



# TOLEDO MURAL RESOURCE GUIDE



**THE ARTS COMMISSION**  
INSPIRING A VIBRANT TOLEDO





### **WHY ARE MURALS IMPORTANT?**

Murals are created by artists of diverse cultural traditions and backgrounds and are an integral part of the cultural expression in the City of Toledo. They contribute to the character and identity of a neighborhood through public statements of values and awareness. Murals have the power to draw people in and create unexpected conversations and connections.

The intent of this guide is to aid artists and others in understanding issues surrounding the creation of a mural and to apprise parties involved in mural projects of the permit and application process.

## **PERMISSIONS**

All murals which are on public property or visible from a public thoroughfare within the City of Toledo must receive prior permit approval from the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo.

Artists or community groups who want to paint murals must obtain permission from the property owner.

Murals on public or private property without permission of the property owner will be illegal and punishable by law.

The conservation and the maintenance of the murals will be the responsibility of the property owner.

If the site is in a historic district, reach out to the local Historic Commission, Planning Office, or Zoning Office to ask about rules in historic districts.

## **MURAL PERMIT APPLICATION**

How do I submit a mural permit application? Artists and property owners must submit a mural permit application to begin work on a mural.

You can access the mural permit application from our website: <https://theartscommission.org/public-art/mural-permits>

### **You will need to provide the following information:**

- Applicant's name, phone number, email, and address
- Building Owner's name, phone number, email and location address
- Artist's name, phone number, email, and address (if different than applicant or building owner)
- Clear and legible drawings with description showing location of the mural.
- A photograph of the intended mural wall

### **Who may submit a mural permit application?**

- Artist(s) who created the mural
- Property owner who approved / commissioned the mural
- Community group / nonprofit who commissioned the mural





*RBG* by Maya Hayuk (background)

*Naima Finds a Cicada* by Yusuf Lateef (Foreground)

Photo by Doug Heinebaugh

### **How are applications reviewed?**

Complete mural applications will be reviewed by The Arts Commission and other City staff as necessary with consideration of the following criteria:

- Murals may not be commercial in nature, and may not depict product placement for a business.
- Murals will not be permitted if they contain known gang symbols or depict an unreasonable or offensive act, utterance, gesture or display that creates a clear and present danger of a breach of peace or imminent threat of violence.
- Murals may not depict material harmful to minors.
- Applications for murals within the Warehouse District or Uptown District may be subject to review by the appropriate Architectural Review Committee.

# APPLICATION REVIEWS



*Making Fun by Tony Touch*

### **CREATING A MURAL**

In the planning stages of creating a mural, the artist, property owner, and other parties involved should have a mutual understanding of the artistic vision.

### **MURAL CRITERIA**

- Mural must be one-of-a-kind and not a reproduction
- No logos, advertisements, or signage
- Mural sponsorship identification may be used, however overt use of logos and trademarks will be subject to review
- Must be suitable for outdoor display (where applicable)

### **SURFACE CONDITIONS**

If the structural or surface integrity of the wall or other surface is failing, the paint will as well.

To ensure a successful and long-lasting mural, a prospective mural surface should be carefully inspected for:

- Peeling paint
- Rust or staining
- Large cracks
- Loose or broken structure material
- Safety hazards such as electrical wires
- Water damage or leaks

### **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS**

Acrylic or spray paint is most commonly used. We do not recommend enamel or oil paints for outdoor murals because they are not moisture permeable.

Be sure to choose a paint that is formulated for outdoor use.

Consider the finish of paint. A satin or semi-gloss finish will protect against nicks and scratches and is more easily cleaned than flat.

Use a non-yellowing acrylic clear coat for extra protection.

# IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS





*Building Momentum*  
by Young Artists at Work (YAAW)

### **MEASURING A WALL**

Calculating the size of the wall will help dictate your budget.

The size of the wall will determine how much paint you will need, the estimated time for the project's completion, and the costs for equipment such as scaffolding, ladders, lighting, etc.

Accurate measurements are important for creating a scaled drawing for your design. Make sure to account for windows, doors and features of the building that may be located within your mural area.

### **WALL PREPARATION**

If your wall needs repair before painting or installing panels, the artist and/or property owner should contact a licensed contractor for an estimate.

Clean the wall before you start priming. If you are painting on a historic building, contact the local historical society to inquire about the least damaging products and methods.

### **PAINTING ON WALLS VERSUS FABRIC**

Choose from one of two basic ways to create your mural: painting directly on a wall or painting on a fabric or other material panel, which can then be adhered to the mural wall. This decision will determine your budget, so plan accordingly.

### **HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

Painting directly onto historic brick or other surfaces can have irreversible effects. To create less impact, you are encouraged to paint the mural on a panel that can safely attach to the building.

# IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

## **CHECKLIST**

- ☐ Approval for the proposed mural from the property owner and/ or local Historic District department.
- ☐ Submit an application through the Arts Commission's website  
Including: contact information, rendering of mural design, dimensions of mural area, materials used to create the mural, any special equipment needed, impact on public right of way, lighting design, maintenance plan, and project timeline.
- ☐ Inspect mural wall or surface for any damages or hazards
- ☐ Prepare wall surface
- ☐ Contact The Arts Commission with any questions or concerns

## **CONTACT**

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<https://theartscommission.org/public-art/mural-permits>

Toledo Warehouse District

<https://www.toledowarehouse.org/>

Toledo UpTown District

<https://www.uptowntoledo.org/>

Toledo Old West End District

<https://www.toledooldwestend.com>

# CHECKLIST & CONTACT INFORMATION