



PAINT THE STREET: painted street murals & crosswalks



MAY 2021

Introduction

The City of Detroit has recently received numerous requests from residents and community groups for artistically painted streets and crosswalks. In an effort to support the strong arts and culture community and to provide opportunities to strengthen community identity, the Department of Public Works has put together this document, outlining the process and requirements for installing a painted street mural or crosswalk by a community group.



Hazelwood St near 3rd St.

General Requirements

LOCATION:

Only residential (local) streets will be considered appropriate locations.

Check this map to see your street qualifies: <https://maps.semco.org/nfc/>

Proposals on streets with higher traffic volumes will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

All locations will need to be approved by the Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Division.

DESIGN GUIDANCE:

Community identity logos are acceptable but no advertising of any sort will be allowed.

Designs should not replicate or mimic traffic control devices (ex: stop signs).

The city requires using water-based traffic paint because of easier clean-up, lower toxicity, and a long life span.

Decorative patterns should not be done in any reflective material.

For crosswalks, all original white reflective crosswalk markings must remain, with the decorative portions added around the white reflective markings. If there is not currently a marked crosswalk, the City will evaluate the safety of adding a painted crosswalk to the desired location.

For midblock street murals, they must be located at a minimum of 20 feet from the intersection.

MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT:

The City of Detroit will not maintain the street painting and the applicant is responsible for maintaining and re-painting the mural as needed. The community will need to reapply for a Block Party or Special Events permit in the years following to touch up the painting.

In the case that the painted crosswalk/mural is no longer being maintained, either the applicant is required to remove the painting and/or the City reserves the right to remove the mural by powerwashing the paint off.

Paint the Street Process



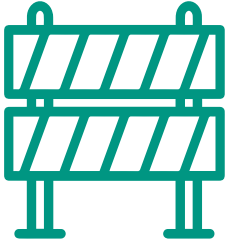
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Review this document and understand the criteria and guidelines



2
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Complete the online application with your block club/community organization.



3
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Once approved by the Department of Public Works, reach out to your neighborhood police precinct to obtain a block club permit to close the street and install your painting.

There is no fee to submit an application.

However the applicant must cover all costs to install and maintain the painting.



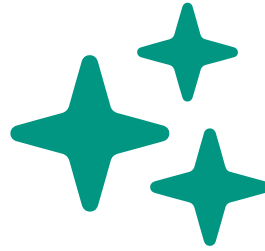
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Buy all the materials you will need to install your painting.



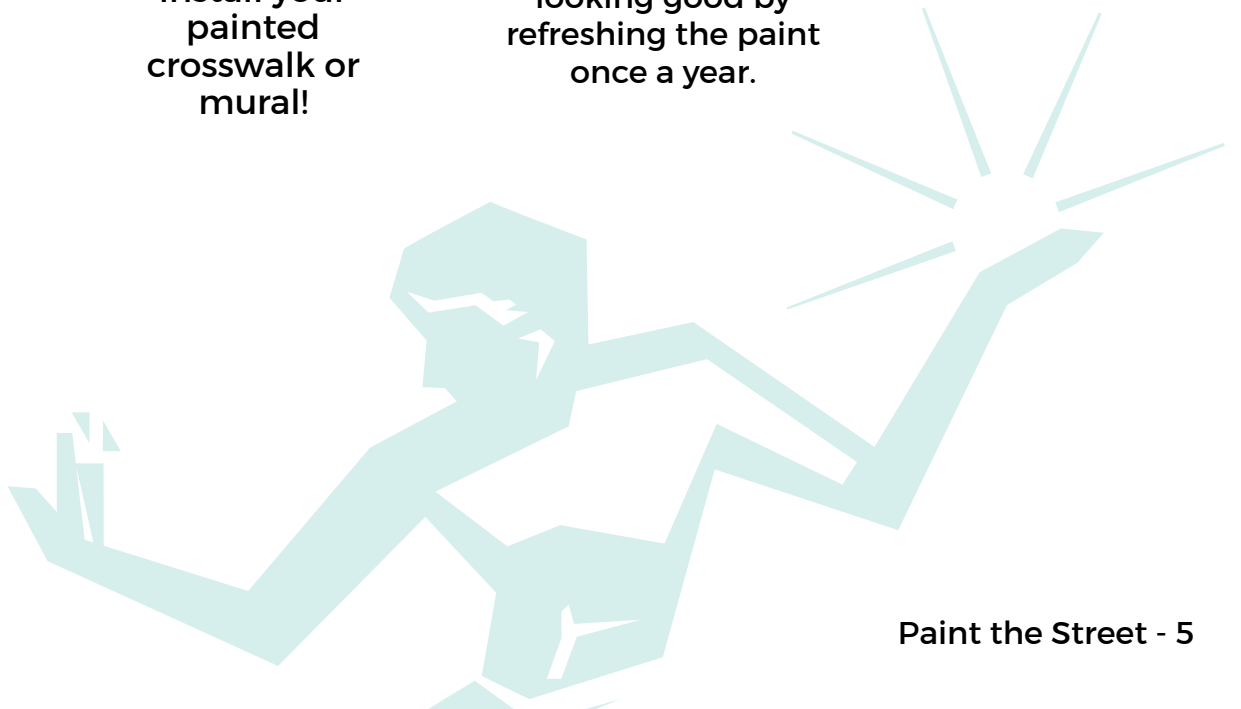
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Install your painted crosswalk or mural!



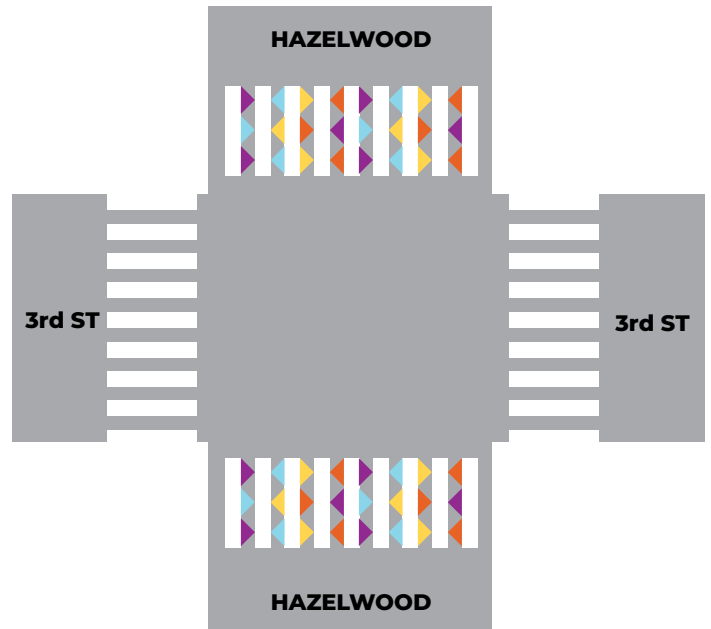
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Keep your mural looking good by refreshing the paint once a year.

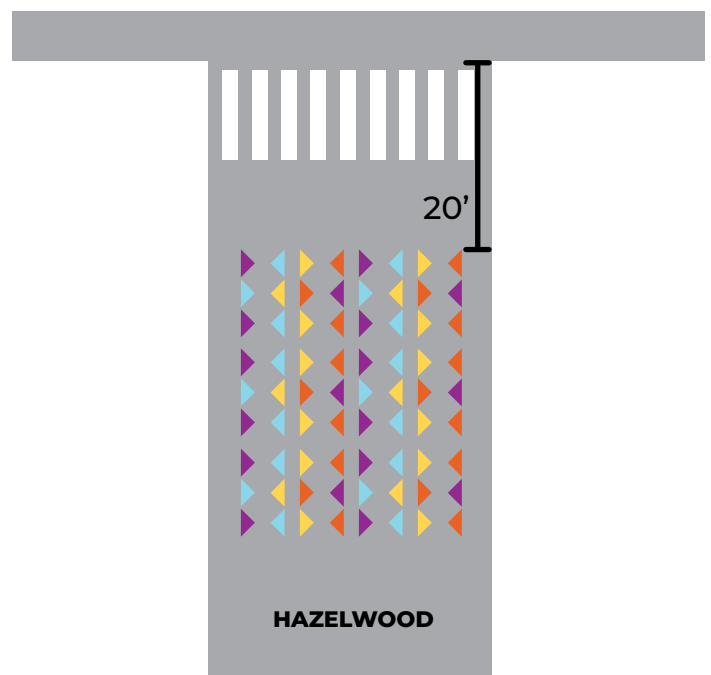


Two Types of Designs Allowed:

1. Painted Crosswalks



2. Midblock Murals



Additional Tips:

BLOCK PARTY PERMIT:

Once your application has been approved, you then need to submit a Block Party Permit Application to close the street to paint your crosswalk or mural.

You can submit a Block Party Permit application through your local police precinct at no cost. If you anticipate more than 100 people attending your event, you will likely need to apply for a Special Events permit (cost = \$450).

Depending on the traffic volumes on the street, a Traffic Control Plan created by a certified Traffic Control Technician may be required by the City Traffic Engineering Division.

PHOTOS:

We would love to see photos of your work-in progress and final installation! We may post these on the city website and feature them on DPW's social media. Email photos to: streetsforpeople@detroitmi.gov

COSTS:

Because specific paints are required to ensure your mural resists tough Michigan weather, you can expect to spend about \$1/sqft on paint for your mural.

For example, a mural that measures 30' x 30' = 900' = \$900



Painting Tips:

Appropriate Paint:

The city requires using water-based traffic paint because of easier clean-up, lower toxicity, and a long life span. Clean-up should be done in a sink which drains into the sewer system.

Paint can be purchased at:

Granger
1201 W. Lafayette Blvd. Detroit, MI 48226

Colors available: Red, Yellow, Blue, Green, Black, and White. These can be mixed to create additional colors.

Or online at: [Granger](#), [Seal Master](#), [USSC Products](#), [Asphalt Seal Coating](#)

Preparing the site:

Sweep the intersection once or twice with a broom 3 to 7 days before painting day. Then, spray the intersection down with a hose to remove any remaining particles and allow drying for a couple days before painting. Optionally, you may choose to use some buckets w/ soapy water (use an environmentally-sensitive soap) and wide brooms to scrub the street before hosing it off (be sure to wash all the soap off); washing with soap is not absolutely necessary, however it could extend the useful life of the paint.

Outlining the design:

On the day of the painting, do a quick assessment and/or sweep once more. You can use sidewalk chalk to mark out the design in advance. Circles can be made using string, two people and chalk.

Drying time:

On a sunny day the paint will dry in about 1 hour, on overcast days give it 2-3 hrs. Test it by touching and/or stepping on it.

How much paint you need: One coat of paint will hold up well (multiple coats are not needed). 1 gallon should cover 100-150 square feet at 15 mil thickness – depending on the pavement condition. 1 gallon: \$40-\$70.

General tips:

Thin coats of paint are better - thick or puddled paint cracks and pops off in the winter.

Use cheap brushes – you may not be able to salvage them with so many people painting over a day. You can wash them a few times, but don't expect to be able to save them.

DO NOT dump dirty brush water into the gutter.

Brushes are better than rollers for applying thin coats. Only use narrow rollers for a consistent outline/border.

We recommend that you dip your brush/roller into the paint and then apply to pavement instead of pouring a puddle on the pavement and then brushing/rolling it out.

Supply List

These are some items you MAY need:

- Pressure washer (day before event)
- Nametags
- Markers
- Poster board/big paper to post info
- Chalk or marking paint to outline design
- Other tools to help mark design (stencils, string, etc.)
- Tables for paint station
- Newspaper or tarps
- Paint
- Stir sticks
- Containers for holding / mixing paint
- Brushes and/or rollers
- Plastic wrap or bags to temporarily cover brushes so they don't dry out
- Paper towels / rags for cleaning
- Buckets of water for cleaning and for used brushes
(dump water into a home sink, not storm drain, please!)

