



Draft Utility Box Art Program



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

Background:

The Utility Box Art Program is a program designed to transform existing traffic control 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. 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 Beautification & Appearance Commission 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

1. The program is open to individual artists, artist teams or art organizations who live, work, or operate in Lompoc and surrounding areas.
2. 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.
3. To remain eligible, the artist team must retain the same members as stated in its original art proposal.
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. 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 own all installed artwork and reserves the right to copy, reproduce, and adjust the artwork as it sees fit, as provided in an Artist License Agreement to be signed by the artist pursuant to the Artist Responsibilities below.

3. The City shall maintain installed artwork for a minimum of 3 years or until such time that the utility box is removed, the City deems it necessary to remove or replace the artwork, or at the request of the utility box owner.
4. City shall provide the required notices, if any, and otherwise comply with Civil Code sections 987, 988, and 989 when copying, reproducing, adjusting, altering, or removing the artwork.

Artist Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of the artist to submit a complete art proposal, by the advertised due date.
2. If selected, artists will be required to sign an Artist License Agreement with the City prior to installation of the design.
3. The artist is not responsible for the costs associated with the installation, repair, replacement, or removal of display.
4. 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.

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 requested location cannot be guaranteed.

General Guidelines

1. Art should be visible from a distance.
2. 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 permits and contract forms.
6. Artwork is a long-term installation and becomes property of the City of Lompoc.

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, logos, or names;
 - d. Advertisement for financial benefit or commercial purpose;
 - e. Resemble a traffic control device or regulatory sign;
 - f. Contain reflective material, mirrors, or cause a glare;
 - g. Campaign for or against specific legislation, any political party, 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), or an illegal activity;
 - i. Depict tobacco or tobacco-related products;
 - j. Depict or describe alcoholic beverages, including, but not limited to beer, wine, and distilled spirits;
 - k. Depict or describe firearms;
 - l. Depict an image or photograph of any real person;
 - m. Portray acts or language that is obscene, vulgar, profane, or scatological;
 - n. Material that demeans or disparages an individual, group of individuals, or animal or group of animals, including material that ridicules or mocks, is

abusive or hostile to, or debases the dignity or stature of, an individual, group of individuals, or animal or group of animals.

4. Artwork must comply with all Caltrans content-related requirements for Transportation Art (whether or not the artwork is located in Caltrans right-of-way), including but not limited to those listed below under “Caltrans Requirements”.

art proposal Requirements

1. A complete art proposal 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. Create full color, detailed concept drawings.
 - c. Provide a paragraph of interest.
 - d. Boxes vary in size and shape, so be prepared to accommodate your design specs of your assigned box.
 - e. There is no limit on how many designs an artist may submit, however each design MUST be accompanied by its own art proposal with all required information and images.
 - f. Any incomplete art proposals may be subject to dismissal from the process.
2. Statement of Interest:
 - a. 1-page maximum demonstrating interest in creating art for utility boxes.
 - b. Artist teams or art organizations must identify one artist to be the primary contact.
 - c. Artists, artist teams, or arts organizations must submit an art proposal 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.

Caltrans Requirements

All art within the Caltrans right-of-way must be reviewed, approved, meet their requirements, and 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.

Please review the full list of Caltrans requirements by using the hyperlink below.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-j-transportation-art>

Beautification and Appearance Commission Contact:

beautification@ci.lompoc.ca.us

City Staff Contacts:

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