses, are aware of your mural plans. Notifying neighbours can be done in person and supplemented with written information outlining the intention of the mural project.

## Site Considerations

Applicants are responsible for:

- obtaining sidewalk, street or lane closure permits; arranging lifts or scaffolding, and applying for associated permits to Street Use: [StreetUseReview@vancouver.ca](mailto:StreetUseReview@vancouver.ca)
- securing access to adjacent private property when doing work if needed
- ensuring safe working conditions, such as wearing masks, considering electrical wires, dumpsters, and other obstructions.

## Application Timeline

Depending on the specifics of the project, painting begins approximately six to eight weeks after application approval.

The application window closes on September 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

## Health and Safety

The applicant is responsible to ensure that safety considerations for artists are met, as outlined in the Mural Support Contract, and include:

- obtaining the proper certification for use of lift equipment and scaffolding
- if using a ladder ensure it is supported and work in pairs
- wearing a reflective vest and a respirator if using aerosols
- do not work alone and create a safety plan that considers the safety of the artist, painting site, and surrounding area

*General liability insurance is recommended but not required.*