

Public Art Opportunity: Traffic Box Art, St. Joseph, Missouri

The Project

The Allied Arts Council invites artists to apply for a public art project to create art on traffic signal boxes in the downtown area. The goal of the project is to decrease the instances of graffiti on these surfaces, while making them artful objects that contribute significantly to the vitality and attractiveness of the streetscape. The project is a cooperative effort between the Allied Arts Council and the City of St. Joseph.

For 2025, the traffic signal box to be addressed is located at the corner of Frederick and Noyes. Approximate dimensions are:

Front: 53.5" H X 44" W

Sides: 53.5" H X 26" W

Back: 53.5" H X 44" W

The theme for this traffic box should reflect Art Nouvea as this is the time period majority of the homes in the Fairleigh Terrace neighborhood were built. We would like the traffic box design to reflect that era and persona.

Interested artists should submit a design proposal as well as qualifications (see Selection Process and Applicant Information) by **May 1, 2025**.

The Budget

The total budget for the Traffic Box Art project shall not exceed \$2,000. That includes an artist honorarium of \$1,500 and an allowance for materials up to \$500. The Allied Arts Council will provide a designated primer and graffiti coat sealant, both of which must be used. (Part of the \$500 material allowance will go toward purchase of primer and sealant.)

Application Process and Design Criteria

- Use the template provided to propose a design concept. Be aware that some changes to the design may be required to accommodate site requirements.
- Design must include all visible sides of the traffic signal box.
- Designs must not be offensive or contain any representation of traffic lights, signs, or signals.
- If the design is to include text, it must be included in the design. The traffic signal box may not be used for advertisement or to promote a business, product, or viewpoint.
- Designs may not include a breach of intellectual property, trademarks, brands, images of illegal activity or involve the attachment of any object(s) to the box.
- This program aims to deter graffiti vandalism, therefore designs should not mimic or take the style of tags or graffiti.
- The finished artwork(s) will be in the public domain and therefore may be vandalized. Accordingly, artists should be thoughtful about having large open areas in the design – for example, large areas of blue sky might give a vandal the perfect spot to deface the work.

- Designs should not include painting any elements other than the traffic signal box. This includes the pole to which the traffic signal box is attached.
- Design must actually be painted onto traffic box, no wraps may be used (ex: vinyl wraps)
- Selected artist must be available to complete project by **September 1, 2025**.

Guidelines for Proposals

The Traffic Box Art program is designed to enhance the downtown area by adding works of art to the streetscape on surfaces that are often targeted by graffiti vandals. Artwork on traffic signal boxes functions as a form of communication to a moving audience with the goal of creating a safe, inclusive, and interesting urban environment. Successful proposals will foster community pride and convey the sense of the St. Joseph community. When designing your artwork, think of the vitality of the Downtown District and its contribution to the city as a whole, such as arts, music, community events, and special attractions.

Artists should understand that the finished works will be on functioning equipment that will need repair or replacing at some point in the future. As such, the City of St Joseph cannot guarantee how long each traffic signal box will be in use. We anticipate the average life of the Traffic Box Art to be 10 years. As the design becomes chipped, worn, or faded, AAC may ask the artist to repair the art or the Allied Arts Council and the City of St. Joseph may select to replace the artwork.

The Selection Process

The Allied Arts Council and the City of St. Joseph will convene a panel of artists, arts professionals, community representatives, and Council staff to review the applications and choose a proposal. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of artistic and technical merit as well as relevance of proposed design.

Artist Eligibility

All eligible applicants, regardless of race, sex, religion, nationality or disability will be considered.

Application Information

To be considered, submit the following:

- current resume
- contact information for two professional references
- design proposal on the template provided
- a typed statement briefly explaining your design, one page maximum

Artists may submit more than one design proposal. A statement for each design must be submitted. **Do not** bind application materials or put them in a notebook or binder. **Do not** send any materials not specifically requested (i.e. photographs, transparencies, DVDs/videos, articles). If sent, they will not be reviewed by the selection panel.

Application Checklist

- Résumé including biography
- Reference contact information
- Template design for each design submitted, if more than one
- Basic design statement, for each design submitted, if more than one

Submission deadline is May 1, 2025

- Email Submissions to visarts@stjoearts.org
- Mail Submissions, postmarked by **May 1, 2025** to: Allied Arts Council, 118 South 8th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64501
- Hand Deliver Submissions to: Allied Arts Council, 118 South 8th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64501

The Allied Arts Council and the City of St. Joseph assume no responsibility for loss or damage to submissions.

Inquiries

Brooke McBride, Director of Strategic Communications, Allied Arts Council, 816-233-0231 brooke.mcbride@stjoearts.org

Terms, Conditions & Reservation of Rights

The request for Proposals (RFP) does not commit the Allied Arts Council (AAC) or the City of St. Joseph (City) to enter into an agreement with any applicant and is not an offer for contract. All AAC programs are contingent upon availability of funds. At its sole discretion, AAC may reject any or all applications, may modify or terminate the application or selection processes and without prior notice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, applicant shall retain all copyright in the work which may be held by applicant. The applicant certifies that the information contained in the application is true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge. AAC and the City are not responsible for damage or loss of materials submitted. Failure to comply with all requirements of the RFP will constitute an invalid application. AAC reserves the right at any time to supplement, amend or otherwise modify this solicitation and to request additional information from any participating artists for any reason and without prior notice. In addition, AAC reserves the right to accept or reject at any time prior to the commissioning of a work, any or all proposals; to waive any defect or technicality; and to advertise for new requests for qualifications.