



Tips for Sidewalk Art + Street Mural Painting

AMPLIFYING OUR MESSAGE FOR JUNE 20, 2020!

Here are some of the messages you can use to help spread the word this week:

We Won't Be Silent

Everybody's Got a Right to Live

Our Moral Agenda:

We Demand Voting Rights for All Now

We Demand an End to Systemic Racism

We Demand Indigenous Sovereignty Now

We Demand Living Wages Now

We Demand Healthcare for All Now

We Demand Housing for All Now

We Demand Clean and Affordable Water for All Now

We Demand Free Public Education for All Now

We Demand End Criminalization of Our Communities Now

We Demand End the War Economy Now

We Demand End Ecological Devastation Now

Protect and expand the right to vote

Demilitarize the police. End mass incarceration. Stop criminalizing the poor

Real Security = universal health care for all

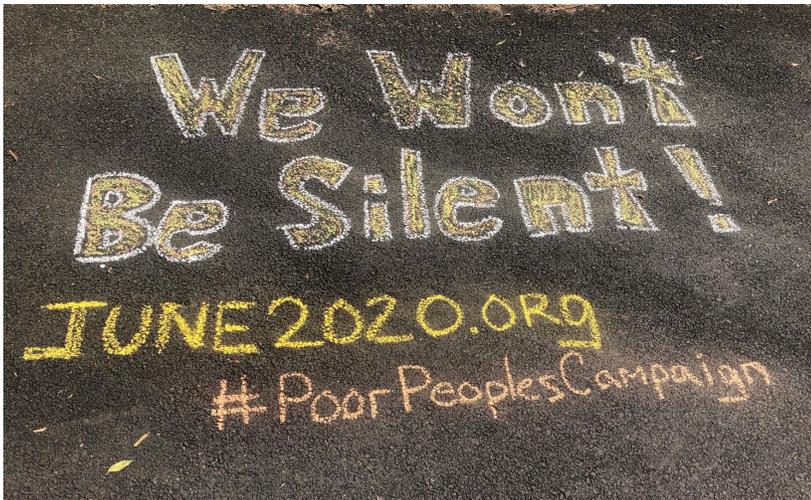
Real Security = Essential protections for essential workers

Real Security = A permanent, guaranteed and adequate annual income/universal income

Real Security = Guarantee housing, water and utilities for all.

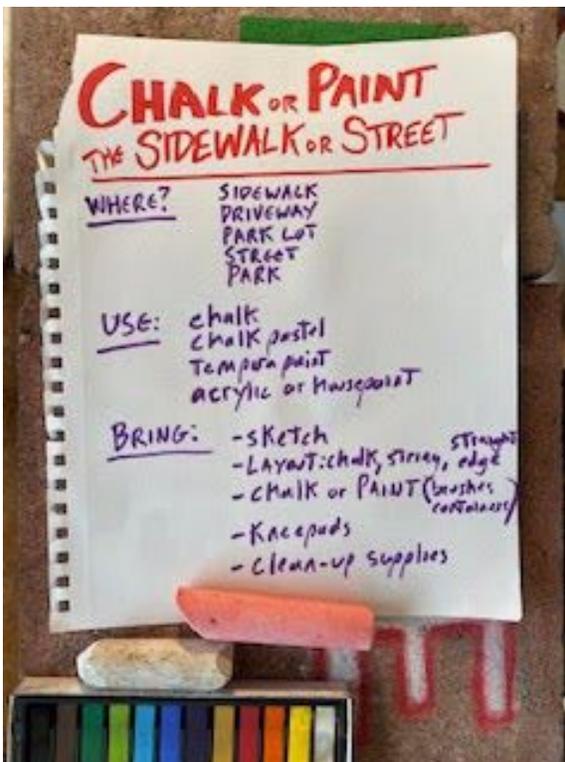
Include June2020.org

Additional Resources: [Moral Agenda](#) , [Systemic Racism Demands](#)



TIPS FOR SIDEWALK ART

Prepared by David Solnit



SIDEWALK CHALKING



Sidewalk chalk on cement. If you like level lines of text, use a stick or straightedge to make very light top/bottom guidelines.



Use your finger (or a glove or rag) to rub chalk into pavement. See Tutorial below.

NEXT STEP: Can you add an image, a frame, sunbursts? You could outline the letters with another color chalk or with a color chalk pastel.

TAPE BLOCK OUT LETTERS



Use masking tape on cement to make your letters. Rub on so it sticks well.

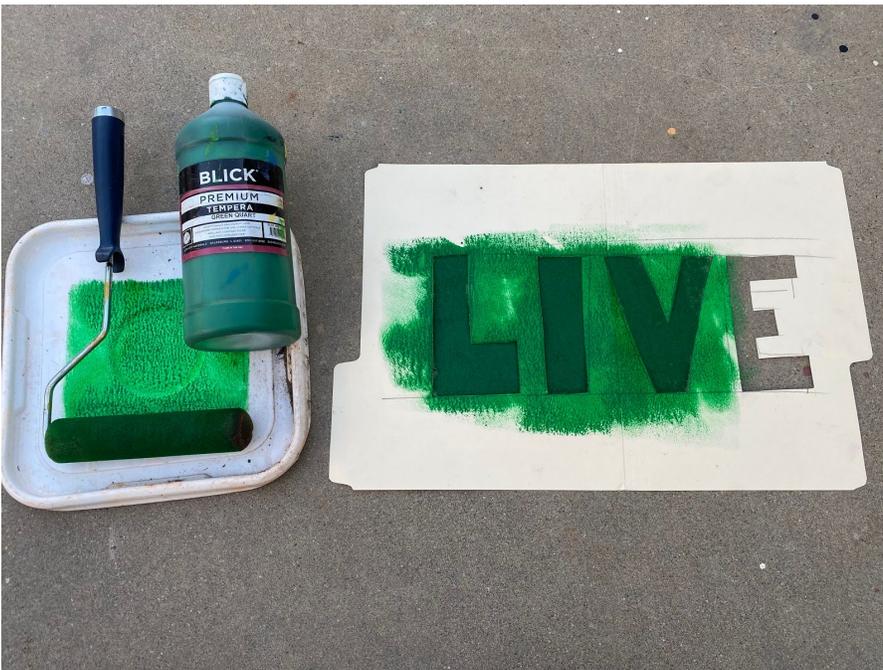


Chalk the background around the taped letters. Careful to keep tape taped down. Rub chalk into pavement w finger, glove or rag to make it denser and stick better to pavement.



Remove tape. If careful, you may be able to re-use and make a second.

PAINT STENCIL ON PAVEMENT



Cut stencil from rigid cardstock, sign board, etc. Using a small paint roller roll out a small amount of paint on a flat surface til it covers the roller and is thin and consistent. The carefully roll paint over stencil--just barely enough to cover the pavement. More detailed stenciling tips for signs [HERE](#).



CHALK TUTORIALS

(Nestor Mendoza) @nesdork on Instagram has some great quick chalk tutorials:

[How to Blend Chalk with your Finger](#)

[How to Paint \(Cover\) Large Areas of Chalk Fast](#)

CHALK ART TOOLKIT NOTES

Here's some useful notes by chalk artists Liza and Chelsea of [@ChalkRiot](#) from their in-progress-toolkit.

Why pavement art?

- Chalk art has been used as a tool for communication in times of social movement and change for centuries.
 - Suffragettes
 - Keith Haring
 - Madonnari
- Claim ownership of our streets with a visual presence

- A way to engage with your community and meet new people
- It's an outlet

Why chalk?

- Easy to find and affordable
- **There's cement everywhere!**
- For all ages
- Temporary - a reminder that not everything is forever
- Fits in your pocket

Materials overview

- Chalk
 - Sidewalk chalk
 - Chalk pastel
 - School chalk

What to use if you can't get chalk

- Charcoal
- Tempera Paint
- Slate

What else to bring

- Wet wipes, paper towel, or rag for cleaning hands
- Extra water
- Carpet square
- Paintbrushes
- Pad or cardboard to kneel on (if chalking for a long time)
- Latex gloves

Chalk art for people who cannot get on their hands and knees on the ground

- using bamboo stick, yard stick or pole with painter's tape works!
- Drawing on vertical surfaces - underpasses, cement walls

Types of pavement

- Cement (sidewalk)
- Asphalt (parking lot, roadway)
- Brick (walls, walkways)
- Stairs

Layout for creating a strong image

- Contrast
- Clear text
- Enlarging an image with a grid
- Stencil

Site selection

- Choose safely (don't get hit by cars, bikes, or people in foot traffic)
- Visualize how passers-by will read it and place orientation accordingly

- Choose your driveway or front step
- Think about cracks, plants, trash
- Placements

What do I draw?

- It can be daunting to decide what to draw when there's so much that needs to be said right now. Here are some questions that may help inspire you.
- What do you want to say to the world? What is your message?
- Does your message conjure up any imagery?
- Who do you want to see this?

Installation reminders during a pandemic

- wear a mask
- can wear gloves
- Wash your hands
- Stretch and take care of your body
- If your art is going to take a while, consider barriers, cones or signs to keep people from invading your space and to encourage physical distancing
- Consider bringing a friend - when chalking, your back is to the world, be sure to protect yourself
- Drink water
- When chalking on the ground, stand up slowly. It's normal for some people to experience a head rush and get dizzy if they stand up too fast

Photography tips

- taking photos from above - selfie sticks? Ladders? Stand on a cop car?
- Shadows on your artwork
- Consider your work area - are there objects that you can move out of the frame for a cleaner shot? (water bottles, paper towels, trash)
- If it doesn't fit in your frame, try taking pano shot or standing on something tall (for big pieces)

What happens when it rains?

- It mostly washes away
- There is no sealant that works on chalk
- It's beauty is it's ephemeral nature

A note on legals (and also that we're not liable duh)

- Don't chalk on federal property (capitol grounds, etc)
- Consider chalking public spaces (parks, bus stops)
- Check with businesses before chalking in front of them - you often need the building owner's permission
- Check your city's laws, know your rights

HOW TO PAINT A STREET MURAL

Here's some tips and basic steps to painting a street mural from my last 8 years of experience. More examples, videos and stories from the 2018 Rise mass street painting [HERE](#) -David Solnit



WHY STREET MURALS?

The role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible.
--Toni Cade Bambara

- **INNOVATE:** An experimental creative event may better reach, excite, and engage our communities and the world.
- **AMPLIFY STORIES:** Art can help amplify our most powerful weapon for change -- the stories of our communities, how we are impacted by an unjust fossil-fueled system and climate change, and our positive solutions to injustice.
- **COMMUNITY, SKILLS & MOVEMENT BUILDING:** Planning, training, preparing, and painting together is a great way to build skills, strengthen our groups and community.

STREET MURAL STEPS

1. **CHOOSE WHEN/WHERE YOU WILL PAINT THE MURAL:** Considerations: Is it close to a significant location? Is it in a place with a lot of public community people who will see it? Is there a location to get a good view and photo from above?
2. **DESIGN A MURAL WITH YOUR GROUP/COMMUNITY:** With images and words, choose the message/image/s and story you want to communicate.
3. **GET SUPPLIES:** paint, brushes, chalk, yogurt style containers (maybe buckets) and carrying bags or boxes (see materials list below for more details).
4. **PRACTICE:** It really helps to practice a doing mini (3-10 feet or) version to get experience laying out, painting and working together, and to see how your supplies work out, and what it looks like. Your team should practice once or more with as core team members there. , including role-playing holding the space and actually laying out and painting a practice mural together. You can do a mini-version ($\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ scale) in your community, in a parking lot, driveway, or patio.
5. **LAYOUT YOUR MURAL:** Have a group of people who can commit to laying out the mural design and organizing all the materials. The rest of your group can join these folks to actually paint the mural after the march.
6. **FACILITATE YOUR MURAL PAINTING:** It's up to your team to facilitate the painting of your mural--invite other folks to help you, but it's up to you to direct them.
7. **CLEAN UP ALL SUPPLIES:**Keep track of your supplies, wipe up any spills outside your mural and be responsible for removing supplies when you have finished painting.

DESIGN TIPS

SKETCH: Make a sketch or drawing of your design and color it in with colored pencils, watercolors, etc. Make color copies (or black and white and color them in) before you paint--enough so everyone laying it out can have one. Putting them on a clipboard or taping to a piece of cardboard can help so they don't blow away or get damaged by paint.

CIRCLE GRID: Laying the design out on a circle grid on your sketch can help to transfer it onto the ground. The Big Picture Mural coordination Team will chalk out your 35 foot circle and mark the center. You can chalk out additional circles, as needed for your design. You could mark out the tops and bottom of words or images that go around in a circle. If transferring an image from your sketch, you can, for example, measure & make circles on your

sketch for every 5 feet in from the edge-- at 5 feet in, 10 ft in and 15 ft in. You can also divide the circle across in quarters or eighths like a pie.

TEMPLATES: If you have complicated images you could choose to cut the shape/s out of paper the size you want for your mural and then trace them. This is what idle No More did to make the giant Thunderbird Woman in front of Wells Fargo Headquarters.

PRACTICE: Even if you do it 4 feet wide on a driveway or sidewalk it's amazingly helpful to actually practice laying it out, getting paint ready, working with your team and painting.

CONTRAST: light dark contrast makes images and words pop and be more visible.

STORY: We encourage mural teams to not just use words, but include images that help tell the story of your solution.

SIMPLE: Keep it simple enough that you can complete the layout in a couple hours and paint it in 1 to 1 1/2 hours--with as many volunteers as you want to invite to help from the march.

STREET MURAL ROLES

- **PREP/SET UP:** This group will layout the design on the street, chalking out lines for others to fill in and possibly dabbing each part with the correct color as a guide. They will set up and organize materials for everyone else to participating in painting.
- **PAINT FACILITATORS:** These facilitators will invite people into paint the mural, show them what to do, and make sure painters have what they need.
- **POLICE/PUBLIC LIAISON:** These folks will communicate with police or others about what we are doing, making sure to keep it peaceful and keep the mural space safe.
- **STREET SAFETY:** This team will make sure the mural area is safely blocked off from vehicles so the muralists can safely focus and paint.

Optional, but encouraged roles

- **STORYTELLERS:** These folks will tell the story of the mural -- and the community, movement, or group -- to the public. These can also be your mural team's media spokespeople. What a great chance to narrate your mural and share your story with thousands of
- **SONG LEADERS:** Does your group or community have song leaders that can lead and sing while the mural is happening?
- **DOCUMENTATION:** People to document, both to share immediately on social media and to amplify your story with a visual record.

PAINT

ESTIMATE HOW MUCH/WHAT COLORS: For a 35 foot across mural we estimate a mural will take about 2 gallons of paint to cover the entire area. What percent of which colors you will need? This is your paint needs/shopping list.

Here is an example of a street mural sketch: MURAL BEING PAINTED [HERE](#)



HERE IS AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT PERCENT OF WHICH COLORS WILL BE NEEDED:

60% BLUE

20% SIERRA RED CLAY PAINT

20% YELLOW

5% BLACK (we have sometimes used charcoal from the North Bay fires, instead of black paint for the black wind image)

5% WHITE (used to lighten the blue)



Tempera paint sample on concrete.

TEMPERA PAINT: This is the kind of water soluble paint kids use in school (because it's not-toxic). It comes in a wide range of colors and also a range of quality--some brands or types cover and have stronger colors better than others. Art supply stores and some stores that carry toys or craft supplies may carry tempera paint.



CLAY PAINT



California clays in 5 different earth colors.

CLAY PAINT: We make it ourselves from drying out ceramic clay or clay soil, soaking overnight in water in a 5 gallon plastic bucket and then mixing using a paint mixing attachment on a corded drill, adding water to get and the desired consistency--thin so it will paint easily and dri faster, but not so watery that the color is weak.

SAMPLE MURALS



Defund the Police - Oakland, CA



McDonalds Strike - Oakland, CA

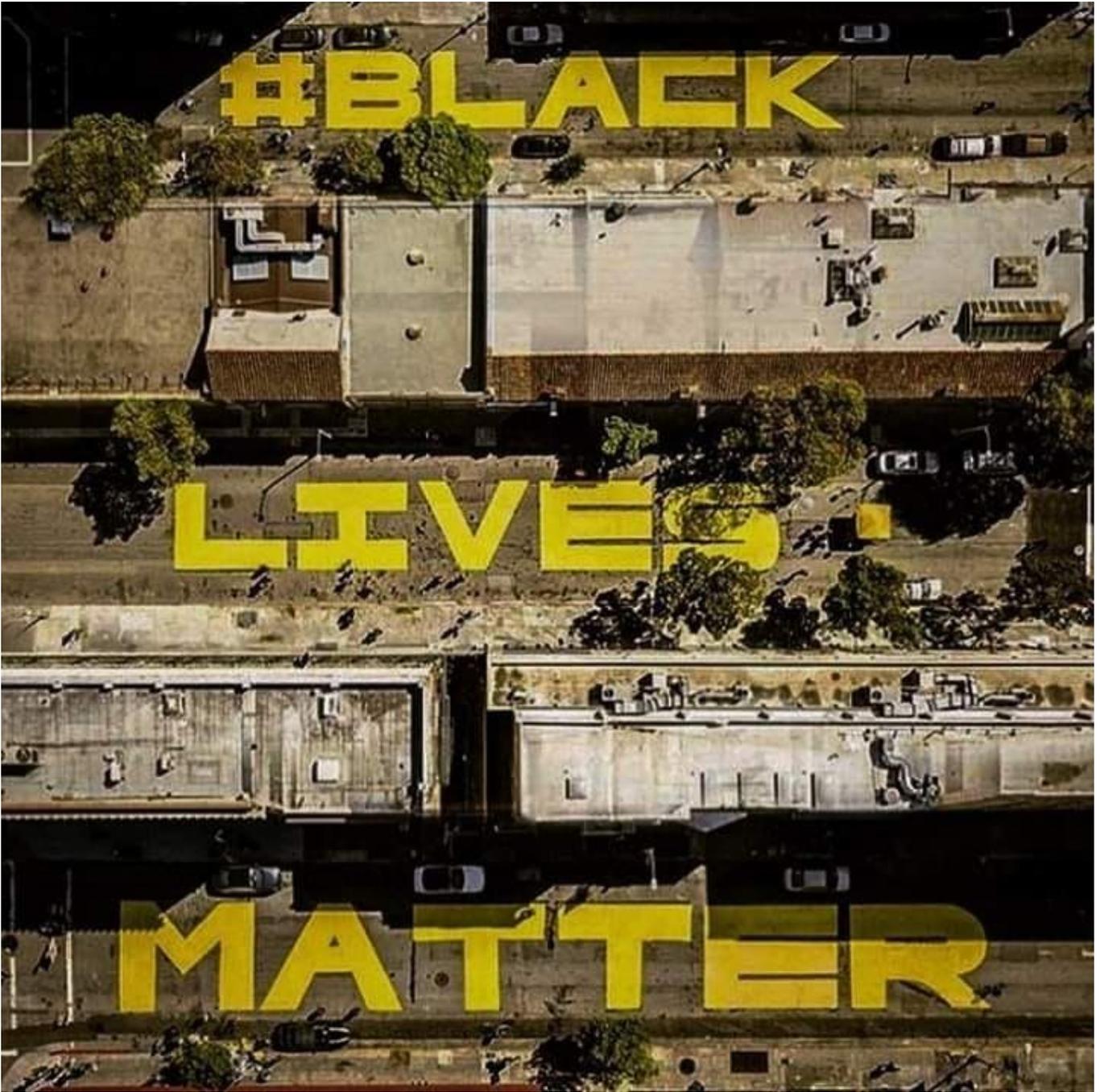


© Brooke Anderson Photography





Kelly Johnson Revolutionary Photography 2015



Oakland, CA



RTANEDOJR PHOTOGRAPHY ©
DUNKSRNICE DOT NET



Washington D.C.



