

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON

POLICY TITLE: Murals, Development Permit Guidelines POLICY NO: 4500.00.010

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 10, 2021 SUPERSEDES: July 9, 2012

APPROVAL: Council PAGE: 1 of 2

POLICY:

Murals shall be permitted when a development permit application follows the procedures for approval contained in this policy.

PURPOSE:

1. To ensure murals meet the artistic standards acceptable to the City of Nelson as per this policy.
2. To ensure the materials used in murals are of adequate durability and last for a number of years.

PROCEDURE:

1. The applicant must pay and apply for a development permit application (façade), complete with all required supporting documents:
 - i. Signed authorization from the property owner;
 - ii. The artist's name, contact information, qualifications, and description of experience with similar projects, along with samples of previous art work;
 - iii. Written concept of mural, detailed sketch of mural, exact location (including a photo), exact dimensions, and colour palette;
 - iv. A comprehensive outline of all materials to be used, including surface preparation;
 - v. A project plan including a detailed timeline, safety procedures to be followed, and keeping records of site documentation (before and after);
 - vi. A maintenance plan, detailing the estimated lifespan of the mural and who will be responsible for cleaning, upkeep, repair, and anticipated ongoing upkeep costs for an expected life span of 10 years;
 - vii. The total budget amount of the project considering all costs involved to successfully create and install a mural (e.g. materials, equipment, artist fees, etc.); and
 - viii. Proof of liability insurance, with the City named as an additional insured if any work will take place on City property.
2. The application is then referred by staff to the Cultural Development Committee (CDC) for review and recommendation to staff. If the mural is proposed for a building recognized by the City as having heritage status, staff may consider referring the application to the Heritage Working Group for review and recommendation to staff.
3. The Director of Development Services shall take any recommendations into account when considering the issuance of a development permit for a mural. Although it is not expected that each application will meet all location and design

guidelines, staff may deny an application if it is determined that the intent of the guidelines is not met.

4. In addition to CDC review, murals proposed for City-owned property will be reviewed and voted on by Council.
5. If doing any work on City property, applicants are additionally responsible for obtaining sidewalk closure permits and licences to occupy from the City, as required.

LOCATION GUIDELINES:

1. Murals are permitted in the Downtown Development Permit Area (as defined by the Official Community Plan) and consideration may be given to commercial, public, and institutional buildings outside of the Downtown Development Permit Area. Only in exceptional cases would a mural be considered for a residential building.
2. Murals are encouraged in laneways, which will help make these areas more attractive to pedestrians and cyclists. Murals should not directly face Baker Street. Staff may deny street-facing locations in favour of laneway locations.

DESIGN GUIDELINES:

1. The content shall not include advertisements, business names or explicit depictions of products sold on the premises. Staff may deem such applications to fall under the Sign Bylaw. Identification of the sponsor should be limited to no more than 5% of the mural surface.
2. The content should not include partisan or religious messages.
3. Profanity, hateful language or depictions, or graphic violent imagery are not permitted.
4. Materials used in murals should be durable so that any vandalism can be more easily removed.
5. Murals should be replaced or painted over after 10 years, depending on their state and location.
6. Where lighting is included, the lighting must be directed at the mural and minimize any glare or spillage. Lighting must also comply with any Zoning Bylaw and Official Community Plan restrictions on exterior lighting.
7. Artists should consider signing and dating their mural, but at an appropriate scale.