



# Murals Listening Session

November 14, 2022

# Agenda

- Background
- Review existing murals process
- Review proposed new sign code
- Discussion
- Next Steps

*Classen Curve Beautification Barricade by Jason Pawley*



# Murals: background

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## Q: Why do cities regulate murals?

- to support public safety;
- to affirm that the mural is not inappropriate or representing illegal activity;
- to distinguish between murals and other types of signs;
- to support code enforcement with vandalism and maintenance issues;
- to support design review districts.





# Existing Murals Process

- Definition
- Approval Process
- Standards for Approval
- Text
- Design Review Districts

# Murals: existing definition

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Uhi1#Fkdswhu# #Dgyhuwlvqj#dgg#Vljqv/#Ghilqwrqv#6515,

Mural means visual depictions and/or works of art including mosaic, painting or graphic art technique applied, painted, implanted or placed directly onto the exterior of any wall of a building; such depictions shall not contain words, logos, emblems, trademarks or other similar devices which identify or advertise any product, service or business. Provided, however, such depictions may include a signature or sponsor's identification area within the depiction so long as such area does not exceed ten percent of the total size of the depiction, or two and one-half percent of the surface area of the wall onto which it is attached or painted whichever is less. A mural shall not be considered an accessory or non-accessory sign; rather, a mural shall comply with the applicable standards set forth in Section 59-9350.46 of Chapter 59 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code. A building, for purposes of this section only, shall mean any structure built for the support, shelter, or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels or movable property of any kind.



# Murals: existing definition

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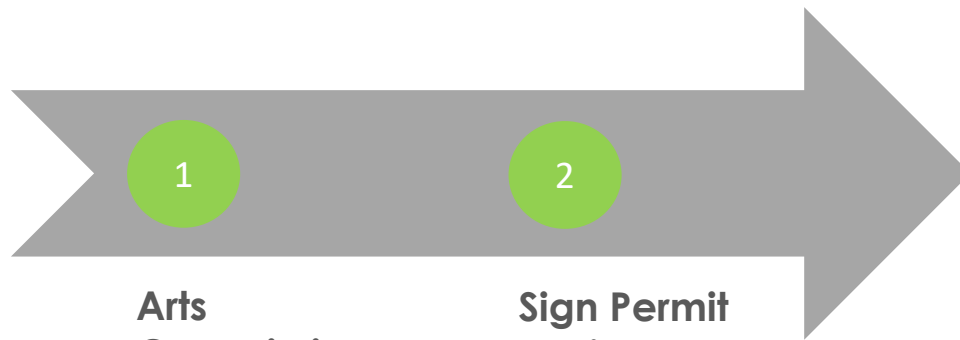
Uhi#Fkdswhu# #Dgyhuwlvqj#dqg#Wjqv#Ghilqwrqv#6515,

Mural means visual depictions and/or works of art including mosaic, painting or graphic art technique applied, painted, implanted or placed directly onto the exterior of any wall of a building; such depictions shall not contain words, logos, emblems, trademarks or other similar devices which identify or advertise any product, service or business. Provided, however, such depictions may include a signature or sponsor's identification area within the depiction so long as such area does not exceed ten percent of the total size of the depiction, or two and one-half percent of the surface area of the wall onto which it is attached or painted whichever is less. A mural shall not be considered an accessory or non-accessory sign; rather, a mural shall comply with the applicable standards set forth in Section 59-9350.46 of Chapter 59 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code. A building, for purposes of this section only, shall mean any structure built for the support, shelter, or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels or movable property of any kind.



# Murals: **existing** approval process

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**Arts  
Commission**

**Based on Murals  
Policy**

**Sign Permit  
Review**

**Based on Code  
Regulations**

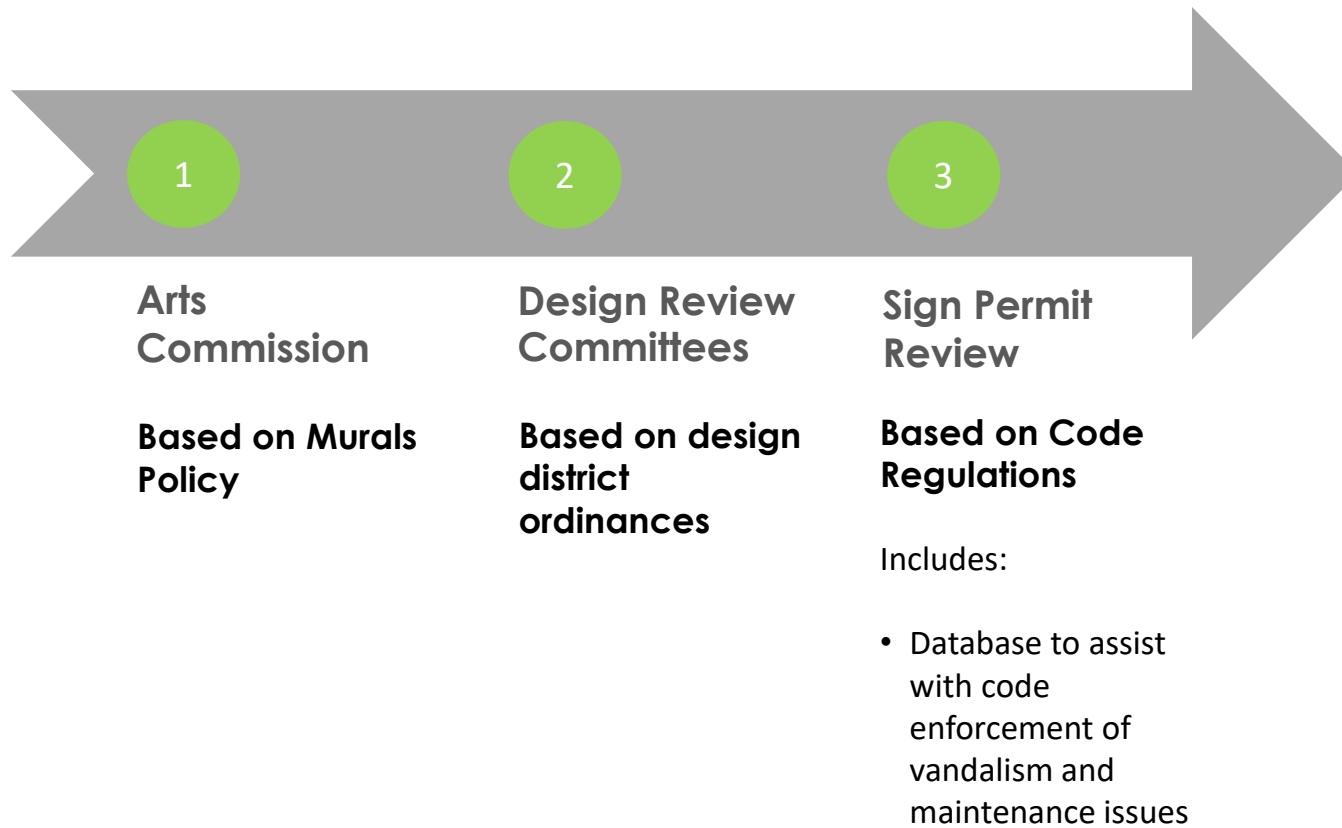
Includes:

- Database to assist with code enforcement of vandalism and maintenance issues

*most murals*

# Murals: **existing** approval process

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*design districts only*



# Murals: **existing** standards for approval

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Uhi#6831791P xudor +8<0; 583149,##Vdqgdugv#iru#shflif#K vlv,

- Arts Commission review required
- Public safety considerations
  - Securely attached
  - Does not interfere with public safety
  - Applied to a lawfully established structure and doesn't conflict with setbacks
- Application requirements
- Fee required



# Murals: existing text standards

Uhi# <https://www.okc.gov/departments/planning/programs/office-of-arts-and-cultural-affairs/murals>

P xudv#p d|#frqwdlq#ru#  
hqrfrp sdvw#d#vjq#ru#duw#p dunhu#  
krz hyhu#k#h#vjq#ru#duw#p dunhu#  
p xw#h#h#v#k#dq#3 (#r#i#k#h#r#w#d#  
p xudv#duhd#ru#grw#p ru#k#dq#z#r#  
dgg#r#q#h#k#d#s#h#u#f#h#q#w#i#k#h#  
vxuid#f#h#duhd#i#k#h#z#d#r#q#w#  
z#k#l#f#k#h#v#s#d#l#q#w#h#g#r#u#d#s#d#h#g#/#  
z#k#l#f#k#h#y#h#u#h#v#1



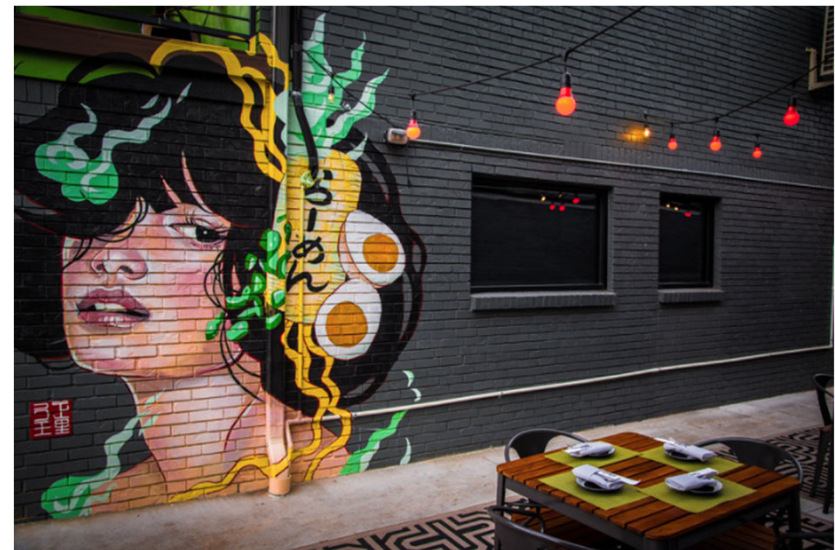
Artist: Dusty Gilpin



# Murals: existing design review process

Uhi#B<0758316F1+; #Grz qwrz q#Ghvljq#JhyIhz

Vxep lwlrqv#iruP xudov dgg#dq | #  
vxehtxhqw#p rgllfdwlrqv#  
wr P xudov p xw#eh#ds suryhg#e | #kh#  
Dw#Frp p lwlrq#suru#wr#hyIhz #e | #  
wk#Grz qwrz q#Ghvljq#JhyIhz #  
Frp p lwhh#ru#wdiil



Artist: Juun





# Proposed Code

- Background
- Definition
- Approval Process
- Standards for Approval
- Text
- Design Review Districts

# Murals: background

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## Considerations for murals regulation

- Message neutrality
- Expression
- Public interests
- Objective standards
- Time limits



*Artists: Dylan Bradway, Kris Kanaly, and Yatika Star Fields*



# Murals: proposed definition

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Uhi#Fkdswhu# #Dgyhuwlvqj#dgg#Vljqv

Mural means visual depictions and/or works of art including mosaic, painting or graphic art technique applied, painted, implanted or placed directly onto the exterior of any wall of a building; such depictions shall not contain words, logos, emblems, trademarks or other similar devices which identify or advertise any product, service or business. Provided, however, such depictions may include a signature or sponsor's identification area within the depiction so long as such area does not exceed ten percent of the total size of the depiction, or two and one-half percent of the surface area of the wall onto which it is attached or painted whichever is less. A mural shall not be considered an accessory or non-accessory sign; rather, a mural shall comply with the applicable standards set forth in Section 59-9350.46 of Chapter 59 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code. A building, for purposes of this section only, shall mean any structure built for the support, shelter, or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels or movable property of any kind.

Uhi#sursrvhg#B<01944<E1

**Mural:** One-of-a-kind visual depictions and/or works of art or licensed reproductions of original works of art including, but not limited to, mosaic, painting, or graphic art techniques that are applied, painted, implanted, or placed directly onto the exterior of any structure. This definition is not intended to discourage the use of new paint and printing technologies. [Reference: see Section 59-16112 of this Code.]



# Murals: **proposed** approval process

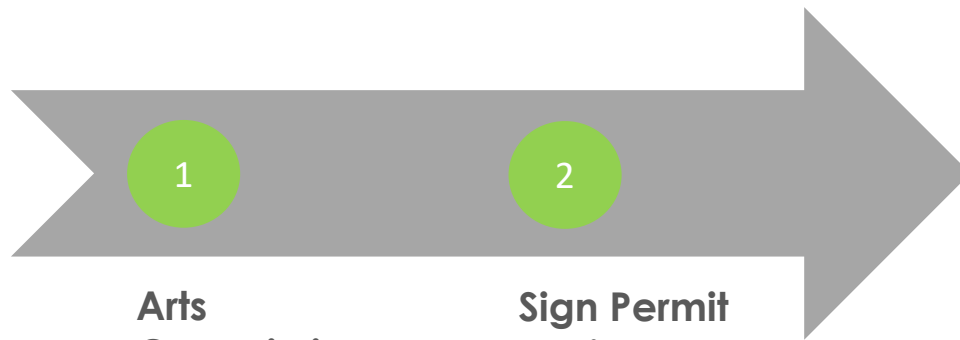
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- **Arts Staff** may approve murals that meet the standards.
- **Arts Commission** to review murals that don't meet the policy.
- **Certificate of Approval** is still required in design districts.
  - Staff may approve if murals meet district guidelines.
- **Sign permit required.** (Licensed sign contractor only required for mechanically-fastened materials.)



# Murals: **proposed** approval process

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1  
**Arts  
Commission  
Staff**

**Based on Murals  
Policy**

2  
**Sign Permit  
Review**

**Based on Code  
Regulations**

Includes:

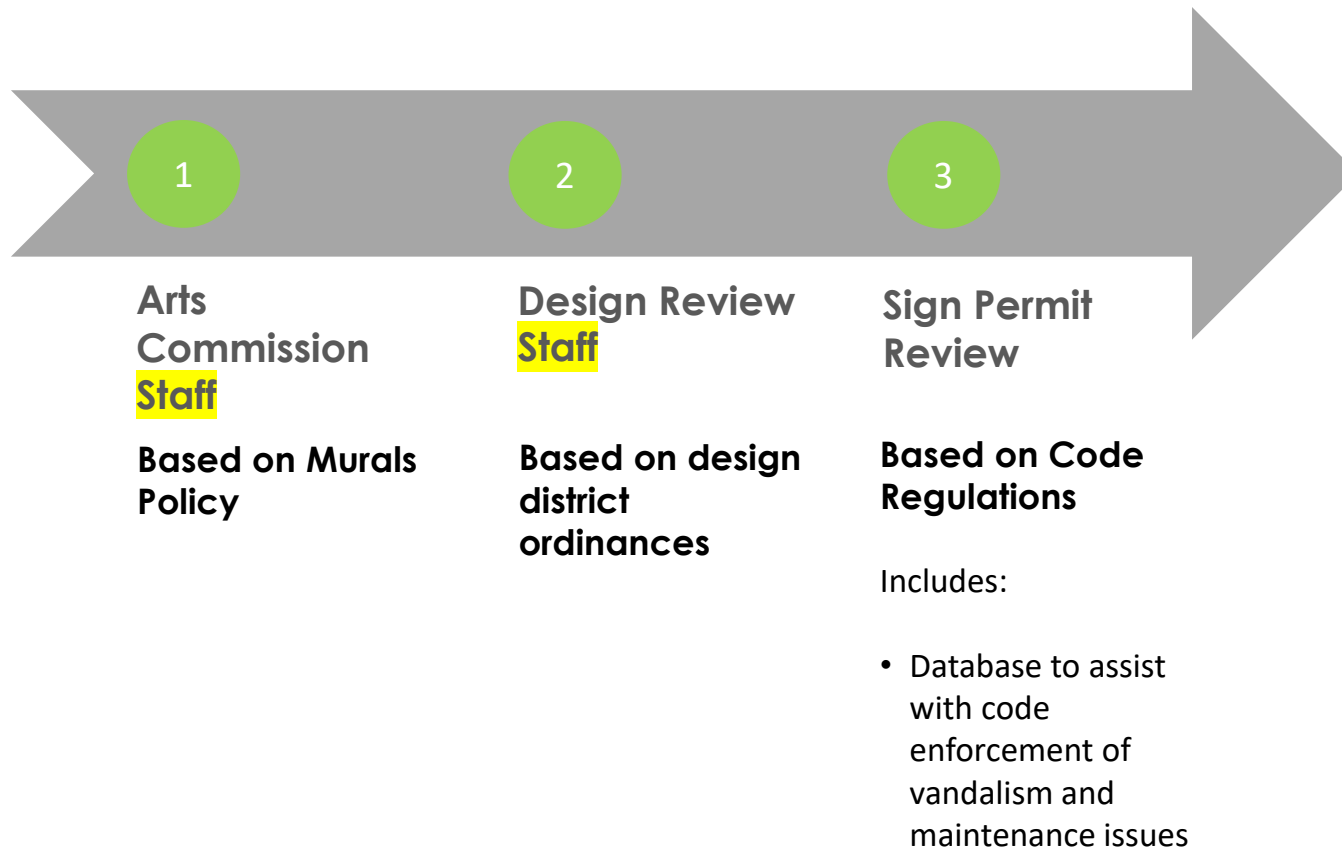
- Database to assist with code enforcement of vandalism and maintenance issues

*most murals*



# Murals: **proposed** approval process

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*design districts only*

# Murals: **proposed** standards for approval

- Content-neutral
- Public safety considerations
  - Securely attached
  - Does not interfere with public safety
  - Applied to a lawfully established structure and doesn't conflict with setbacks
- Application requirements
- Fee required



*From application for 925 W Britton Rd; Virginia Sitzes and Helen Opper, co-curators*

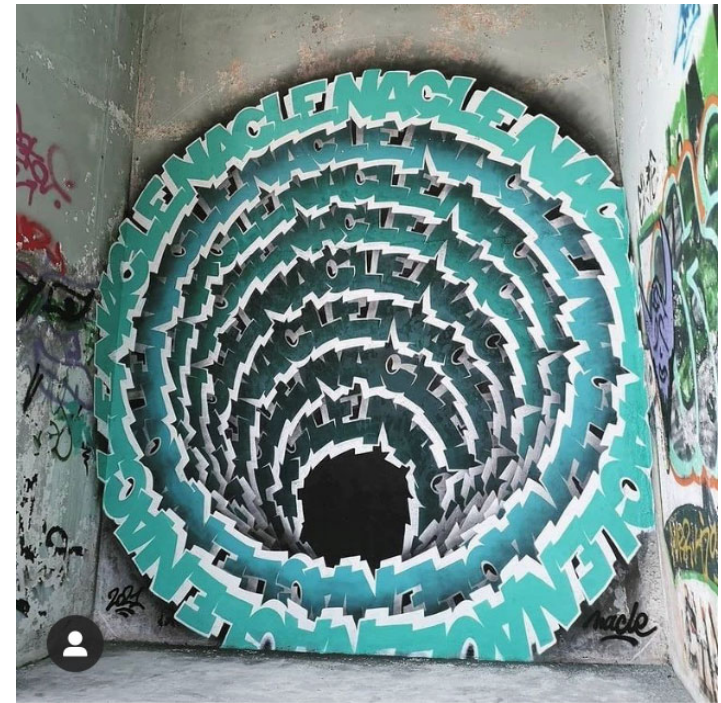
# Murals: **proposed** text standards

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- Continue to allow text up to 10% of the mural or 2.5% of the wall (up to maximum attached wall sign size)
- Arts Commission recommends text over 10% for final approval by Planning Director



Artist: Nick Cave



# Murals: **proposed** design review process

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Uhi#sursrvhg#B<0494451H17#P xudov#JhyIhz #lqg#Dssurydo



Artist: *Graham Hoete, a.k.a. Mr. G.*

Staff may approve  
murals in all  
design districts



# What we've heard

**Need to have more discussion with artists**

**Need to support artists**

**Need to support public art**

**Murals should not be considered  
"signage"**

**Murals should not be subject to the same  
regulations as signage**

**Consider impacts of regulations on free speech**

**Murals painted on private property should not  
need approvals or permits**

**There's too much paperwork and  
preparation for a mural/sign permit**

**Permits are too expensive**

**Permitting process takes  
too long**





# Discussion

# Schedule & Next Steps

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- City Council (adoption)

t.b.d.

## Additional Information:

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<http://www.okc.gov/codeupdate>

**Oklahoma City Planning Department**

Lisa Chronister, Assistant Planning Director

[lisa.chronister@okc.gov](mailto:lisa.chronister@okc.gov) (405) 297-1628

