

**PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**FEBRUARY 15, 2022**  
**CITY HALL, 240 COLUMBUS AVENUE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Members: Marsha Carrington, Shawn Daley, Robin Lloyd, Chris Parthemore, Adam Ramsdell, Brian Stanley, Cable Steinemann, Jordan Sternberg, Martha Wikel

Ex-Officio Members: Blake Harris, Michelle Newell, Arin Blair (staff)

**MINUTES**

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Election of Officers

Utility Box Painting Program Update – Arin Blair

Project Timeline/Priorities

**ADJOURNMENT**

# SANDUSKY

## ARTBOX PROGRAM

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NAME  
BRAINSTORM  
powerpaint  
electric art  
powermural  
muralbox  
artbox  
utilimural

**FEBRUARY 2022**  
CITY OF SANDUSKY, OHIO



Painted electric boxes in Medford, MA  
Art by Sophy Tuttle

DRAFT

# CONTENTS

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Introduction .....	3
Pilot Year Locations.....	5
Call for Artists .....	6
Artist Guidelines & Program Requirements .....	8
Supplemental Resources .....	10

# INTRODUCTION

## ARTBOX PROGRAM

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ArtBox will showcase the work of local artists and enhance the built environment. The 2022 pilot year program seeks artists to paint six electric boxes along Shoreline Drive—a vibrant, highly visited place in the city.

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### Connection to the Public Art Plan

The Public Art & Placemaking Plan calls for the utilization of attributes within Sandusky to develop projects that will stand the test of time and create memorable experiences. These projects should be highly visible and maximize interactive opportunities.

### About ArtBox

The ArtBox program was developed by the Public Arts & Culture Commission in 2022 as a high-impact project for immediate implementation. The program seeks to refresh faded electric boxes which are ubiquitous along city rights of way. These highly-visible structures provide a frequent and unexpected opportunity to feature public art. Program logistics were inspired by PaintBox in Boston, MiniMurals in Houston, and others.



One of six identified Shoreline Drive electric boxes

### 2022 ArtBox Projects

The 2022 program is focused on six faded green electric boxes along Shoreline Drive. These boxes are located along one of the busiest, most visible places in the city. Implemented as a collection, the six pilot-year projects are expected to maximize interaction and impact for the initial program—helping it take root in the community. Future year locations are expected to be artist and community driven.



# INTRODUCTION

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## Call for Artists

Artists are invited to propose art to complete one or more of the six 2022 ArtBox Projects with the enclosed application. Proposals may be generic (open to any of the six locations) or specific (identifying the preferred location).

## Proposal Theme

Artwork proposals are encouraged to positively reflect the unique culture, racial identities, history, and/or iconic public figures of the City of Sandusky and Sandusky Bay. Proposals that tell a story, or reflect one, are preferred. Consider that the artwork is expected to be in place for many years.

## Selection Process

The Public Arts & Culture Commission will evaluate proposals for each project separately when awarding projects. Applicants may be asked to attend a commission meeting to further explain, or refine, their proposed project. In the case of a proposal for multiple projects, the commission may award a single project, select one to be completed first, or specify another alternative.

## Artist Compensation

For each of the six 2022 ArtBox projects, \$200 will be awarded to the artist up front for supplies, and \$300 will be awarded upon project completion. The total 2022 program budget is \$3,000.



Painted electric boxes in Boston, MA  
Below: Art by Mattaya Fitts  
Above: Art by Eddie Bruckner

# LOCATIONS

## 2022 ARTBOX PROJECTS — SHORELINE DRIVE

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The 2022 ArtBox program seeks to transform six electric boxes along Shoreline Drive. Implemented as a collection, these pilot year projects are expected to maximize public interaction and community impact.

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MAP AND  
IMAGE OF EACH  
LOCATION

# WANTED

## 2022 CALL FOR ARTISTS

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The Public Arts & Culture Commission is seeking proposals from artists to complete one or more of the six 2022 ArtBox projects. Total compensation is \$500 per completed project.

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### Overview

Artists are invited to propose art to complete one or more of the six 2022 ArtBox projects. Proposals for more than one project have the option to include a theme, but are not required to coordinate with each other. Proposals may be generic (open to any of the six locations) or specific (identifying the artist's preferred location).

### Timeline

Proposals will be accepted throughout the calendar year 2022 or until the six available projects have been awarded. Artists will be required to complete their project within a timely manner after receipt of official award notification of and up front materials compensation. Project timelines will be set during the project award process.

### Proposal Outline

Proposal forms are included in this packet. Components of the 2022 ArtBox proposals include:

- » Contact information
- » Artist Bio
- » Proposal title (name and theme, if applicable) of proposed piece(s)
- » Proposal narrative
- » Draft imagery (color rendering or hand illustration)
- » Proposed timeline
- » Preferred location (1 – 6)

# ARTBOX PROPOSAL

Please fill out the proposal form, include all necessary attachments and submit to Arin Blair via email at [ablair@ci.sandusky.oh.us](mailto:ablair@ci.sandusky.oh.us) or delivery/mail to the Community Development Department (4th Floor), ATTN Arin Blair, 240 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, OH 44870

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## Artist Bio

Tell us about yourself (max 50 words)

## Proposal Title

## Proposal Narrative

Tell us about the piece (max 200 words)

Preferred Location (1-6) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Timeline START \_\_\_\_\_

FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

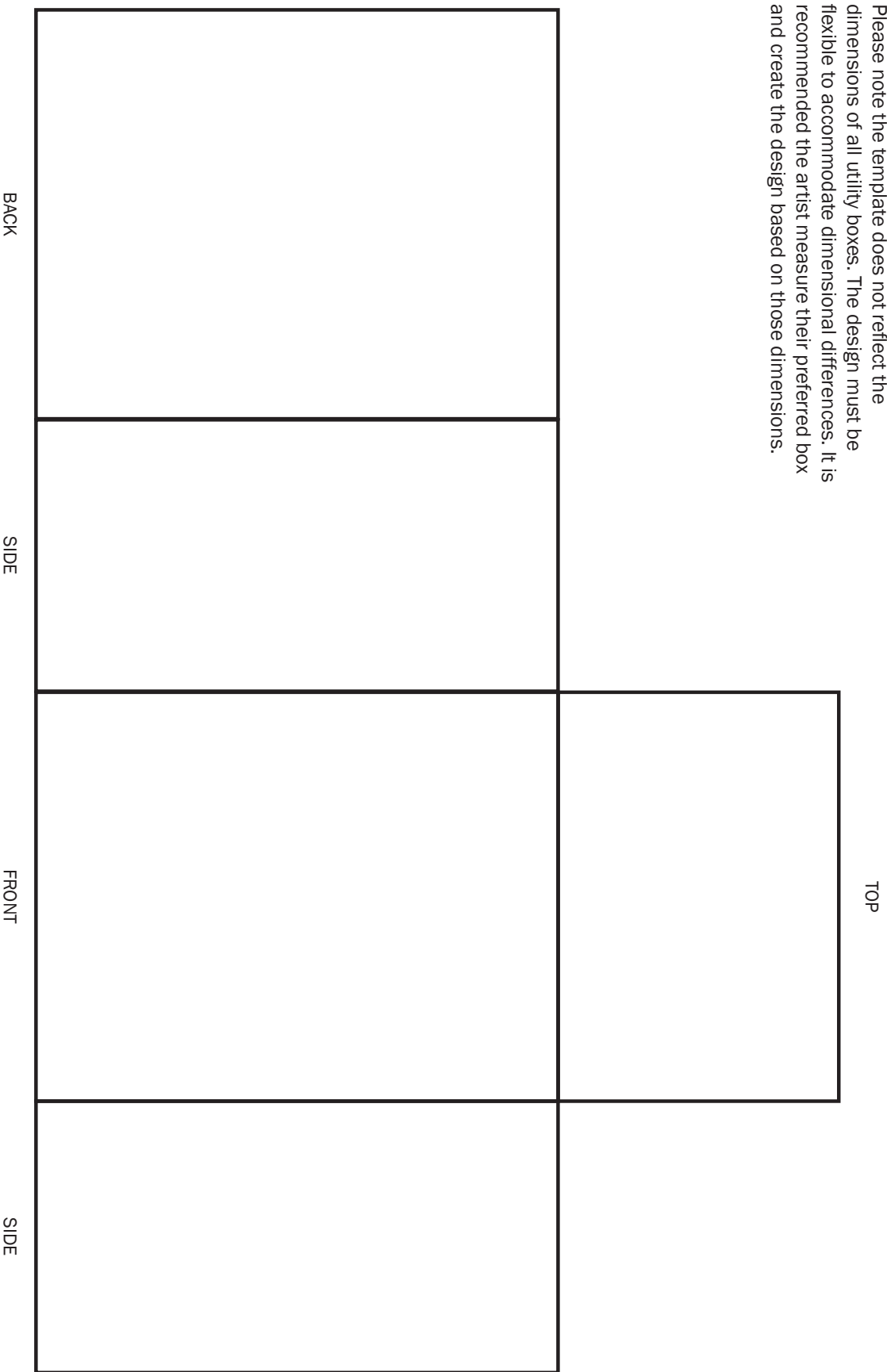
## Required Attachments:

- » Draft imagery (color rendering or hand illustration) showing all sides of proposed piece. (See design template on page 8)

## Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
I AGREE TO THE ARTBOX PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS





# THE RULES

## ARTIST GUIDELINES & PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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In order to facilitate an orderly process with long-lasting results—and therefore a successful program—the artist agrees to the following guidelines and requirements.

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### Overview

The following *guidelines* are recommendations for artists to assist in the planning and implementation of successful ArtBox projects. The guidelines are hereby established to support the artist and foster the best outcome for each piece.

The *requirements* are rules all artists must adhere to in the creation of each piece. While the electric boxes make an excellent and unexpected canvas for public art, they are also functioning pieces of public infrastructure and must remain serviceable. Failure to comply with the program requirements may result in denial of compensation, painting over the art piece, or other penalty determined by the commission.

### Guidelines

Artists selected to complete an ArtBox project are recommended to adhere to the following guidelines:

- » Proposals that tell a story, or reflect one, are preferred.
- » Utilize the supplemental resources in this packet to best prepare for the art application onto the designated box.
- » Scale initial sketch to matching dimensions of designated box.
- » Test paint colors on a similar surface at home and/or on a small area of the box with the required top coat application to ensure desired final effect.
- » Take photos/video of the painting process and tag @CityofSandusky in social media posts

# REQUIREMENTS

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## Requirements

Artist proposals and selected art pieces must abide by the following requirements.

### Applicants/Selected Artists:

- » Applicants must be artists of at least 18 years of age.
- » Artists are responsible for implementing and documenting the project.
- » Artists must agree that the ArtBox can be painted over at any time by the City of Sandusky.

### Designs:

- » Must cover all sides of the utility box and avoid large monochrome areas.
- » Must preserve functionality of utility box (including hinges, vents, handles, etc.) and not cover any surfaces needed for the functionality (such as glass-front meters, warning labels, etc.)
- » May not include a logo or advertisements of any kind.
- » May not include imagery that could be confused for directional signage.
- » May not include obscene content as defined by ord. 533.01
- » Discretely incorporate the artist signature and the text “City of Sandusky” (to fill no more than 2 square feet of area on a single side)

REQUIREMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO CHANGE  
DEPENDING ON WHETHER LOCATIONS ARE  
PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY OWNED.

- » Except for the artist’s signature, website, and City of Sandusky, designs may not incorporate text.

### Painting:

- » Applicants are responsible for all prep and finish work including cleaning, light sanding, applying primer, painting, and applying specified clear top coat.
- » Paint should be premium 100% acrylic latex paint with low-sheen, eggshell, or satin finish.
- » Suggested Primer
  - » Zinsser Bulls Eye 1-2-3 Water-Based Interior/Exterior Primer and Sealer
- » Suggested Paint Products:
  - » Nova Color
  - » Sherwin Williams Exterior Acrylic Latex
  - » Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior Acrylic Latex
- » Suggested Topcoat:
  - » Nova color #216 Exterior Varnish

### Project Awards Process:

- » Artists will receive \$200 after approval to cover the cost of supplies and \$300 upon completion
- » Must do a site visit with the Chief Planner of selected location prior to beginning the art piece.

# RESOURCES

## SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE & REFERENCES

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The following references were used to guide the development of the ArtBox program and provide guidance to selected artists.

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### Step by Step Guidance for Artists

- » This video and article by Rhonda Chase Design is a great tutorial for she completed a similar project
  - » <https://www.instructables.com/Painted-Utility-Box-Public-ArtMural/>
- » Nova Color Blog
  - » <https://novacolorpaint.com/blogs/nova-color/tips-for-painting-an-exterior-mural-using-acrylic-paint>

### Reference Articles

- » Mural protection blog article
  - » <http://www.bikemural.org/muralprotection.html>
- » Video highlighting Houston *Mini Murals* project and showing a variety of designs
  - » <https://www.click2houston.com/news/2017/05/24/click2daily-artists-transform-electrical-boxes-into-mini-murals-throughout-houston/>

### Reference Programs

- » *Paint the City*—Saratoga, CA
  - » <https://www.saratoga.ca.us/395/Paint-the-City>
- » *PaintBox*—Boston, MA
  - » <https://www.boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture/paintbox>
- » *Mini Murals*—Houston & Austin, TX
  - » <https://minimurals.org>
- » Utility Box Art—Dublin, CA
  - » <https://www.dublin.ca.gov/1928/Utility-Box-Art>