

Beautify the Barriers Tips and info from last year's artists

The dimension of each barrier is approximately 6 feet in width and 2 feet in height, only the front needs to be done. Design can wrap over edges.

Types of Paint used

- acrylic paint
- acrylic craft paint
- exterior paint
- spray paint is not recommended

Sealing, optional

- Clear spray
- Liquitex gel medium
- Polyurethane

Tips

- Use whatever paint have on hand to keep cost down
- Wear long pants or bringing something to kneel on—there are rocks, and it's NOT fun when you accidentally kneel on one!
- Sunscreen is a MUST.
- Remember to drink lots of water as you work!
- Keep in mind that Mechanicsburg is a lovely and supportive community of individuals who are interested in your work—so interested that, if you're working while the cones aren't up, they might drive their cars alongside your workspace. This is not exactly a "problem", but it IS a little scary to be kneeling on the ground when someone in a sizable SUV comes rolling up...especially when you're very into the process and not really paying attention. So, I'd advise people to just keep aware of their surroundings!
- Use inexpensive brushes: several small inexpensive paintbrushes like the ones that come with watercolor kits for elementary school students; 3' wide, 2' wide, 1' wide, 1/2" wide brushes – multiple if being done by a group
- Have several pencils for sketching, surface is rough so you will go through them quickly.
- Use inexpensive disposable plastic drink cups to mix paint and some paper plates for paint mixing. We only purchased the 3 primary colors of paint plus black and white, and blended our own colors.
- Brought newspaper with us to sit on, wipe paint with, and sketch on

Things to consider

- Difficult to paint at the very bottom
- Lots of small rocks, bring something to sit or kneel on
- Paint as soon as you can since weather can be unpredictable
- Some of us might have liked to take longer or fuss more over the details, but others prefer swift and decisive art.
- Electricity and portable generators are not provided by the Library

Alternative to painting directly on barrier

- Paint design on a thin mural fabric with acrylic paints
- For schools this method allows the mural itself to be transported between collaborating classrooms, as well as give students that are learning from home the ability to contribute their artistic talents remotely by painting on swatches of the mural fabric and attached to the final design upon installation.
- The mural installation process is similar to hanging wallpaper. Using a gel medium, the mural is attached to the surface of the concrete barrier. The mural fabric's flexibility allows the mural to sit naturally on the barrier's surface, molding to any rough surfaces, and creating a seamless installed mural design.
- A UV protective varnish spray will seal and help maintain color vibrancy over the course of the next year.