



**CITY OF PLAINFIELD
CALL FOR ARTISTS
PUBLIC ART UTILITY BOX PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET**

The City of Plainfield invites artists to participate in the Public Art Utility Box Program (Utility Box Project).

The Plainfield Public Art Utility Box Program is made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Plainfield is seeking artists to showcase their work in an ongoing effort to create vibrant works of art by local artists on ten (10) Utility Boxes throughout the City of Plainfield. The deadline for online submission is **October 5, at 4:00 pm.**

What are the Program goals? The goals of the Utility Box Project are ambitious:

- The artwork will support community revitalization
- The artwork will be transformative
- The artwork will enhance Plainfield's identity
- The artwork will foster community pride and belonging
- The artwork will enhance Plainfield's streetscape for residents' and visitors' enjoyment

Who is Eligible?

- All adult artists, teams of artists, student artists 16-18 years old, and art teachers will mentor and supervise a group of students in painting a Utility Box.

Where are the Utility Boxes?

The Utility Boxes vary in size and are located throughout Plainfield, including significant thoroughfares with traffic signals. Artists should consider that drivers and pedestrians may view more than one side of the Utility Box.

LOCATIONS

1. East 3rd St. and Leland Avenue
2. Park Avenue and Crescent Avenue.
3. South End Parkway and Park Avenue
4. South 2nd St. and Grant Avenue
5. East Second and Richmond Avenue
6. Terrill Avenue and E. 2nd Street
7. Plainfield Avenue and 8th Street
8. Front and Lawrence (Drake House)

9. Terrill Road and Front Street
10. Grant Avenue and W. Seventh Street

Note: Artists may submit more than one concept design per location.

SCOPE OF ARTISTS WORK

Each selected artist or team of artists will apply original hand-paint works of art on all sides and top of the utility box, if possible. Artist will choose appropriate paint and supplies funded by the Artist fee. Artists are responsible for completing an accepted design for the murals on the utility box and finishing the application of the design on the utility box.

COMPENSATION

Each selected artist or team of artists will receive recognition, design credit, and \$600.00. The artist fee includes the cost of all supplies and attendance at planning meetings. Fifty percent of the price will be paid at the final acceptance of the utility box design, and the remaining 50% will be paid upon completion of the utility box.

UTILITY BOX PROJECT - DESIGN, APPLICABILITY, THEME, ARTIST CREDIT

Design:

All entries must:

- **Must** be original design and artwork owned by the artist. Entries that use copyrighted material or trademarked image(s) will not be accepted. In addition, the art must not be plagiarized, stolen, or copied from any other source
- **Must** not defame or invade the rights of any person, living or dead
- **Must** not be lewd or lascivious or include expletives

Applicability:

- Must be painted onto the Utility Boxes, covering all four sides and the top of the box, if possible. Some sites have two boxes next to each other which prevent painting on adjacent sides.
- Must be visible from a distance; therefore, artists may choose to utilize bold colors and designs.
- Artwork may not restrict any vents or airflow through the boxes; thus, necessary layout edits to designs may be made by the City. The City must be able to fully access the box and the components inside the box at all times. If the Utility Box is mounted on a base, concrete, or other material, the floor will not be included as part of the available area for a public art design.

Theme: The 2022 Utility Box theme is "From Rebellion to Renaissance." The City seeks Utility Box designs that showcase Plainfield's culture or historical heritage or acknowledges a critical activity or event in the area.

The City is seeking a unique design for the Drake House Museum Utility Box to be part of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The City is explicitly looking for a design that celebrates or acknowledges this landmark event.

Important Note: Artists can submit more than one concept for exact utility box location.

Artist Credit: The Artwork may include the artist's name no larger than a 3" x 5" space on one of the box's four side panels.

CONNECTING ARTISTS WITH THE COMMUNITY: The City plans to place QR codes on each UTILITY BOX to provide more information about the artist and their work and provide a web link to a picture of the artist and a recording of the artist explaining the work. Plainfield seeks to connect artists with the community and promote Plainfield as a cultural destination.

WHO WILL OWN THE ARTWORK?

The Utility Box artwork is considered a long-term installation. When completed on the Utility Box, the artwork will become the property of the City of Plainfield. The Utility Box artwork may be reproduced and sold.

WHO CHOOSES THE ARTWORK AND LOCATIONS? The City of Plainfield Public Art Committee chooses all accepted artists. An artist or team of artists may be selected to paint more than one Utility Box. The Public Art Committee will also make determinations of the location of the artist's Utility Box project after reviewing the artist's suggestions.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

The deadline for submission is **September October 5, 2022, at 4:00 pm.**

Artists will be notified by October 12, 2022

Boxes must be completed by November 22, 2022.

HOW DO I APPLY?

PLEASE SUBMIT ON-LINE REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTS ON THE CITY OF PLAINFIELD WEBSITE www.plainfieldnj.gov

Questions: Interested artists may email or call Sharon McGuire, sharon.mcguire@plainfieldnj.gov and (908) 416-0062



INSTRUCTIONS FOR UTILITY BOX PUBLIC ART REGISTRATION and Uploads:

All requirements listed below must be met, or the application will not be considered.

- *Completed Registration- The Registration is a fillable PDF submitted online*
UPLOADS
 1. **Concept drawings** should show all four (4) sides and the top of the Utility Box OR boxes. **Please note** that Utility Boxes differ in size, so the diagram is for a concept drawing, not necessarily to scale. Please note the location of the requested box on concept drawing submissions.
Concept drawings may be hand-drawn; however, a digital design is preferred but is NOT REQUIRED. Please include specifications regarding materials and programs used to design artwork (e.g., oil painting scanned into a jpeg, InDesign, Photoshop, original photography).
 2. **Previous work/Portfolio samples** A maximum of three (3) examples of prior work, including a brief description of materials and programs.
 3. **Optional: Artist resume** that includes past projects or exhibitions; or a brief description of cooperative, community-based projects of any kind. (two pages maximum).
 4. **Application including utility box preference, title of submissions etc.**
 5. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:** Teacher Letter of Recommendation for Student Applicant 16-18 years old.
 6. **For Application of Teacher supervising Student Artists: Brief Description including age and number of students.** Teachers must secure permission from the school administration to have their students participate in this program before the painting project begins.

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