



# SENSORY-FRIENDLY CHALK THE BLOCK PRE-VISIT GUIDE

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



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 plaza, we will be able to look at the chalk art on the ground. We should not add our own art here.



If we visit the plaza between 10am and 12pm, we can get headphones that will play music only we can hear. Lots of people will be dancing and we can dance too!

If we visit the plaza after 12pm, there might be a band playing music.

Between 10am and 12pm, an artist named Diana can show us how she makes her art. She will show us how she weaves cords together to make big orbs. We will be able to weave with her, if we want to.



Diana's orbs are called Lyre '72. At night, they will glow in bright colors. We can go inside of the orbs if we want to, or we can look at them from the outside. Both are good!





When we visit the Chalk Art Competition, we will be outside. It may be noisy and there may be people around. We will be looking at art made by people in our city. 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.



When we visit Cleveland Square Park, there will be a lot to see. If we visit between 10am-12pm, there will be big lawn games we can play with. If we visit after 12pm, there might be music or a movie playing. If it is too loud or too hot, we can go inside of the El Paso Museum of History or the Mexican American Cultural Center instead.



At the park, an artist named Caroline will show us her giant banana sculpture! It is 40 feet long. We are allowed to touch the banana and look at it. We can't climb the banana, though.



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.



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 do activities like weaving or helping paint a big mural. If we want a quiet room, there is a big glow in the dark room where we can go relax!

We can also do an activity outside!



When we walk outside of the MACC, we will see a big tent with the name MCAD. This is where we can get free chalk to draw with.

We can draw on the sidewalk with our chalk. We can also draw on the street where there are no cars or people. If we're not sure where we can use our chalk, we can ask!





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.

The friendly people at this tent will also have headphones they can give us to make it sound quieter outside. They can help us find maps and schedules. They will even have a copy of this guide for us!

# 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.





As we walk down the street, we will see food trucks and people at tables selling art. These are people 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.





When we keep walking down the street on El Paso Street, we will pass by La Nube. There will 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 La Nube, we can create floating chalk prints! The team will help us if we want to try this activity.



Next to La Nube, an artist named Adrian will be painting a truck. This will be a trash truck from the City that will actually be used to pick up trash! We can say hi to him while he paints, but we shouldn't touch the truck unless he tells us it's okay.





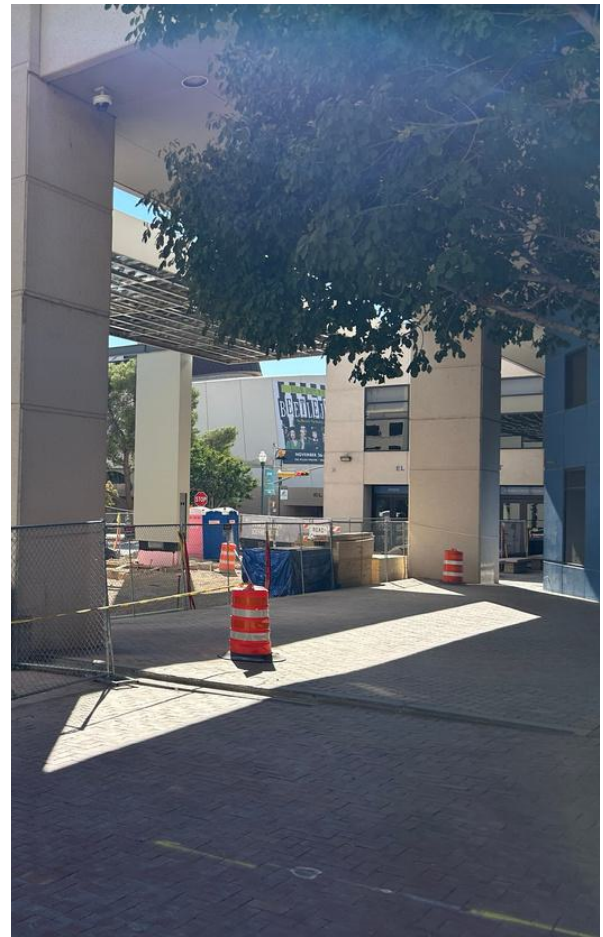
On the back of the El Paso Museum of Art, an artist named Christin will be painting a mural. We can sign up for activities to help add our own art to the mural! Christin might be using a big machine like this one to reach the top of the mural. We should not touch this machine.

Next to the Museum will be a big archway in multiple colors. We can walk through the arches, as much as we want but we shouldn't touch them or try to push on them. The arches will have big barrels next to them. We shouldn't touch the barrels either, because they help keep the art in place.



When we go into the next plaza, we will see a photobooth and a tunnel in rainbow colors. If we don't like enclosed spaces, we might not like the tunnel. If we want to take a photo, there will be someone there to help us.





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.

Outside of the Museum, there will be a spot with green turf where we can sit and relax. We can also do activities. The staff will be able to help us! We can't go inside of the building right now, but there is still a lot to enjoy.





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 can't 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 and we can stay as long as we want to.

The important thing is to enjoy our time!