

University of Michigan - Guidelines for Banners on Buildings

Applies to: All property owned by the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, for requests for installations of five days or more in duration. If banner placement is associated with an outside event and is less than five days in duration, requests must be made via email to [Facilities and Operations - Events](#) for approval. Such requests may also require [Exterior Elements Review Committee](#) (EERC) review, as described below. Requests for banners on light poles should refer to "[Guidelines for Banners on Light Poles.](#)"

Purpose: These banner guidelines are intended to provide information on creating banners that are appropriate for campus display and provide useful information. EERC is available to help guide the design and use of banners. It is intended that banners be used only to promote events sponsored by schools, colleges, departments and major auxiliary units of the university. Student organizations must use Diag banner poles; contact the [Student Organization Resource Center](#). For banner requests by Michigan Medicine departments and units for placement within the East Medical Campus and Medical Center Campus, as well as other U-M Health facility locations such as Briarwood, West Ann Arbor, South Industrial, etc., approvals will be issued internally by Michigan Medicine ([Quinta Vreede](#)). For banner requests by units of the Department of Athletics for placement within the Ross Athletic Campus, approvals will be issued internally by Athletics ([Rob Rademacher](#)).

PROCEDURE:

1. Submit all requests for banner display projects, other than those for the Michigan Medicine and Athletics, to the following (a [banner request form](#) is included in this document):

Planning and Communication Office
Architecture, Engineering & Construction
326 East Hoover Avenue
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1002

Kristi Gilbert
Phone: 734-276-2379
Email: AEC-PlanningandCommunication@umich.edu

2. Submit banner project request at least eight (8) weeks prior to desired date of installation. Allow at least five weeks for review/approval and three weeks for fabrication/installation. Requests made with less than eight weeks' notice will be considered if time permits for the review process.
3. Submit the banner request form and include the following:
 - Documentation on proper safety plan for installation and safety certification as specified by [Environmental Health and Safety](#). Contact [Matt Ketteman](#) in EHS for additional information.
 - Color print of the banner design with measurements of proposed banner (copy should be 8½ x 11) – provide in electronic format (jpeg or pdf)
 - Description of location desired for installation, with total number of banners indicated, and if possible an image of the building with the proposed banner rendered in
 - Detailed description of how it is proposed to install the banner, with specifications on anchors, penetrations through building materials, etc.
4. Planning and Communication will distribute materials for campus review and approval.
Project concept and graphic design:
 - Determination of the acceptability or "appropriateness" of the content/message of the banner will be the responsibility of the sponsoring group (university school, college, department or unit). Issues of appropriateness include if the event promoted on the banner is of university-wide interest, if it promotes the university's mission, who the intended audience is, etc. Person(s) requesting banners should provide documentation indicating the approval of the sponsoring group.

- Determination of the acceptability of the proposed graphic design, including presentation of the university name, use of trademarks, etc., will be the responsibility of EERC, as advised by Planning and Communication.
 - Location Plan:
Sponsoring group must obtain support from the majority occupant of the building to which it is proposed to affix the banner(s). Majority occupant must be a university school, college, department or unit. Planning and Communication will determine if the request is reasonable and can be accommodated, based on proposed location and potential for installation and removal without damage to the structure. If it is determined that banners cannot be affixed to the requested building without permanent damage to the structure, the request will be denied.
5. Planning and Communication will return the results of the review and approval process to the requester as project approved, approved with requested modifications, or rejected with reasons listed.
 6. Requesting unit will be responsible for submitting a work order to the [Facilities and Operations Service Center](#) for installation and removal of banners (647-2059).

GRAPHIC CONTENT OF BANNERS:

Although it is not the intention of Planning and Communication to censor content, the stated purpose of banners displayed at the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor is to promote events sponsored by schools, colleges, departments, or major auxiliary units.

1. Content may be generic in nature, graphically, symbolically or verbally representing or depicting a University-sponsored event or activity. A balanced and colorful combination of visual and textual elements is key to creating banners that are successful as communication tools. Messages should be kept simple and straight-forward so that the information can be gleaned on quick glance.
2. Content should include the name or logo of the sponsoring university unit, department, school or college, but non-university sponsors shall not be presented on banners.
3. Some recognition of the university should appear within the graphics of the banner and may consist of the university brand (see [U-M Brand Standards](#)).
4. Banners may not be used for commercial advertising, advertising or promoting any political candidate, parties or issues, or identifying, advertising or promoting any religion.
5. University policies in regard to use of the university name, brand, seal, block “M” and other trademarks shall be observed (see [Usage Policies](#)).

GUIDELINES & LIMITATIONS:

1. Requests for banners on buildings may be considered with the following restrictions:
 - Banners may only be placed on exterior building surfaces at a height where they will be readable from ground level, and may not be placed so as to cover or obscure doors or windows.
 - The event/occasion/activity promoted on the banner must either be planned for a venue within the building to which the banner will be affixed, or sponsored by a school, college, department or unit which is housed in that building.
2. All banners will be installed, removed and/or replaced at the requester’s expense and by a licensed and insured installer approved by Architecture, Engineering & Construction.
 - Banners that are tattered, faded or torn may be removed without notice.
 - Requester will be responsible for supplying appropriate installation hardware, which must be reviewed and approved by Architecture, Engineering & Construction.
3. Exceptions or deviations from these guidelines must be approved by the Associate Vice President for Facilities and Operations.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BANNERS ON BUILDINGS:

1. Size of banners for placement on buildings may vary with the intended location for installation. Requester will provide (in electronic format) detailed graphic indicating size of proposed banner(s) against size of building surface planned for mounting.
2. Banners shall be made of high quality vinyl, and shall be opaque, non-shrinking, water, tear and fade resistant.

DURATION OF DISPLAY:

1. Approved banner projects will be permitted for display for not more than ten days prior to the event, and will be removed immediately following the event. Exceptions shall be reviewed Planning and Communication.

REQUESTER RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Developing the design of the banner through a professional designer.
2. Submitting the request with back up materials to Planning and Communication.
3. Making necessary changes to the proposal if requested to do so through the review process.
4. Purchasing the necessary quantity of banners plus additional units for replacement if lost or stolen. The requester will determine the number of replacement banners purchased, if any.
5. Initiating and paying for installation and removal of banner by a licensed and insured installer approved by Architecture, Engineering & Construction.
6. Delivering finished banners and mounting hardware for installation.
7. Assuming the cost of removing/replacing damaged or worn banners.

*Facilities and Operations
Updated November 2023*

Request for Banners on Buildings (except for Michigan Medicine and Athletics)

Requestor name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Department: _____

Sponsoring Unit (school, college, department, unit): _____

Name of administrator from sponsoring unit approving content of banner: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature of administrator: _____ Date: _____

Name and email of facility building manager: _____

Signature of facility manager: _____ Date: _____

Name and signature of EHS representative documenting review and approval of EHS installation safety plan and safety certification: Name: _____

EHS Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reason/purpose for banner(s): _____

Start and end date of event/promotion: start _____ end _____

Number of banners requested and sizes: _____

Location of banners requested (specify building and location on building): _____

Submit request form, full color proof of proposed banner design, map(s) and other images electronically to AEC-Planning and Communication (AEC-PlanningAndCommunication@umich.edu).