

**500.I Definitions of Terms****1. General Sign Code Definitions**

**Abandoned Sign.** A sign that is not an Eligible Resource, Historic Sign, or Obsolete Sign that advertises an on-premises or off-premises activity that has been discontinued or is otherwise unused.

**Alteration.** Any change to the sign area, copy, materials, structure, size, location, or lighting of an existing sign.

**Art.** Any visual work of art that is accessible to public view, is intended for enjoyment by the public, does not contain characteristics of an advertising sign, and has been approved and permitted through a City process. Art may include but is not limited to ceramics, frescoes, fountains, monuments, murals, paintings, sculpture, or stained glass. Art is not considered a sign.

**Conforming Sign.** A sign that is legally installed in conformance with all prevailing jurisdictional laws and ordinances.

**Corporate Colors.** Colors or materials, used for signage or structures, that represent a corporation.

**Display Time.** The amount of time a message or graphic is displayed on an Electronic Message Sign.

**Illegal Sign.** A sign that does not meet the requirements of this CDC and is not a legal nonconforming sign, including but not limited to signs installed or altered without or inconsistent with an approved Sign Permit or signs that have been installed or altered that do not meet requirements or standards.

**Illuminated Sign.** A sign that utilizes artificial light, either projecting through its surfaces or reflecting off its surfaces.

1. **Externally Illuminated Sign.** A sign that utilizes a light source external to the sign, such as wall, bracket, or ground mounted lighting fixtures. External light sources must be fully shielded and focused to illuminate the sign face only and avoid spill light.
2. **Internally Illuminated Sign.** A sign that utilizes a light source contained within the structure of the sign that results in either direct or indirect illumination and where no portion of the light source can be seen from any point exterior to the sign.
  - a. **Direct.** Includes signs where the light source is visible or is back-lighting a translucent surface.
  - b. **Indirect.** A sign where the source of the light is concealed resulting in a halo or glowing effect.

**Neighborhood.** An area of community with characteristics that distinguish it from others, defined by distinct boundaries or physical barriers, within which the residents share a common identity that may include an owners association or other similar organization.

**Legal Nonconforming Sign.** A sign that was legally erected and maintained and conformed to the applicable standards when installed but that does not now conform to the standards of this CDC.

**Off-Premises Sign.** A sign located on a lot or within a project area that advertises a use that is not located on the same lot or within the same project area as the sign.

**On-Premises Sign.** A sign located on a lot or within a project area that advertises a use that is located on the same lot or within the same project area as the sign.

**Pedestrian-Active Building Frontage.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 801 Rules of Designation and Measurement.

**Permanent Sign.** A sign that is permanently affixed or attached to the ground or to a structure or building.

**Project Area.** An area comprised of one or more lots, buildings, common area, or uses that for the purpose of this Article 5 is determined to be a single project by the Planning Director upon a finding that each individual lot, building, area, or use cannot stand alone and is dependent on shared facilities, infrastructure, or features. Shared facilities, infrastructure, or features may include but is not limited to access, parking, common area, utilities, drainage, or other similar features.

**Property Address.** Numbers or letters assigned to a lot by the City for identification of the lot.

**Sign.** An object, device, or part thereof, located outdoors or indoors, that is visible from a street, alley, right-of-way, pedestrian circulation area, or public gathering area and that contains copy used to advertise, identify, display, direct, or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, purpose, product, activity, or location. Sign does not include art or property address.

**Sign Area.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Rules of Measurement.

**Sign Clearance.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Rules of Measurement.

**Sign Copy.** The words, letters, numbers, figures, graphics, designs, symbols, logos, projections, images, colors, color differentiation, background differentiation, or other graphic elements comprising the content of a sign.

**Sign Face.** The surface of the sign where sign copy is displayed.

**Sign Height.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Rules of Measurement.

**Sign Maintenance.** The routine upkeep of a sign to ensure the components are safe, neat, and orderly in condition and appearance and to prevent deterioration caused by weather, age, or other conditions. Maintenance includes cleaning, painting, repair, or replacement of defective parts of a sign. Maintenance does not include any changes to the sign area, copy, materials, structure, size, location, or lighting.

**Sign Permit.** A permit or approval required for any sign type listed in Article 5.

**Sign Plan.** A comprehensive sign program for a building, lot, neighborhood, or project area.

**Sign Structure.** A structure that supports or frames a sign face.

**Temporary Sign.** A sign that is not permanently affixed or attached to the ground or to a structure or building and that is intended to be displayed for a limited period of time.

## 2. Sign Types.

**Animated Sign.** A sign employing motion, the illusion of motion, moving objects, flashing or oscillating lights, spotlights, light or color changes, mirrors, brightly illuminated or highly reflective material, or other visible movement by any means that causes the sign or copy to move, change, flash, or alter in appearance. Animated sign does not include changeable messaging system.

**Awning/Canopy Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Audible Sign.** A sign that projects an audible message intended to be heard by either pedestrians or vehicles.

**Banner Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Cabinet/Box Sign.** A sign comprised of a hollow three-dimensional structure that frames or displays the sign face.

**Changeable Messaging System.** A sign with copy that can be changed or altered regularly.

1. **Electronic Messaging System.** A sign with a display area composed of a series of lights that is changed through electronic means.
2. **Manual Messaging System.** A sign with a display area that is changed by manual means.

**Channel Letter Sign.** A sign, whether internally illuminated or not, entirely composed of hollow three-dimensional individual letters, figures, or copy. Channel letter sign may also be known as Pan-Channel letters.

**Dimensional Letter Sign.** A sign, not internally illuminated, entirely composed of three-dimensional individual letters, figures, or copy formed from a solid material.

**Display Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Emitting Sign.** A sign that emits smoke, open flames, visible vapors, particles, sound, or odor.

**Feather Flag.** A temporary sign made of flexible material intended to be inserted directly into the ground or into a mounting device that sits on the ground, often with a feather-like shape. Feather Flags may also be known as blade flags, sail flags, quill flags, or flutter flags see Figure 500.I.1.

Figure 500.I.1 – Feather flag



**Flag.** An article of cloth or similar material, typically oblong or square, attachable by an edge to a pole or “flagpole” and displayed to the public.

**Freestanding Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Free-Form Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Gas Pump Canopy Sign.** A sign, including corporate colors on a gas pump canopy.

**Historic Sign.** A sign designated as having historical significance by an approved Historic Sign Permit.

**Incidental Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Inflatable Sign.** A sign composed of nonrigid material that utilizes air or gases, either under pressure or heated, to maintain its shape.

**Integral Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Interior Sign.** Any sign placed within a building that is not visible from abutting property, street, public right-of-way, or pedestrian active building frontage, excluding window signs and incidental signs as defined by this article.

**Marquee Sign.** A sign that is attached to or part of a permanent roof-like structure projecting out from a building and not supported by the ground. Marquee sign does not include signs on an awning or canopy. A marquee sign typically includes a changeable messaging system.

**Neon Sign.** A sign that utilizes neon or other gases within translucent tubing.

**Obsolete Sign.** A sign which may or may not be applicable to the building or use where it is located and that may be an Eligible Resource or historic in nature.

**Open Channel Letter Sign.** A sign with individual three-dimensional letters that have no face, or a clear face where, if illuminated, the light source is visible.

**Pole Sign.** A freestanding sign that is supported by one or more poles, columns, or other similar structures where the total width of the pole(s) is less than two-thirds of the width of the sign face.

**Portable Sign.**-As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Projected Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Projecting Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Public Signs.** Signs required or specifically authorized for a public purpose by law or erected by a government entity, including but not limited to transit or bus stop signs, interpretive signs, property address, commemorative or historic plaques or signs, wayfinding signs for public facilities, towing signs, traffic control signs, and civic or public event signs.

**Roof Sign.** A sign that is affixed to the roof or parapet of a building or that projects above the roof or eaves of a building.

**Vehicle Sign.** A sign that is mounted upon, painted on, or otherwise erected upon a vehicle, including but not limited to a van, truck, automobile, bus, trailer, or other vehicle.

**Wall Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Window Sign.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Yard Sign.** A temporary sign that is constructed of paper, fabric, wood, metal, plastic, or other light material, with or without a frame, and that is intended to be displayed for a limited period of time.

**Small.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.

**Large.** As defined and measured in accordance with Section 501 Sign Types.