Murals – the oldest form of recorded art
In the Beginning

- The Wall – Mural site
- Method – paint or alternative materials
- Theme – subject of mural
- Artist(s)
- Mural production
Steps for Creating a Mural

1. Choosing the Wall / Mural Location
2. Selecting a Theme
3. Client and Community Relations
4. Creating a Design
5. Wall preparation
6. Painting / installation
Choosing a wall or mural site

Consider these things:

• Visibility – minimal visual distractions, good
• Wall construction – what is it made of?
• Wall condition and environment
• Wall surface
• Ownership
Choosing a wall or mural site

Some of the potential hazards to the life of a mural include:

- Damp in the wall or from the roof
- Ground water and snow build-up
- Poor construction
- Old brick
- Slick surface
Choosing a wall or mural site
Choosing a wall or mural site
Choosing a wall or mural site
Painting: Alternative Surfaces

Or Murals can be painted on PANELS and installed on the Wall

MDO Panels
Painting: Alternative Surfaces

Aluminum Composite
Trade name *Dibond*

Bell Box

NON-WOVEN MEDIA
Selecting a Theme or Subject

Some things to consider when choosing the theme and style of the mural:

- Relevance to the mural location
- Purpose of the mural project
- Significance to the community being impacted
- Artistic expression
- Client and community considerations
Some common styles

- Heritage
- Contemporary
- Abstract
- Social Messaging
- Community identity
- Photo realistic
- Graffiti art
- More………
Community Involvement

The most lasting and successful mural projects have a connection with the local community. There are many opportunities for community involvement on planning committees, fundraisers, artist liaison or “cheer leaders.”
Alternative Media: Photo Transfer
Alternative Media: Mosaic
Make sure there is funding, time and space for the design process
Wall Preparation

Fixing – Cleaning - Priming

**QUESTIONS**

What is the substrate?

What prep has to be done?

Can the artist do this work or do you have to hire a specialist?
Painting – on site essentials

Art supplies – paint, brushes, sponges, etc.
Other Materials – buckets, cleaning supplies, first aid kit etc.
Equipment – projector, ladders, scaffolding, scissor lift etc.
Other requirements - Water, washrooms, signage, storage

Emergency contacts & information
Closure

After the long process of planning, designing, managing and painting a mural the process ends when:

1. The artist is satisfied and declares the mural complete
2. The client inspects and accepts the mural as completed
3. Final payment is made to the artist
4. A mural launch or unveiling is held to celebrate the work (optional)
5. There may still be obligations for maintenance, depending on the contract
IN MURAL PAINTING, EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Some helpful hints for responding to competition applications:

1. READ the competition brief THOROUGHLY
2. Include EVERYTHING that is requested in the application
3. Create a PROFESSIONAL looking PORTFOLIO
4. Include your most RELEVANT experience in the application
5. Write a letter that shows ENTHUSIASM for the project
6. BE ON TIME FOR INTERVIEWS
7. Prepare some QUESTIONS for the interview
8. Demonstrate an ability to COMPLETE the work ON TIME
9. If a SKETCH is required, GO THE EXTRA MILE, add COLOUR or CONTEXT
10. Even if you don’t get the job, keep a good relationship with the client – THEY MAY HAVE OTHER MURALS IN THE FUTURE
Useful Resources

- CARFAC - Copyright and contract information / Professional standards
- Canadian Conservation Institute: *Conservation Guidelines for Outdoor Murals*
- City of Ottawa’ Mural Program
- Centre de conservation du Quebec
- Chicago Public Art Group: *Community Public Art Guide*
- Global Artist Colors Inc. *Painting Exterior Murals*
- Philadelphia Mural Arts Program
- Linkedin group for mural artists
- Global Mural Arts & Cultural Tourism Association
- Mural Routes: [www.muralroutes.com](http://www.muralroutes.com) /learning.htm
Burlington Mural Project: MURALS 101

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Mural Routes – www.muralroutes.com

Enhancing communities through mural art