



CITY OF CHICO

Call for Artists – Artwork for Utility Box Program

Statement of Proposals are due no later than
5:00 pm on December 18, 2024

Call for Artist Inquiries:

Email: angie.dilg@chicoca.gov

Call for Artists – Butte County

1. Introduction/Invitation

The City of Chico Arts Commission is seeking Butte County artists to design artwork to be installed on City utility boxes in historic downtown Chico. These boxes can be found on sidewalks and within other public rights-of-way. Utility boxes are typically five feet high, three feet wide and three feet deep. The City of Chico's "utility boxes" are similar to the images shown on page 5, displaying utility boxes from other towns who have successfully implemented the program. Artists should note their artwork will be placed on a utility box wrap. The Utility Box Art Program will begin within a geographic area in historic Downtown Chico, with the aspiration to extend it throughout the City limits. Artwork to be placed on boxes should be Chico centric and appropriate for the theme and location.

Mission

Invigorate our beloved City for both residents and tourists through the creation of public art, thereby improving the vitality and attractiveness of the City.

2. Program Goals

Objective

1. Create works of art that contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of the streetscape and stimulate the development of a vibrant and interesting urban environment.
2. Provide opportunities for our esteemed local artists to promote their creative works in visible public spaces.
3. Prevent graffiti. While utility boxes are a frequent target of graffiti, studies show that utility boxes covered in public art are vandalized far less often.

Scope of Work:

The City is interested in obtaining submissions from artists, who reside in Butte County, to create artwork that can be printed and installed on a utility wrap.

3. Eligibility and Selection Process

Criteria for Art Submissions

The Utility Box Program shall be open to individual artists, a team of artists or community groups with a designated lead artist who have the vision for utility box art. Artists should carefully read the description of the project and decide if the project is suitable to their interests, capabilities and experience.

Submittal Requirements

The City of Chico will evaluate the proposals based on the information provided below:

- a. Cover Letter: Artist must submit a cover letter which clearly indicates the single primary contact (principal-in-charge), email address, mailing address and telephone contact.

- b. Proposals of Artist: Artist must provide biography, an artist statement and description of materials of the original image. Artwork should also include a title.
- c. Approach: Artist can use any medium to create their artwork, however they should keep in mind that the artwork will be fabricated as a wrap for the box. The submission of the artwork should be in digital format and any hard copies will not be reviewed. All submissions must be original works of art.
- d. Images must NOT Contain:
 - Copyrights materials
 - Logos, words, letters or numbers that could be constituted as a sign
 - Promotional or advertising material for any community group, organization or business
 - Nudity, violence, explicit material or political messaging
 - Large amounts of blank space or undesigned space which may encourage graffiti

Selection Process

Utility Box Art proposals submitted in response to Call for Artist will be reviewed by City Clerk staff who will then forward all complete and eligible applications to the Chico Arts Commission. Proposals will be evaluated by the Arts Commission for approval. Artwork must be submitted by the deadline to be reviewed and approved by the City Clerk's Office.

The Arts Commission will evaluate all complete, eligible Utility Box proposals. If the number of qualifying applications does not meet the number needed, City staff may decide to reopen the selection process. Upon evaluating the qualifications provided in the proposals, the Arts Commission will recommend the artist's design, totaling the amount of utility/traffic control boxes within a phase and location.

Arts Commission Criteria for Art Selection

The criteria used to select eligible artists and designs shall be in accordance with the criteria as follows:

- a) Evaluation of artistic excellence
- b) Appropriateness of scale, form, content and design
- c) Relationship to the social, cultural and/or historical identity
- d) Artist resides within Butte County
- e) Clear demonstration of community partnership

Site Selection for Utility Boxes Selected for Artwork

- Utility box locations that are routinely subject to vandalism and/or graffiti
- Proximity to other art in public spaces
- Proximity of the traffic signal utility box location to other community art
- Preference shall be given where there is minimal public art in close proximity
- Initial focus will be on fourteen (14) City owned utility boxes located in historic downtown area

4. Tentative Selection Process Schedule

Tentative Timeline		Schedule
Call for Artists		October, 2024
Proposals Due		December 18, 2024
Artwork Reviewed		January, 2025
Winners Selected		January, 2025
Winners Announced and Highlighted at Arts Commission Gala		February, 2025
Artwork Placed on Downtown Chico Utility Boxes		April/May, 2025
Launch Project in City Plaza		May, 2025

5. Proposal Submittal

Responding Artists are required to submit their proposal as an electronic copy in PDF file format. Proposals must be received no later than **5:00 PM on December 18, 2024**. Proposals shall be emailed to: angie.dilg@chicoca.gov with “Utility Box Art Program” in the subject line. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Artists should note:

The City of Chico will retain the right to use the final artwork otherwise as needed and reserve the right to modify the timeline of placement of art if necessary.

Sponsorship Opportunity

This program is being sponsored by donations to cover the costs. If any organization, group or individual is interested in sponsoring the costs of a utility box wrap please reach out to the City Clerk’s Office for more information via email at angie.dilg@chicoca.gov or by phone at 530-896-7202.

