



Artbox Program

Program and Design Guidelines

Get creative and create civic pride! The City of Austin Transportation Department allows its traffic signal (utility) cabinets to be enhanced with artwork created by local artists.

Artists develop the proposed images, which are submitted as part of the application process. This includes local community input and review. The artist directly paints the final approved imagery onto the cabinets.

Austin Transportation Department staff review applications for conformance with the requirements below; the Department has final decision authority on accepting proposed designs. Installations are expected to last for at least three years.

Available cabinet locations and application eligibility

- The applicant and sponsor propose the desired location(s), which must be a signal cabinet at an intersection approved by the Austin Transportation Department. Certain criteria apply. Austin Energy utility cabinets may be available by special request.
- Only arts organizations that provide complete project management services (including artist selection, community engagement, installation, and graffiti coating) are eligible to submit an application to the Austin Transportation Department.

Design requirements

- Design proposals should reflect the culture of the neighborhood, district and/or community character and history.
- Artwork must be appealing for the public, non-offensive, and suitable for all ages.
- The design may not include fields of solid white or color, as this invites tagging and graffiti. Designs and imagery must completely fill all services with complex or overall patterning.
- Artwork proposed must be original. It may not contain copyrighted or trademarked images or images copied or appropriated from other artist's work.
- Commercial advertisements, phases, or content of any kind is not permitted.
- Text identifying the applicant, sponsor, artist and/or neighborhood or district name is allowed.

Signal cabinet dimensions

- The cabinets are approximately 67" H x 24" W x 30" D.
- A template will be provided, for submittal of proposed imagery, which conforms to these dimensions. Each cabinet includes four sides, so the template includes four panels. Please size the artwork to fully cover the cabinet and all panels.

Artist installation

- Acrylic, latex, or aerosol paint may be used.
- Artists supply their own paint and materials. The sponsor and/or applicant arts organization will provide a stipend to cover these costs.
- Artists (and any assistants) must protect the surrounding area from paint, and clean it up afterwards.
- Applied paint must not interfere with the operation of the box's hinges, vents and locks. It may not obscure warning labels or other text.
- During painting, sidewalks and the pedestrian area of the right-of-way must be kept clear for people walking. No activity may occur in the street itself.
- The completed work will be treated with an anti-graffiti coating; this step is the responsibility of the applicant organization. (The City of Austin may assist with maintenance as needed.)

Additional details will be provided prior to installation.