

**LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
POLICY FOR TEMPORARY DECORATIVE DISPLAYS ON TRAFFIC
SIGNAL CABINETS**

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) oversees the display of decorative designs on the exterior of traffic signal cabinets purchased and maintained by the City of Los Angeles. **The City does not consider the decorative element to be art and is considered a temporary display.** Displays are limited to signal cabinets located on public right of ways, excluding railroad crossings and locations restricted by safety regulations contained in the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Prior to installation, the proposed decorative designs and locations must be approved by the appropriate City Council Office responsible for the district area. The Councilmember will subsequently forward the request to the LADOT General Manager or his/her designee for final review and approval. Final approval will be based on compliance with safety regulations and impacts on the functionality of the signal cabinet.

The City has the right to replace the traffic signal cabinet at any time due to maintenance, signal modification, upgrades, or damage. Cabinets house critical equipment that control traffic signals and are prepared and extensively tested in DOT's Signal Lab before field installation. When cabinet replacement is required, the existing cabinet (decorated or not) cannot be reused at the same intersection and in many cases cannot be reused at all. At the time of the Council Office request, LADOT will make a good faith effort to identify signal cabinets that may be replaced within a year.

Corridor/area projects shall be limited to no more than ten locations at one time.

All decorative displays must use environmentally preferred paints or adhesives with low volatile organic compounds. The décor may not puncture, etch, bend or otherwise alter the dimensions and integrity of the traffic signal cabinet. Additionally, the display must not cover or obstruct cabinet air vents, door handles, key holes, hinges, and seams.

The City has the right to reject any display that contains language or images that:

- infringe upon a registered trademark, patent or copyright;
- advertise for a financial benefit or commercial purpose;
- resemble a traffic control device or regulatory sign;
- contain reflective material, mirrors, or causes a glare;
- campaign for specific legislation, or the election or recall of a public official;
- promote violence, nudity, illegal drugs, deviant behavior or an illegal activity;

- portray acts deemed obscene, vulgar, profane, or scatological;
- denigrate a specific group based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, gender, or sexual orientation;
- denigrate the military, law enforcement, fire rescue and support, government services, or public officials;
- denigrate animals or any living creature protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

The decorator will be responsible for all costs associated with the installation, repair, replacement or removal of a display. If any damage is caused to the exterior of a signal cabinet as the direct result of the decorator's installation or maintenance of the display, the decorator will be responsible for the costs necessary to restore the cabinet to a functional condition.

The decorator may be instructed to remove a display from any traffic signal cabinet at the direction of City Council, City Council Office responsible for the district area or LADOT (upon advance notice to City Council or appropriate Council Office). Removal shall take place within 24 hours from the time of notification. If the decorator fails to comply with the removal instruction, the City may remove the display and seek cost reimbursement from the decorator.

The City is not responsible for the removal of graffiti or defacement made to the decoration. The decorator may opt to restore the design or repaint the signal cabinet. If a new design is to be installed, prior approval of the new design by the responsible Council Office and LADOT is required.

A constituent may not purchase the signal cabinet. A councilmember may introduce a Council Motion to purchase a controller cabinet and donate the controller cabinet to a non-profit organization.