

**PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 - 2:00 PM  
Item #9 26-0173

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Submitted in PLUM Committee  
Council File No: 26-0173  
#9

Public Comment: Stash Maleski 6201 W 87<sup>th</sup> Street, #610 Los Angeles, CA 90045 ~~den@~~stash@icuart.com (310) 309-7756

Deputy: Werner

My name is **Stash Maleski** and I represent muralists who paint commercial murals throughout Los Angeles.

**I ask that you carve out a pathway for hand-painted commercial murals created by local artists. The proposed penalties would be devastating to individual artists and small businesses.**

Commercial mural work employs hundreds of muralists in Los Angeles and brings vibrancy and energy to our commercial neighborhoods. Corporate sponsored murals are the economic engine that allows these artists to survive. The current Fine Art Mural Ordinance does not allow for these types of murals.

The city could establish a program with clear time, place and manner restrictions aligned with the First Amendment and past case law.

I urge this committee to establish a working group or pilot program that includes the Departments of Cultural Affairs and Planning that will preserve hand-painted commercial murals while addressing illegal signage.

Cities such as New York, Miami, Detroit, Portland, and London have created programs that allow limited, regulated hand-painted commercial murals without increasing billboards and supergraphics.

**Additional Thoughts – Pilot Program for Regulated Commercial Murals**

Los Angeles should be known for supporting artists, not just regulating billboards. Right now it is the muralists that are the only medium that are not being given a viable path to express themselves and make a living painting commercial murals. Let's work together to create a small, regulated program that preserves hand-painted murals while addressing illegal signage.

Murals often commemorate cultural moments. That could be a World Series victory, a Kobe Bryant tribute or civic events in our neighborhoods. Muralists should be able to take payments for these murals from companies such as the Dodgers or the LA Rams or other sponsors. Building owners should be able to be paid for the mural placement. This is not allowed under the Fine Art Mural Ordinance or current sign laws.

Los Angeles could develop a small pilot program allowing regulated hand-painted murals with limits on size, location, and commercial content. Half the time the mural spaces could be used for commercial murals and half the time for fine art murals, messages for non-profits or city projects. Funds from the commercial murals could fund the fine art murals and/or share revenue with the City of LA. So there would not be favoritism of commercial speech over fine art murals. The two art forms would support each other.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Planning Department and Cultural Affairs on a pilot program or working group to develop reasonable rules for hand-painted commercial murals.

Los Angeles has long been considered one of the mural capitals of the world. We should be careful not to lose that cultural tradition. Muralist can't work for free and it is the corporations that have the funds to sponsor mural projects with appropriate budgets. We can't rely on non-profits, private individuals or the city to support murals.

**Muralists Haven No Access to Sign Districts**

Artists, small companies and small property owners do not have the financial resources and connections to establish sign districts like those that have been established in specific blocks in Downtown LA or Hollywood. Working with council offices, we can identify appropriate locations where commercial murals make sense for the community. Places like Melrose, Hollywood, Sunset Blvd, Downtown LA, Venice Beach, Crenshaw and Boyle Heights all have a tradition of commercial murals and fine art murals. These murals can bring life and energy to these retail areas, increase tourism and build on the image of LA as a cultural and art center.