

Mural artist brief

Overview

KiwiRail is seeking proposals from artists to paint murals on KiwiRail assets within the rail corridor at various locations including **Avondale, Wiri, and Papatoetoe**. We welcome proposals for both solo pieces and collaborations. We are looking for artists from these areas to provide local artwork for their community.

The artwork/s should brighten up the local area and will need to reflect the community of the whenua at each site. Key stakeholders are the local community, rail neighbours, rail passengers, Auckland Transport, Auckland One Rail, local MPs, Councillors and Local Board members.

Project background

Across the Auckland Metro Rail Network, there are numerous sites with graffiti and plenty of opportunity for beautification. KiwiRail is committed to deterring graffiti artists from tagging our assets and to beautifying the network wherever possible.

To do this, we want local artists to paint murals on some of the large blank spaces we have identified as graffiti hotspots on the network. Commissioning local artists to paint the murals seems to work best as a long-term graffiti deterrent, as street artists respect existing artwork.

Not only is graffiti unsightly for communities and rail passengers, we are also concerned about the safety of graffiti artists when they enter the rail corridor illegally to tag our assets. Every year people are injured or lose their lives on the rail network. There is trauma for everyone involved – the motorists/pedestrians, their friends and whanau, rail staff and emergency services who attend the incidents.

Railway fences and retaining walls are a huge target for graffiti so we want to reduce these blank spaces wherever possible.

Project background

The artist/s are required to produce designs that align with the overarching themes of the project and the physical, social and environmental elements of the site.

Project objectives

- To design a mural for the rail corridor that reduces graffiti, these could be rail focused, safety focused, reflective of the local community/ Aotearoa, or be of flora and fauna
- Vibrant and busy, large scale
- If rail safety messages are included, they should be ones that encourage people to act sensibly around railway tracks and trains
 - Any safety message / words should be incorporated within the design, and not just be an add on
- Any message(s) on the mural either need to work as a family or can stand alone
- A mural should deter persistent tagging and graffiti e.g. no large blank or clear spaces



Artwork objectives

- To add vibrancy and attractiveness to the surrounding area
- To reflect and enhance the local area
- To be appropriate for the site it is painted

Key safety messages (if used)

- No Trespassers
- Tracks are for Trains

Deliverables

The selected artists will need to:

- Produce design concept overview, sketches and colour schemes for review and approval
- Provide a budget that includes preparation, labour and materials
- Provide information on the artwork for any external communication / stories
- Produce and install the artworks, ensuring that all health and safety protocols are adhered to

Audiences

- Local residents
- Local businesses
- Families and children
- Stakeholders
- Auckland metro rail passengers

The sites

KiwiRail has three different sites available for beautification dependent on funding, they are detailed below:

Avondale

- Retaining wall at Chalmers Street level crossing
- Measures approximately 90m in length and 2-2.7m in height
- Wooden surface
- Access is only available between **2-10 January 2027 (8 days)**
- We would like a rail safety message to be included at the level crossing end of the wall
- Given the size of this wall and the short access window, we are happy to accept proposals from multiple artists to work at the same time on different sections of the wall.





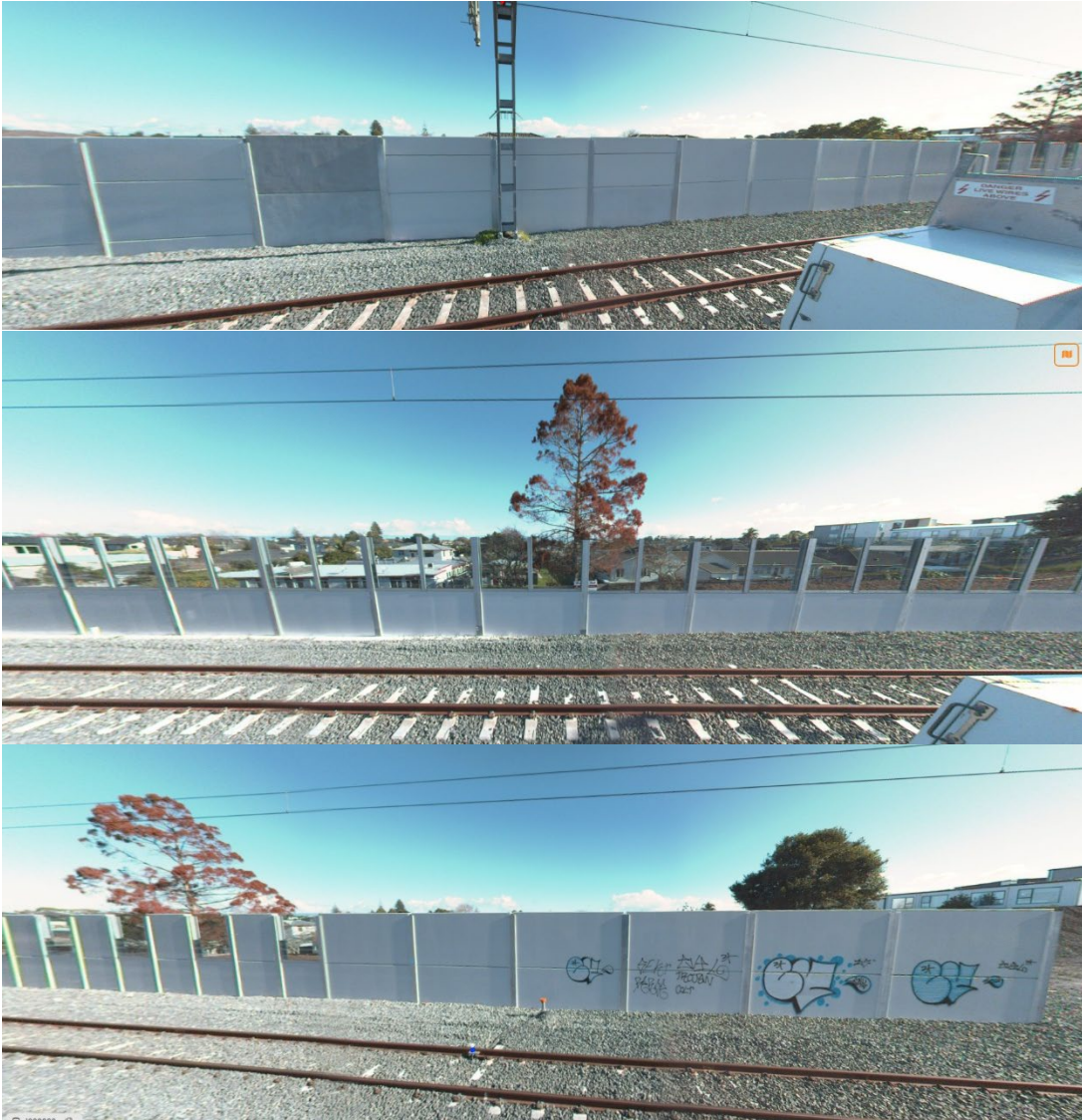
Wiri

- Signals cabin
- Measures 9m in length, 2.8m in height, 3m in width
- Metal surface
- Access is only available between **27 December 2026 – 10 January 2027 (2 weeks)**



Papatoetoe

- Retaining wall
- Measures 215m in length and 3.8m in height. However, approximately 102m of the wall are half panels meaning the height to be painted is only 1.8m.
- As sections of the wall reach some height, your proposal will need to include a plan to paint at height
- Access is only available between **27 December 2026 – 10 January 2027 (2 weeks)**
- Given the size of this wall and the short access window, we are happy to accept proposals from multiple artists to work at the same time on different sections of this wall.



Design considerations

- The material/s proposed for the artworks must be appropriate for outdoor use and be as durable as possible
- The artwork is safe to install and maintain
- The artwork will need to be coated with graffiti guard by the artist on completion



Design considerations – environmental + social

- Functional, safe and fit for purpose artwork for all seasons
- Beneficial and accessible to a broad and diverse group of stakeholders
- Sustainability initiatives, including waste minimisation and reduction and water management

Timeline

Brief published: **Wednesday 26 August 2026**

Design concepts due: **Wednesday 23 September 2026**

Artist/s selected: **Wednesday 30 September 2026**

Artwork to be installed by: **December 2026 – January 2027**

Budget

A provisional budget in the form of hourly rate + time predicted

- Artist fee and labour
- Materials
- Health & safety equipment
- Health & safety induction for all those installing/ painting at heights

Making a proposal

To submit your proposal, please prepare the following:

- Design concept sketches to show your proposed artwork, including colours, and any written information to support your design
- A budget outlining your expenses, including artist labour and materials - in the form of hourly rate + time predicted
- Example of relevant / previous work
- A brief explanation of how the painting of the mural will be undertaken, including equipment used, how many people and total number of days access to the site will be required
- Confirmation you can complete the proposed mural in the available timeframe

Please email this material to murals@kiwirail.co.nz by **Wednesday 23 September**

