

Electrical Boxes Transformed into Public Art

Visitors and residents of Painesville, Ohio now enjoy a visual treat courtesy of a beautification project spearheaded by Pam Morse a Board Member of the Downtown Painesville Organization (DPO), an accredited Main Street Organization. The streets are no longer dotted with boring gray electrical boxes but instead are brightened by colorful murals.

Painesville joins a growing movement to enhance the appearance of utility boxes throughout the United States and abroad. David Polakowski, DPO Executive Director, said, "The vibrant murals have created a lively new look for Painesville and I am very pleased with this positive addition to our community."

The project was the brainchild of Pam Morse, Morse Van Lines and a DPO Board Member. She saw a similar project on Vancouver Island, British Columbia several years ago and was inspired to bring it back to her hometown of Painesville. After the idea was approved by city administrators and adopted by the DPO, the next step was to hold a photography contest to find the ideal images to feature on the electrical boxes.

Enhancing a Community



"Quality is a top priority when it comes to the vinyl we use – and Avery Dennison products are sure to perform well and look great," said Caity Hanusosky, co-owner of Bruce Custom Awnings & Graphics.

Bringing Art to Life

One of the images chosen is a verdant scene of the Grand River from the Main Street Bridge taken by Kelly Kekelis. The photo transforms what was previously a stark electrical box into a piece of art that can transport viewers into nature.

DPO Board Member Patty Penca, Penca Design Group (PDG), managed the project from photo selection to design and installation. "Having a business in Painesville encourages you to buy local," said Penca. "It worked out nicely that we had everything right here to get the job done with Avery Dennison, PDG and Bruce Custom Awnings & Graphics. Pam Morse, PDG and the City of Painesville guided the project to ensure the art, locations and materials all came together successfully."

The photos chosen to decorate the electrical boxes highlight the natural beauty and history of Painesville. Each wrapped





electrical box features the photographer's name and also the project supporters, including DPO, Downtown Painesville Community Improvement Corporation, Painesville Municipal Electric and the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing.

An important component of the initiative to use public art to beautify downtown Painesville was identifying the right material to print the murals on and wrap the electrical boxes.

Smooth Installation

Bruce Custom Awnings & Graphics (BCG), of Painesville, used Avery Dennison MPI 1005 Supercast Easy Apply RS[™] and DOL 6060 films to digitally print the highly colorful and attractive wraps. Why vinyl instead of paint? Vinyl is quicker to apply and will allow the art to stay flawless longer.

"We are proud to be part of the Painesville community, and we were pleased to take part in this beautification project," said Caity Hanusosky, co-owner of BCG. "As a wide-format graphics company that does everything from design, to production, to installation, we know the importance of choosing the right material for each job. We are the exclusive provider of awnings and graphics for our partner company, Bruce Transporters, and install a wide range of trailer and awning graphics for various motorsports teams and several commercial customers. Quality is a top priority when it comes to the vinyl we use – and Avery Dennison products are sure to perform well and look great."

BCG chose Avery Dennison MPI 1005 because it brings vibrant, eye-catching images to life and is easy to install. DOL 6060, a protective overlaminate film, prevents fading or discoloration caused by sun damage. In addition, DOL 6060 successfully deters graffiti from marring digital graphics. After the wraps were produced, Patty Penca and volunteers cleaned the boxes and completed the initial graphics installation on several electrical boxes.

The wraps were so well received that the DPO commissioned many more after receiving a grant from the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing to fund the expansion. There are now 26 wrapped electrical boxes throughout Painesville. The project has inspired other communities and organizations, such as Lake Metroparks, Lake County's public park system, to create a similar initiative.



Products used:

- Avery Dennison[®] MPI 1005 Supercast Easy Apply RS[™]
- Avery Dennison[®] DOL 6060 Anti-Graffiti overlaminate

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