



City of Foster City Parks and Recreation

Utility Box Art Program **PILOT PROGRAM**

Call for Local Artists

The City of Foster City and the Foster City Parks and Recreation Department are seeking artists to showcase their artwork by painting or vinyl wrapping utility boxes located throughout Foster City as part of a pilot utility box art program. The goals of the project are to enhance the beauty and vibrancy of Foster City, deter unsightly graffiti on utility boxes, and bring art to unexpected places.

Four utility boxes have been selected to be adorned with artwork as part of the pilot program. Two sets of utility boxes will be painted by the selected artists and two sets will have artists' artwork transferred to vinyl wrap and applied to the utility boxes. All aspects of the pilot program will be assessed by the City to determine if the program will be adopted as a permanent program.

The application and design templates are available from the Foster City Parks and Recreation Department (<https://www.fostercity.org/utilityboxart>). The information is also available in the Community section of the City's website (www.fostercity.org) and at Foster City City Hall, 650 Foster City Blvd., during office hours.

Applications will not be accepted after the deadline of December 31, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Please read this "Call for Local Artists" in its entirety before completing the application.

Eligibility

While all adults and youth are invited to apply for this program, priority will be given to artists that live, work, or attend school in Foster City. Artists may enlist assistants or art instructors to help them complete the project. All entries must be an original design and artwork of the entrant must be suitable for viewing by people of all ages and backgrounds.

Utility Box Locations and Information

Utility Box Locations:

- Port Royal Ave. @ Edgewater Blvd. (north end) – 2 boxes (standard and service pedestal)

To Be Painted



- E. Hillsdale Blvd. @ Gull Ave. – 2 boxes (standard and service pedestal)

To Be Painted



- Metro Center Blvd. @ Edgewater Blvd. – 2 standard boxes

To Be Vinyl Wrapped



- Foster City Blvd. @ Polynesia Dr. – 2 boxes (standard and service pedestal)

To Be Vinyl Wrapped



Paint

The selected utility boxes may vary in size, are typically gray or green, and may require several sequential applications of paint to complete the project. Artist is responsible for providing all supplies and labor needed to complete the project, including sanding, priming, and painting with acrylics.

Vinyl Wrap

With artwork selected for use in the program, a fabricator hired by the City will transfer artist designs to a vinyl wrap and apply them to designated utility boxes. Submitted artwork must meet the specific technical requirements detailed in the application package.

Paint & Vinyl Wrap

The City of Foster City is responsible for applying a finish of anti-graffiti clear coat to all completed work. The utility boxes selected to be included in the project will be at the City's discretion.

Artwork Information

The proposed utility box art must be completed using acrylic paint or a vinyl wrap and must cover all sides and the top of the box. The art cannot restrict any vents or airflow through the boxes. City maintenance crews must be able to fully access the components inside the boxes at all times.

The art should enliven the area, transform the street, and reflect the neighborhood or area where the utility box is located. The art should be visible from a distance; therefore, artists may choose to utilize bold colors and designs, unless designed to blend in with a backdrop. Artists may submit more than one concept for the same location.

The installation of the work must be completed between **March through May 2025**, but cannot begin until the design has been approved and all applicable liability and contract documents are completed. Artists under the age of 18 must also have a parent or guardian sign all forms. For painted utility boxes, additional insurance may be required from artists who will be driving to the site or are performing this installation as part of their business.

Entries that use a copyrighted or trademarked image will not be accepted. In addition, no portion(s) of the art may be plagiarized, stolen, or copied from any other source. Entries must not defame or invade the rights of any person(s), living or dead. The art may include the name of the artists or sponsor (no larger than 3" x 5" located in bottommost portion of any side of the box).

The artwork is a long-term installation and will become the property of the City of Foster City. Included will be a waiver of all Artists rights under Visual Artists Rights Act, 17 U.S.C §§106A and 113(d) ("VARA"), the California Art Preservation Act, Cal. Civil Code §§ 987 and 989 ("CAPA").

Application Package

Each of the following items must be submitted for a fully completed application:

- A conceptual COLOR rendering, using a provided template, showing the planned artwork for all sides and the top of the utility box. Submissions may be hand drawn or computer generated. Please note that utility boxes may differ in size, so this is purely a concept rendering
- An Artist Statement, approximately one page in length, that describes the artist's interest in applying their artwork to a utility box, any previous experience with public art projects, and how the artist believes the art will enrich the area
- A résumé that does not exceed four pages. Any relevant artist experience should be included, such as exhibition history and past projects, and experience with cooperative and community-based projects. Students may submit a letter of recommendation from an art teacher in lieu of a résumé
- Examples of previous work, including a brief description
- All visuals including utility box designs and examples of previous work must meet the online format specifications required for uploading:
 - File type: JPG
 - Dimensions: minimum 1920 pixels on the longest side
 - Resolution: 300 dpi
- Vinyl wrap submissions are to be submitted with the following specifications met:
 - Color mode to be in CMYK
 - All fonts converted to curve or flatten
 - Images to be embedded in file
 - File in PDF
 - EPS format
 - 300 dpi or greater
 - Vector image
- While the City will have the final determination, an artist can request a specific utility box location from previously approved utility boxes

Artist Selection Process

The selection process will consist of:

1. Review of the application package by the Staff Review Committee
2. Staff Review Committee recommendation to the City Council Ad Hoc Beatification Sub Committee
3. Final review and approval by the City Council

Selection Criteria

- Artist's experience and ability to complete the project within a provided time frame
- Creativity and originality of the proposed artwork
- Adherence to the goal of adding beauty and vibrancy to Foster City
- Artwork that relates to the utility box location
- Artwork that emphasizes the City's unique characteristics, history, cultural demographics, or key activities unique to the community

If You Are Selected to Add Your Artwork to a Utility Box

Selected artists and all assistants must attend an orientation meeting that will be scheduled tentatively the week of **March 10, 2025**.

All artists must sign a City of Foster City Liability Release Waiver and complete the Agreement before beginning work on selected utility boxes. There may also be additional insurance requirements for artists who will be driving to the job site, and for artists who will perform this installation as part of their business. The installation of the work must be completed by **May 31, 2025**.

Upon the Staff Review Committee's approval of the completed work, the City of Foster City will pay Artist a stipend in the following amounts:

- Paint - \$500 per standard utility box. If Artist work includes an accompanying service pedestal box, Artist will be paid an additional stipend of \$300.00.
- Vinyl Wrap - \$300 per standard utility box. If Artist work includes an accompanying service pedestal box, Artist will be paid an additional stipend of \$100.00.

Artist must notify the designated City representative when the project is completed.

Questions? Please contact Parks and Recreation at (650) 286-3380 or email recreation@fostercity.org.