

FAQ's about City of Springfield's UpStream Art Project

View photos and learn more at <http://www.springfield-or.gov/dpw/UpStreamArt.htm>

1. What departments/partners did you collaborate with for the project?

- **Operations Division**- The Operations crew pressure washed the mural sites before painting, Vactored out the catch basins, and used the street sweeper to clean the roadway before art installation. The traffic staff also needed to know which parking spaces were going to be blocked, and we provided a traffic plan to them.
- **City Council**- During the pilot year we provided a communication packet memo to the councilors so they had a heads-up about the project.
- **City Manager's Office**- We have a public affairs staff that is very interested in art so we worked closely to make sure the art and project reflected the ongoing goals of Springfield's revitalization efforts. The art also couldn't take away from the wall murals that are also being installed around the City.
- **City Planning Division**- Again, to make sure the art and project reflected the ongoing goals of the Springfield revitalization efforts (only occurred during the pilot year).
- **Local Business Owners**- We went to the local shops near the storm drains that we planned to paint and spoke with the owners about the project. We also had a judging committee for the art submissions, and asked if the owners wanted to sit on the judging committee. We wanted them to feel that they had some ownership over what was being installed by their business. However, the City had the final say in what art was actually installed.
- **Local Arts Commission**

2. What materials were provided to the artists?

- Paint (they had to use the paint we provided)
- Rollers, brushes, drop cloth, paint mixing dishes (yogurt containers). We asked that if the artists had specific sizes they wanted to supply their own.
- Rinse buckets- we also were diligent about refreshing the water for them.
- Spill kit in case any paint spilled
- Lunch and snacks
- Safety and stormwater training

3. What kind of paint did you use for the murals?

We used Ennis-Flint traffic paint which we found to be the cheapest option; HOWEVER, they only sell in 5 gallon per color so you would need to purchase 5 gallons of each color. The good news is the paint is meant for roadways so it lasts longer and each artist used about ¼ of a gallon for each mural so one purchase could last multiple years.

You could also look into cost sharing with your local traffic/operations/public works department (ours used Ennis-Flint for a while) or another agency. Most recently we jointly purchased with the City of Eugene.

4. Did you have to prepare the area other than clean it?

We put a clear coat of Krete-seal down, but otherwise no.

5. Did you put anything on the murals after painting them to protect them or for longevity?

We put a clear coat of Krete-seal down.

6. Do you maintenance them in any way? If so, what does that look like?

Each year we put a new coat of Krete-seal on the paintings.

7. Any challenges or successful tips you could offer to us as we embark down this path?

Paying the artists is the best way to ensure great designs- looking to see if local art galleries or businesses would be willing to sponsor an artist could be an option!

In your call to artists provide as many examples of what sort of murals you are looking for- many people had no idea what to conceptualize the first year. The second year we tripled our submissions because people knew more about the project (and we paid more!)

8. Is the sidewalk and storm drain box prepared the day before or the morning of the art installation?

We prep the day before, but it is up to you to decide how long the clear coat and pressuring washing water will take to dry in your region.

9. How is the artwork protected during the night between the afternoon and morning of installation?

We keep cones around the area. Since the paint dries within 20 minutes we leave them “unprotected” overnight.

10. Are there particular brush and roller sizes you provide for the artists?

We provide 1” and 3” brushes, and standard rollers. The paint and surface will destroy any brushes so let the artists know that ahead of time so they don’t bring their favorite ones.

11. How do you dispose of the wastewater from the rinse buckets?

Discharge to sanitary system (down the sink)- check with your local pretreatment program first, if you have one.

12. Did you partner with any outside organizations that helped sponsor or donate to the event?

AARP sponsored in 2017 and our local utility (Springfield Utility Board) sponsored in 2018.

13. How did you go about funding the stipend for your artists?

We use our City’s stormwater budget, specifically contractual services and program expense.

14. Were there entities that had any negative feedback during the process? What were the complaints?

One person called to say it was a waste of money during the first year. Otherwise we have had VERY positive feedback.

15. How long does it typically takes to create these murals?

15 hours average, for each mural.

