

TIPS FOR PAINTING GUERRILLA STREET & PAVEMENT MURALS

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c_vbNy9KU3opCpTaC9YWMeflizMKWg7HWKDvUMfHwuY/e/dit

“The role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible.” --Toni Cade Bambara



Berkeley High School Student-Led Street Mural in conjunction with BLM March and Rally



Street Mural in front of ICE office in San Francisco

Have you seen the giant yellow BLACK LIVES MATTER and DEFUND THE POLICE street murals--Oakland, DC, Raleigh?

Here's some tips and basic steps to painting a street mural from my last 8 years of adventures. My experience is with doing murals as part of movements, often in conjunction with actions, demonstrations or marches--and without asking permission or getting a permit. I most often used water soluble or natural clay paint.

-David Solnit

STREET MURAL STEPS:here's the basic steps. Below we go in-depth for each of these.

1. CHOOSE WHEN/WHERE YOU WILL PAINT THE MURAL
2. DESIGN A MURAL WITH YOUR GROUP/COMMUNITY
3. GET SUPPLIES
4. PRACTICE: do very scaled down version in a parking lot or driveway
5. PLAN FOR SAFETY: Traffic, police, etc
6. LAYOUT YOUR MURAL
7. FACILITATE YOUR MURAL PAINTING
8. DOCUMENTATION
9. CLEAN UP ALL SUPPLIES
10. CELEBRATION!
11. GALLERY OF STREET MURALS FROM DIFFERENT MOVEMENTS

1. CHOOSE WHEN/WHERE YOU WILL PAINT THE MURAL:

Considerations:

WHERE:

Is it close to a significant location?

Is it in a place with a lot of public community people who will see it?

Is there a location to get a good view and photo from above (or is there a good location for photos and videos?)

WHEN:

When can you get people to help you?

Can you do it as part of a demonstration or event?

What time of day is best (make sure it has time to dry if your town gets cool or moist in the evening)?

What about weather?

Are there times when your mural site is sun or shade?--maybe this will affect painting, drying or the photos looking good.

2. DESIGN A MURAL WITH YOUR GROUP/COMMUNITY:

With images and words, and colors, choose the message/image/s and story you want to communicate. Create a design that can be collectively painted in the time you have and with the people and supplies you can put together.

DESIGN TIPS

CONTRAST: light dark contrast makes images and words pop and be more visible.

STORY: Image/s that can add another dimension, if your design is just words.

SIMPLE: Keep it simple enough that you can complete the layout in time to paint it in.

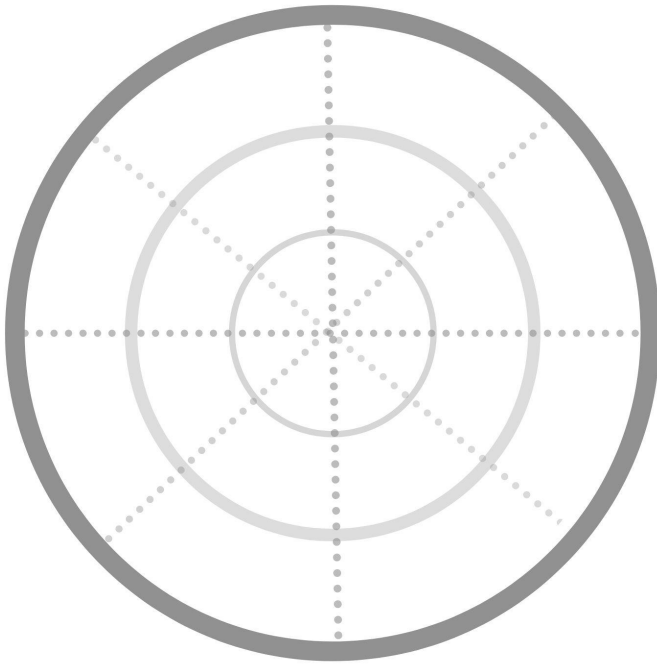
SKETCH: Make a sketch or drawing of your design and color it in with colored pencils, watercolors, etc (or on a computer w graphic design program). It may help to print a satellite, aerial or street map of the street you are painting. You can also measure the street, with a tape measure, with pre-measured lengths of string or rope or estimating by counting your walking paces, then measuring the length of your pace and multiplying. Make color copies (or black and white and color them in) before you paint--enough so everyone laying it out can have one. Put them on a clipboard or tape to a piece of cardboard so they don't blow away or get damaged by paint.



CIRCLE MURAL DESIGN TEMPLATE

circle street mural template

This template can help creating your design and then more easily transferring it onto the street with chalk. You can lay out the concentric circles with chalk and string; (tie a loop and hold one in exact center w a stick or pole or pen and tie another loop on the other end to fit around your chalk and draw a circle, keeping string tension even. Draw the pie slices dividing the circle into quarters, then eights using a string pulled tight or a long stick/s.



It can really help to color in your designs and make a few color copies or printouts so everyone doing layout or painting can have a guide to follow. taping your design on cardboard, a clipboard, etc so it won't get paint on it or blow away can be helpful.

3) GET SUPPLIES:

PAINT:

ESTIMATE HOW MUCH/WHAT COLORS: For a 35 foot across circular mural we estimate a mural will take about 3-4 gallons of paint to cover the entire area. What percent of which colors you will need? This is your paint needs/shopping list.

Here is an example of a street mural sketch: MURAL BEING PAINTED [HERE](#)



HERE IS AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT PERCENT OF WHICH COLORS WILL BE NEEDED:

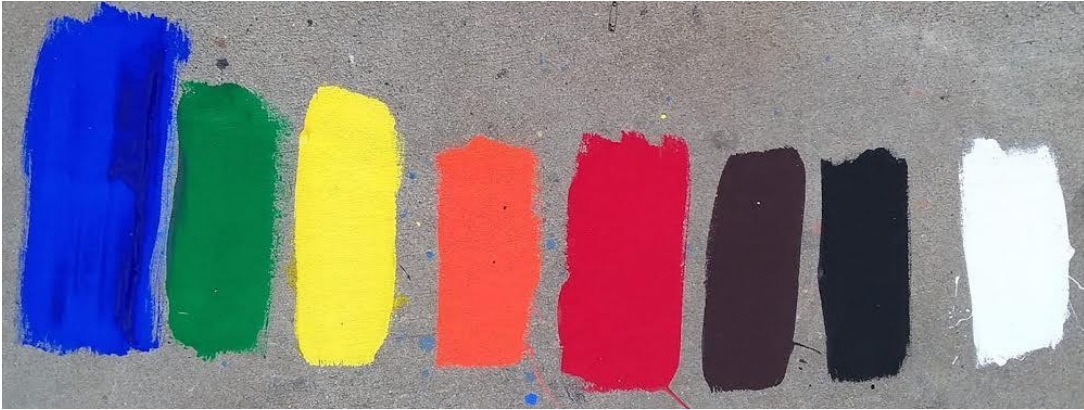
60% BLUE

20% SIERRA RED CLAY PAINT

20% YELLOW

5% BLACK (we have sometimes used charcoal from the North Bay fires, instead of black paint for the black wind image)

5% WHITE (used to lighten the blue)



Tempera paint sample on concrete.

TEMPERA PAINT: This is the kind of water soluble paint kids use in school (because it's not-toxic). It comes in a wide range of colors and also a range of quality--some brands or types cover and have stronger colors better than others. Art supply stores and some stores that carry toys or craft supplies may carry tempera paint.

Cheapest source I have found is at [Lakeshore Learning](#), though [Blick](#), [Artist and Craftsman](#) and others carry it for more.

CLAY PAINT:

CLAY PAINT: We make it ourselves from drying out ceramic clay or clay soil, soaking overnight in water in a 5 gallon plastic bucket and then mixing using a paint mixing attachment on a corded drill, adding water to get and the desired consistency--thin so it will paint easily and dry faster, but not so watery that the color is weak.

Made from clay powder: submerge in water, then mixed with a paint mixing attachment/bit on a corded drill.

From soil: you can use soil--especially if it has some clay. May need to dry if dense clay, or may be able to mix--making mud--from soil.



California clays in 5 different earth colors.

Layout Supplies:

CHALK: I use sidewalk chalk to draw the layout design and black board chalk for details. You can make a chalk holder from a bamboo stick, which is really helpful to be able to layout standing up.

STRING:

MEASURE TAPE:

PAINTBRUSHES AND ROLLERS:

Paint Brushes: Advantage of paint bushes: easier for more people to participate. Bigger paint brushes are faster. I like 3 -4 inch ["chip brushes"](#)

Rollers: Advantages of painting more surface faster. For for each paint roller yu will need a "sleeve" that slides over and hold the paint.

paint, brushes/rollers, chalk, containers/buckets, rags, water and carrying bags or boxes (see materials list below for more details).

PRACTICE: It can really help to practice a doing mini scaled-down version in a parking lot, driveway, or patio. to get experience laying out, painting and working together, and to see how your supplies work out, and what it looks like. You can also practice role-playing, blacking traffic, and holding the space.

PLAN FOR SAFETY: This includes:

Traffic: making sure you can block and or re-route the car and traffic from your mural area and to keep mural painters safe.

Police/security/concerned neighbors: Make a plan to address these folks so you can carry out your mural, maybe a police liaison, maybe lots of people surround the mural area..

LAYOUT YOUR MURAL: Have a group of people who can commit to laying out the mural design. Another group can organize and get all the materials ready.

4. LAYOUT

CIRCLE GRID: if you have a circular design or a circle image you can use a human compass; march the center w chalk, tie a loop on one end of shrink and hold in center w a stick. Laying the design out on a circle grid on your sketch can help to transfer it onto the ground. If transferring an image from your sketch, you can, for example, measure & make circles on your sketch for every 5 feet in from the edge-- at 5 feet in, 10 ft in and 15 ft in. You can also divide the circle across in quarters or eighths like a pie.

SQUARE/RECTANGLE:

TEMPLATES: If you have complicated images you could choose to cut the shape/s out of paper the size you want for your mural and then trace them. This can be done with 3-4 foot wide rolls of butcher paper or [red rosin paper for construction](#)

PRACTICE: Even if you do it 4 feet wide on a driveway or sidewalk it's amazingly helpful to actually practice laying it out, getting paint ready, working with your team and painting.

FACILITATE YOUR MURAL PAINTING: It's up to your team to facilitate the painting of your mural--invite other folks to help you, but it's up to you to direct them.

CLEAN UP ALL SUPPLIES:Keep track of your supplies, wipe up any spills outside your mural and be responsible for removing supplies when you have finished painting. Keep your brushes and roller from drying out--keep in paint, in water or in plastic bags--and out of the sun.

STREET MURAL ROLES

- PREP/SET UP: This group will layout the design on the street, chalking out lines for others to fill in and possibly dabbing each part with the correct color as a guide. They will set up and organize materials for everyone else to participating in painting.
- PAINT FACILITATORS: These facilitators will invite people into paint the mural, show them what to do, and make sure painters have what they need.
- POLICE/PUBLIC LIAISON: These folks will communicate with police or others about what we are doing, making sure to keep it peaceful and keep the mural space safe.
- STREET SAFETY: This team will make sure the mural area is safely blocked off from vehicles so the muralists can safely focus and paint.

Optional, but encouraged roles

- STORYTELLERS: These folks will tell the story of the mural -- and the community, movement, or group -- to the public. These can also be your mural team's media spokespeople. What a great chance to narrate your mural and share your story with thousands of
- SONG LEADERS: Does your group or community have song leaders that can lead and sing while the mural is happening?
- DOCUMENTATION: People to document, both to share immediately on social media and to amplify your story with a visual record.

STREET MURAL GALLERY:

STREET MURAL VIDEO AND PHOTOS

VIDEO: [Anti-Chevron Day May 2021](#)

SF Bay Area Art-projection-Street Mural Action: [The Sun is Setting on Fossil Fuels: Art and Music Direct](#)

Palestine: [Nakba 73 Street Mural](#)

VIDEO: [Sunrise for a New Civilian Climate Corps](#)

Video: [Choose Democracy. Stop a Coup](#)

[VIDEO: San Francisco Street Mural](#)

Yesterday a series of powerful street murals were created in the middle of “Wall Street West”, as Montgomery Street in San Francisco is nicknamed. These murals call for justice and advocate for solutions to the climate crisis.

They were created by a range of community organizations and youth groups. It was part of disruptions across the U.S. week spotlight the need for urgent climate action. (Video from Anesti Vega)

VIDEO: [No Pipeline, No Way!](#)

Last February in Oakland, CA community groups, organized by Idle No More SF Bay, 1000 Grandmothers C. MMIW & P and others took over the street in front of the Oakland Federal Building to call on Biden to reject the Pipeline.

VIDEO: [Wells Fargo: Defund Line 3](#)

In April, 2021, the Bay Area climate justice movement painted “WELLS FARGO DEFUND LINE 3” over an entire three lane wide block of the street, with ten community groups doing smaller murals within the space





Erin Baldassari
@e_baldi

Back in [#Oakland](#) w/
[@SFNewsReporter](#) &
[@bethlberge](#) for Night 6 of
demonstrations against police
brutality [#GeorgeFloydprotest](#)

Looks like several thousand
people have turned out. The
message: "Defund Police"

8:00 PM · Jun 3, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

11 Retweets 30 Likes

Comment Retweet Like Share









Đòi Quyền
Sống của
người
da đen





Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBUmWJagn0e/?igshid=14zm627lxo8nr>

These two mass mural projects have accounts of community groups doing street murals.

- [San Francisco Climate Strike Street Murals Take Over Wall Street West](#)
- [Rise for Climate Justice Mural Project](#) The Rise for Climate Justice Mural Project organized the world's largest street mural on September 8, right before world leaders gathered for the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco. Dozens of organizations and community groups were involved, painting 50 murals. Each group's design is a response to the question, "What is one solution to climate chaos in your community?"

Video: [RISE Street Mural: What and Why](#)

VIDEO: No Ban No Wall: [May Day San Francisco Public Street Mural](#) shows how-to for a circulate tempera street mural.