

City of Portland, Oregon - Bureau of Development Services

1900 SW Fourth Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97201 | 503-823-7300 | www.portlandoregon.gov/bds



Original Art Murals Information Sheet

What is an Original Art Mural?

A hand-produced work of visual art which is tiled or painted by hand directly upon or affixed directly to an exterior wall of a building or structure.

In addition, Original Art Murals:

- must be maintained for at least two years, and the property owner cannot receive compensation for the display of the mural;
- cannot exceed a height of 30 feet above grade (no other size limits apply); and
- must meet additional standards if located in a Design Overlay Zone or on a noncontributing building in a historic or conservation district.



Artists: Angelina Marino, Gary Herd, Joel Heidel, Marlys Mick: (detail): located at NE 72nd and Sandy

Original Art Murals are not:

- mechanically produced or computer generated prints or images, including but not limited to digitally printed vinyl;
- murals containing electrical or mechanical components; or
- changing image murals.

Original Art Murals are not permitted:

- on sites developed with residential buildings with four or fewer units;
- on sites with historic or conservation landmarks, or contributing buildings in a historic or conservation district; or
- on stormwater facilities.



Artist: Joe Cotter: (detail): located at NE 20th and Everett

Link to more information

For more information on the Original Art Mural program, log onto www.portland.gov/bds/original-art-mural-permits.



Artist: Bruce Orr: located at NE Williams and Failing

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How to obtain a permit for an Original Art Mural	
Submit mural permit to Bureau	Application form and fee.
of Development Services (BDS)	Site plan and building elevation drawings.
Applicant	Description of mural and details of installation.
Schedule a neighborhood meeting Applicant	 Must be at an open and accessible location within the neighborhood boundary.
	 Scheduled during an evening or weekend only, and not between 10 pm and 7 am.
Send letter to neighborhood association Applicant	 Letter must be sent at least 21 calendar days before the scheduled meeting to neighborhood association.
	 Letter must contain a description of the mural proposal, date, time and location of meeting, and building elevation or photograph showing mural location.
	• Certificate of Mailing verifying the letter was sent is required.
Post notice of open meeting Applicant	 Applicant obtains posting board from BDS at time of permit submittal.
	 Notice must be posted at the mural location, at least 21 calendar days before the meeting.
Notify BDS Applicant	 After neighborhood contact requirements are completed, applicant must notify BDS in order to finalize the permit.
	 A copy of the letter sent to the neighborhood association announcing the meeting must be provided to BDS with the Certificate of Mailing.
6 Issuance of permit BDS	 BDS will issue the mural permit if all provisions of Title 4, Original Art Murals, and the administrative rule are met.
	 Structural review is required if any element weighs more than 7 pounds per square foot, or in total weighs more than 400 pounds.
	BDS review is nondiscretionary; the decision is final, with no local appeal.
Create the mural Applicant	Lead artist: Isaka Shamsud-Din
8 Inspection of completed mural BDS and Applicant	 The permit holder must email a photo of the mural to BDS after completion of the mural.
	 The photo must be sent within one year after permit issuance, or the permit expires.
	 Inspections may occur to enforce provisions of Title 4, as needed.