

---

## MURALS

### Intent

Murals have historic precedents in Snohomish as both artistic expression and advertising. While murals have a connection to Snohomish's past, it is important that new murals are designed to be sympathetic to the building upon which they are applied, and contribute appropriately to the appearance of the streetscape and the character of the Historic District.

### Applicability

The following standards apply to all murals located on the exterior of a commercial building within the Historic District.

#### A. Definitions

**Artistic Mural:** Murals containing no advertising. For the purposes of this section, advertising is defined as any display of letters, numerals, characters, words, symbols, emblems, illustrations, objects, or registered trademarks that serve to call the attention of the public to products, services, businesses, buildings, premises, events, candidates, or ballot propositions.

**Historic Mural:** Any mural that is at least fifty years old.

**Mural:** Paint applied directly to the exterior wall of a building for the purpose of creating imagery and/or artwork.

**Mural Sign:** Murals less than fifty years old that reflect, suggest, or advertise a specific product, service, or use of the building, with such imagery not readily transferrable to an alternative building use.

#### B. New Murals

##### 1. General

- a. No new mural shall be permitted on unpainted brick or stone.
- b. Murals shall be designed to complement the architectural and historic character of the Historic District.
- c. Murals shall not be permitted on the primary street-facing façade of the building. Buildings located on corners may have murals applied to the non-primary street façade.
- d. Murals shall not interrupt, detract, obscure, or overwhelm the architectural features of the building upon which they are applied.
- e. Murals shall be located, designed, and scaled to reinforce the proportions of the building upon which they are applied.
- f. New murals shall not be painted over historic murals.

## 2. Mural Signs

- a. Mural signs are regulated as signage, and shall be counted toward the total sign area allowed for the building or tenant space, as set forth in Chapter 14.245 SMC.
- b. Mural signs are encouraged to maintain the 1880s-1930s era of the Historic District in imagery and lettering.
- c. The sign standards contained in Section X shall apply.
- d. Borders are encouraged, to reinforce containment of images within the mural and minimize the impact on the architectural character of the building.

## 3. Artistic Murals

- a. Artistic murals are an expression of the mural artist, and as such, are not required to adhere to specific standards related to design, colors, shapes, or proportions. However, the mural shall comply with all standards related to location and scale in relation to the building upon which it is applied.
- b. Borders are encouraged, to reinforce containment of images within the mural and minimize the impact on the architectural character of the building.

## C. Existing Murals

### 1. Historic Murals

With time, historic murals develop significance of their own, becoming an integral part of the streetscape and important features of the building. Owners of buildings containing historic murals are encouraged to preserve and maintain these historic assets.

- a. Apart from efforts to remove, or to preserve and maintain in its existing form, modifications to historic murals shall constitute a new mural for the purposes of this section.
- b. If the building is repainted, efforts should be made to follow the guidelines of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. If new grout is applied, it should be painted to match the color of the mural.

### 2. Non-Historic Murals

Recent and new mural signs less than fifty years old which become abandoned, may be painted out without prior review or approval. If a new mural is desired in the same location, it shall be reviewed by the Design Review Board prior to application.