

Utility Box Painting Best Practices

- X DO NOT:** Paint any box without permission. This is considered vandalism. You must apply and have your design approved before you begin painting.
- X DO NOT:** Spill any paint! I know this is not something we can 100% prevent. If you spill, clean immediately with water and notify your contact with the city.
- X DO NOT:** Paint over any numbers, handles, or warning stickers located on the box. Use tape to cover any signage and make sure to remove when complete.
- X DO NOT:** Leave your utility box primed but unpainted for too long as this could invite vandalism and/or tagging. I personally wouldn't leave it longer than one night.
- X DO NOT:** Use any trademarked branding or logos in your design. Some programs don't let you use any words at all.
- X DO NOT:** Take it personally if your utility box is painted over and/or covered up! Your painting is a donation and the city has all rights to do whatever they want with it.
- ✓ DO:** Plan to paint your box shortly after approved. Some programs have a requirement that you paint within 60 days and you'll want to tell them when.
- ✓ DO:** Make sure your design is simplistic, keeping details to a minimum as this will ensure you can paint your box in one day. Painting larger, simpler designs will be easier for drivers and passers by to view.
- ✓ DO:** Be resourceful when finding your supplies. Some programs offer a small stipend, but it won't cover all of your costs.
- ✓ DO:** Have fun! This is all about showcasing your work and connecting with your community. Make sure you take time to enjoy the process!
- ✓ DO:** Be comfortable making mistakes! I've yet to work on a project where I haven't made a mistake. Take time to acknowledge how to prevent something like that from happening again in the future, be grateful for the lesson, and move on.

As a final note, I have had help with both of my utility box paintings. Having at least one other individual there to help you clean and prime the box can speed up the process exponentially. Also if you're struggling to come up with a painting idea, try driving around your area to see what other artists have done. Take note of what you do and don't like about each and start from there! You've got this.