

Restaurant Expansions + Artwork in the ROW

The City and County of Denver is currently accepting applications to allow restaurants and bars to operate in outdoor settings adjacent to their businesses. Denver has also implemented “Open Streets” that allows citizens to recreate while maintaining social distancing requirements.

In the Restaurant Expansion and “Open Streets” initiatives, DOTI will approve the addition of artwork in the right-of-way (ROW), pending review of the artwork and the guidelines below:

1. Paint applications must be short-term. Your proposal should include information regarding removal if the artwork is not fading at the time of permit or open street expiration.
2. Artwork will maintain a 2-foot buffer from all existing roadway markings that DOTI has installed. Examples of roadway markings include: lane striping, bicycle lanes, crosswalks, stop bars.
3. When applicable, artwork must be placed 40’ away from a traffic-controlled intersection.
4. Artwork will not contain white, yellow, or red colors to limit confusion with a traffic control device.
5. No logos, text, or advertising are permitted.
6. No octagons, triangles, or any other shapes that could be confused with a traffic control device or a directional marking (e.g. directional arrow).
7. Artwork cannot be painted on the curb and gutter and paint cannot be applied on a curb ramp, level landing, or truncated domes or within 2 feet of an ADA accessible ramp/landing.
8. Artwork cannot be hung from signs or other traffic control devices.
9. Paint must provide a non-slip surface for pedestrians and be non-reflective.
10. Final artwork and materials must be reviewed and approved by Denver’s Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI).

Suggested Paint Usage:

- Paint applications must be short-term. For this reason, spray chalk paint is the only acceptable material. Short term paint applications will be reviewed on a case-by-base basis.
- Depending on the complexity of the artwork, a removal plan may need to be required. If the artwork becomes a nuisance or safety concern, applicants will be responsible for removal.
- DOTI must review inquiries to refresh artwork in the ROW.
- Two (2) weeks prior to restaurant permit expiration or “Open Street” removal, paint cannot be reapplied to begin allowing it to wear off and transition the roadway to the safe movement of people and goods.