



PAINTING THE INTERSECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

WHAT IS A PAINTED INTERSECTION?

A painted intersection is a mural that is painted by a community group on the pavement at the intersection of residential streets. This photo shows an example of a painted intersection in Seattle.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF A PAINTED INTERSECTION?

Painted intersections help create a community identity and are a great way to organize your neighbors around a common goal. They may also have indirect effects on helping to slow traffic in your neighborhood by making drivers aware that residents take pride in their neighborhood, encouraging them to be more respectful while driving down your street.

WHERE CAN INTERSECTION PAINTINGS BE INSTALLED?

Intersection paintings are only allowed on residential (non-arterial) streets, preferably with low traffic volumes. Usually, they are located at the intersection, but in some cases they may be allowed in the middle of the block. Additionally:

1. They are not allowed at intersections with existing traffic control devices, such as stop signs or traffic circles
2. Only the driving area can be painted, not the curb/gutters/sidewalks



WHAT TYPE OF DESIGNS ARE ALLOWED?

There aren't many specific rules on acceptable designs, which can range from abstract to representational.

We will **not** allow designs that:

- Mimic official pavement markings or traffic control devices, such as stripes or traffic signs
- Include words, logos, advertising, or insensitive images
- Use copyrighted materials

You can engage an artist to help you create a drawing of the design concept. We strongly advise getting initial feedback from your neighbors on the concept to ensure that they support the design.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This Client Assistance Memo (CAM) should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. The applicant is responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described in this CAM.

WHEN SHOULD THE PAINTING BE INSTALLED?

We recommend that intersections be painted in the summer months, usually July and August, as the pavement needs to be 70 degrees and dry for several days for the paint to set properly. Additionally, pressure washing the intersection a few days to a week before will allow better adhesion and create a longer lasting mural.

Only paints with added grit to increase skid resistance may be used (Rodda is one manufacturer). The paint should be allowed to dry for at least 4 hours.

IS FUNDING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?

The Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) is a City of Seattle grant program administered through Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. The NMF program provides funding to neighborhood and community organizations for a wide variety of neighborhood-based projects.

For NMF projects, groups are required to donate volunteer time, materials, professional services, and/or cash at 50% or more of the value of the funding request. The NMF Small Sparks fund is particularly suitable for street painting projects. This fund awards projects up to \$5,000 on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Applications are considered as they are received.

We encourage community groups to go through this process to develop the required community approval and obtain the funds necessary for installation. For those interested in applying for an NMF grant, we recommend that communities begin the process in the fall or winter so that they are ready to paint their intersection the following summer.

NMF project managers will provide guidance for developing a budget as well as an outreach plan to ensure community support for the project.

For more information, contact the Neighborhood Matching Fund program at (206) 233-0093, NMFund@seattle.gov. You can also find information about NMF grants at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/neighborhood-matching-fund.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE APPLYING FOR A PERMIT?

If you are not applying for a NMF grant, you are responsible for engaging the neighbors within one block of the intersection and obtaining their support for the project. We encourage you to reach out early so that they can share their ideas and be a part of the process.

You should plan on using at least **two** different types of outreach, one of which must include in-person meetings, either as a group or one-on-one. Document your contacts with neighbors, either through sign-in sheets (include name, address, and contact information) or noting the names and addresses of the people you've spoken with.

For the other type of outreach, you may consider the following options:

- Electronic/digital outreach
 - Email to your neighborhood distribution list
 - Post on your neighborhood social media page (e.g. Facebook, Nextdoor, etc.)
- Printed outreach
 - Door-to-door flyer
 - Signs posted near the site

You will have to provide proof of neighborhood support with your permit application.

WHAT TYPE OF PERMIT DO I NEED?

A **Public Space permit** allows the neighborhood to close the intersection for cleaning the pavement and painting your mural. The permit applicant or project sponsor must live within a block of the intersection painting.

You should apply for your permit at least 6 to 8 weeks before your planned date of pressure washing and/or installation. Along with your permit application, you need to submit a site plan showing exactly where the painting is to be installed and an image of the proposed design.

The permit fee includes an issuance fee and a minimum 1-hour review fee. Please see the [fee schedule](#) for rates (intersection murals are use code 3A – special activities). Within one week of installing the painting, permit holders should provide us with a photograph that shows the full extents of the street painting.

If we do not receive a photo of the painting, the permit holder will be charged an inspection fee. We require either a photograph or inspection to verify that the painting has been installed as proposed.

Annual re-painting is almost always needed to keep the colors vibrant. SDOT will not maintain the street painting. The neighborhood is responsible for maintaining or re-painting and reapplying for a new Public Space permit.

While it is not required, we recommend that you insure the event. You can purchase insurance through one of the following options:

- Many homeowners' policies offer coverage for an event
- A special rider may be purchased to cover the street closure
- Insurance agencies can put together a special event policy

HOW DO I CLOSE OFF THE INTERSECTION?

You are required to rent barricades and signs to control traffic. Delivery and pick up is included if the rental is for one week or more (National Barricade is one vendor). We've created a [site plan/traffic control plan template](#) that describes how to properly barricade the streets leading to the intersection you plan to paint. You may also choose to add temporary no parking signs if you need more space to install the painting (see [CAM 2114 Temporary No Parking Signs and Easels](#)).

PERMIT CHECKLIST

Make sure to have the following ready when you submit your permit application:

- Completed [Public Space Permit Application](#), including:
 - Name of your Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) project manager, if applicable
 - Description of your design proposal, including when you're planning to power wash the intersection and when you're planning to paint
 - Brief explanation of how you engaged neighbors within one block of the intersection, if not an NMF program participant
- Completed Site Plan/Traffic Control Plan template
- Full-color image of proposed design with dimensions as installed
- Proof of community engagement and support, if not an NMF program participant (e.g. sign-in sheets, names of people you spoke to, screenshot of social media post, copy of flyer or email, etc.)
- Submit complete application
 - In person: Street Use Permit Counter
Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Ave, Floor 23
 - Mail: SDOT
Attn: Public Space Management
P.O. Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996
 - Email: publicspace@seattle.gov

Following installation:

- Email photograph showing full extents of the completed painting within one week of installation date to publicspace@seattle.gov

Access to Information

Client Assistance Memos are available online at: www.seattle.gov/transportation/stuse_home.htm. Paper copies of these documents are available at our Permit Services Counter located on the 23rd floor of the Seattle Municipal Tower at 700 5th Avenue in downtown Seattle; phone number (206) 684-5253.