

2026 Utility Box Art Project - Phase V

Request for Proposals



Sponsored by:



**CITY OF CASA GRANDE
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

Our Mission

The Arts & Culture Commission seeks to promote the importance of arts and culture experiences for all Casa Grande residents. It advocates for continued public funding for the arts and culture sector, arts education, cultural equity, and other initiatives that further the growth and sustainability of the creative and diverse community in Casa Grande.

About the Project

The 2026 Utility Box Art Project – Phase V is back, and it's brighter than ever! For the fifth year running, the Arts & Culture Commission, teaming up with APS, is turning everyday utility boxes into magical portals of creativity. With a splash of paint and a dash of imagination, these once-ordinary street fixtures become playful canvases that invite neighbors, families, and visitors to stop, smile, and explore. It's not just art—it's a community celebration, where technology and imagination meet right on the corner of your block.



Specifications

- Successful proposals should foster community pride and convey a sense of the City's culture, history, business, and remarkable outdoors and open spaces.
- When designing the artwork, artists are encouraged to highlight the vitality of the surrounding area, its diverse neighborhoods, and showcase how these areas contribute to the City through arts, music, community events, history, landscape, culture, and unique attractions.
- The ACC has identified seven utility boxes within the city limits. Artists are encouraged to conduct a site visit to better understand the local architecture, neighborhood, and historical context. A list of available boxes is included on pages 12-13.
- If multiple individuals select the same box, preference will be given to the artist selected by the ACC.
- **NOTE:** Priority will be given to artists who have not previously participated in this project. However, past participants are still welcome and encourages to submit proposals.

Instructions for Design

- **Utility Box:** It is the artist's responsibility to evaluate the utility box sites and boxes.
- **Proposal limit:** Only one proposal per utility site will be accepted per person/artist.
- **Design coverage:** Artwork must include all four sides of the utility box.
- **Content guidelines:** Designs must reflect positivity. Offensive content, advertising, religious art, sexual or illegal drug imagery, or political partisanship will **not** be permitted.
- **Safety requirements:** Designs may not include or mimic traffic lights, signs, or signals.
- **Utility markings:** Identification numbers, codes, keyholes, meters, and handles must remain uncovered and accessible.
- **Intellectual property:** Designs must not infringe on copyrights, trademarks, brands, or include imagery of illegal activities. No objects may be attached to the box.
- **Preparation:** Artists are responsible for providing their own supplies, materials, equipment, and thoroughly cleaning, priming, and prepping the box before applying artwork.
- **Cleanup:** All materials, debris, and personal items must be removed from the site after work is completed.
- **Documentation** – Each artist must submit up to six photos documenting project progress, with one photo provided each week, and must remain in regular communication with their assigned commissioner throughout the project.

Materials to be Used

Acrylic or Urethane Paint

The recommended paint for metal surfaces is exterior-grade acrylic or urethane, which offers:

- Excellent adhesion to metal surfaces, especially when primer is applied.
- High durability and resistance to chemicals, UV light, weather, and abrasion.
- Flexibility, allowing expansion and contraction without cracking or peeling.

Application Tips

- **Primer:** A metal primer or self-priming paint must be used to ensure proper adhesion. Zinc-rich primers are highly effective.
- **Surface Preparation:** Clean the surface thoroughly to remove oils, dirt, and rust. Paint should only be applied to dry, properly prepared surfaces.
- **Coats:** Apply multiple thin coats for even coverage and long-lasting results.
- **Topcoat Sealant:** An anti-graffiti topcoat is required. Apply 2–3 layers to extend the artwork's protection. This coating allows graffiti to be removed repeatedly without damaging the artwork, using simple pressure washing or handwashing with water.

Submittal Information and Instructions

**Deadline to Submit Request for Proposal is
Monday, February 16, 2026 by 5:00 p.m.**

Eligibility

- Residents of the City of Casa Grande are eligible to submit proposals.
- Artists from Pinal County may also be considered if an insufficient number of proposals are received from Casa Grande residents.

Proposal Submission

- The Request for Proposal (RFP) and Application can be downloaded at www.casagrandeaz.gov under the City Clerk's Office → Arts & Culture Commission.
- Proposals must be mailed or hand-delivered by the deadline to:

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
ATTN: 2026 PHASE V UTILITY BOX ART PROJECT
510 E. FLORENCE BLVD
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122**

Required Materials

Proposals must include:

- Completed and signed application
- Brief biography of the artist(s)
- Detailed written description of the artwork
- Conceptual design for all four sides of the utility box.

Failure to include all required information may result in disqualification.

Submittal Information and Instructions (continued)

Meetings & Agreements

- All applicants must attend the following Arts & Culture Commission meetings to be considered:
 - Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m. — Q & A session
 - Tuesday, June 2, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m. — Recognition of People's Choice Award
- Selected artists will be required to sign an agreement/contract with the City of Casa Grande and Arizona Public Service, and comply with all requirements, deadlines, and restrictions.
- A W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification and Certification may be required.

Compensation

- Selected artists will receive a stipend of \$500 to paint the utility box (\$250 at project start and \$250 upon completion).
- Upon project completion (May 10, 2026), a **People's Choice** vote will take place on the City's social media page. Each voter may vote once.
- The winner of the People's Choice Award will be revealed at the ACC Meeting on June 2, 2026 and will receive an additional \$1,000.

2025 People's Choice Winner:



DATES TO REMEMBER	EVENT
<u>Official Launch on City website:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 16, 2026 	<u>Launch, Advertise & Post:</u> CG Dispatch Newspaper Public Notice, City Website, Social Media, Lobby Flyers, Email to Past Art Program/Event Participants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday, February 16, 2026, by midnight 	Last day to for artists to submit proposals by midnight to Evonne_Aldana@casagrandeaz.gov
<u>Arts & Culture Commission Meeting:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday, March 3, 2026 4:00 p.m. City Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ACC to review all proposals submittals. · ALL artists are required to attend this meeting to be considered. · This will be for Questions & Answers on submitted artwork. · Artists will be allowed to give a 3-minute presentation on their artwork. · ACC will award selected artists by special vote.
<u>Project Start Date:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday, March 6, 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Selected Artists to sign contracts. · Review of Rules & Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday May 10, 2026, by midnight 	Required completion date.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday, May 11, 2026 – Friday, May 15, 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Public Information Office to take photos of completed artwork. · Commissioners to evaluate completed artwork project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday, May 20, 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · People’s Choice Voting – City Website
<u>Arts & Culture Commission Meeting:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday, June 2, 2026 4:00 p.m. City Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ACC to recognize project People’s Choice Winner at meeting. · Project artists must attend this meeting. · Photo opportunity of Commissioners with project artists.

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Proposal - Section 1

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Name of Organization (if applicable) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone Number _____

If under 18 years old, parents to complete this section: Child's Age: _____

Name of School _____ Grade Level _____

Parent/Guardian Consent Signature _____

Artist's Biography (may attach resume):

[illegible]

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Proposal - Section 2

Artwork Title: _____

Provide a detailed, ADA-compliant description explaining the concept, inspiration, and message for each side of the box. Attach a separate sheet if additional space is needed.

Acknowledgment

- Artist acknowledges that the City of Casa Grande (“the City”) reserves the right to disqualify entrants who do not comply with requested information and requirements.
- The City reserves ownership and copyright of selected art entries. Selected art entries will become the property of the City.
- Artist acknowledges and agrees that, as a condition of being selected and accepting any monies, the City shall have the right to publicize and/or broadcast Entrant’s name, likeness, voice, photographs, and the fact of selection, as well as disseminate any other information related to the project.
- Artist declares that the artwork is their own original work and that they are not aware of any ownership or copyright infringement through submission.

Artist further agrees:

- To release and hold harmless the City from any liability related to the artwork, including damage, vandalism, or accidents during installation.
- That the City reserves the right to modify, relocate, or remove the artwork at its discretion.
- That compensation is limited to the stipend and award described, with no further financial obligation.
- To comply with all applicable laws, codes, and safety regulations.
- That submitted proposals and materials will not be returned.

I have read, understand, and acknowledge my submission.

Artist’s Signature _____ Date _____

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Available Utility Boxes - Section 3

Select up to three utility boxes you would like to paint:

- Mark your first choice "1"
- Mark your second choice "2"
- Mark your third choice "3"

NOTE: The ACC reserved the right to assign boxes as they appropriate if needed.

Include these pages with your proposal



Box 1: _____
(only smaller box) located at
408 N. Sacaton



Box 2: _____
(located at CG Municipal Airport on
Pinal Ave - APS #206553



Box 3: _____
located at northeast corner of Peart
Rd. & McCartney Rd - APS #465484



Box 4: _____
located in front of Desert Sands
Apartments - west of Pinal on O'Neil -
APS #647863



Box 5: _____
located at McMurray Road in front of
Oasis Health Building - APS #499



Box 6: _____
located east side of Schultz Street in
large vacant lot - south of intersection
of McMurray Road and Schultz Road -
APS #514160



Box 7: _____
located at CG Municipal Airport on
west Taxi Way between Airport Road
and north Aero Drive. It is east of the
building at 3025 Airport Rd.- APS
#4221453

For inquiries, contact us at:

The City Clerk's Office at 520-421-8600

City Clerk, Adriana Carpio-Solis, ext. 1101

Deputy City Clerk, Evonne Aldana, ext. 1100

Thanks