



Murals

Murals and other similar forms of visual art have the ability to create a sense of place in a city and strengthen a community's identity. When appropriately executed in Newark's historic districts, they can reinforce the district's historic character and even facilitate an individual's ability to comprehend the character.

Murals and other similar forms of visual art can both add or detract from the character of a building, structure, or district based upon their location, size, shape, color palette, materials used, and relationship to historic context.

For these reasons, guidelines are necessary to ensure that murals enhance the built environment in historic districts. These guidelines are intended to guide the decisions of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee when approving or denying mural applications. Through these guidelines, Newark strives to strike an appropriate balance between historic character and artistic expression.

Guidelines:

1. Paint or mount all murals or other similar forms of visual art on the side or rear walls of the building, and not on its primary façade, above its roof line, or on any of its decorative elements.
2. Do not paint over other historically significant murals, even if they are faded, including but not limited to advertisements from the late-19th to the mid-20th centuries.
3. A mural may be any size, but it must be in scale with the district's character and appropriate for its location.
4. Frame the mural using the boundary of the building's wall, or a painted circle, square, oval, or rectangle.



Example of Guidelines 1 and 4: Mural in Philadelphia, PA that does not encroach on the primary façade or any decorative elements, above the roof line, and fits within the boundary of the building's side wall.



Example of Guideline 3: Although very tall, this mural in the Broad Street Historic District of Philadelphia, PA is in scale to the many high-rise towers that characterize the district.

Murals

Historical Guidelines



Example of Guideline 4: Mural of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Atlanta, GA framed using a rectangle.

5. Work with a color palette that does not contrast with the colors or architecture found on the district's historic buildings and streetscape.
6. Subject matter must reflect an aspect of the district's or the city's history so that it contributes to or reinforces the historic fabric of the buildings or district.
7. Use paints and materials that will not chemically corrode nor compromise the integrity of the building's exterior and structure.
8. Coat all murals with a clear layer of anti-graffiti coating or sealant.



Example of Guideline 5: Mural in the Manayunk Historic District of Philadelphia, PA whose color palette reflects that found in the surrounding environment.



Example of Guideline 6: A mural in the Pecan Street Historic District of Austin, TX that reflects the unique history and culture of the locale.