

Artists Rules and Instructions

Please read the rules and instructions and make sure you are very familiar with them before starting work on your box. NOTE: The surfaces of the box will need to be properly prepared by the Individual artist.

Artists are responsible for implementing proposal on their selected box.

Specifications

1. Artists should be from the approximate area.
2. Artists need to submit renderings based on dimensions of the enclosed template and should include all sides. Note, actual boxes may be a different size or shape. Please draw your own template to match shape of your box as closely as possible. Artist signature must not exceed 3"x5" in actual size.
3. Artwork in draft must closely resemble the art that will be installed on the box.
4. All submitted proposals will become city property. There is no guarantee of how long the artwork may remain on box due to maintenance or replacement.
5. Applicants should become familiar and know measurements of their proposed box and the location around it in order to contextualize their proposal.
6. Judging will remain anonymous.
7. Selected artists will be notified by email. A check will be mailed to you after the city has approved your design.

Eligible Proposals

The artistic theme of these selected utility boxes will be the River. The boxes should become high quality artwork that will enliven the community. Proposals should be positive, original, and reflect that theme.

Proposals will be ineligible if they involve:

- A breach of intellectual property rights (all artwork must be original)
- Trademarks, brands, business names, logos, or copyrighted images.
- Anything harmful to a third party
- Majority of proposal consisting of dark paints (dark paints can overheat a box)

Artists can choose to paint their box, or use a vinyl wrap installed by a professional vendor. Each method's instructions are below:

Vinyl Wrap

Artists need to make sure they measure all sides of box, and note any labels, handles, indents, or attachments. Digital renderings of your work must be full size 100 dpi or half size 200 dpi.

Below are qualified vendors working on this project:

Resolution Graphics, Inc.

Paul Miller

3770 Dunlap Street N | Arden Hills, MN 55112

Office 651-697-1100 Paul.Miller@resolutiongraphics.com

Minuteman Press Printing

Melody Fox

631 Hayward Ave N, Oakdale, MN 55128

orders@oakdalemmp.com

Painting

1. The artwork must resemble the art that will be painted on the box.
2. Because the size of the boxes may vary, be prepared to measure and adjust your artwork to fit the size of the box.
3. Painting may begin any time after the proposal has been approved, but must be completed by within four weeks.
4. The property owner and its contractors must have access to the components in the box at all times.
5. During installation, artists may want to block off the box to keep the public from Disturbing wet paint.
6. When washing or painting the box, it should be done in a manner so that no moisture gets inside the box through any vents. There is sensitive electronic equipment inside the boxes.
7. The vents should not be covered as not to restrict airflow from the cabinet.
8. Door hinges should not be painted so as to not lock the door in place.
9. Artwork must not consist primarily of dark colors due to the potential overheating of the box.
10. The levers, hinges, keyholes, and meter readers on the box should not have any coating over them.

Instructions for selected Artists

Once your artwork is selected, we will send you notification by email, along with a check in the mail.

Prepping Utility Box:

Follow these steps to prep your utility box.

1. Clean the surface of the box with biodegradable cleaner.
2. Rinse and allow surface to dry completely.
3. Sand the cabinet with a fine grade sandpaper until the surface feels rough. Be sure to wipe surfaces with a damp cloth to remove all dust/grit after sanding. It is recommended that the box be sanded prior to painting.
4. Apply one coat of metal primer on box.
5. After primer coat is completely dry, a colored base coat should be applied

(Painting supplies based on similar project in different cities. Materials may vary by artists)

Use only Acrylic Paint: Golden or Liquitex high-viscosity paint, lightfastness 1.

Below is a comprehensive checklist of recommended supplies for the best painting outcome and your personal comfort. This may not be a complete list as all artists work differently and will require different supplies:

- Approved Utility Box Art signage to identify the artist while working
- Paint Stool or chair for comfort
- Buckets to hold water for paint brushes
- Paint brushes
- Painters tape, masking tape
- Cloth or plastic sheeting for protecting surrounding area
- Biodegradable cleaner
- Rags and/or paper towels

Please be **ADVISED:**

- Do not paint over any identification numbers/codes. If any, paint around them.
- Do not paint over keyholes or paint keyhole covers so that they cannot be opened.
- Do not obstruct vents.
- Do not use primer as your base coat on the utility box.

Preserving your work:

Allow paint to dry completely. It is recommended that acrylic paint have 24-48 hours cure time before varnishing. Use a cloth to wipe down the box before applying the clear coat to preserve your artwork. Follow the directions of the coating. Recommended: Apply two coats of Liquitex Gloss Varnish, each coat in the opposite direction, with adequate dry time in between. This is a permanent coat and will protect the paint from the environment, block UV, and will not amber. Let dry for a minimum of 5 hours. Apply a second coat. Allow to dry for a minimum of 5 hours. Apply a coat on top of this Liquitex Soluvar. This is not a permanent varnish, but is weather and UV resistant. This will enable better graffiti clean off if needed. The bottom permanent coat will protect paint from cleaning.