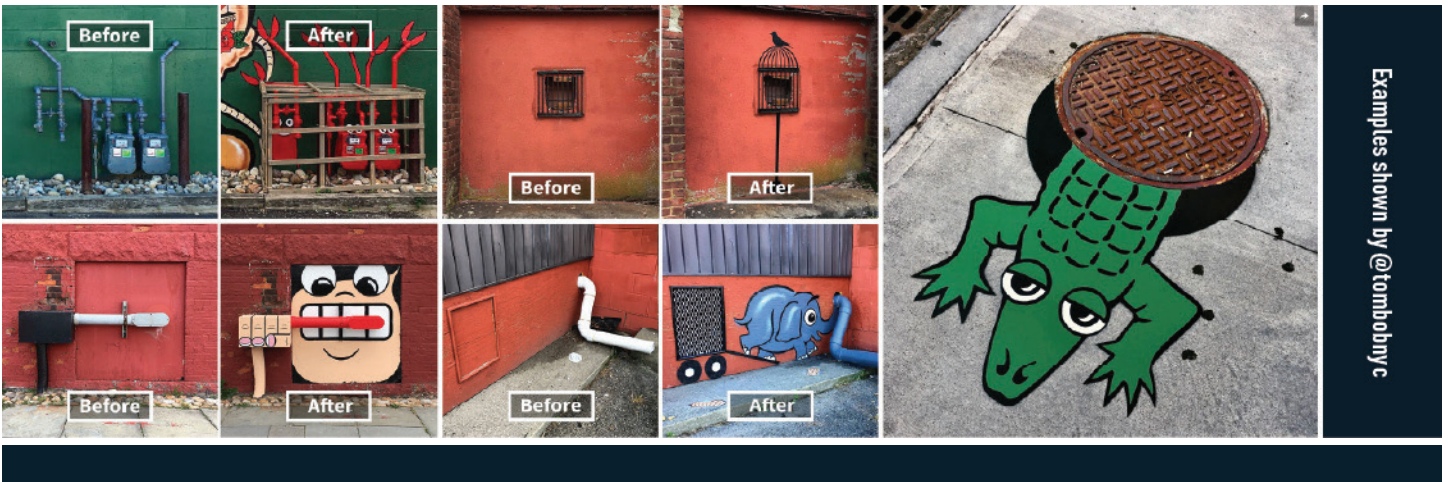


# TAPS

## TRANSFORMATIVE ART FOR PUBLIC SPACES



Examples shown by @tombohnyrc

The Transformative Art for Public Spaces (TAPS) Grant supports initiatives that enhance public infrastructure to drive economic growth and community vitality. This grant invests in projects that leverage creative placemaking to attract visitors, support local businesses, and strengthen regional identity. All organizations and individuals are welcome to apply.

If you are considering an application and have questions, please contact us.

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The TAPS Grant is designed to support projects that enhance the functionality and appeal of public spaces, transforming underutilized or outdated infrastructure into assets that contribute to community vitality and economic development. By improving shared spaces, these projects will strengthen local identity, attract visitors, and create welcoming environments that support business growth and community engagement.

This grant focuses on repurposing everyday infrastructure—such as electrical boxes, fire hydrants, benches, and utility poles—into elements that enhance the usability, safety, and aesthetic appeal of a place. By investing in strategic improvements, communities can boost foot traffic, encourage social interaction, and create a stronger sense of place.

Projects funded through this program will support local economies by making public spaces more inviting for residents, visitors, and potential investors. These enhancements will add color, texture, engagement, and creativity to communities and spark conversation about the role of design in our landscapes.

Beyond improving physical spaces, this grant offers a fun, accessible way for residents to engage with their community, take ownership of shared spaces, and see an immediate, visible impact. It serves as a “kick start” for public art and community involvement—sparking creativity, lowering barriers to participation, and inspiring ongoing investment in local placemaking efforts.

Priority will be given to communities that have not received Commerce funding within the past three years, ensuring broader access to resources and maximizing statewide impact.

## AVAILABLE FUNDING

**Total funding available:** \$150,000

**Project funding available:** \$1,500-2,000

Organizations are encouraged to submit more than one project per application, provided each project meets the outlined criteria.

Each project selected for funding will receive \$1,500-2,000 to cover the costs of materials, supplies, and artist compensation. Applicants are encouraged to involve local artists, students, and community members in a collective effort to foster collaboration, creativity, and community ownership of the project.

A maximum of 5 projects per applications will be accepted, allowing a single applicant to request up to \$10,000.

## TIMELINE

This is a rolling deadline grant, meaning Kansas Commerce will review submitted grants every month until all funds have been awarded. The review team will review grant applications on the 15th of each month. Grant funds are limited and are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The project(s) must be completed and installed within 60 days of receiving approval of the grant.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Eligible Applicants:** Local governments, nonprofit organizations, schools, artists, art groups, and community organizations.

- Applicants must work with their local municipality or property owner and be permitted to create art on the proposed structure. Documentation of this permission will be required for the application. Applicants need to check with their local government about requirements.

**Project Location:** Projects must be placed on existing permanent, public or private infrastructure, such as electrical boxes, fire hydrants, benches, utility poles, doorways, crosswalks, etc.

**Unallowed Projects:**

The following types of projects are not eligible for funding:

- **Business Promotions:** Projects that include signs, logos, or advertisements explicitly promoting businesses or commercial entities.
- **Murals:** Large-scale murals or wall art installations that exceed the scope of the grant’s focus on transforming smaller infrastructure.
- **Large Undertakings:** Projects requiring extensive construction or significant structural modifications are not permitted.
- **Live Performances:** Events, performances, or other temporary installations that do not result in a permanent transformation of a public space.

## APPLICATION CRITERIA

All applications must include:

1. Description of Infrastructure: 100 word limit
2. Location: 50 word limit
3. Space Enhancements: 300 word limit
4. Artists: 300 word limit
5. Timeline: 300 word limit
6. Photos
7. Budgets
8. Letters of Support
9. Project Estimates

*The Department of Commerce may request any additional information it determines necessary to evaluate an application.*

## REVIEW CRITERIA

The Kansas Department of Commerce will evaluate all applications based on the following criteria:

### Project Impact & Community Benefit (30 Points)

- Does the project improve the usability, safety, or attractiveness of a public space in a way that supports local businesses, tourism, or economic activity?
- Will the project draw more visitors, increase foot traffic, or enhance the experience of commercial areas?
- Is the proposed project in an accessible and visible location that will maximize community engagement and economic return?
- Does the project contribute to workforce retention or community pride, making the area more desirable for businesses and residents?

### Creativity & Feasibility (25 Points)

- Does the project propose a unique and effective way to improve public spaces in a way that supports economic growth?
- Is the project realistic in scope, with a clear plan for completion within the required timeline?
- Does the application include a well-defined strategy for execution, ensuring it is feasible with available resources?

### Community Involvement (20 Points)

- Does the project involve partnerships with local businesses, property owners, or economic development organizations?

- Does the project engage local artists, creatives, or students?
- Will it encourage collaboration among community members, including entrepreneurs, business districts, or workforce development initiatives?
- Does the project have support from local stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce or tourism boards, to enhance its economic impact?

#### **Sustainability & Maintenance (15 Points)**

- Does the project include a plan for long-term maintenance and upkeep of at least two years?
- Is there a strategy to prevent vandalism or ensure the installation remains intact over time?
- Will the project generate lasting economic benefits, such as increased investment, higher property values, or enhanced visitor experience?

#### **Budget & Cost Efficiency (10 Points)**

- Is the budget well-planned and justified?
- Does the project maximize the use of local labor, materials, or funding sources to boost economic impact?

#### **Bonus Points (+5)**

Projects in ZIP codes that have not received Commerce funding in the past three years will receive a 5-point bonus.

## **SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES**

Applications must be submitted via the online portal.

Supporting documentation such as signed letters must be uploaded and submitted with the application.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Any significant change to the proposed project(s) must be reported to and approved by Kansas Commerce. Examples include:

- A 20% or more change in total budget
- Location change or change of public infrastructure being used
- Grantees will be required to submit a final report within 30 days of completing the project(s). The report should include:
  - Photographs of the completed artwork including photographer credit information
  - A summary of the installation process
  - Community feedback or public engagement
  - A final accounting of funds spent
  - Credit information for the project(s) including artist(s) name(s), artwork title, location, etc.

# KANSAS

## COMMERCE

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