PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Economic Development

4525 Indianapolis Boulevard, City Hall Lower Level, East Chicago, Indiana 46312
Telephone: (219) 391-8205; Fax: (219) 391-8522; www.eastchicago.com

Anthony Copeland
Mayor

MURAL GUIDELINES

MURALS

Mural art is widely considered one of the oldest methods of artistic expression. Its significance is not based on age, but its ability to bring art into public places. Murals should complement and enhance the building. While a sign is specifically advertising a business, product or service through graphics or text, a mural is solely artistic in nature.

Mechanically-produced or computer-generated prints or images, including but not limited to digitally printed vinyl are prohibited. Murals shall not contain electrical or mechanical components; changing image mural; commercial signage. Murals should complement and enhance the building. Murals shall be created with paint and/or tile only.

For regulatory purposes, hand-painted signs are not considered murals.

The mural application process and guidelines are intended to provide mural applicants with a reasonable process that will safeguard the interests of the community, as well as those of the individual property owner.

LOCATION

1. The installation of the mural should complement and enhance the building.
2. The location of the mural on the building should not cover or detract from significant or character defining architectural features.
3. Murals should not be located in an area which may cause undue distraction to drivers thereby creating a safety hazard.
4. Murals are not allowed in Residential Zones (R1-R4); however, can be allowed on buildings within these zones that are institutional, schools, churches, or commercial use.
    a. The primary use of the building cannot be a residence(s).
5. To protect the integrity of historically significant structures, murals are not permitted.
6. Mural's height & width will be subject to Planning Commission Approval, on a case by case basis.
7. Murals shall not contain electrical or mechanical components.

DESIGN

1. The scale of the mural should be appropriate to the building and the site.
2. The mural should be an original design.
3. The artist name(s) may be incorporated but should be discreet.
4. Paint utilized should be of superior quality and intended for exterior use.
5. Reflective, neon and fluorescent paints shall not be used.
6. The mural should have a weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.

REVIEW

Submit the Mural Permit Application and required documents to the Planning & Economic Development Department. Once the application is submitted an appointment with staff will be made for initial review of imagery, location and medium if necessary.

All applications must include the following:

1. Completed Mural Permit Application
2. Brief description of the theme/image for this mural
3. Photographs of the existing building and proposed mural area
4. List of materials to be used
5. Three (3) Letters of Support
6. Letter of sponsorship by the Mayor
7. Letter of sponsorship by a member of the City of East Chicago Common Council or City Official
8. Lead artist's qualifications and work samples
9. Color scale rendering of proposed mural design
10. Maintenance Plan (including parties responsible for maintenance)
11. Written permission including acknowledgment of responsibilities from property owner
12. Project timeline

A public meeting notice will be required and letters will be sent out to property owners 300ft away from potential mural location, identified by the Planning & Economic Development Department. Additionally, posting is required on all proposed mural sites ten (10) days in advance of the Planning Commission Meeting.

The Planning Commission's decision is based upon adopted review criteria for public art murals, readability and appropriateness of scale and materials: no signage or subject matter that could be construed as advertising or political messages.

If the mural proposal is not approved, the applicant may resubmit to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

ENFORCEMENT

1. Murals shall be completed within six (6) months of approval from the Planning Commission.
2. Incomplete projects that extend beyond the six (6) month installation may submit a formal extension request to the Planning Commission.
3. Any mural without approval shall be considered vandalism and enforced accordingly.
4. When an official interpretation is deemed necessary to determine whether or not a proposal constitutes a sign and is thereby subject to the City's Sign Ordinance, the Director of Planning and Economic Development or his/her designee shall be responsible for making such an interpretation.
5. The Director of Planning and Economic Development or his/her designee's decision may be appealed to the Planning Commission.

MAINTENANCE

1. The maintenance of the mural will be the responsibility of the property owner.
2. The mural must be properly maintained to ensure that material failure (peeling paint) is corrected and vandalism removed promptly in accordance with the City's Property Maintenance Ordinance.

APPLICATION FEE

There is an application fee of $100 due at the time of submission. Also a postage schedule of values and publication cost will be added.

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2025 MURAL APPLICATION

Date _____

Name of Applicant(s): _____

Name of Organization (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Email: _____

Funding Source: _____

Address of Proposed Mural: _____

Property Owner's Mailing Address: _____

Property Owner's Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Property Owner's Email Address: _____

Nearest Cross Streets: _____

Which direction does the wall face?

- ☐North
- ☐East
- ☐South
- ☐West

What material is the wall?

- ☐Brick
- ☐Stucco
- ☐Cinderblock
- ☐Other _____

What are the dimensions of the wall? _____

The following attachments are required:

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SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____