

The City of Portland, by and through the Police Department and the Public Art Committee, and in collaboration with NBT Bank and Port Property Management, present:

CALL TO ARTISTS

Painting Outside the Box: Artists to Enhance Utility Boxes in Portland Neighborhoods

The City of Portland, in collaboration with generous donations from NBT Bank and Port Property Management invites artists to integrate art into existing public utility boxes to beautify the urban landscape, increase civic participation, and support the local arts community.

Project Overview

The Utility Box Art Project, organized by the City of Portland, the Portland Police Department, and the Portland Public Art Committee is focused on the recognition and celebration of local artists. All submissions for the competition will be reviewed by a panel and artists will be selected based on the content and quality of their work. Selected artists will paint City of Portland utility boxes with original designs. Once professionally painted, these utility boxes will contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of the urban streetscape.

Requirements

- Artists must live in or have permanent office or studio space in Maine.
- Artists must be 18 or older.
- Up to three (3) designs by each Portland artist may be considered.
- Designs may be submitted on paper or electronically but must conform to the utility box template as provided.
- Selections shall be made by a jury appointed by the Portland Public Art Committee.
- Submissions may be kept on file for future project consideration.
- Proposals must be received or post-marked for delivery on or before October 15, 2018.
- Artists will be notified by October 31 if their designs are selected.

Winning Artists

Selected artists will receive a \$500 stipend from funds donated to the Portland Public Art Committee for this project upon approval and completion of their box design. Artists are responsible for the cost of all materials required to prepare, complete and protect their artwork with a clear and washable sealant.



Design Guidelines

- Artwork must be original.
- Artwork must avoid dark palettes in order to prevent boxes from overheating.
- Designs may be representational or abstract but must respond to the urban context and be appropriate given the location and setting.
- Please note that utility box size may vary. Selected artists must be willing to adjust designs to their particular box.
- Proposed designs must be submitted on the 8.5" x 11" template included in the application form.
- Utility boxes shall not contain advertisements.
- The operational parts of the boxes (hinges, vents, locks, and keyholes) cannot be painted over and must be protected during the installation period.
- Artwork must be completed with exterior grade paints and sealed within a 10-hour period.

Please Note:

- The utility boxes must be scraped or sanded, cleaned, and primed before the artists begin painting. Artists shall tape over functional areas (hinges/vents/handles/locks) and spray a coat of automobile primer before commencing with the design. Applied paint must not interfere with the operation of the box's hinges, vents, locks, and the legibility of any cautionary text located on the box.
- Only durable materials may be used in the creation of the artwork. Artists must avoid dark palettes in order to prevent boxes from overheating.
- Artists must supply their own water and supplies (drop cloth, brushes, and paints).
- Drop cloths must be used at all times while painting.
- Artists are responsible for protecting their work from the elements and possible vandalism with a coat of protective clear coat sealant and a coating of wax (Butcher's wax may be applied manually and buffed to a finish).
- Passage on the sidewalk for pedestrians must be maintained at all times. Blocking of traffic or lanes of the street may only be done in coordination with project staff and City officials.



Application for the Portland Utility Box Art Project

This two page application and an Appendix A (Design Template) for each design must be submitted for each artist. Submit all materials via email or regular mail to:

Email

To: publicart@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: The Portland Utility Box Art Project 2018

Mail

To: Portland Public Art Committee
c/o Planning Department
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Please include the following information:

Artist or Organization Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

Website (OPTIONAL):

Application checklist

- ☐ Completed Application with artist signature, printed name and date (2 page form)
- ☐ Designs (up to 3), in color, with title of work and materials list written on Appendix A (1 page form)
- ☐ Artist statement of intent, description of concept and approach
- ☐ Curriculum vitae or resume (OPTIONAL)



Terms of Agreement

The undersigned artist hereby agrees to the following terms:

- The work submitted by the artist is original, solely owned by the artist, and reproduction will not violate the rights of any third party. Since the artistic designs leading up to and including the final design and dimension of the artwork are unique, the artist shall not make any additional, exact duplicate reproductions of the final design and dimension, nor shall the artist grant to a third party, the right to replicate the artistic designs and dimensions of the artwork, without the written permission of the City of Portland.
- The accepted artwork developed under this contract shall be the exclusive property of the City of Portland.
- The artist grants to the City of Portland, an irrevocable license to make reproductions of the artwork and the final designs to be used in brochures, media, publicity, and catalogs or other similar publications.
- The artwork may be removed and/or destroyed at any time without notification of the artist to accommodate utility box maintenance, repair, or replacement.
- The City of Portland has the right to paint over my design if, in the future, the appearance deteriorates due to weather or vandalism. The City may also elect to contact artists to further preserve or maintain the artwork.

Artist Signature

Print Name

Date

NOTE: Design Template (Appendix A) appears on next page

Please use the utility box template on the following page to illustrate your design proposal in color. Sketches must be submitted electronically by email or physically by regular mail on standard 8.5" x 11" paper.

Please note that the dimensions of the template do not accurately represent all utility box dimensions. In fact, the front of the utility box may exceed the general dimension of 24" x 36". As such, the proposed design must be adjustable. Please include your name, the title of the work, and a materials list on each design submitted.



Appendix A

TOP

SIDE

FRONT

SIDE

BACK