

Level Three

Neighborhood Wall Mural



A mural is a large image painted to a wall. They typically express something that is important to the community or neighborhood. It can be an image of something unique to the neighborhood, their values, history, or even a story. It can be anything the neighborhood wants, as long as it is appropriate. A project like this can bring community members together in a creative and fun way to complete a common goal. It also leaves a physical product of that teamwork. A mural brings art into the public space and beautifies the neighborhood.

Investment: This project may require about 1 to 2 weeks to complete and about \$0.05 per sq. ft. of mural for paint. Keep in mind this is for one coat of paint. Prices will vary depending on complexity of design and size of mural.

1. Brainstorm with your Neighborhood

- Talk to your neighbors and start discussing the idea of this community project. If enough people are willing to work on it, start discussing what you want your mural's theme to be.
- Start building your team by having one person as the organizer and then determine who will be willing to help paint the wall and donate materials. If painting the wall will take more than one day, you will need to determine what day will people be painting and what section.
- Facilitate community meeting to address issues and design discussions.
- Ask your neighbors and anybody interested, to submit their ideas for the mural design based on the chosen topic.
- Once there has been enough designs submitted start grouping common images together and come up with a comprehensive design for the mural. Finalize the mural design by receiving acceptance of the final product.
- You will need to fill out the **application and send it to Heather Patel hpatel@ajcity.net** to get image and location approval and so that it will not be recognized by the city as graffiti.

2. Choose your wall

- Check the condition of the wall and make sure that it isn't falling apart or excessively dirty.
- If the wall belongs to a private homeowner, you will need to get permission from the owner of the wall.

3. Prep your wall

- Clean your wall so that is free of any dirt or grime.
- Start with a base coat of white paint with thinner mixed in so that it can cover more surface area.
- Create a grid of the final design and then grid the wall so that the proportions of the wall mural match the initial design.

4. Paint your Mural

- Please keep safety in mind if the wall is near any roads. Any person under the age of 18 needs to be under the supervision of an adult.
- When you begin painting the mural, start by painting the edges first so that the proportions stay the same for the entire image.
- Start painting the largest blocks of color first and then building on top of those with details when ready.
- It is best to paint from the top to bottom, so that if your paint drips it won't land on finished work.

5. Present the Mural

- When the mural is done, throw a block-party or neighborhood event in celebration of the new mural.

6. Maintenance

- Please be aware that the residents who originally painted the mural are required to maintain the mural, this includes all weather fading and damages to the mural.

