

ARTS COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

UTILITY/TRAFFIC BOX ART WRAP PROGRAM

2026 GUIDELINES



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OVERVIEW

Anne Arundel County and the Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration own hundreds of utility boxes (also called traffic signal cabinets) at signalized intersections throughout the County. The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County (ACAAC) is dedicated to incorporating art into public spaces, and in 2025 launched a Utility Box Art Program to cover these boxes with artwork by local artists using vinyl wraps. Over the next five years, ACAAC is committed to building a sustainable program that will provide extra income for local artists while transforming these commonplace structures into beautiful works of public art.

MISSION

To support local artists and to create an opportunity for them to showcase their talents, while promoting vibrant and memorable public art throughout Anne Arundel County, enhancing the community landscape.

VINYL WRAPS

The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County uses vinyl wraps to cover each box with an artist submitted design and or artwork. Vinyl wraps are a polyester film with a clear gloss that has an anti-graffiti overlaminates. Once a design is approved through application process (see below), vinyl wraps take 4 to 8 weeks to install. Artists submit photos of the artwork they wish to display, a city approved contractor/vendor measures the box, orchestrates the placement and applies the vinyl wrap.

Why use vinyl wraps instead of painting directly onto the utility box?

1. Graffiti Deterrent

Vinyl wraps deter and repel graffiti, in part because it's hard to paint over the surface and in part because it's hard to see any spray painted or carved in symbols outside the artwork.

2. Long Lasting

On average, vinyl wraps typically last five or more years. The colors fade much more slowly than a typical acrylic or oil paint.

3. Quality and General Appearance

The appearance of each utility art box holds up nicely and the colors remain vibrant over time. They can also be cleaned easily.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Artists must be over the age of 18, and a resident of Anne Arundel County. Artists may have up to six artworks in the database at one time.



ART SUBMISSION TIMELINE

Applications will be accepted from August 1, 2025, until June 30, 2026. Artists will be notified within 30 days if their work will be included in the database.

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTWORK

All eligible artists are encouraged to submit artwork through the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County's Submittable portal. The application asks for information about the artist and artwork, as well as thumbnail pics in .jpeg, .jpg, or .png of artwork for each side of the box.

A template (not to scale) is included on the last page of this document. New or repurposed artwork can be submitted, if it has been sized to fit the box template. If the work was created in a non-digital medium, resources are available to help you convert your work. For more information, please contact Cassandra Kapsos at info@acaac.org.

Utility/Traffic Box Art submissions are reviewed by staff who will forward all complete applications to the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County Board of Directors Art Exhibit Committee for evaluation and approval. Decisions for inclusion are based on:

- Evaluation of artistic excellence
- Appropriateness of scale, form, content, and design
- Relationship to the social, cultural, and or historical identity of our region

Approved artwork will then be added to the online database for community members to consider for their boxes. Once their work is selected for a specific site, artists may be asked for minor revisions to the artwork, depending on the size of the box. Final files are to be submitted directly to the fabricator and must be in a vector format (.eps, .ai, or a high-resolution PDF) 150 DPI to 300 DPI.

Once the wrap is installed on the box, the artist will receive a stipend of \$500, paid by ACH transfer. The application to submit artwork is available here:

<https://artscouncilofannearundelcountynew.submittable.com/submit/332156/2026-utility-traffic-box-artwork-submission>



SPONSORING A BOX

The sponsorship program will permit a sponsor to commission or select a work of art designed by a local artist, to be placed on a box. Sponsors will be acknowledged on the Utility Box Art Program webpage, on the county map and through other ACAAC media channels. The donation is tax deductible.

1. Sponsors can be communities, neighborhoods, nonprofits, schools, churches, businesses, or individuals.
2. The cost to sponsor a box is \$2,500. *Inquire about reduced fees for small and/or nonprofit organizations.
3. Sponsors can select artwork from the database, or they can solicit artwork from a local artist. Please refer to the “Submit Artwork” section above if you choose to commission work. Once approved and the wrap is installed, ACAAC will pay an honorarium to the artist for their design. Any other fees associated with commissioning a separate artwork(s) themed specifically to product or a business, are the responsibility of the business and or organization.
4. Branding on the box cannot exceed 20% of printable space and must blend into the artwork or design. The intent of the box is not to create a business billboard but a tastefully appealing piece of art that meets standards set by the Arts Commission and city staff.

Some things to consider before participating:

- No political, religious, or discriminatory subject matter will be considered.
- The ACAAC Utility Box Art Program was created to beautify the County’s urban landscape. Designed vinyl wraps should not serve any specific commercial purpose, and the artistic integrity of the original artwork submitted by the artist, should remain intact.

RESOURCES

There are some grants and other funding sources available to cover the costs of a box.

Maryland Aviation Association Transportation Community Enhancement Grant

The intent of this legislation is to provide benefit to those citizens living in the communities impacted by the daily operations of BWI Airport, by allowing them the opportunity to apply for grants for transportation related projects. Typical projects include, speed humps, streetscapes, bus shelters, sidewalk repairs etc. These communities must be located within the 1998 certified Airport Noise Zone or within two miles of the outermost noise contour. For more information and to see a map of the eligible area, click the link below:

<https://marylandaviation.com/environmental/airport-noise/transportation-community-enhancement-grants-program/>



Video Lottery Terminal Grants

This year, the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County received a Video Lottery Terminal Grant through the Local Development Council to wrap 10-12 boxes within a three-mile radius of Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland. If you would like to advocate for a box to be wrapped in your neighborhood AND your community is located in the designated area, please reach out to Cassandra Kapsos at info@acaac.org.

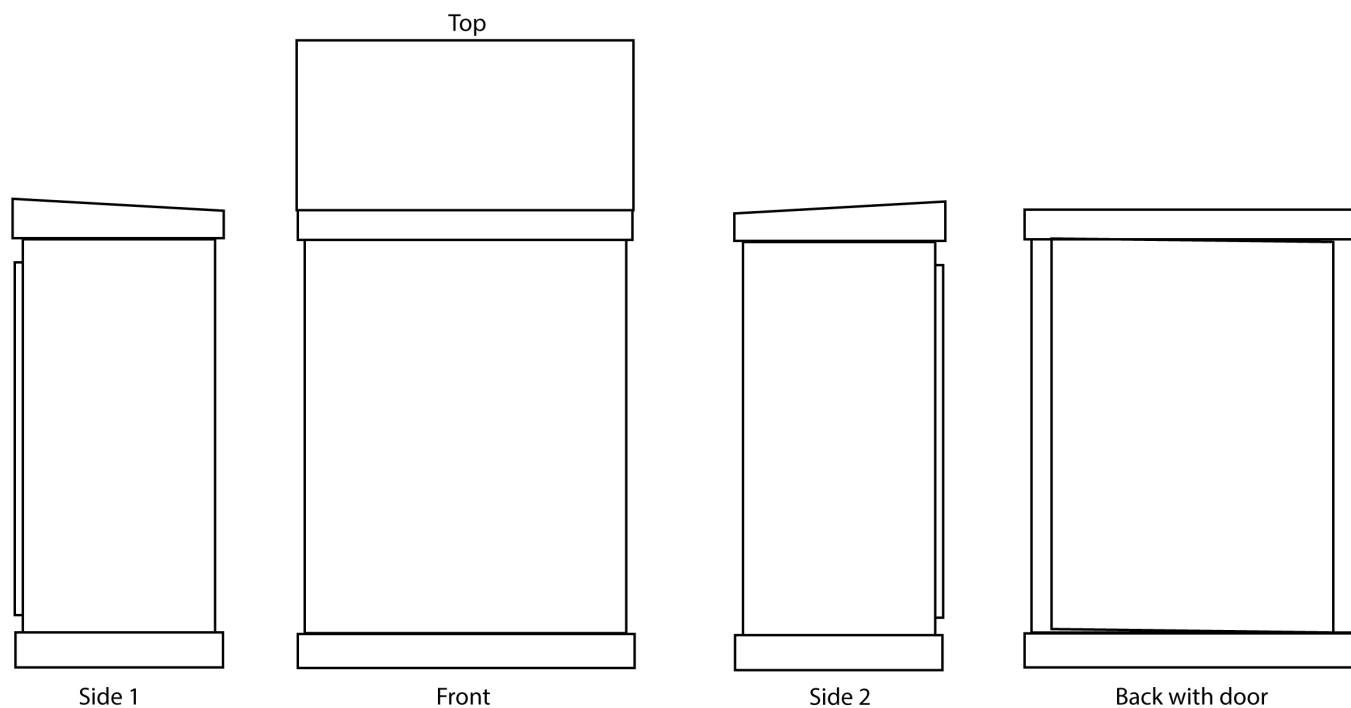
Addition Resources

If you would like to discuss alternate ways of funding a sponsored utility box in your community, please reach out to Cassandra Kapsos at info@acaac.org.





UTILITY ART BOX TEMPLATE FOR ARTWORK



BASIC DIMENSIONS: H 53.5" X W 44" X D 26"

Most of the utility boxes in Anne Arundel County will follow this template. However, the artist may need to modify the design and layout because each box has unique features, such as handles and vents, that vary from one to another.