

Utility Box Wraps

Revitalize Ontario!

The project came to light in March of 2019. A local dispensary, Hot Box Farms, met with us and said they would like to create an art project for the city. The CFO who lives in Boise suggested that we consider wrapping the utility boxes with art created by local artists. We formed a small committee of local artist and community minded citizens. Revitalize Ontario contacted the Department of Arts and History in Boise since they had their boxes wrap for over ten years. They were very generous and gave us guidance on the pit falls and ideas that worked. We also contacted Kendall Ball of Klamath Falls; they had chosen to paint directly on their boxes featuring birds of their area. She was also very helpful.

We contacted the 2 local sign shops in town and received bids on what it would cost to wrap each box. \$332 or \$745, Hot Box chose the more expensive bid because that shop had been in business longer and had more experience. Eventually the price increased by \$85 to add the advertising on the bottom of each box which included the name of the Art work, the artist, both sponsors, and the committee members.

We met with the head of ODOT in our district and he identified who the traffic boxes belonged to, some were under the cities' ownership, and some were directly owned by the State of Oregon. We requested permission to wrap Oregon's boxes and were told that ODOT had an agreement with Baker City for five years to determine what the effect of wrapping would create on the boxes (heating up, accessibility, etc.), they were unable to grant us permission. We went to our City Council and received permission to wrap the eight boxes that were under their ownership.

The committee, "Art 4 Ontario", met and created criteria for the entries; size of the work, deadlines for submittals, applications, etc. but did not ask for a theme. The group created a way to clarify ownership of the works, by paying each artist \$300 for their creation, this gave Revitalize the freedom to use their works in the future for fundraising for their city gateway project. We had 64 entries which made it very difficult to choose only eight. We received each artists original work, and also an artist statement for their inspiration which we placed on the wrap.

The project took one and a half years to complete, the total cost \$9,110. We wish to thank Hot Box Farms for their generosity, and all the other people that gave us advice, direction and encouragement to finish this project.

If you have more questions please contact me at charfugate@fmtc.com.



