Traffic Signal Control Box Art Program
CALL FOR PARTICIPATION
Submission deadline: ongoing
Full information is available at http://indyarts.org/public-art/currentprojects

The Arts Council of Indianapolis, in partnership with the City of Indianapolis and its Department of Public Works (DPW), has established an ongoing program that will enhance the city’s traffic signal control boxes and turn them into bold works of art. The goals of this initiative are to brighten city streetscapes, enhance community pride, support the creation of neighborhood identity through high-quality art, discourage graffiti vandalism on public property, and create new, paid opportunities for professional artists.

Anyone can propose a traffic signal control box art project, and the project can include any number of boxes. The Arts Council will receive applications and work closely with the applicant to ensure a successful, beautiful result.

This program takes the place of the previous process for placing art on traffic signal control boxes. Requests made directly to DPW will be routed to the Arts Council, who will work with DPW to reserve the boxes.

Eligibility
Any of the following can apply to the Arts Council for a traffic signal box art project as long as there are visual art professionals also associated with the project:
• Artists 18 and over with or without prior public art experience
• Neighborhoods, neighborhood associations, CDCs, etc.
• Nonprofit organizations
• City departments
• Individuals or citizen groups

Process
Information packets and application forms can be downloaded from the Arts Council’s website indyarts.org. Applicants should read the information packet thoroughly, then set a meeting with the Arts Council’s public art staff as soon as possible to begin planning the project. The Arts Council recommends spending four months to one year planning the project to ensure a successful result.
Submission Requirements

A complete application includes an application form, a list of the proposed box locations, a project budget, a project timeline, and information about the artist and proposed artwork design(s). Evidence of approval from the appropriate neighborhood association(s) and owners of the properties adjacent to each proposed box location must be included with the application. Applicants will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with DPW to reserve the boxes and commit to maintaining the art. All participating artists will also be asked to sign an agreement with the sponsoring organization. For full submission instructions and forms, download the application materials from the Arts Council’s website here: http://indyarts.org/public-art/currentprojects.

To ensure that the box art in the City of Indianapolis meets technical and aesthetic standards, all box art projects must be proposed using the Arts Council’s process and require an in-person meeting with the Arts Council. Do not directly contact DPW with your request.

Delivery of Submissions

After the initial in-person meeting with the Arts Council, submit your application digitally on a CD or other portable media such as a jump drive (media will not be returned).

Deliver or mail submissions to:

Arts Council of Indianapolis
Attn: Traffic Signal Control Box Art Program
924 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1021

OR: upload the application and other materials to a third-party storage site (like Box, Dropbox or Hightail) and send a sharing invitation to Lindsey Lord, llord@indyarts.org
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who pays for the cost of creating art on traffic signal control boxes?
A: The applicant or sponsoring entity will be responsible for all costs, including materials, tools, artist fees, and maintenance. The Arts Council will help you develop a project that you can afford and suggest funding sources and fundraising techniques.

Q: How much will a traffic signal box art project cost?
A: The cost per box depends on the choice of materials used and the fee requested by the artist(s) involved. It can be as low as $500 or as high as $2000. Painted boxes are on the lower end and vinyl-wrapped boxes are on the higher end.

Q: Can non-artists design and paint traffic signal boxes?
A: Yes, but like professional artists, their design and materials must still be approved in advance by the Arts Council.

Q: Will the Arts Council tell us what we can and cannot put on our traffic signal boxes as art?
A: No. The submitting group will determine the designs that will be submitted to the Arts Council for review.

Q: Does the Arts Council understand that the boxes may be designs by community members, and not always professional artists?
A: Yes, this is the understanding; nevertheless, there are certain minimum aesthetic and technical criteria that must be met.

Q: Could the Arts Council reject a design that we submit?
A: Yes, in theory; but in practice the Arts Council will have been involved in the process of developing the artwork and designs will almost always be approved. The Arts Council may also make suggestions for improvement or ask for a redesign prior to approval.

Q: Can someone other than the artist, such as a neighborhood volunteer, paint the approved design on the box under the artist’s supervision?
A: Yes. You can commission an artist to create “line work” to be painted in by community volunteers.

Q: Why do we have to get neighborhood association and adjacent property owner approval if the box is on public property?
A: The City wants to make sure that everyone with a stake in how the neighborhood looks and feels is given the opportunity to speak out before the project starts. We understand that not every design is going to please everybody, but we want to make sure that the artwork will not be suddenly destroyed because it is offensive or because it does not fit the community standard.
Q: What kind of maintenance are we expected to perform?
A: The primary maintenance will be to keep the box art free of visible vandalism, which will most likely take the form of tagging, stickers, or pasted paper. The Arts Council will provide suggestions for techniques and safe solvents to make maintenance easier.

Q: Is this art permanent?
A: No. The traffic signal control box art is expected to last no more than 5 years, and then the box must either be redone with a different design or returned to a neutral color.

Additional questions? Contact:

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Examples of high-quality traffic signal control box art