



ARLINGTON COMMUNITY CANVAS

Asphalt Art Guide



Table of Contents

Background..... 2
Asphalt Art Guidelines..... 3
Pilot Asphalt Art Application Procedure..... 7
Checklist 9



*Baum Grove Parklet, Pittsburgh, PA
(Source: Friendship Community Group & Bloomberg Philanthropies)*

Background

In a never-ending effort to enhance how we experience our local streets in a manner that also improves the safety, accessibility, and comfort for all users, the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services ("DES") periodically installs tactical and low-cost infrastructure treatments on County-owned streets. These improvements use a mixture of paint, flex posts, planters, and other temporary materials. DES sometimes marks off portions of the paved areas within streets to meet various goals. These goals may include: (a) reducing automobile speeding in residential neighborhoods, (b) shortening crossing distances for people walking and rolling across the street, or (c) providing increased bicycle and scooter parking to prevent overcrowding on sidewalks. Additionally, many of these temporary projects are installed along streets to meet the County Vision Zero program's goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

These projects are intended to reduce vehicle speeding and diminish conflicts between people walking, rolling, bicycling, and driving. Additionally, "quick-build" infrastructure projects may help address demand for vibrancy in neighborhoods and commercial districts through the use of decorative and creative patterns. Interested groups are encouraged to paint artwork that further celebrates their local community, culture, or heritage. In response to growing interest in streetscape activation and neighborhood placemaking, Arlington County (the "County") is launching this pilot program to foster and encourage the painting of temporary asphalt art on our public streets ("Asphalt Art").

Following the lead of established and successful programs within the Capital region and throughout the Country that permit artwork in the right-of-way, the Arlington County 2024 Asphalt Art program aims to champion streetscapes inspired and implemented by community-driven action.



Example temporary curb extension location where artwork may be placed – S. Pershing Dr & S. Wakefield St (Source: Google Maps)

For more information and to stay up-to-date with Arlington Community Canvas news, please visit: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/Community-Canvas>

Asphalt Art Guidelines

This document contains guidelines intended to govern various aspects of the County’s Asphalt Art program (the “Asphalt Art Guidelines”). Covered topics include: (1) the siting of Asphalt Art projects; (2) Asphalt Art design recommendations; (3) materials used in Asphalt Art projects; (4) the preparation of Asphalt Art projects; (5) applications to the County for Asphalt Art projects; (6) physical installation of Asphalt Art projects; and (7) the maintenance and longevity of Asphalt Art projects. This document also describes the procedure to receive approval for an Asphalt Art project, and includes a checklist to ensure compliance with these procedures and various forms related to permitting, approval, and maintenance obligations.

1. Siting

Proposed Asphalt Art locations must meet the following site criteria:

- a. Be located in asphalt areas of a street that are considered inactive and outside of sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle lanes, bus stop boarding areas, on-street vehicle parking, loading, and travel lanes;
- b. Be located within appropriate areas inside County rights-of-way. Areas considered appropriate for Asphalt Art are limited to: (i) temporary street corner curb extensions, (ii) bicycle/scooter corrals, or (iii) other excess asphalt areas in the street deemed appropriate by DES. Projects proposed along streets maintained by the Commonwealth of Virginia or that are along private streets will not be considered. To see which agency maintains your street, visit: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Transportation/Streets/State-Roads>;
- c. Be located on pavement that is in good overall condition. DES staff advises against installing artwork on streets scheduled for resurfacing within a year;
- d. Manhole covers shall not be painted over; and
- e. Art shall not encroach within three feet of a water valve.

2. Artwork Design Requirements

Requirements for prospective Asphalt Art projects include:

- a. Get creative! Applicants can consider ways to design artwork that celebrates local area contexts such as neighborhood histories, nearby parks, etc. Additionally, artwork that celebrates universal themes of nature, history, color, and pattern is also welcome; and
- b. Have brain storming sessions with your project sponsors, neighbors, and local merchants to create the best ideas.

3. Materials

Consider working with professionals at a paint supply company who can work with your team to fulfill the project vision. Paint supply companies that serve primarily commercial vendors are knowledgeable about product adhesion to surfaces and can make recommendations on techniques and supplies to complete your team's design.

The following materials requirements must be followed by any Asphalt Art program participant:

- a. Paint utilized for the artwork must create a surface that is slip-resistant with a texture that does not become slippery when wet such as Sherwin Williams Highway Products or equivalent paint:
 - For example: Hotline Traffic Paint with SharkGrip H&C Slip Resistant Additive. One 16oz jar is enough for five gallons of paint;
- b. Paint must be low toxicity latex and lead-free;
- c. Paint must include colorfast or UV resistance to prevent fading; and
- d. County staff will work with applicants on the selection of materials or equivalent products. Approved materials may include but are not limited to the following:
 - Pavement marking treatments such as PreMark by Flint;
 - Decorative asphalt coatings such as Integrated Paving Concepts (IPC) by Alternative Paving Concepts; and
 - Epoxy-based pavement coating such as SB150 Pavement Coating by StreetBond.

4. Preparation of Artwork Concept Package

The following must be submitted to DES before DES staff may endorse any potential Asphalt Art project:

- a. Application;
- b. Map of location;
- c. Artwork design concept, which provides a colored visual representation of the proposed artwork in a minimum-sized 8.5" x 11" format. The concept shall include dimensions of the artwork and surrounding infrastructure, proposed imagery, names of streets, and the name(s) artists and project sponsors; and
- d. Letter(s) of support/notification/correspondence from a project sponsor (*e.g.*, a Business Improvement District or Civic Association).

In addition to the required items listed hereinabove, letters or petitions of support from neighboring property owners, businesses, and established community organizations may be

submitted to DES.

Recommendations for preparation of artwork concepts include:

- a. Consider starting with a simple aerial of the proposed location and use online measurement tools to get an idea of your canvas size;
- b. Concepts may be hand drawn or use graphics editing software; and

Eligible projects will be evaluated by County staff made of representatives from the Departments of Environmental Services; Community Planning, Housing, and Development; and Arlington Economic Development, Cultural Affairs Division.

5. Preparation of Application

- a. The following documents must be submitted after DES staff endorses an Asphalt Art project (the “Application Package”):
 - Material list;
 - Artwork Design Concept;
 - Memorandum of Understanding – Asphalt Art Program Participation;
 - Proposed budget;
 - Transportation Right-of-Way Application, including either (i) Maintenance of Transportation Plan , also known as a “Transportation Management Plan,” or (ii) the relevant Typical Traffic Control Sheets from the Virginia Work Area Protection Manual;
 - Certificate of Liability Insurance;
 - Special Event Street Closure Permit or Block Party Permit. DES staff will advise regarding which permit is necessary for your project.
- b. County staff may have comments about the proposed placement, materials, etc. which may require a resubmission. Additional information may also be requested by County staff.

6. Project Day

The following are requirements relevant during Asphalt Art installation:

- a. If your team will not completely close a street down as part of the project installation, your team must ensure that other street users are able to move freely and safely, with Maintenance of Traffic Plans implemented as described in the Transportation Right-of-Way permit;
- b. As is required in the approved Maintenance of Traffic Plan, your team must use required safety features (*e.g.*, traffic cones, caution tape, construction barrels) to block off the artwork area

and any staging area which you intend to temporarily use;

- c. Anyone installing Asphalt Art or within the work area must wear a high visibility vest at all times;
- d. Cleaning the asphalt surface and providing a base primer coat are critical to the longevity of the artwork. A clean, dry surface with a base coat that has had time to cure before art is painted on it will help to ensure a lasting mural:
 - Allow a minimum of 2 days (without rain or wet dewy mornings) between pressure washing and applying a base coat will ensure that the surface is not wet prior to painting.
 - At least 24hrs after providing a base coat to allow it to cure, painting of the artwork can commence. If the ground is still wet, or the base coat isn't set up, the risk of paint bubbling and/or flaking off the surface increases.
- e. Painting must only occur on dry days with no forecasted rain for the next 48 hours. In the event of inclement weather on the scheduled project day, painting will need to occur at an alternate date. Applicants will list rain dates in application and permit requests;
- f. Participants must possess materials able to clean up any spills or leaks during all installation activities. Use secondary containment (trays for paint cans, etc.) and have items available to contain any spills (rags, absorbent materials). Consider using a large tarp for your work station that will keep all materials from spilling;
- g. Equipment or paint must not be washed in the right-of-way, street, or storm drain system;
- h. Spills must be cleaned up as soon as they occur;
- i. Any spills that enter a storm drain must be reported immediately to DES Stormwater Management at 703-558-2222 <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Office-of-Sustainability-and-Environment/Streams/Report-Stream-Pollution>; and
- j. Apply a sealant once the artwork is cured.

In addition to the above requirements, please note:

- k. County staff will be present to field verify use of materials, maintenance of traffic, and painting in accordance with approved application; and
- l. Photograph your Asphalt Art-related activities before, during, and after the installation of your artwork. County staff may use these photographs for promotional purposes.



Example Project Day (Source: Bedford and Bowery)

7. Maintenance and Follow-up

The following are related to Asphalt Art projects after installation:

- a. DES will perform an inspection once the Asphalt Art is complete to ensure that it does not impede the functions of the rights-of-way;
- b. Applicants must provide for the removal of graffiti and maintenance and repair of the artwork at their own cost, including annual refurbishment. Applicants are responsible for the maintenance of the Asphalt Art;
- c. Given the sporadic nature of street repair, utility work, etc., monthly inspections of the artwork must be completed by the applicant team and project sponsors and any maintenance or repairing of the artwork to its approved state made within 30 days of discovery of any issue requiring maintenance or repair; and
- d. Given the constantly changing nature of street conditions, the County reserves the right to require removal of any Asphalt Art for maintenance or projects within the right-of-way at any time.

Pilot Asphalt Art Application Procedure

Step	Requirements
1. Contact DES	Review all the contents within this document, including the Asphalt Art Guidelines. Interested participants may contact the DES before filing an Asphalt Art application to determine if a site of interest and potential piece of artwork will be deemed eligible for consideration. Please contact DES at 703-228-3480 or asphaltart@arlingtonva.us.
2. Partner with Your Neighbors*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Receive sponsorship of your proposed project by an Arlington Civic Association or Business Improvement District; b. Review proposed site with County staff to limit future conflicts with ongoing or upcoming street improvement projects, Arlington Transit/Wmata bus stop/shelter placement, stormwater facility construction plans, utility work, etc.; and c. Adhere to the Asphalt Art Guidelines included in this document.
3. Submit a Concept Package	Prepare a concept package as described in the guidelines, including a graphic that illustrates the proposed project in context with existing infrastructure. Include dimensions from and note the presence of any above ground utilities, manhole covers, water valves, signage, markings, fire hydrants, crosswalks, and any other street infrastructure.
4. Site Visit	Meet on-site at the proposed art location with County staff at a mutually agreed upon time to review any potential items to consider, confirm existing conditions, and answer any questions. Your team must be able to modify artwork design as needed.
5. Provide Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Apply for County Transportation Right of Way Permit (“ROW Permit”), which includes an MOT plan. If authorized by DES and desired by the applicant, apply for a Street Closure Permit. b. If approved, provide copy of ROW Permit or, if authorized, Street Closure Permit to DES at asphaltart@arlingtonva.us.
6. Plan Your Project Day	Invite any of your neighbors and participants from groups such as nearby businesses and schools to help with the installation of the artwork or to help launch a community event to welcome the new art into the community. As may be required by DES, you must prepare separate permitting for special event or block party street closures if your team wishes to incorporate Asphalt Art as part of the event. All participants in any painting activities must be identified in the Memorandum of Understanding – Asphalt Art Program Participation.
7. Submit an Application Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Upon notice from DES, prepare material list, proposed budget, applicable temporary permits, and a maintenance of transportation plan to DES. b. Submit Memorandum of Understanding – Asphalt Art Program Participation through email to asphaltart@arlingtonva.us. The

	<p>necessary agreement template may be found beginning on page 10 within this guide.</p> <p>c. Provide copies of your MOT and Right of Way permit.</p>
<p>8. Paint Your Street</p>	<p>Upon approval by DES, you may install artwork at your location. Artwork installations are intended to be temporary and may be permitted for up to twelve months. However, permits and the Memorandum of Understanding – Asphalt Art Program Participation may be renewed at the conclusion of the requested time period to maintain the condition of the installation. Review of renewals may be expedited by Staff on a case-by-case basis.</p>

** If a location is within a Business Improvement District, you must coordinate with the applicable organization’s staff for a potential project. Otherwise, please reach out to your local Civic Association leadership to apply via the Arlington Neighborhoods Program.*



*Church Place & Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD
(Source: Graham Coreil-Allen / Graham Projects LLC)*

Pilot Asphalt Art Application Procedure Checklist

- Contact DES Transportation Planning Staff* to identify potential locations.
- Assemble your applicant team, including a project lead, sponsor, and artist.
- Receive sponsorship from Civic Association or Business Improvement District.
- Prepare application, map, artwork design concept, and any letter(s) of support.
- Submit Concept Package to County Staff.*
- Meeting with Staff at proposed on-site location.
- After receiving approval from Staff, prepare Asphalt Art Application Package.
- Submit Application Package.*
 - Submit Memorandum of Understanding – Asphalt Art Program Participation.*
 - Submit proof of insurance coverage.*
- Submit any additional documents or revisions (as requested by County staff)*.
- Notify DES by email and submit permits to DES Development Services Bureau, including:
 - Transportation Right-of-Way Permit – no excavation
 - Special Event Permit (Street Closure) (as needed)
 - Block Party Permit (as needed)
- Gather materials such as paint, buckets, and brushes.
- On project day, provide temporary traffic control around street area.
 - If approved for a Special Event Street Closure or Block Party Permit, close street.
- Sweep and clean project area.
- Start painting!
- Capture photos of completed artwork and submit to DES*.

*Submit respective items to asphaltart@arlingtonva.us