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Background:

The Utility Box Art Program is a public art program designed to transform existing traffic control utility boxes into distinctive works of art. This project seeks to enhance the cultural environment, visual landscape, quality of life for visitors and Lompoc neighborhoods and implements goals/policies contained in the Urban Design Element of the 2030 General Plan and the Streetscape Multimodal Improvement Plan. Upon adoption, this program is under the direction of the Beautification and Appearance Commission while supervised and facilitated by City Staff. The program celebrates local artists and their artwork and involves the City and County residents in contributing to the beautification of the City promoting a sense of community pride and identity.

Overview:

In multiple phases of execution, the City of Lompoc will select Artwork and install the design on existing utility boxes throughout the City (focusing on Ocean Avenue and H Street).

The original artwork will be designed/created in any two-dimensional medium and would be printed on and installed in vinyl (wrap) or similar material.

Artist Guidelines and Requirements

Eligibility

- The program is open to individual artists, artist teams or art organizations who live, work, or operate in the County of Santa Barbara prioritizing Lompoc residents.
- Entries must be the original design and artwork of the applicant and must comply with all requirements of this Program, and must be able to be converted to a vinyl wrap.



A completed vinyl wrap located on the 100 block of West Ocean Avenue.

- 3. To remain eligible, the artist team must retain the same members as stated in its original application.
- 4. All utility box art must be reviewed and approved by the Beautification and Appearance Commission.

Budget

1. The art budget for projects may range from \$750 to \$1,500 per box (estimate for a wrap as of 2023).



2. Each budget will be all inclusive and must cover all expenses associated with the concept, implementation, and post-implementation of the Utility Box Art Program. A "Commission" to artists is not part of the program or budget.



- 3. The budget must include:
 - a. Design development, production, and execution as well as any presentations, approvals, or City Permits.
 - b. The program is funded by a combination of sponsorships through fund raising and budget allocations from the Beautification & Appearance Commission.

City Responsibilities

- 1. The City of Lompoc will provide artists with general specifications of existing utility boxes in the City. The City may install the selected designs as vinyl wrap on each box.
- 2. The City will coordinate the cleaning and priming of the utility boxes prior to the first day of wrapping.



- 3. The City owns all installed artwork and preserves the right to copy, reproduce, and adjust the artwork as it sees fit.
- 4. The City shall maintain installed artwork for a minimum of 3 years or until such time that the utility box is removed, or the City deems it necessary to remove or replace the artwork.

Artist Responsibilities

- 1. It is the responsibility of the artist to submit a complete application, by the due date listed on the application.
- 2. In the event that the Artist is selected to create artwork for a location with more than one box, it is the Artist's responsibility to create additional artwork to complement the original design.
- 3. The artist is not responsible for the costs associated with the installation, repair, replacement, or removal of display.
- 4. All finished artwork will be in the public domain for several years and could be subject to vandalism.
- 5. The City of Lompoc must obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans prior to starting work on utility box art projects located in the Caltrans right-of-way.
- 6. Wrapping may occur from 7am to 7pm maintaining required sidewalk clearance at all times.

Description and Location of Utility Boxes

- 1. The dimensions of the boxes vary at each location.
- 2. The specific sites and information about the boxes on each site can be found on file with the Planning Division and Urban Forestry Division.



3. Specific artwork may be designated to a particular utility box. If a specific box is requested by an artist, the Beautification and Appearance Commission cannot guarantee that the requested location for display of the artwork will be granted.

General Guidelines

- 1. Art should be visible from a distance.
- Art cannot restrict any vents or airflow through the box(es).
- 3. The décor may not puncture, etch, bend, or otherwise alter the dimension and integrity of the utility box cabinet.
- 4. Any nameplates, keyholes, ID numbers, and windows will be cut out and left uncovered.
- 5. Installation will begin only after design approval and completion of all required liability and contract forms.
- 6. Artwork is a long-term installation and becomes property of the City of Lompoc.
- 7. Artists must submit their artwork within a stipulated time frame. On acceptance, a time frame will be established.

Artwork Themes

- 1. All artwork must be original, created by the applying artist(s) for this project.
- 2. Creativity and innovation of design is encouraged but not required to:
 - a. Art with ties to the community's social, cultural, and/or historical identity.
 - b. Reflect the specific neighborhood or area of the box location.
- 3. Artwork must **not** contain:
 - a. Religious references, symbols, or numbers;
 - b. Copyrighted or trademarked material;
 - c. Corporate or organizational branding;
 - d. Advertisement for financial benefit or commercial purpose;



- e. Resemble a traffic control devise or regulatory sign;
- f. Contain reflective material, mirrors, or cause a glare;
- g. Campaign for or against specific legislation or the election or recall of a public official.
- h. Depict or describe violence, nudity, illegal drugs (including, but not limited to, substances illegal under federal law), deviant behavior, or an illegal activity:
- i. Portray acts or language that is obscene, vulgar, profane, or scatological;
- j. Denigrate a specific group based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, gender, or sexual orientation;
- k. Denigrate military, law enforcement, fire rescue and support, government services, or public officials;
- I. Denigrate animals or any living creature protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Application Requirements

- 1. A complete application form for a proposed design will include:
 - a. A detailed description outlining the design. Indicate if your theme has specific relevance to the City of Lompoc's history, culture, heritage, or geography, or to a specific location.
 - b. A particular box location may be requested, however there is no guarantee any artist will be assigned their requested location.
 - c. Create full color, detailed concept drawings.
 - d. Provide a resume.
 - e. Use the template provided or create and use a similar splayed view template. Show each side and top of the largest box. Boxes vary in size and shape, so be prepared to accommodate your design specs of your assigned box.
 - f. There is no limit on how many designs an artist may submit, however each design MUST be accompanied by its own application filled out in full with all required information and images.



g. Any incomplete applications may be subject to dismissal from the process.

2. Statement of Interest:

- a. 1-page maximum demonstrating interest in creating art for utility boxes.
- Artist teams or art organizations must identify one artist to be the primary contact.
- c. Artists, artist teams, or arts organizations must submit an application containing all artist's names on the team and signed by each individual artist.
- 3. Designs are accepted ONLY in the following format:
 - a. PDF files of full color scanned or computer-generated art created using the template provided as a guide.

Submission of Entry to the Beautification & Appearance Commission

- 1. Complete and digitally sign the Artist Application Form.
- 2. Complete a detailed description of the design.
- 3. Attach samples of past work, 3-5 images of at least 3 artwork samples.

Selection Process

- All applications will be prescreened by the Beautification and Appearance Commission to assure completion of application, adherence to guidelines, appropriateness of subject matter, and quality of submission before being presented to the selection committee.
- 2. A selection committee will review all applications received and select designated artists, artist teams, or art organizations.



- 3. Separate selection panels will convene for such projects in order to review Utility Box Art Proposals through the interview process.
- 4. All selection panels will be comprised of members selected by the Beautification and Appearance Commission.

Criteria

- 1. Artist teams or art organizations must demonstrate the following:
 - a. Willingness to create a consistent artistic vision for the community.
 - b. Artist teams who apply must demonstrate the qualifications to work together on projects.
- 2. Artists may need to attend multiple meetings with City agencies, elected officials, the public and others as required.
- 3. All projects must comply with the approval process.



Caltrans Requirements

The Utility Boxes located on H Street (Hwy 1) and Ocean Avenue (Hwy 246) are Caltransowned boxes and subject to an additional layer of requirements.

To have your proposed art available for consideration on a Caltrans Utility Box, please be sure to follow the requirements on this page in addition to the specifications outlined in the rest of this document.

Caltrans Waiver

In addition to an artist contract with the City, Caltrans box artists will need to sign the "Caltrans Assignment and Transfer of Copyright and Waiver of Moral Rights in Artwork" which states the following:

"Artist hereby agrees that all copyright interests, title, and ownership in the Artwork shall be owned by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Artist acknowledges that by signing, executing and notarizing Caltrans Assignment and Transfer of Copyright and Waiver of Moral Rights in Artwork agreement, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made part of this Agreement and attached as Exhibit ____, Artist has conveyed, transferred, and irrevocably assigns to Caltrans, the Artists' entire and exclusive copyright interests under federal and state copyright laws."

Disclaimer Statement

The artist must place a disclaimer statement in a conspicuous manner on or in close proximity to the artwork which will not be considered to be "text." The disclaimer statement must state that the contents of the artwork solely reflect the views or policies of Caltrans or the Federal Highway Administration. City staff will help with this disclosure.

Caltrans Box Art MUST NOT:

- 1. Display text (except for artist signature and sponsor acknowledgement).
- 2. Simulate color combinations of colors usually reserved for official traffic control devices.
- 3. Create a distraction to transportation system users.
- 4. Include distracting illumination.
- 5. Include reflective or glaring surface finishes.
- 6. Imitate, obscure, or interfere with traffic control devices.



- 7. Include moving elements (kinetic art) or simulate movement.
- 8. Display symbols such as flags, logos, or commercial symbols.

Caltrans Box Art MUST:

- 1. Include graphics or sculptural artwork that expresses unique attributes of an area's history, resources, or character.
- 2. Be appropriate to its proposed setting and be in proper scale with its surroundings.
- 3. Be located where maintenance can be safely performed as specified in the encroachment permit, the maintenance agreement, and in conformance with Caltrans' procedures.
- 4. Be composed of materials that are durable for the projected lifespan.
- 5. Be designed to minimize ongoing maintenance needs. Approved Caltrans protective graffiti coatings may be required if appropriate.

Caltrans Review

All art assigned to a Caltrans box will be reviewed and approved by Caltrans to ensure compliance with their Transportation Art Guidelines.

Beautification and Appearance Commission Contact:

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City Staff Contacts:

Brian Halvorson, AICP, Planning Manager (805) 875-8228

Sean O'Neil, Urban Forestry Supervisor, (805) 875-8034