Communities of Generosity
Utility Box Art Project
Call for Art Proposals

Project Overview

The Brookings Council of Nonprofits invites artists to submit proposals for a public art installation celebrating the spirit of generosity in Brookings, South Dakota. This project is funded through the Rural Philanthropy Institute South Dakota Gives - Communities of Generosity Award and will transform a highly visible utility box at the busiest intersection in Downtown Brookings into a vibrant public expression of giving. This project honors the nonprofits, donors, volunteers, and community members who serve with heart and purpose to better our community.

The artwork should visually reflect the shared values identified by participating nonprofit organizations:

- Hope
- Compassion
- Impact
- Service
- Resilience
- Connection

Artists are asked to interpret these themes in a way that feels authentic, inspiring, and visually compelling at scale. The selected artwork will be reproduced as a vinyl wrap and installed on a municipally owned utility box located at the high-traffic intersection of Main Ave and 6th St.

Important: This is a Call for Proposals. Artists are not being asked to submit completed artwork at this time. Submissions should include a proposal outlining the artist's vision for a newly created piece designed specifically for this utility box installation. One artist will be selected and commissioned to create the final artwork.

Artist Compensation

The selected artist will receive $2,000. This fee includes the creation of original artwork, licensing rights to reproduce the artwork, and participation in minor digital formatting adjustments as needed. Printing and installation costs will be covered separately by the project budget.

Eligibility

- Open to amateur and professional artists.
- Open to artists of all ages.
- Artists in South Dakota or the surrounding region are encouraged to apply.
- Applicant cannot be a member of the Brookings Public Arts Commission.
- The artist must be able to complete the final artwork within 30 days of award notification.

What to Submit

1. Artist name and contact information
2. Brief artist bio
3. 2–4 samples of prior work
4. Written concept statement describing:
    a. Your vision for the piece
    b. How you will incorporate the themes of hope, service, impact, compassion, collaboration, and connection
    c. Overall tone and visual approach
5. A rough sketch or visual mockup (does not need to be final)

Please email proposals to projects@downtownbrookings.com.

Design Guidelines

The final artwork must:

- Be original and comply with all copyright laws - No AI-generated works
- Be appropriate for public display and a general audience
- Integrate all visible sides of the utility box
- Be visually strong and readable at street scale
- Avoid blending into or mimicking surrounding traffic signage
- Avoid large areas of blank space
- Not include political or religious messaging
- Not include logos, advertisements, or business promotion
- Not include vulgar, profane, prejudiced, or offensive content
- Not include traffic signals or imagery that could be confused with street infrastructure
- Not include attachments or dimensional elements

All final artwork will be subject to review and approval by the Brookings Public Arts Commission.

Technical Specifications

The utility box wrap area is approximately: 55.5 inches high x 181 inches wide (total combined surface area). A template is included on the last page of this document.

Final artwork must be provided as a high-resolution digital file (minimum 300 dpi) suitable for large-scale vinyl reproduction. Artists working in traditional media must be able to provide a high-quality scan or photograph of the finished piece. Graphic layout assistance will be provided to adapt the artwork to the wrap template as needed.

Selection Process

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel consisting of nonprofit representatives and a Brookings Public Arts Commission member. One artist will be selected to create the final art piece.

Review criteria will include:

- Artistic quality and skill
- Strength of concept
- Effective integration of the shared keywords
- Suitability for high-visibility public placement

Timeline

Proposal deadline: March 18, 2026
Artist notified: March 24, 2026
Final artwork due: No later than April 20, 2026
Installation: By end of May 2026, weather dependent
Final celebration and public unveiling will follow installation.

Contact Information for Questions & Submissions

Kirsten Gjesdal
Community Development Director
Brookings Regional Growth Alliance
projects@downtownbrookings.com

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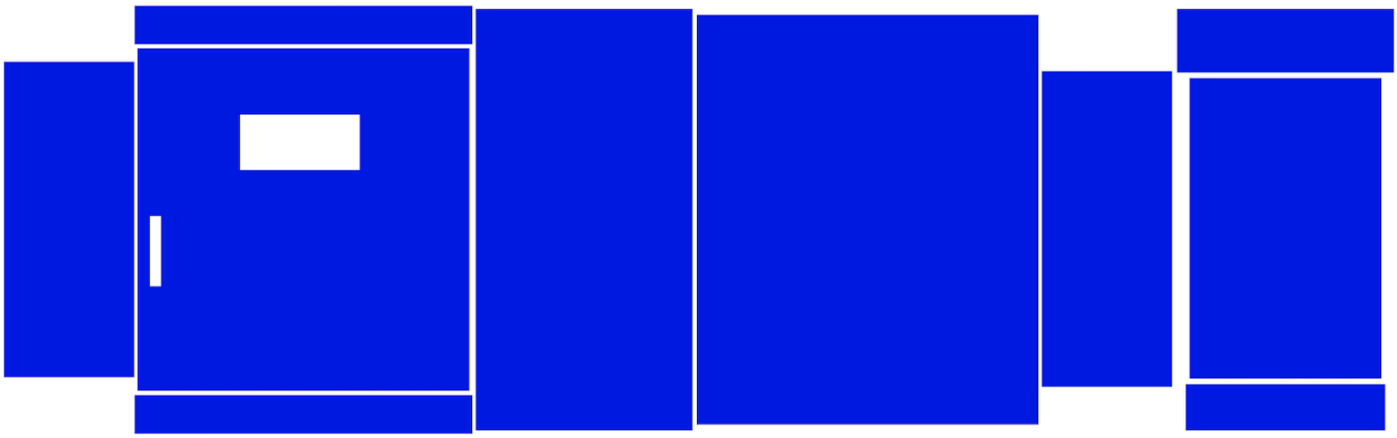
Utility Box Layout



total area: 55.5" h x 181" w

Utility Box Location