



STREET ART FOR LEXINGTON

*Hannah Crepps, Planner Principal, Outreach & Strategic Planning
Environmental Quality and Public Works Committee
August 12, 2025*





What is Street Art?

Street Art* is a *visual intervention* with two purposes:

- It is "**traffic calming**," by slowing vehicular speed to make it more safe, more comfortable to walk, ride, bike, and drive.
- It is "**placemaking**," by creating people-centered spaces that foster community

*(aka: Asphalt Art, Street Murals)



Baltimore, MD



Wide spectrum of Street Art projects

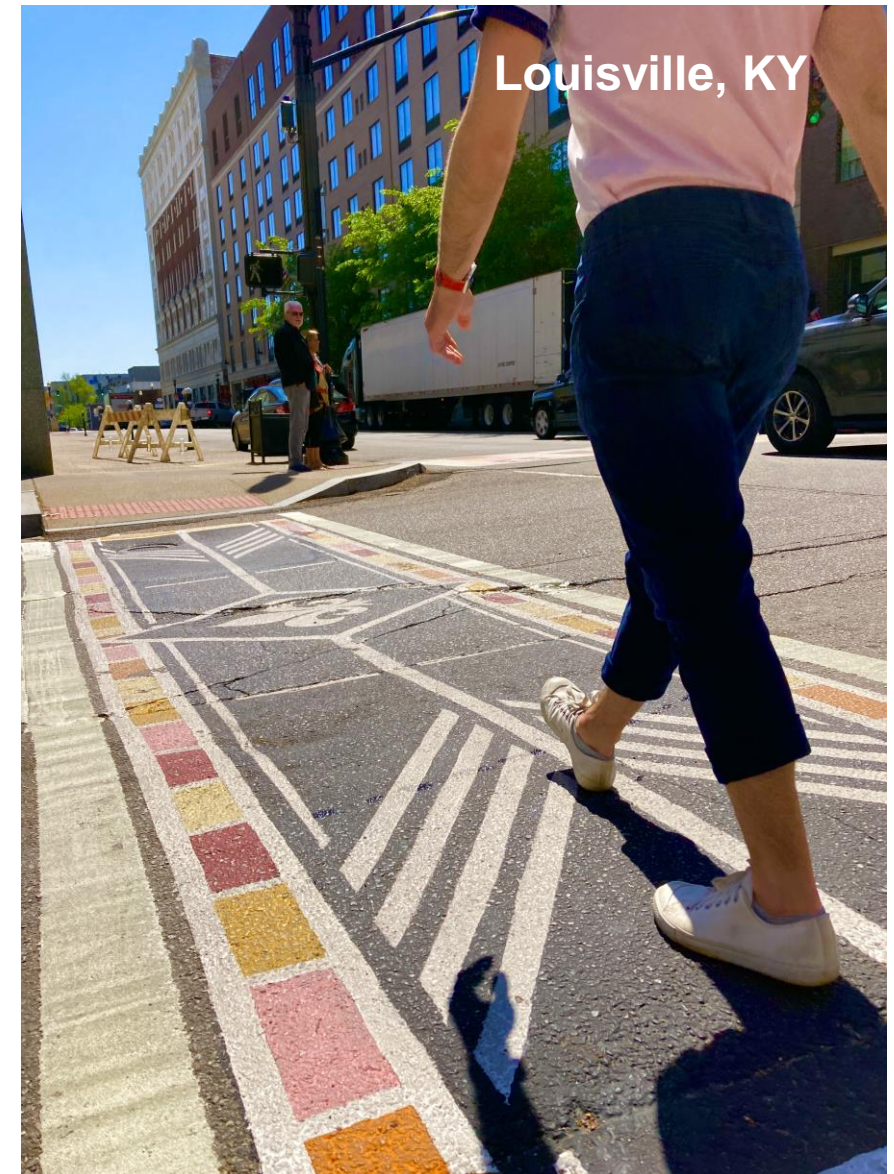
Street Art can be applied in a range of ways:

- 1) Inside intersections
- 2) Curb extension "bulbouts"
- 3) Crosswalks & pedestrian refuge islands
- 4) Mid-block

Projects can also vary in scope depending on materials used*:

- 1) Short-term (1 to 7 days) – tempura or chalk paint
- 2) Mid-term (6 months to 2 years) – acrylic or latex traffic paints
- 3) Long-term (3+ years) – epoxy or thermoplastic

**Touch-ups and maintenance agreements affect duration too*





Inside intersections



Mid-block



Crosswalks



Curb-extension bulbouts & other ped spaces





Data supports Street Art as traffic calming tool

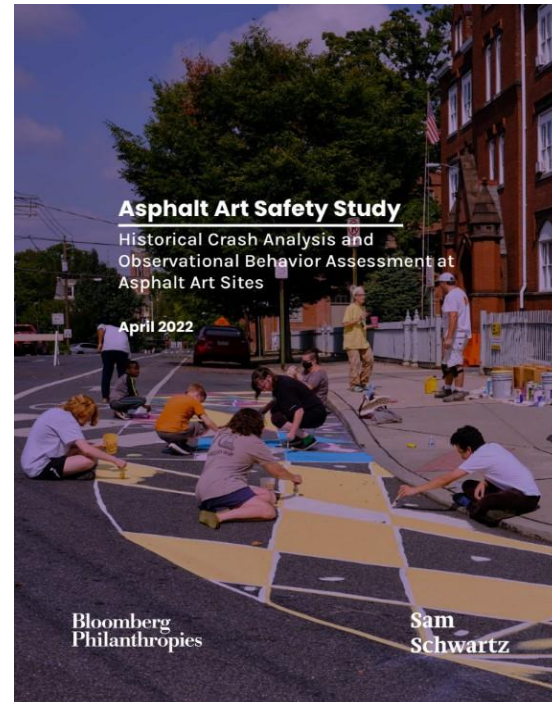
Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Safety Study is current leading source for data.

Key Takeaways:

Lower rates of vulnerable user crashes

Lower rates of injury crashes

*Reduced potential for crashes
(fewer "near misses")*



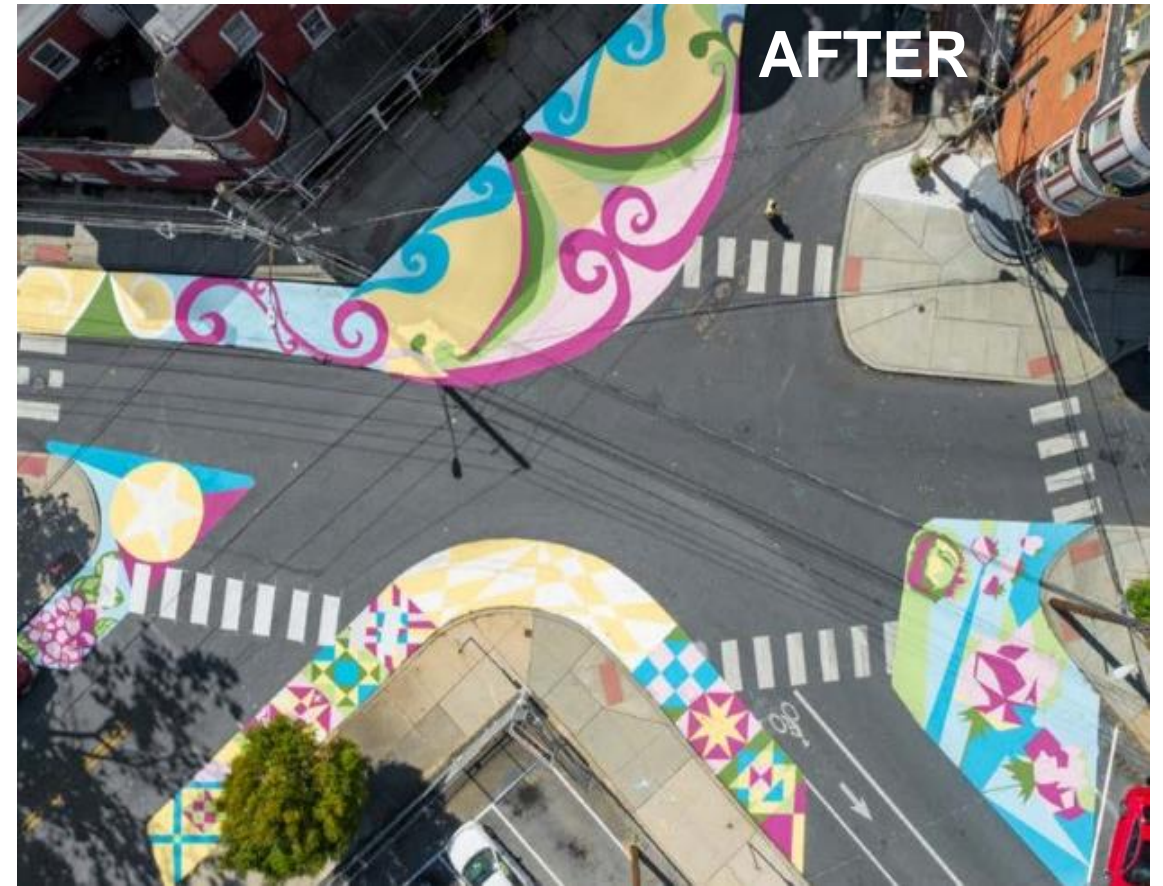
**For higher impact,
some things to
consider in future:**

Focus on geometric
changes like medians
and curb extensions
(i.e., "bulbouts")

Combine street art with
lane reductions and
other multimodal
improvements



Example:





A few examples from elsewhere

City	Method	Funding	Policy Connection
Louisville, KY	Ongoing; internal/external projects	Varies	Vision Zero, Complete Streets, Public Art Program
Cincinnati, OH	Mixed: city-managed with ongoing application; grant-funded partnership with local nonprofit	Varies	Vision Zero
Chattanooga, TN	City managed; ongoing application	Varies	n/a but advertise benefits
Huntington, WV	One-time project	External grant	Mayor's Council on the Arts, Huntington Innovation Project Plan
Madison, WI	Ongoing, apply	Residents/applicants	Traffic Engineering "Neighborhood Program"
Spokane, WA	3-year pilot; externally managed	Red light & speed camera revenue	Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program





How does Street Art fit here in Lexington?

Imagine Lexington 2045

Theme D | Placemaking | Implementation Item #8
"Develop a placemaking program..."

Theme E | Accountability | Implementation Item #5
"Develop prototype street retrofit and traffic calming projects"

Lexington Public Arts Master Plan

"Use public art to activate and define spaces"



LFUCG Complete Streets Policy

"Educate the public about Complete Streets...Outreach may include demonstration projects and other strategies"

2024 Urban Growth Master Plan

"Crosswalks should be highly visible, ladder-style crosswalks [so] pedestrians are visible...[C]urb extensions should be built to reduce crossing distances for pedestrians and tighten turning radii for vehicles."



How does Street Art fit here in Lexington?

Lexington Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan

"Collaborate with local and state agencies to update roadway design standards to include quality of life elements such as public art"

Lexington Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

"Develop design standards and guidelines for public art in the right-of-way"



***Plus: There is precedent.**

LFUCG Traffic Control Box Art Wrap Program

"Allow citizens and groups to propose artwork that will be turned into a wrap and placed at specific intersections, adding to Lexington's public art projects"

LFUCG Storm Water Drain Art Program

"Highlighting artistic storm drains [helps] to beautify Lexington and bring awareness to stormwater pollution"





*** *Draft* potential process –
Shropshire Avenue pilot will
help us test and define**

Overview of Steps Involved:

- * *Determine funding source***
Public Art Commission funds, Council District funds,
outside grant
- * *Facilitate community and artist connection
+ Artist develops mural design***
selection committee, community-based gatherings,
site-specific art
- * *LFUCG Division of Planning
coordinates with Traffic
Engineering to approve design***
traffic pattern markings, necessary vertical
elements, color & shape compliance with
MUTCD



- * *Public Arts Commission
Approval + Installation***
PAC review, programming
possibilities, permitting, site prep
- * *Data Collection***
Qualitative &
quantitative, before/post
installation, traffic
calming vs. placemaking



Shropshire Avenue Pilot

Division of Planning is working with Council Member Morton to continue the temporary chalk art demonstration that happened at the city's Streetfest event on Shropshire Avenue in May.



Building on Streetfest: Steps taken and what's up ahead

Led by LFUCG Planning & Council District 1

Connecting with local artists and:

- Invite to submit letters of interest
- Invite select few to submit full proposals

Working with a selection committee of neighborhood youth and residents who will:

- Review artist proposals
- Select an artist to partner with
- Act as conduit for wider community engagement

Continuing collaboration with Traffic Engineering to ensure:

- Compliance with MUTCD standards
- Proper striping & alignment

Installing with artist & community!



Questions?



LEXINGTON

