



SENSORY-FRIENDLY CHALK THE BLOCK PRE-VISIT GUIDE

An introduction for first-time visitors, families,
and visitors with developmental disabilities



October 3 & 4, 2026

We can read this story as we prepare for our trip to Chalk the Block. In this story, we will learn about what we are going to see, who can help us with our visit, and some of the things we can do when we visit.



When we visit Chalk the Block, we should remember some important rules to follow:

- We will stay with our friends and family.
- We will walk slowly. Walking slowly helps us see all of the art!
- We will only touch the art if it says it is okay.



We are going to the Chalk the Block festival in Downtown El Paso. This event is also known as CTB. It is a celebration of art. Some of the art is made by people in El Paso. Some of it is made by people from other parts of the world. When we visit, we will see many different kinds of art. Some of the art will be big and some will be small. Some of the art we can touch and play with. Some of the art we should not touch, and we should only look at. We can also make our own art while we visit.

As we walk around, we will see different pictures that will help us know what to do.

If we see this image, then it is okay for us to touch the art:

OKAY TO TOUCH!



If we see this image, then we should not touch the art:



Art can take a lot of time and effort to make. We want to be respectful of the people who made the art and treat it the way they tell us to.

When we visit San Jacinto Plaza, we will be outside. It may be noisy and there may be people around, but we can leave this area if we need to relax.



When we visit the Chalk Art Competition, we will be outside. We will be looking at art made with chalk. We should not touch or step on the art. We should only look at it with our eyes. We can talk about the colors and shapes the artists used. We can also talk about what art we like best.

If we visit the plaza between 10am and 12pm, there won't be music playing. We can meet a DJ who will show us how he plays music.



At the stage, there will be a big mouth. It doesn't make any noise, but the music comes through it. We can look at it, but we shouldn't touch it.

At San Jacinto Plaza, we will see big doors. It's okay for us to touch these doors and open them. When we open them, we will see bright colors and videos!



There will be tents and tables in the park, where people can tell us about what they do. They might have items that we can take with us. We shouldn't take anything unless they tell us it's okay.

On Franklin Street, we will see some food trucks.



There is a big stage on this street. If we visit between 10am and 12pm, there won't be anyone on the stage. If we come later, there might be music playing. If it's too loud, we can go inside the Library next door.



As we go down the street, we will see people with tents selling art. These are artists who live in our community and make items to sell. There will be a lot of different tents. It may be noisy in this area, and there may be a lot of people excited to shop.



On Franklin Street, we will see a big table and tent. This is the MCAD tent, where we can get free chalk to draw with. They can also tell us about the festival.

At this table, we can also ask to borrow a pair of headphones that will make the festival quieter. The people at this table can also show us a map and tell us what activities are going on.

If the chalk is hard to grip or don't like feeling the chalk in our hands, we can get a chalk holder at the MCAD tent.

NO CHALK ZONE



There are some places where we should not draw on the street or sidewalk with our chalk. If we see this sign, that means that we should look for somewhere else to draw instead.

When we visit Cleveland Square Park, there will be a lot to see. If we don't want to be outside, we can go inside of the El Paso Museum of History or the Mexican American Cultural Center instead.



At the front of the park, we will see a gigantic TV! We can touch the dials on the TV, but we shouldn't go inside or climb on the TV. The TV may be playing shows or music.

If we visit at 12:30pm, a fun performer named DJ Candy Wave will play music for kids. We can dance and play with props during this time.



At the park, there will be a place to sit down under a big tent. If we have snacks, this is a good place to eat them.



At the Museum of History, we can do different things depending on what we want. We can look around the museum at the exhibits. When we go into the exhibits, we should make sure we do not touch any of the objects. If we are feeling tired, we can go into a quiet room and relax.

While we are at the Museum of History, we can play with some LEGOs and make our own LEGO buildings. We cannot take the LEGOs home, but we can enjoy them while we are at the Museum.



We can also do a scavenger hunt and learn about puppets and printing.

There is so much to do and see at the museum. If we need help, we can ask a friendly staff member, and they will tell us where we can go to do activities or look at exhibitions.

We can also go to the Mexican American Cultural Center, which is called the MACC. If we would like a fidget toy, a weighted blanket, or a quiet space, the front desk staff are happy to help us.



There is a lot to do at the MACC. We can make our own sunglasses. If we want a quiet room, there is a cozy space where we can go relax upstairs!



On El Paso Street, an artist named Woz Art has painted trash cans with beautiful artwork! We can touch these cans and can even throw trash in them if we need to.



When we keep walking down the street on El Paso Street, we will pass by La Nube. There might be mist coming from outside the building. We can walk through the mist if we want to! It will feel cool and might make our clothes a little bit wet.

At the back of the El Paso Museum of Art, there will be giant blocks that we can draw on with chalk! The staff can help us do this activity.

In this area, we will see more food trucks, and there might be a lot of people.



Next to the Museum will be a playground space that we can play in. It was made by a group called Nómada. There is a lot to see and touch in this space.

In the next plaza, called Arts Festival Plaza, we will see a lot of patterns made by an artist named Mitsu. There will be banners above us and even artwork on the ground! There will also be a wall of artwork we can add to. We should be gentle if we touch it.





When we come to the Museum of Art, we might see construction. We should not touch any equipment. If we see orange cones like the ones in the picture, that will tell us where the construction might be.

When we go inside of the building, there will be a lot of activities! This is also a place where we can rest and enjoy some quiet time if we would like to.

If we come to the museum during quiet hours, we can make a kite in a quieter space.

We can also do other activities, like making DIY portraits. We can look at all the art in the museum, but we should not touch anything. If we have questions, we can ask for help.





There are people in the museums and outside who can help us. They will be wearing badges or security uniforms. They might have Chalk the Block on their shirts. They are friendly and happy to meet us. When we have questions, we can ask them for answers. If we need to find our family and friends, we should ask them for help.



Some people want to spend the whole day at Chalk the Block. Other people want to stay only a short time. Both are good.

The important thing is to enjoy our time!