

Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Guidance for the Installation of Downtown Murals

General Rules to Keep in Mind:

- Do not paint masonry that has not previously been painted historically.
- Do not install a mural covering character-defining features, such as windows, cornices, decorative trim, etc.
- If the mural is designed offsite and then attached to the building, ensure the attachment will not damage the building. For example, attachments to a masonry building should be secured into mortar joints, not into the bricks or stones.
- Be very cautious when using “sticker” murals that attach with adhesive materials. Testing should be conducted to ensure the adhesive does not damage the building or leave behind a residue that is difficult to remove.
- Murals are not appropriate on the front or a highly visible, primary façade of a historic building (i.e. a corner building). And, they should not cover a whole façade.

Examples of City Mural Design/Installation Guidelines:

- <https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/historic-buildings-murals-and-wall-graphics-resource-guide.pdf>
- <https://www.boiseartsandhistory.org/media/4400/2-mural-guidelines.pdf>
- <https://www.fcgov.com/historicpreservation/pdf/old-town-design-guidelines.pdf> (page 108)
- <https://www.frankfort.ky.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1826/Mural-Installation-Guide>

Review & Compliance:

- SHPO will need to review mural installations when projects involve a federal agency, federal funding (i.e. grants), state agencies, state funding, local permitting, or local funding.
- If any government action or funding is involved and a historic property or district is impacted, SHPO will need to be notified and review the scope of work.
- In Historic Districts, it does not matter if the building is a Contributor or Noncontributor to the district or if the work is occurring within a public space. Anything within the boundaries of the district triggers review if government action, as referenced above, is undertaken.
- You can find more information about the Review & Compliance process here: <https://www.kshs.org/p/state-preservation-law/14648>
- To submit a project for review, use this link: [review.kshs.org/Account/Login](https://www.kshs.org/Account/Login)