

Mural Research - Colorado Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Regulations for murals?	Permit?	Reviewers?	Code Reference/Comments
Aurora	No specific regulations for murals. However, if a developer is including a mural on a building then it needs to be shown on the site plan.	No and yes. In certain areas of Aurora, (our Arts District) there are certain approvals needed. Otherwise, no.	No. Unless there is a design review committee for the development.	
Boulder	Private property - no Public property - public arts process	No, but might need sign permit (if a sign) or ROW permit depending on work	Private building mural - no	Sign code: https://bouldercolorado.gov/services/sign-code ROW permit: https://bouldercolorado.gov/services/right-way-permits
Broomfield	Not in Code, but if commercial logo = signage. For new developments, we would ask for any murals (and all signage) to be included in their Planned Unit Development Plan and/or Site Development Plan. For developments with existing Planned Unit Development Plans and/or Site Development Plans which specify a sign plan, we would require an administrative modification to allow the mural.	Yes, if signaged. Public Art - Arts, History, and Cultural Council	Arts, History, and Cultural Council - https://library.municode.com/co/broomfield/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT2ADPE_CH2-64ARHICUCOARHICUCO	In process of being updated - https://library.municode.com/co/broomfield/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT17ZO_CH17-44SICO
Centennial	No regulations	No regulations	No regulations	Working on something this summer
Denver	- Denver has a definition of “sign” that EXCEMPTS pure works of art. See definition of “sign” in Article 13, Div. 13.3 of the Denver Zoning Code @ www.denvergov.org/zoning . - Denver also has an allowance for a “sign” that is “primarily artistic in nature” and allows such signs across the city, with a zoning permit review, and limits stated in Article 10, Sec. 10.10.3.2.J (Signs that are Works of Art). These are typically murals that contain images or words that help identify a business, product, building, or sponsor. It may also be more nebulously a work of art that works as a building identifier because of its scale/size (Central Platte Valley apartment building with an artistic kinetic lighting installation that uses the entire side of the 20-story building as its backdrop). When we find a mural falls into this category of “sign”, there is an allowance for up to 5% of the work to be taken by a sponsor i.d.; the code doesn’t clearly state this, but the sponsor id must be integrated with the work or art and/or secondary or incidental to the art work so that the sign remains “primarily artistic in nature”. - There is a process of collaboration between CPD and the city’s Arts and Venue staff (manager of the city’s public arts program, specifically) to make a determination for muralists whether their proposed project is (1) a “sign” or not a “sign”; and then (2) if it is a “sign”, whether it qualifies as a Sign that is a work of art. See attached procedural guide.	Only if the mural is determined to be a sign.	Zoning does request a written finding from the public arts manager/staff that they find the proposed mural qualifies as either “purely art” or a sign that is primarily artistic in nature (as defined in Denver DRMC, Sec. 20-86, which contains the provisions / definitions of what is “public art” for other regulatory purposes – we borrow that definition for the zoning review of murals).	
Durango	Included in the list of "signs authorized without a permit"	No	Yes, design review	
Fort Collins	Yes if have commercial speech	No, unless a sign	No, unless a sign	
Fountain	Yes, permitted in any zone district	Exempted from permitting	Not reviewed	Subsection 17.12.030 Defined as “a picture or graphic illustration applied directly to a wall of a building that contains no text”.
Golden	Public or private property - license agreement with private property owner. PAC has no say if private property unless need funding (can go rogue if they want, but no one has ever done so). Have never had an issue before. Don't call art a sign.	License agreement - mural, commercial language - sign code	PAC appointed by Council - selects public art on either public or private (private - if contacted). If public criticism, have to wait 5 years to take it down to allow for emotions/tempers to calm down. Looking to expand beyond white, male artists putting up white, male art.	Have a PAC
Grand Junction	Yes "allowed", but not regulated	No because not regulated	No	https://www.codepublishing.com/CO/GrandJunction/#!/html2/GrandJunction21/GrandJunction2106.html#21.06.070
Greeley	Yes, defined as 'art'	If commercial advertising, sign permit	Only if a sign	
Lakewood	Yes, defined with painted wall signs but cannot have logo or ads contained	Yes, and only issued to specific groups		
Lone Tree	Yes, defined in mural policy	Development Application	Planning	
Longmont	No, if a mural.	Yes, if a sign	Planning	

Manitou	No, they're currently regulated as a wall sign. We're drafting a change to our sign code to allow murals, though. I'll share it when our attorney finishes drafting it.	Currently, yes. They would require a sign permit. We're considering not requiring a permit with the draft code as it would be considered art instead of signage.	Currently, sign permits are administrative. With the proposed draft, they would be required to be reviewed by Creative Alliance Manitou Springs (CRANE).	
Parker	No, not included in signage	No	Planning reviews through site plan	Looking to update their code in the future
Pueblo	Murals are considered "paint".	If sign - permit, but if art - no	Zoning approval required, but if non-commeric	
Thornton	Thornton does regulate signage and murals differently. In practice this means murals and public art are encouraged but are not allowed to function as signs for businesses. If a business wants a mural, it should be akin to art and culture celebration as opposed to the business owner or tenant of a building. If they want it to advertise their business, it falls under the definition of signage and has to meet planning requirements for size, placement, etc. and receive a building permit (ministerial building code process) and/or a minor development permit (ministerial planning review process)	Yes, murals are regulated by our Public Art Commission and TASHCO (Thornton arts, sciences, and humanities council)	Yes, murals are regulated by our Public Art Commission and TASHCO (Thornton arts, sciences, and humanities council)	https://www.thorntonco.gov/arts/Pages/art-commissions.aspx
Wheatridge	Murals are considered art and not regulated in our zoning code, except to provide a definition which does live in our sign code (Article VII of City Code) Artistic mural or sculpture. A freestanding statue or sculpture or a graphic illustration or design, or an architectural design or relief applied directly to or incorporated within a wall of a building, which does not advertise or promote a particular business, service or "branded" product.	No permit required.	No. Murals are not regulated. The City of Wheat Ridge Cultural commission does regulate murals when city-acquired then it follows Chapter 18 of City Code.	

Mural Research - US Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Regulations for murals?	Permit?	Reviewers?	Code Reference/Comments
Arlington, TX	Yes, but only in Downtown Business District and Entertainment Districts - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Murals are allowed up to 100 percent of the wall area, not exceeding a height of 40 feet above grade. However, no mural shall not be placed over openings such as windows, doors, and vents. •Lighting of a mural shall be external. •Only one mural per building is allowed. •No portion of the mural shall be used to advertise a specific product or service. The mural may display the name or logo of the on-site tenant if it does not exceed more than 20 percent of the mural area. (This portion of the mural needs a Sign Permit.) 	Yes	Planning and if don't meet requirements, go through a different route like 'Alternative Sign Program' with City Council having final decision.	City Council discussing murals on May 9. https://www.si.com/mlb/rangers/news/texas-rangerst-arlington-mayor-jim-ross-rougner-odor-jose-bautista-punch-mural-update
Atlanta, GA	No	No	Planning staff nor the Zoning code regulates, reviews or approves murals.	
Charlotte, NC	Wall signs - permitted in all non-residential districts and no size limit and can have commercial logo/copy included	Yes	Zoning	
Columbus, OH	When discussing murals, I will be referring to those which <u>do not</u> contain commercial copy. No, Columbus does not have any specific code regulation related to murals. Our Design Districts (Downtown, East Franklinton, and University District) do have policy language related to art more broadly, but not specifically murals. Some of our Historic Districts do have policy language (not code) related to murals, but these are limited for the most part to size and location.	The City does not require a permit to paint a building, and this extends to murals. The Historic Districts do require a Certificate of Appropriateness for a mural. When placed on a building or property owned or leased by the city, or when it is placed in the right-of-way, the Columbus Art Commission will need to review and approve the mural. However, there are no specific guidelines with regards to murals used by the commission in their review.	No they do not.	
Dallas, TX	Public art, allowed wherever a wall sign may be permitted		Public Art Committee	
El Paso, TX	Yes, through DMD		DMD (Downtown Management District), Historic Preservation Officer if on a historic building	https://downtownelpaso.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Downtown-Mural-Grant-Program-Guidelines_11162020.pdf
Fort Worth, TX	Public art, allowed wherever a wall sign may be permitted		Public Art Committee	
Henderson, NV	Mural is art, but any commercial advertisement/text = signage. Signage must meet established sizing.	No	Planning reviews structure, but no permit AND if "sign" is just painted on, no tracking	
Kansas City, MO	No, unless commercial message (sign)	No (but yes for sign)	Sign permit	
Las Vegas, NV	Our code does not specifically address murals separately from other signage. We regulate murals as signage only if they contain commercial messaging that would define them as signage (such as a business name, logo or depictions of goods/services offered). If they contain no commercial messaging, they are considered to be artwork, covered by the 1A and not regulated.	Not if it is artwork. If it is painted signage, we do have a permit for that to verify that it complies with the signage requirements.	No	
Mesa, AZ	Murals defined as painted work of visual art or pictorial representation applied to or incorporated into a structure or wall, with the exception of a window, that can be viewed from public places, alleys, rights-of-way. A painted work of visual art or pictorial representation applied to or incorporated into a window is a window sign. Not counted as signage unless some commercial copy in it.	No, unless are signage. New developments (that requires Design Review by our Design Review Board) will request alternative compliance to our design standards and propose a mural as an alternative to meeting the design standard. This mural does not include sign copy typically but we do require the mural to be fleshed out and approved by planning staff before the development receives a certificate of occupancy, or a building permit, or whichever condition we feel is appropriate for the site and context of the overall area.	We do not have a board that reviews murals. However, if a mural is proposed as an alternative (as discussed above) or is a part of a project that comes in that requires Design Review, then our Design Review Board will look at it. The Design Review Board only makes recommendations, the planning director approves final designs. Neither the Board or the Planning Director really reviews the mural specifically, they are just looking at the design of the project as a whole and if the project meets our design standards and landscaping. If a site/project does not require Design Review then we would not review the mural at all.	https://library.municode.com/az/mesa/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_TIT11ZOO_ART5SIOR_CH43PESI_11-43-8MU

Milwaukee, WI	Not from the zoning standpoint	No, not for murals, but if a sign YES	If a sign permit, Planning. Historic Preservation Commission, various Architectural Review Boards, or Overlay zones in certain parts of the city. We also have specific ordinance language regarding painting of fences.	
Oklahoma City, OK	Yes	Yes	Art Commission	https://www.okc.gov/departments/planning/programs/office-of-arts-and-cultural-affairs/murals
Portland, OR	Yes, separate from signage. Requires the following - •mural to remain in place for two years •property owner may not be compensated for having the image on the building •mural cannot be mechanically produced and no electrical or mechanical components •some limited location restrictions (no more than 30 feet above the ground)	Yes - requires public notice	Reviewed by Planners	https://www.portland.gov/bds/original-art-mural-permits
Raleigh, NC	No, the Unified Development Ordinance doesn't regulate murals. However, we do have regulations for signs.	The Planning and Development Department doesn't issue permits murals	N/A	
Sacramento, CA	No	No, not on private property. City property - Temporary Public Art Application and Licensing process.	Planning doesn't regulate murals or public art	Currently crafting a policy..., wants to chat more
San Francisco, CA	The Planning Department considers a mural to be a work of art that is: » Purposefully integrated into the interior or exterior of the property on which it is located. » For decorative purposes only. » Lacking any commercial message. » Created with the written consent of the property owner. Murals can be created with any type of medium - such as paint, tile, paper, and be of any size.	Yes	Planning, Public Works, Art Commission, Dept of Building Inspection	https://sfplanning.org/resource/murals
San Jose, CA	No	Signs? Work of art?		https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/cultural-affairs/public-art/community-mural-and-utility-box-projects
Tampa, FL	No, and don't define 'art' in zoning code, but do have a definition in Tampa - “ means tangible creations by artists exhibiting the highest quality of skill and aesthetic principles, including but not limited to paintings, sculptures, stained glass, statues, bas reliefs, engravings, carvings, frescoes, mobiles, murals, collages, mosaics, tapestries, photographs, drawings, monuments and fountains”.	Yes, for 'paint'. If a sign, sign permit.		Mural with PBR = sign, mural with a person and 'Peace' = mural
Tucson, AZ	Defined as 'artworks'. Private property - no say about design. Public property - go through Public Donation Process.		Public Art Project Panel , Public Art and Community Design (PACD) Committee, Public Art Staff	
Washington DC	DC does not have any specific regulations with regard to murals unless the area where a mural is being considered is designated as an historic district. If the structure or area is considered historic, murals are restricted by the city's historic preservation commissions. To be honest, I don't think there is any real legislation banning installation of murals in historic districts; however we honor the rule out of respect—unless the property has been painted after the it was designated historic.	There are no permits required to install murals. If the mural is being painted on private property by the property's owner, it's considered the same as if the property owner were simply apply paint to their structure.	If a mural is being paid for with private funds, there are no rules or approval process. If the mural is being painted with District government funds, depending on the type of grant, the mural may require approval by leaders of the impacted community.	
Wichita, KS	No regulation unless have text	Wall sign if some sort of advertisement on it covered under the sign code		