

What is a Paint by Number mural?

A paint by number painting or mural is a project where an image is broken down to a certain amount of colors, then divided into small squares, which are then numbered. The blank canvas will resemble a white numbered grid with light gray lines and numbers – sort of like a finished sudoku puzzle. Each color is assigned a corresponding number. Each of those numbers are written on the lid of the cup of paint (usually a salad dressing cup or the like) so painters can identify which shade they are using and which areas they should be painting.








Participants will take a small cup of paint and a brush, and paint certain numbers of squares (usually 8-10) on the blank, numbered grid. They must paint squares with the same number as their paint cup. For instance, if one was using paint that was assigned the number “4”, one must search for squares on the grid that have the number “4” on that square.

The end goal is that a large amount of people contribute square by square to a community artwork that ends up being a cohesive image. It is difficult to tell what the image will be until it's finished or almost finished, and it's fun to encourage participants to guess.


Arts Spark Provides:

- ✚ The design for the PBN image. We split up your image into a certain amount of colors, number them, and turn your image into a grid of numbers.
- ✚ The Canvas. Sizes, prices & ideal audience #s are as follows:
 - ✓ 4x8 ft canvas stretched on a frame (4,608 sq inches) ~ at 8 squares per person, this canvas is ideal for traffic of 575 or so. At 5 squares per person, this canvas is ideal for traffic of 920 or so.
 - ✓ 3x6 ft canvas stretched on a frame (2,592 sq inches) ~ at 8 squares per person, this canvas is ideal for traffic of 320 or so. At 5 squares per person, this canvas is ideal for traffic of 515 or so.
 - ✓ 4x5 ft canvas stretched on a frame (2,880 sq inches) ~ at 8 squares per person, this canvas is ideal for traffic of 525 or so.
 - ✓ 2x4 ft canvas stretched on a frame (1,152 sq inches) ~ at 8 squares per person, this canvas is ideal for traffic of 144 or so. At 5 squares per person, this canvas is ideal for traffic of 230 or so.
- ✚ The HEX/RGB values of the paint needed – and consultation when choosing paints.


You Provide:

-  The brushes – we recommend 1” foam brushes
-  The paint – we recommend acrylic for easy clean up
-  The original image – we will consult with you on what types of images are best (geometric images, buildings, well known locations, vibrant colors, images that can be reduced to 16 or fewer colors will work best)
-  Containers for the paint. You **must** label the lids of these containers with the correct number.
-  Buckets for washing brushes, water, paper towels and garbage bags for clean-up and disposal, source of clean water
-  Any tables & chairs needed to display your supplies
-  Something to hold up the canvas while it’s being worked on

How do I explain this to my participants?

-  We like to use a simple dialogue to get the ball rolling.
“Hi there – would you like to paint?”

“Great! Well, here’s what you do. You pick a color and choose a paint cup from *here* (*indicate stash of paint cups*). The numbers on the lid correspond to the numbers on the grid (*indicate canvas*), so you can paint up to 8 (*or 5, depending on what you’ve decided*) squares with that same number. When you’re done, you can hand your brush & cup to me and I’ll clean it all up. Have fun!”

-  Some teams have a clear path setup with greeters on one end explaining what to do, handing out paint, and controlling the number of people in front of the canvas. At the other end of the canvas is another person who takes the brush and paint and guides users out of the canvas area.

What does this cost to produce?

Canvas, including image preparation, stretched onto frame

- 4ft x 8ft - \$615
- 4ft x 5ft - \$455
- 3ft x 6ft - \$445
- 2ft x 4ft - \$325

Add-ons

- Custom easel rental (local to Saratoga only) - \$20
- Containers for the paint (600 units) - \$20
- Delivery to your location (within 50 miles of Saratoga Springs) - \$50