

Review of new proposed murals in the Historic District

Purpose: City of Key West, Resolution No. 99-430, directed the Historic Architectural Review Commission to adopt guidelines for murals “depicting the history or natural environment of the Florida Keys” that “may be permitted on noncontributing commercial or public buildings in the historic district”. These guidelines for murals in the historic district were formulated as a means of ensuring the aesthetic compatibility of murals with the character of the historic district.

Definition: Mural: Any graphic, painting, painted wall surface or copy that is visible and projects a graphic display or image that does not direct attention to an organization, a business operated for profit, a product, commodity or service for sale or lease, or any other similar interest or activity.

Application for Certificate of Appropriateness: Application for murals in the Historic District will follow the standard HARC application procedures. Once HARC approval has been obtained, murals must also be approved by the City Commission.

The following plans shall accompany any HARC application for mural development along with other typical HARC requirements:

A development plan that includes a schematic design of the mural and its relationship with the building and surrounding properties is required. This plan must include mural location, dimensions, colors, materials, type of surface to be used for the mural, and techniques used to create the mural.

A maintenance plan that outlines the proper preservation, routine care, and restoration methods and techniques is required. The plan should list the parties responsible for the care of the mural and any maintenance contract between the agent, developer, and owner. The plan shall include methods of removal. The property owner will be required to post a bond to cover maintenance and/or removal.

Proposed Guidelines for murals:

1. Murals shall not be located on a structure that is adjacent to or directly across a right-of-way from a residential structure unless written approval from the adjacent property owners is obtained by the applicant.
2. Murals painted directly on exterior walls of contributing structures are prohibited. Contributing refers to any building that contributes to the character of the historic district as defined in the City of Key West Land Development Regulations.
3. The City Commission shall approve a plan of the mural after review and approval by HARC.
4. The location, size, nature, or type of mural shall not create a hazard to the safe and efficient operation of vehicles, or create a condition that endangers the safety of persons or property thereon. Murals may not extend beyond the eaves, parapet, or sides of a building, nor project from the surface.
5. Murals shall be maintained at all times in a state of good repair.