



Street Art Wall Pilot Project - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Street Art Wall Project?

The Street Art Wall, located on the Rideaucrest retaining wall adjacent to Douglas Fluhrer Park is Kingston's only legal wall for street art and murals. The Street Art Wall began as a pilot project in 2019 and in June 2020, Kingston City Council approved the wall as a permanent space for artists and as a platform for artistic expression to support the creation of street art in Kingston in keeping with the City's Public Art Master Plan.

Can I use the Street Art Wall during COVID-19?

Yes, the Street Art Wall can be used in accordance with the rules of the emergency order issued by Kingston Mayor Paterson on September 4 to ensure that all physical distancing is being followed in all City Parks. Under this Order, individuals must maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from all other persons while in a City park. Individuals who fail to maintain physical distancing while in City Parks can be fined \$500 under the City's [Administrative Monetary Penalties](#) for failure to comply with an emergency order.

What is a "legal wall"?

A legal wall, otherwise known as a "free space" is an area where street art, graffiti art and murals are permitted and encouraged. Legal walls can be found around the world and are sanctioned spaces that offer a unique public canvas to artists. To establish the Street Art Wall, the City has amended the Property Standards By-Law Number 2005-100 to allow the Rideaucrest retaining wall located adjacent to Douglas Fluhrer Park be established as a permanent Legal Wall for street art and murals.

Why did the City decide to create a Street Art Wall?

The Street Art Wall responds to the City of Kingston's Public Art Master Plan in support of temporary public art, street art and public art to promote diverse cultural expression in a variety of mediums in civic spaces, places and neighbourhoods. This project was developed in response to community interest in seeing the retaining wall established as a permanent place where local artists can create murals and street art.

How does the City define street art?

Street Art is an urban style of temporary public art that can include murals or graffiti art that is created on walls, sidewalks and roadways that is sanctioned and permitted. This is distinct from Graffiti which is not-sanctioned or permitted and is a form of vandalism.

Who is allowed to use the Street Art Wall?

The Wall is free and open to all artists of all skill levels.

What paints can I use on the Street Art Wall?

Participants must supply their own paint, supplies and water. Only standard paints are allowed for use on the Street Art Wall, which includes:

- Aerosols and spray paints
- Acrylic or latex based paints
- Exterior grade paints
- Paint markers
- Participants may use brushes, sponges, rollers and other methods of painting on the Street Art Wall

Where can I dispose of my paints and supplies?

There are no additional waste receptacles available onsite at Douglas Fluhrer Park for the disposal of paints and supplies. Participants must remove all of their supplies including all waste from the park and disposing of any paints or supplies in park garbage cans or dumping of dirty water into the waterway or on park property is strictly prohibited.

Participants are encouraged to follow proper paint disposal procedures and bring all paint waste to the City of Kingston's Households Hazardous Waste Facility located at 196 Lappan's Lane, Kingston ON. For more information including open hours of the facility, visit [City of Kingston's Households Hazardous Waste Facility](#).

What paints are NOT allowed on the Street Art Wall?

The following paints and materials are prohibited from being used on the Street Art Wall:

- Lead based paints
- Oil based paints
- No 3-D or sculptural elements may be affixed to wall
- No physical or structural alterations may be made to the wall, including drilling, gluing or chipping

What if my mural or artwork gets painted over?

Murals and artwork may get painted over by other artists. We encourage all participants to take photographs of their works in progress and completed works. The Street Art Wall is a shared community resource with limited space for artists. When possible, paint over older murals before painting over freshly painted works, or older works of your own.

How much of the wall can I paint?

The Street Art Wall is a community resource for artists of all skill levels. Artists are encouraged to be respectful of space and to paint over their own works when possible to share space.

Is there content that is not allowed on the Street Art Wall?

The Street Art Wall provides an open space for artistic expression. In order to ensure the integrity of the project, the City of Kingston will only remove or cover any marking or painting made on the Street Art Wall based on the following:

1. Was made in a place or area on the wall where painting is not expressly permitted by the City;
2. Is gang- or crime-related;
3. May incite hatred or violence against any person or identifiable group of persons;
4. May promote stereotypes or negative attitudes about any person or identifiable group of persons on a ground protected by the *Ontario Human Rights Code*;
5. Contains profane, vulgar or offensive language; or
6. Depicts violence or explicit sexual content.

If a member of the public views content on the Street Art Wall that is prohibited, please contact publicart@cityofkingston.ca.

Can anything be painted on the wall?

Murals, street art, graffiti art, tagging and painting are allowed on the Street Art Wall. The Street Art Wall is intended for users of all experience levels and experimentation is encouraged.

Who takes care of the wall and the artwork?

The Street Art Wall is self-regulated and managed by the community. The City of Kingston maintains the park and ensures that all content painted on the wall adheres to the established guidelines. No additional maintenance will be done to the wall or artworks.

What safeguards are in place to protect the park's environment?

The Street Art Wall and Douglas Fluhrer Park are being monitored by City of Kingston staff on a regular basis to ensure that the guidelines are being followed and that the park is being maintained.

How do legal walls help to deter illegal graffiti?

Legal Walls can help to deter illegal graffiti by providing a platform and space for the creation of art. In some cases, the areas around legal walls get painted by illegal graffiti. City staff will be monitoring the use of the legal wall and the surrounding areas for any illegal graffiti.

I have some questions that aren't covered here. Where is the best place to go to get more information?

Please visit the City of Kingston's website for more information on the Street Art Wall pilot project: www.cityofkingston.ca/legalwall or email us at publicart@cityofkingston.ca.