

Category: Infrastructure

Subject: Decorative Painting on City Right of Way

Purpose

The Decorative Painting on City Right of Way Policy provides guidance for painting using non-standard colours and designs to add art and vibrancy to streets and neighbourhoods, while maintaining safety for pedestrians, vehicular traffic and all users of crosswalks, sidewalks, and pathways in the community.

Scope

This policy applies to all decorative painting initiatives on the pedestrian network within the community, including but not limited to crosswalks, sidewalks, pathways, curb extensions, plazas, and other pedestrian-oriented public rights-of-way.

The policy governs the planning, design, approval, installation, maintenance, and removal of decorative painting that uses non-standard colors, patterns, or artistic designs. It applies to all internal departments, contractors, community groups, artists, developers, and any other parties proposing or undertaking decorative painting on municipal pedestrian infrastructure.

This policy does not replace or supersede applicable federal, provincial, or municipal legislation, traffic control standards, accessibility requirements, or engineering specifications. Where conflicts arise, legislated safety and accessibility requirements shall take precedence.

Policy Statement

Council recognizes the value of decorative painting on the pedestrian network as a placemaking and public-art tool that can enhance neighborhood identity, support community expression, and contribute to animating public spaces.

Council also affirms that public safety, accessibility, and infrastructure function are paramount. Decorative painting shall not compromise the safe and effective operation of pedestrian facilities or adjacent roadways, nor interfere with the recognition, visibility, or performance of standard traffic control devices.

Accordingly, Council establishes that Decorative painting on the pedestrian network is permitted only where it:

- Maintains compliance with applicable provincial legislation and recognized engineering and accessibility standards;

- Does not reduce the safety or clarity of crosswalks, pedestrian routes, or vehicular traffic operations;
- Preserves tactile, visual, and mobility accessibility for all users, including persons with disabilities;
- Does not create confusion with standard traffic markings, colours, or symbols.

Content Restrictions

All decorative painting proposals shall be subject to City review and approval prior to installation. Decorative painting proposals are intended to enhance and activate public spaces, reflect community identity, and celebrate the culture, neighbourhoods, history and/or special events in Penticton. To preserve this purpose, designs must adhere to the following restrictions:

- No advertising or promotion and may not include corporate branding, logos, product promotion, business names, slogans, or any content that could be interpreted as advertising or commercial messaging.
- No designs that primarily benefit a private business or organization and must not be used as a tool for directing customers, marketing a business, or otherwise providing economic advantage to any private entity.
- May not include content related to political campaigns, religious endorsement, or advocacy for specific causes.
- Design must align with the City's vision for welcoming, inclusive, and culturally respectful public spaces.

Approval Requirements

Approval may include conditions related to:

- Design modifications;
- Materials and surface treatments;
- Installation methods;
- Ongoing maintenance responsibilities;
- Removal or restoration timelines;
- The proposed location;
- Installation cost and funding availability.

Decorative painting shall be:

- Durable, non-slip, and appropriate for the operational and climatic conditions of the City;
- Compatible with long-term infrastructure maintenance and lifecycle considerations;
- Installed in a manner that protects City assets and public safety.

Council delegates authority to the General Manager of Infrastructure, or their designate, to develop administrative procedures and technical guidelines necessary to implement this policy in a manner consistent with BC standards and municipal best practices.

Related Policies and Legislation

- *Motor Vehicle Act* and associated regulations (British Columbia)
- Accessibility 2030 and applicable accessibility guidelines

- Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) standards and guidelines
- BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) traffic engineering standards
- Master Municipal Construction Documents (MMCD)
- Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- City of Penticton Traffic Bylaw

Approval History			
Previous revisions/replaces:			
Approved by Council on:		Resolution No.:	

Certified Correct:

Angie Collison, Corporate Officer