

SANDUSKY

ARTBOX PROGRAM

MARCH 2023
CITY OF SANDUSKY, OHIO



Little Italy - Sandusky's first ArtBox project at Sycamore Line and Cleveland Road
Art by Darlene Wood

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INTRODUCTION

ARTBOX PROGRAM

ArtBox will showcase the work of local artists and enhance the built environment. The 2023 program seeks to fund painting of ten traffic control boxes at locations chosen by selected artists.

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 transform traffic control 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.



Example of a traffic control utility box.

2023 ArtBox Projects

The 2023 program has funding to support ten projects at locations chosen by selected artists. Traffic control boxes are located across the city. The program invites artists to choose a location most meaningful to them and encourages their design approach to tell the story of that neighborhood/location.

INTRODUCTION

Call for Artists

Artists are invited to propose art to complete one or more of the 2023 ArtBox Projects with the enclosed application.

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, that is specific to the neighborhood/chosen location 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. Planning and Public Works must sign off on the design and location of each piece prior to commission approval.

Artist Compensation

For each of the 2023 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 \$5,000.



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

LOCATIONS

2023 ARTBOX PROJECTS

The 2023 ArtBox program seeks to transform ten utility boxes with locations to choose from across the city. The program calls for local artists to positively reflect the unique culture of Sandusky and tell the story of their neighborhood/chosen location.



What do they look like?

City-owned traffic control box examples:



WANTED

2023 CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Public Arts & Culture Commission is seeking proposals from artists to complete one or more of the 2023 ArtBox projects. Total compensation is \$500 per completed project.

Overview

Artists are invited to propose art to complete one or more of the 2023 ArtBox projects. Local artists with a proposal that tells the story of the chosen location are preferred.

Timeline

Proposals will be accepted throughout the calendar year 2023 or until all 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 2023 ArtBox proposals include:

- » Contact information
- » Artist Bio
- » Proposal title
- » Proposal narrative
- » Draft imagery (color rendering or hand illustration)
- » Proposed timeline
- » Preferred location and second alternate location

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 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 STREET NAME(S) _____
+ CLOSEST INTERSECTION _____

Alternate Location STREET NAME(S) _____
+ CLOSEST INTERSECTION _____

Proposed Timeline START _____
FINISH _____

Required Attachments:

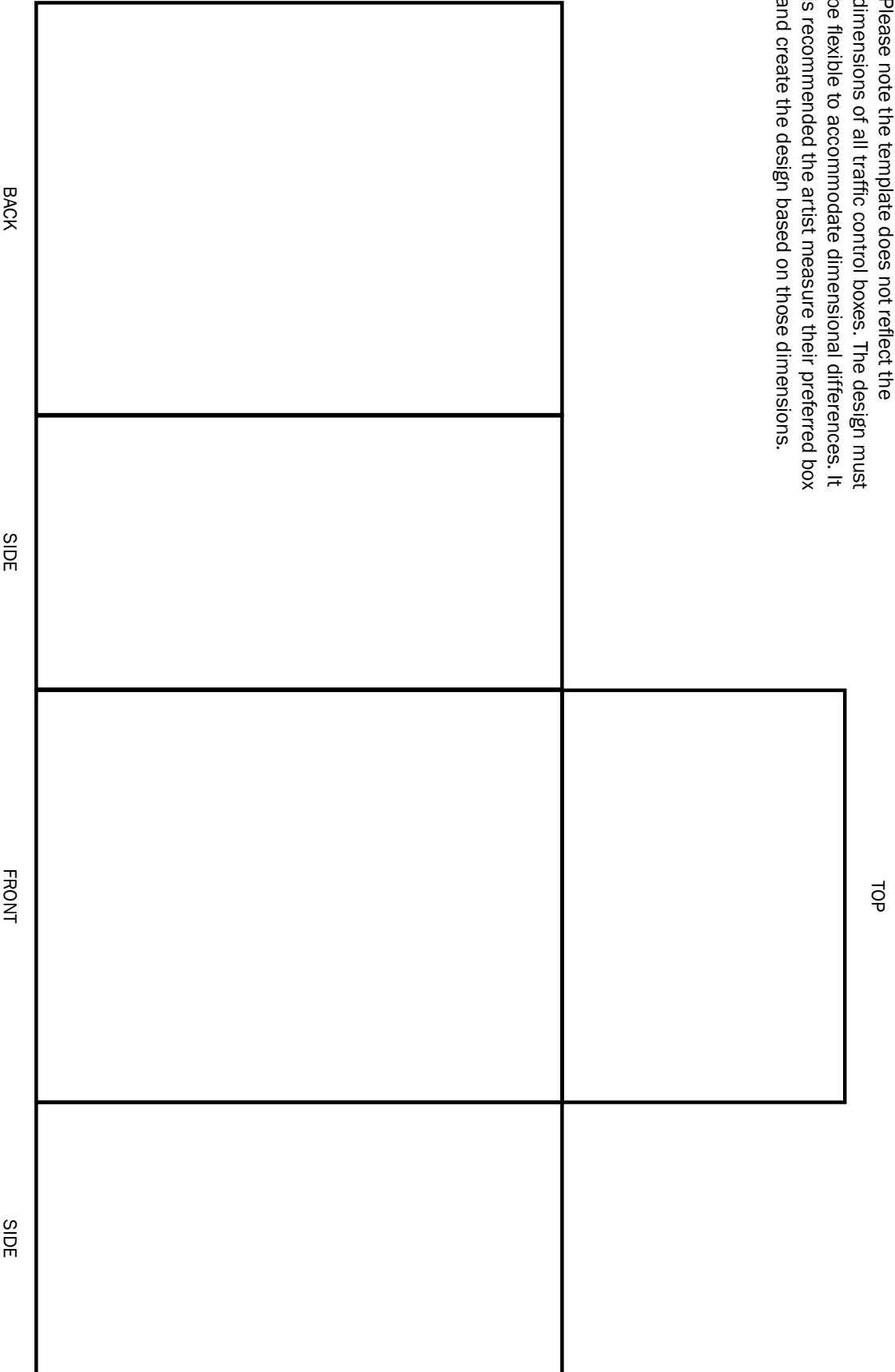
- » Draft imagery (color rendering or hand illustration) showing all sides of proposed piece. (See design template on page 8)
- » Photos of preferred and alternate box location

Signature

I AGREE TO THE ARTBOX PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

DESIGN TEMPLATE

Please note the template does not reflect the dimensions of all traffic control boxes. The design must be flexible to accommodate dimensional differences. It is recommended the artist measure their preferred box and create the design based on those dimensions.



SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria and rubric will be used by the Public Arts & Culture Commission, or a subsection thereof, to select winning proposals.

TOPIC	SCORING ITEMS	NOTES	SCORE
Proposal Completion	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact info complete (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Bio complete (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Title and narrative complete (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Location proposed with photo (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Timeline included (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft imagery shows all sides of piece (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft imagery sufficiently communicates proposed art (10)		<div style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> OUT OF 40
Artist Locality	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandusky Resident (20) <input type="checkbox"/> Local (Regional) Resident (5) <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (0)		<div style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> OUT OF 20
Narrative Relevance	<input type="checkbox"/> Proposal positively reflects the unique culture, racial identities, history, and/or iconic public figures of the City of Sandusky and Sandusky Bay (<i>up to 20</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal pertains to proposed location/neighborhood/artist's story (<i>up to 20</i>)		<div style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> OUT OF 40
Follows Guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Design avoids monochrome areas (10) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not include any disallowed content (10)		<div style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> OUT OF 20
Reviewer Notes			<div style="border: 2px solid blue; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> TOTAL SCORE OUT OF 120

THE RULES

ARTIST GUIDELINES & PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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.

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 utility 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:

- » 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.
- » Plan for four days of clear weather to complete the project.
- » Take photos/video of the painting process and tag @CityofSandusky in social media posts.

REQUIREMENTS

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.
- » Artists understand their preferred location is not guaranteed.

Designs:

- » Must cover all sides of the traffic control box and avoid large monochrome areas.
- » Must preserve functionality of traffic control 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 nor advertisements of any kind nor copyrighted imagery (i.e. Disney, Pokemon characters)
- » May not include imagery that could be confused for directional signage.
- » May not be intended as a memorial to specific person(s) or group

- » May not include obscene content as defined by ord. 533.01
- » May not include “partisan” imagery or content associated with any political affiliation or legislation

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:

- » Must do a site visit of selected location with the Chief Planner (or designated staff) prior to beginning the art piece.
- » Artists will receive \$200 after approval to cover the cost of supplies and \$300 upon completion
- » Artists will have 10 business days from receipt of deposit to begin work, and 5 days thereafter to complete the work.

RESOURCES

SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE & REFERENCES

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

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>