

East Lansing Urban Mural Project

“Crack Art” Guidelines and Application



Introduction

The City of East Lansing supports a variety of arts and cultural activities within the community, including a formal public art program. As part of its public art program, the East Lansing Arts Commission (ELAC) has launched a new initiative entitled the East Lansing Urban Mural Project. This project encourages artists, business owners and city government to work together to improve the overall aesthetic environment of East Lansing by installing mini mural on public property.

In particular, the ELAC is interested in encouraging artists to install small-scale installations in unexpected locations throughout the community. These small-scale installations have unofficially been termed “crack art.” “Crack art” is created when an artist uses the existing physical environment, such as a crack in a wall, retaining wall, bollard, etc, as the inspiration for mural design. The goal is to improve the overall aesthetic environment by installing spontaneous public art.

The ELAC has been granted authority by the East Lansing City Council to approve small-scale mural installations in public spaces. Any large-scale mural installations on public property must follow the public art process as defined in the ELAC Public Art Guidelines. All proposed installations on private property must be approved by the landowner.

Approval Process

The ELAC has been granted authority by the East Lansing City Council to approve small-scale mural installations on public property by issuing a permit. Painting murals on public or private property without permission of the owner is illegal and punishable by law.

All artists producing murals located on public property must obtain permission through the East Lansing Arts Commission by submitting an East Lansing Mural Project application for review.

The East Lansing Arts Commission oversees the East Lansing Urban Mural Project. It:

- 1) determines whether the proposed space is on public or private property and whether the location is suitable;
- 2) reviews and approves proposed mural installations in public spaces;
- 3) inspects public murals on an annual basis for any deterioration or vandalism;
- 4) contacts the artist if there are any maintenance issues or changes in the status of the mural;
- 5) maintains a catalog of existing and new murals found throughout the city.

Permit Approval Conditions

The following conditions apply when receiving a permit to install a mural:

- A. Approval is granted for the specific design and production of the mural submitted. No changes may be made to the design without approval from the ELAC.

- B. Approval is granted for the specific location as approved by City of East Lansing staff and the ELAC.
- C. The approval to install a mural will be revoked if the mural has not been completed within 120 days of the approved starting date.
- D. The cost of ALL materials and the time of the artist is not subject for reimbursement, unless otherwise approved.
- E. Approvals do not guarantee that the mural will remain in place for its life. A variety of development projects and public maintenance projects may require its removal.
- F. It is the responsibility of the artist to maintain the mural. Artists are allowed to touch up artwork throughout the life of the mural.
- G. If the mural deteriorates, it may be removed.
- H. The name of the artist and date must accompany the mural.
- I. No commercial advertising is permitted, including the inclusion of addresses, phone numbers and website addresses.
- J. Additional maintenance efforts, including anti-graffiti applications, are recommended. The artist must include what maintenance applications will be used as part of the application process.
- K. The City of East Lansing will identify the mural with an identifying marker.
- L. The City of East Lansing is not responsible for vandalism.
- M. The ELAC reserves the right to remove the mural if the City receives complaints about the design, meaning, content and/or maintenance.
- N. The artist must submit a letter or email to the ELAC within 30 days of the completion of the mural stating that the mural is completed.

APPLICATION

East Lansing Urban Mural Project

All murals located on public property must obtain permission through the East Lansing Arts Commission by submitting an East Lansing Mural Project application for review.

Artist Name _____

Temporary Address _____

Permanent Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Website (if applicable) _____

Artist Background and experience

Description of Mural (please attach sketch of proposed mural, including colors and design detail)

Location of Mural (please include photo of exact location)

Size of the Mural (height and width)

Type of paint and/or material to be used

Description of maintenance plan, if any (how will you prevent deterioration)?

Submission of Proposals

Please submit applications and attachments by mail or e-mail to:

East Lansing Arts Commission
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

OR

wlongpr@cityofeastlansing.com

Contact

For additional information, contact (517) 319-6940 or wlongpr@cityofeastlansing.com.
Guidelines and applications can be found online @ www.cityofeastlansing.com/crackart.

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Crack Art Examples

