

Franklin, OH UDO

Def:

“Canopy.” A projection from a building made from any material, which is cantilevered, suspended or supported on columns intended only for shelter or ornamentation.

“Sign, Roof.” A sign erected upon or above a roof or parapet wall of a building, which sign is wholly or partially supported by such building. Roof signs are prohibited under this UDO.

“Sign, Window.” A sign, graphic, poster, symbol or other identification or information about the use or premises which is physically affixed to or painted on the glass or other structural component of the window or a sign, graphic, poster, symbols, or other identification or information about the use or premises erected on the inside of the building within two feet of the window and intended to be viewed through the window from the exterior of the premises.

“Sign, Mural.” Any mosaic, painting, or graphic art or combination thereof which is professionally applied to a building.

The base of all new ground signs shall be effectively landscaped with a single, continuous landscaped area to be maintained beneath the sign, in accordance with the following standards:

1. The minimum size of the landscaped area shall be equal to the area of the ground sign (i.e., if a ground sign is proposed to be 40 square feet in size then it shall be located in a landscaped area of at least 40 square feet in size);
2. The landscaped area shall include all points where sign structural supports attach to the ground;
3. Where the required landscaped area adjoins a paved surface accessible to vehicular traffic, a raised planter-type area around the base of the sign is required to prevent the encroachment of vehicles; and
4. The landscaped area shall include living plantings aesthetically located and maintained including flowers, shrubs, and grasses. Plants may be located in mulch beds, but the landscaped area may not be completely comprised of mulch. The use of concrete, asphalt, gravel, or any other paved surface, or hardscape in the landscaped area shall be prohibited.

**Window Signs:** The cumulative maximum area of all permanent window signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage and are limited to windows

on the ground or first floor. A maximum of 25 percent of each window may be covered by window signs. Political jurisdictions and educational facilities are exempted from this maximum area, and their window signage does not count towards the overall calculation of allowable wall signage. Window signs shall not be lighted or illuminated.

**Murals:** Murals that contain no advertising or commercial messaging may be permitted on any blank wall or portion of a wall per the approval of the City Manager. Murals that contain advertising or commercial messaging may be permitted per the approval of the Planning Commission. The following factors shall be considered and weighed in determining whether a mural should be approved.

1. Mural Location:

1. Murals shall not be located on the principal facade(s) of a building unless approved by the Planning Commission.
2. Murals should not cover or detract from architectural features.
3. The installation of a mural should complement and enhance the building and be incorporated architecturally into the facade.
4. Murals should not be in an area which may cause undue distraction to drivers, thereby creating a safety hazard.

2. Mural Design and Materials:

1. The scale of the mural should be appropriate to the building and the site.
2. The theme of the mural should be appropriate within the context of the surrounding area and complement the existing character.
3. The name of the artist or sponsor of the mural may be incorporated into the mural but shall not exceed five percent of the design or two square feet in area, whichever is less.
4. The paint utilized for the mural should be intended for exterior use, have a waterproof seal coating, and of sufficient quality which will not corrode or compromise the integrity of the surface to which it is applied.
5. Reflective, neon, and fluorescent paints should not be used.

**Canopy/Marquee/Awning Sign:** Canopy, marquee, and awning signs may be painted on or attached to an awning area or attached to a canopy or marquee. Such signs shall not exceed the maximum height of the principal structure when mounted on the top of the canopy. The sign area of any proposed canopy or marquee sign shall be included in

the overall cumulative calculation of allowable wall signage. Awning signs shall be externally illuminated only. Marquee and canopy signs may be internally or externally illuminated.