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Overview

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Letter from the City Manager



Welcome to San Luis Obispo

That's the message we would like to share with everyone who comes to our city – whether to live, shop, dine, learn, work or play. Our new image, embodied by our updated emblem, is an important tool to help send that message. The emblem conveys iconic images that remind us of the welcoming features of our City – our long and rich history and the beauty of our surroundings. It is precisely this imagery and the positive feelings it engenders that reflect the welcoming community that is San Luis Obispo.

Our new emblem will help our city foster a sense of unity and cohesion. The emblem is also an important part of our on-going commitment to share with the world what we have to offer in our community. The launch of our new emblem provides us with a unique opportunity to convey that everyone is welcome to share our wonderful community.

San Luis Obispo is quality of life at its best. Please help us share this new look and vision. Use it, protect it and enjoy it. This new brand will help elevate the City of San Luis Obispo to even greater heights.

Katie Lichtig, City Manager

Introduction

For permission to use the City's emblem or if you have any questions about the brands please contact: City Administration

How to use the Manual

As the City of San Luis Obispo evolves, it is critical to maintain a powerful, consistent identity. Establishing and reinforcing that identity requires consistent application of the City emblem and look in all communication materials. This guide provides the tools and resources to help city staff, their partners and vendors maintain the brand. The guide includes clear, comprehensive graphic standards, combined with basic application examples to help ensure the highest level of quality in all communication vehicles. Adherence to these guidelines is the key to the success of the City of San Luis Obispo's visual identity strategy.

Value

A brand is much more than an emblem—it is the heart of the City of San Luis Obispo's message. It encompasses the words, colors, fonts, phrases, and mood of every item in our communications. It captures the essence of who we are. This style guide will be the foundation for implementing the new brand. It will unify our communications and keep everyone working toward the same goal. It will also simplify the design process and make future communications easier to develop. Following this style guide will strengthen the power of City's brand and maximize its potential to benefit the community.

Consistency

A key goal of brand guidelines is to ensure that all parties use the brand elements consistently. Brand guidelines provide information and tools and set the standards for using brand names, Emblems, typefaces and other design elements in advertisements, brochures, newsletters, signage and online communications. Guidelines give your department control over the way other people use your brand so that its visual appearance is always consistent.

Advantage

By using these guidelines you are now helping to communicate the city's positive image by:

- Ensuring the brand identity is highly visible across the city;
- Providing a single and united message for all city marketing and communications;
- Creating a greater level of civic pride and encourage wider participation in city activities;
- Uniting the public, private, and voluntary sectors in San Luis Obispo;
- Enhancing the status and recognition of all those who associate with San Luis Obispo's unique qualities; and
- Contributing to the long-term brand building exercise, changing perceptions and adding value.

Glossary of Terms

The following glossary gives explanation to the terminology used within the City of San Luis Obispo's guidelines. For further explanation of the guidelines and its contents, please direct your enquiries towards City Administration.

PMS (Pantone Matching System): refers to Pantone's color identification system, and is often used as a prefix to a number (PMS 281) with the number corresponding to a specific color. This referencing system has become the industry standard worldwide for specifying printing ink colors.

CMYK an abbreviation for cyan, magenta, yellow and BW, the colors used in the four color (or full color) printing process. When combined together in varying proportions these four colors can produce the full color spectrum.

RGB Red, Green, Blue. The three component colors of light. When combined in varying proportions, they can be mixed to produce any color of light. The RGB color system is specific to the mixing of light as opposed to ink, and is used to specify colors for electronic applications.



01 Emblem

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

02 Wordmark



01 Emblem

This term refers to the City's primary graphic element in any of its variations as a single unit.

02 Wordmark

This term refers to the typographic element: 'City of San Luis Obispo'.

04 Lock-up

Is a formalized relationship of the Emblem (symbol) and a typographic pairing. They are elements locked in their relative positions. For the sake of maintaining consistency in all media, the approved lock-up should not be taken apart or altered.

Further Assistance

Any views, comments or requests for help in interpreting these guidelines should be referred to City Administration which is the main point of contact for all visual identity queries.

Downloadable Emblem Files

All emblems, wordmarks, and visual elements are directly available as electronic files.

Download master files here

How to Order Business Cards

The City has set up an electronic ordering site for your convenience.

Can be ordered here

(Letterhead/Stationery items pending RFP)



Graphic and Visual Elements

2.0

- 2.1 Emblem Variations
- 2.3 Emblem Usage & Size
- 2.5 Wordmark
- 2.6 Emblem & Wordmark Lock-ups
- 2.7 Brand Colors
- 2.8 Approved Fonts

Emblem Variations

01 The preferred full color version should be used wherever possible.

02 Use this version when there is not enough adequate positive negative contrast between the emblem and the background

03 BW can be used in materials reproduced in BW and white (including facsimile cover pages, memorandums, newsletters, or newspapers). This version may also be screened back to gray.

04 This version is to be used for reversal from a dark background.

05 Preferred, one-color "City Blue" version see section 2.7 for brand colors. However, in special circumstances, if a printed piece is one-color other than City Blue, an alternate color may be used.

06 For legibility the small simplified version should be used when an emblem is required below the minimum diameter of the standard version.

Download master files here



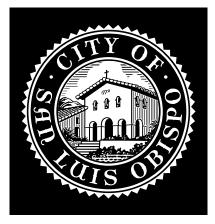
01 Preferred, full color used for light or dark backgrounds



02 Alternate, full color used for light or neutral backgrounds



03 BW and white used for 1-color printing or screen printing on a light background



04 BW and white used for 1-color reversal from on a dark background



05 Preferred, one-color, "City Blue" see section 2.7 for brand colors









06 Simplified emblem when it appears smaller than 5/8" or .625" diameter

May also be used for reversal from a dark background

Emblem Variations

For materials that need specialized graphic or visual emphasis, such as signage, note cards, etc., the emblem may be reproduced using the following methods:

- **01** Bronze or aluminum casting
- 02 Blind emboss
- 03 Embroidered, full color
- 04 Embroidered, single color

The emblem must always be reproduced using approved 'master artwork'.

Master files for these items are available by special request only. Contact City Administration





01 Bronze or aluminum castings or other materials may be used for architectural or signage applications



02 Blind emboss used for note cards and invitations with light areas raised



03 Embroidered Emblems for full color applications



04 Embroidered Emblems, single color thread (City blue preferred)

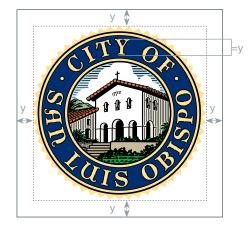
Emblem Usage & Size

The City's official Emblem is the central visual element of our brand. For consistency, the emblem must never be adjusted, redrawn or modified in any way. It must always be reproduced from the master originals.

All city materials should be identified using the official City Emblem and/ or wordmark. When a secondary department or division brand is also utilized, it should be positioned far enough apart so as not to appear to be grouped with the emblem.

Contact City Administration to determine appropriate use of department or division secondary brands together with the City Emblem.

Download master files here





01 The clear space around the

the emblem's typeface).

Adherence to these minimum spacing parameters helps the reader's eye distinguish the emblem

easily. No copy or any other graphics should encroach on this

minimum space.

emblem is integral to the design,

providing clarity. The minimum clear

space around the emblem should be

equal to the "y height" (the Height of

Clear Space



5/8" or .625" diameter

02 Minimum size standard emblem

Minimum Size Standard Emblem

02 To maintain detail, the "standard" Emblem is never to be used smaller than 5/8" or .625" diameter.



9/16" or .5625" diameter

03 Maximum size simplified emblem

Maximum Size Simplified Emblem

03 When the emblem is required below the minimum of the "standard" version, the simplified City Emblem should be used no larger than 9/16" or .5625" diameter.

Emblem Usage and Size

Inappropriate Use

Following are examples of inappropriate usage of the City Emblem. When there is a question, contact City Administration.



Do not tint full-color version, however, it is acceptable to tint 1-color versions



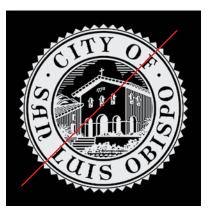
Do not rotate



Do not change the fonts of the wordmark



Do not disassemble the emblem



Do not reverse emblem into a negative



Do not "squeeze" or "stretch" the emblem



Wordmark

The City's official wordmark has been specifically designed to evoke San Luis Obispo's Spanish heritage. It is not a standardized type face. The design was created using historic models for reference.

The wordmark may be used alone in situations where space is limited or it may be paired with the City Emblem. (see section 2.6). In no event should it be altered or distorted.

01 The wordmark may be reproduced in any color or black & white, but must distinguish itself sufficiently from it's background. It may be used as a single line with or without the words "City of", stacked flush left, or stacked center.

02 It may also be reversed from darker backgrounds as needed.

Download master files here

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Single line

CITY OF SAR LUIS OBISPO

Stacked flushed left

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Single line without "City of"

CITY OF SAR LUIS OBISPO

Stacked centered

01 City blue is the preferred color, but the wordmark may be reproduced in any color

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

02 The wordmark may be reversed from darker backgrounds

Emblem & Wordmark Lock-ups

Proper usage of the City's wordmark is critical to any design that includes it in combination with the official City Emblem.

Specific lock-ups have been created for occasions where the wordmark is required to be used with the emblem.

Download master files here

The wordmark can be reproduced in any color and may be reversed on a dark background. Make sure there is adequate contrast between the wordmark and background.

01 To measure the size of the emblem use 2.4 x 'L' taken from the letter in the wordmark. To measure the spacing between the emblem and wordmark use the 'y' taken from the letter in the emblem. The emblem always aligns vertical with the wordmark.

02 To measure the size of the emblem use 'L' taken from the letter in the wordmark. To measure the spacing between the emblem and wordmark use the 'y' taken from the letter in the emblem. The emblem always aligns horizontal with the wordmark.







01 Align vertical centers





02 Align horizontal centers

Brand Colors

The approved color palette is inspired by San Luis Obispo and its surrounding areas. The colors reflect not only the culture and history of the city but also the vibrancy of modern life in the area.

Primary

These colors are used in the emblem, but can also be used for other branding elements.

Secondary

These colors are the supporting color palette. They may be used for backgrounds or other graphic components of individually designed printed and digital materials.

Color Systems

01 Pantone Matching System (PMS)

02 CMYK breakdowns. These indicate an accurate match to the equivalent PMS colors when printing in four color process.

03 RGB values. Use when any of these colors are reproduced on-screen; (digital presentations, internet) they should be created with the appropriate RGB color values shown here.

Primary

01 PMS 281

02

C100 M80 Y0 K40

03

R0 G62 B126

01

PMS 7403

02

C0 M10 Y50 K0

03

R255 G226 B147

All colors on this page are shown at values of 100%. To achieve lighter tints, it is possible to use any of the colors at lower percentages as illustrated along the lower edge of each color swatch

Secondary

01

PMS 1525

02

C0 M58 Y100 K10

03

R222 G121 B28

01

PMS 1685

02

C0 M68 Y100 K44

03

R153 G71 B8

01

PMS 432

02

C23 M2 Y0 K77

03

R69 G85 B96

01

PMS 2717

02

C29 M12 Y0 K0

03

R176 G203 B234

01

PMS 452

02

C24 M18 Y42 K0

03

R197 G193 B157

01

PMS 5753

02

C25 M0 Y81 K67

03

R86 G100 B35

Approved Fonts

Holland Title

01 Holland should be used as a display font and in instances where a larger copy size is necessary. It is not necessary nor recommended to use Holland for supporting type and body text.

Helvetica Neue

02 Helvetica Neue is the primary typeface used for the City. It should be used as the first choice typeface for the majority of pre-printed typographic information. The choice of type size and weight should be based on format, function and purpose.

Times Roman or New Roman

03 Times is the secondary typeface for the City. Its usage should be limited to publications and printed communications that require a more editorial approach.

Arial

04 Arial is the default typeface to be used when the user does not have access to Helvetica Neue and where the user needs to have the font installed on their computer. Examples of this situation include: html text in web based media, powerpoint presentations, all documents produced internally, and all documents sent electronically.

Holland Title

01 The Holland font family is available for both Mac and Windows platforms and has been purchased by the City for your use.

Helvetica Neue Light
Helvetica Neue Roman
Helvetica Neue Medium
Helvetica Neue Bold
Helvetica Neue Heavy

Helvetica Neue Light Italic
Helvetica Neue Roman Italic
Helvetica Neue Medium Italic

Helvetica Neue Bold Italic Helvetica Neue Heavy Italic

Helvetica Neue Light Condensed

Helvetica Neue Condensed

Helvetica Neue Medium Condensed

Helvetica Neue Bold Condensed

Helvetica Neue Heavy Condensed

Helvetica Neue Light Condensed Oblique

Helvetica Neue Condensed Oblique

Helvetica Neue Medium Condensed Oblique

Helvetica Neue Bold Condensed Oblique Helvetica Neue Heavy Condensed Oblique

02 Small headings use bolder weights. For text, predominantly use Helvetica Neue Roman. In instances where legibility may be an issue - when reversing out of images for example - then Helvetica Neue Medium can be used. The use of italics is permitted but should be kept to a minimum.

Times Roman Regular

Times Roman Italic

Times Roman Bold

Times Roman Bold Italic

03 Times Roman may be used where a serif font is required – for example in large bodies of text such as staff reports, memorandums or minutes.

Arial Regular

Arial Italic

Arial Bold

Arial Bold Italic

04 Arial should be used as a replacement when Helvetica Neue is not available. It is mainly used for City-wide template driven applications which use the system fonts.



Brand Applications

3.0

- 3.1 Stationery
- 3.4 Applications, Permits & Forms
- 3.5 Facility Signage
- 3.6 Vehicles
- 3.7 Publication Planning
- 3.8 Photography Guidelines
- 3.9 Print Purchasing Procedures
- 3.10 Clothing
- 3.14 Name Tags & Badges

Stationery

Using the City letterhead, envelopes and business cards is one of the most effective ways to convey official City business. Both a level of formality and visual consistency are achieved via the use of approved graphics, typefaces, colors and paper stock. City departments may order stationery materials by contacting the printer directly.

Stationery has been prepared for each individual department. It features the City Emblem, name of department, address, main phone line and the City's URL.

02 City envelopes are also unique for each individual department.

03 Business cards feature the City emblem, department name, department division (if applicable), address, e-mail, phone, fax or department URL and City URL.

Order business cards here

(Letterhead/Stationery items pending RFP)



Parks & Recreation

1341 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3249 805.781.7300

May 21, 2013

Recipient's First & Last Name Recipient's Title Recipient's Address City, State zip code

Dear Name.

We've prepared this sample letter layout for you in an effort to demonstrate how a typed letter would look when presented in context.

You'll notice that the new City of San Luis Obispo emblem is located in the upper left-hand corner of the page signaling the flush-left location of the typed letter.

We've located the full proper name and address of the city at the head of the page consistent with the envelope layout that we've prepared.

With your confirmation of the direction we are moving, we can begin work on the final refinements immediately and have your materials ready for publication within a short time.

Sincerely,

Signatory's Name Here Title Here Signatory@slocity.org



Employee Name

Finance & Information Technology

990 Palm Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3249

- E employee@slocity.org
- т 805.781.7130
- c 805.xxx.xxxx
- F 805.xxx.xxxx slocity.org

back

front

CITY OF SAR LUIS OBISPO

03 Business card. (Not shown to scale) Actual size is 3.5"w x 2"h



02 Department envelope. (Not shown to scale) Actual size is #10

Stationery

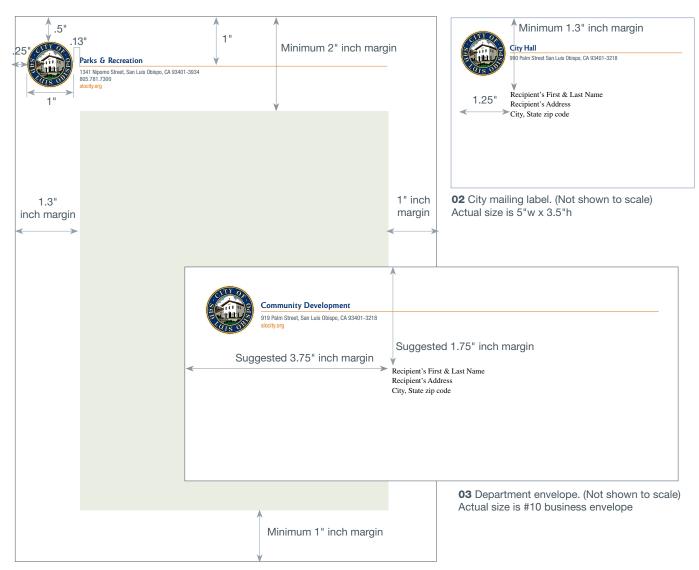
Sample stationery layout

Letterhead is not shown to scale. Setting the margins as indicated ensures easy printing onto letterhead.

01 The tinted space is designated for letter copy. A justified left and ragged right format is recommended, as well as 11pt. type. The vertical margins can vary according to the amount of text; however, the top margin should be no less than 2 inches from the top of the page.

02 Recipient's address is justified left and ragged right, as well as 11pt. type. And should line up flush left with mailing address.

03 Recommended format for recipient's address is justified left and ragged right, as well as 11pt. type.



01 Department letterhead. (Not shown to scale) Actual size is 8.5"w x 11"h

Stationery

Sample Note Card & Envelope

Note card and envelope are not shown to scale.

These fold-over, 4.25" x 5.5", note cards are made from cover weight paper and fit into A2 envelopes. The City emblem has been blind embossed on the cover.

This size note card is commonly used for a wide range of handwritten cards, invitations, thank you notes and announcements.

Envelopes feature a return address that is unique to each department.

(Letterhead/Stationery items pending RFP)

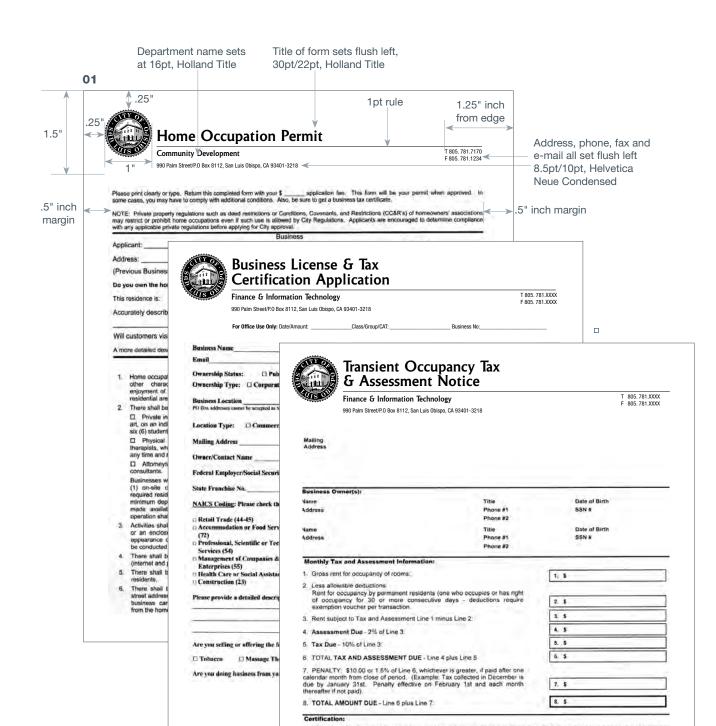


Applications, Permits and Forms

Sample Forms

Not shown to scale.

01 Recommended header specifications for all applications, permits, and notices.



Facility Signage

Facility signage will need to be specially designed for each unique situation. Appropriate colors, materials, scale and placement together with the use of approved fonts and emblem files will result in signage that strengthens the City's brand throughout the community.

Permanence and ease of maintenance should always be a primary consideration.





Vehicles

Fleet

o1 All fleet vehicles will be simply identified with the official City Emblem placed on the front doors and scaled appropriately for the size of the vehicle. The emblem should be centered on the door horizontally and positioned vertically to appear to be slightly above center. Placement on unusual vehicles or equipment such as tractors, trailers, construction equipment, etc. shall be at the discretion of the Fleet Maintenance Manager.

02 The City web address (slocity.org) is 10.5" wide for all vehicles. It should appear in Pantone 1525, Helvetica Neue Condensed and be placed on the upper back corner panel on both sides of each vehicle.

A 4-digit vehicle identification number should be placed on the right back panel.

03 Vehicles that are driven home by city employees must display a magnetic "24 hour" graphic.

04 Vehicles that are not identified with the City emblem on the front door should display a decal placed on the rear door window on both sides.





03 Removable 5.5"w x 7"h magnetic graphic panel



04 Full color adhesive clear vinyl decal

01 Full color adhesive vinyl emblem (size varies)



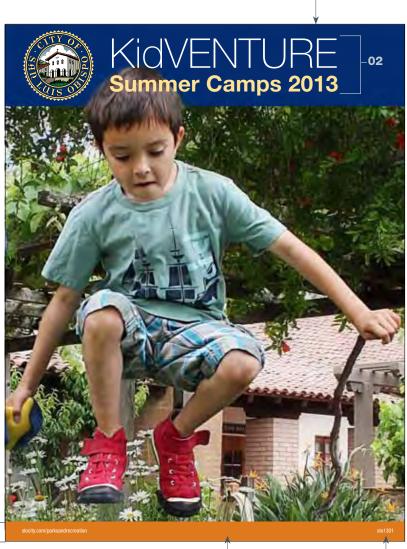
Publication Planning

The City Emblem should measure minimum 1 inch on all publications. Whenever possible, It should appear at the top left hand side with minimum clear space around the emblem. (see section 2.3)

Adherence to these minimum spacing parameters helps the reader's eye distinguish the emblem easily. No copy or any other graphics should encroach on this minimum space.

- **01** Use the "web address bar" at .25" inches along the bottom with relevant forward slash address. Web addresses should be set in Helvetica Neue Condensed,10pt.
- **02** The main font is Helvetica Neue or Times. Holland Title should be used sparingly.
- **03** Whenever possible use the City's primary or secondary color palette.
- **04** The job number should be printed clearly but discreetly on either the back or front cover of the publication in 7pt Helvetica Neue. This helps to identify jobs for reprinting.

01_



Example 1: Standard 8.5"w x 11"h booklet. (Not shown to scale)

03 Secondary color

04

03 Primary color

Example 2: Standard tri-fold brochure. (Not shown to scale)

Historic

Preservation

An Overview of San Luis Obispo's Historic Preservation Program

03 Secondary color

-01

Photography Guidelines

The image style should have high emotional appeal, be very light in tone, and the settings should be bright. People should look like they're enjoying themselves. Choose candid shots over obviously stages shots. Try to avoid shots with people looking directly into the camera.

Shots featuring city employees should depict them in appropriate attire for their job category. They should appear to be helpful, friendly and competent.

Citizens should look happy.

Whenever possible use high-quality photography whether it is stock or original photography. Avoid poor quality snapshots.

Photos shown are for illustrative purposes only and are not authorized for use without permission of the copyright holder.

©Dave Garth (dave@davegarth.com)



















Print Purchasing Procedures

Approved Printers

A local printer has been preapproved to process your order and debit your department's printing budget. Be prepared to provide the requested information when placing your order.

Order business cards here

(Letterhead/Stationery items pending RFP)

You do NOT need to provide the printer with any templates.

You will be required to fill in fields for the following information when placing your print orders:

Business Cards

- Individual's Name and Title
- Department, and division (if applicable)
- Tel, Cell, Fax Numbers
- E-mail address
- Additional URL (if applicable)
- Department street address including the 9-digit ZIP code

Envelopes

- Department, and division (if applicable)
- Department street address including the 9-digit ZIP code

Letterhead

- Department, and division (if applicable)
- Department's main telephone number
- Department street address including the 9-digit ZIP code

Polos and Shirts

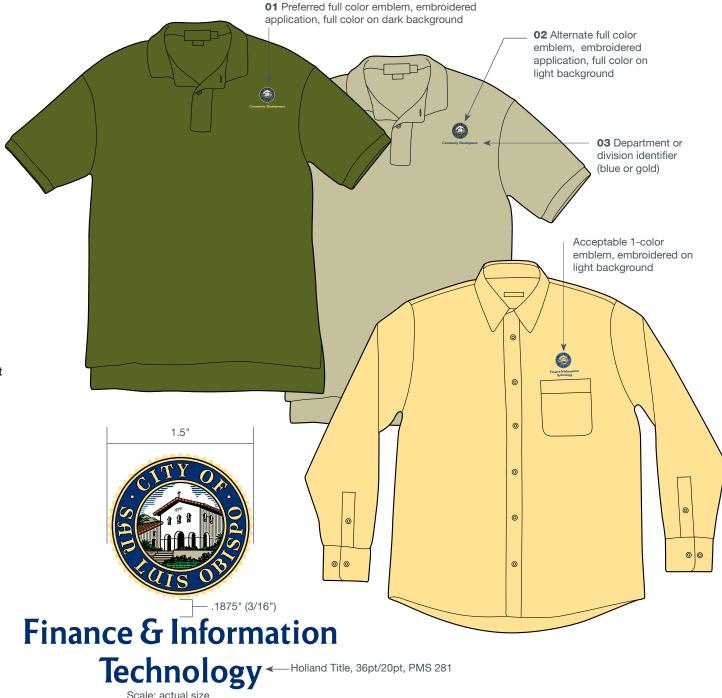
When applying the emblem or wordmark to shirts, they may be embroidered using the full color or 1-color emblem.

01 The preferred full color version should be used wherever possible. However, 1-color is acceptable.

02 Use the emblem designed for neutral backgrounds (see section 2.1) when there is not enough adequate positive negative contrast between the emblem's gold border and the background.

03 Department names should appear in Holland Title, under the emblem using one of the primary colors (PMS 281 blue, 7403 gold).

The emblem should always appear on the left breast of the shirt. If the shirt has a pocket, it should be centered above the pocket. The emblem or word pairing should not be larger than 4" wide.



When applying the emblem or wordmark to hats, they can be embroidered using the emblem on the front and wordmark on the back.

01 The preferred full color version of the emblem should be used wherever possible.

02 Use the emblem designed for neutral backgrounds (see section 2.1) when there is not enough adequate positive negative contrast between the emblem's gold border and the background.

03 The arched wordmark is intended only for use on the back of caps.

Download master files here



o o curv of san Luis obispo





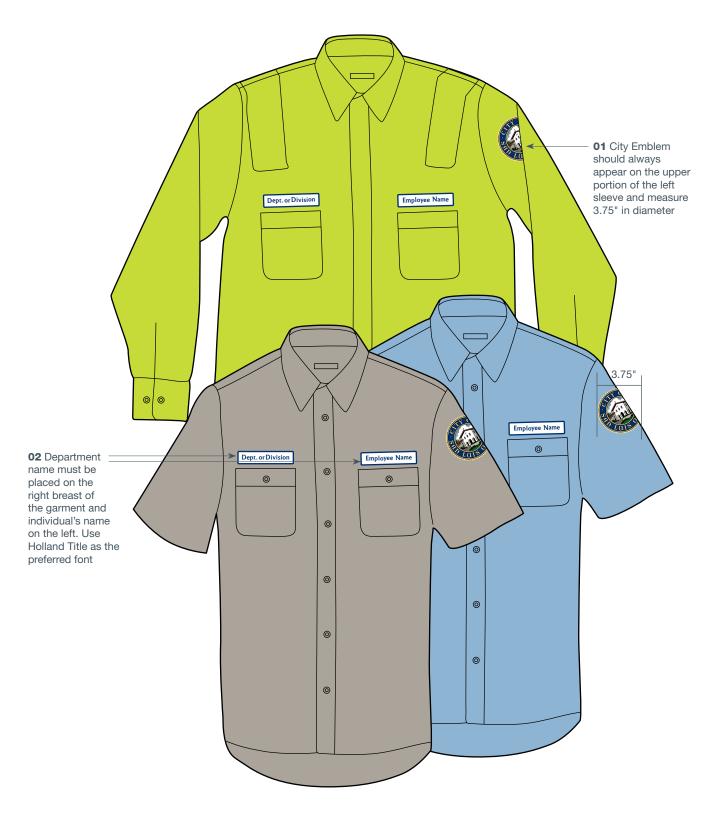
03 Wordmark, primary color PMS 7403 gold

Uniforms

Uniform apparel shall carry the City Emblem on the left sleeve. These items include, but are not limited to: jackets, long or short sleeve shirts, and jumpsuits.

01 The Emblem may be embroidered onto the fabric of the uniform or sewn on as a patch and measure 3.75" diameter.

02 The department and employee name may be embroidered onto the fabric of the uniform or sewn on as a patch. Department name must be placed on the right breast of garment and individual's name on the left. Use Holland Title as the preferred font.



Uniforms

T-shirts may be silk screen printed using the 1-color city blue emblem and wordmark.

01 The Emblem may be embroidered onto the fabric of the uniform or sewn on as a patch and measure 3.75" diameter.

02 T-shirts shall carry the City Emblem on the left breast of the t-shirt. The emblem or word pairing should not be larger than 4" wide.

03 The stacked centered wordmark may be placed on the upper back portion of the t-shirt (optional).

04 Safety helmets should feature the emblem on the flattest surface area located on the front or side.



Name Tags & Badges

Name tags are a great way to brand a city function or event. Whenever possible use this suggested layout.

Name badges help identify city employees and elected and appointed officials and should be worn when attending official city gatherings or meetings.





1-Color event name tags.
Self adhesive removable name badge labels
2.3" x 3.375" (not shown to scale)

Brushed aluminum magnetic-back name badge





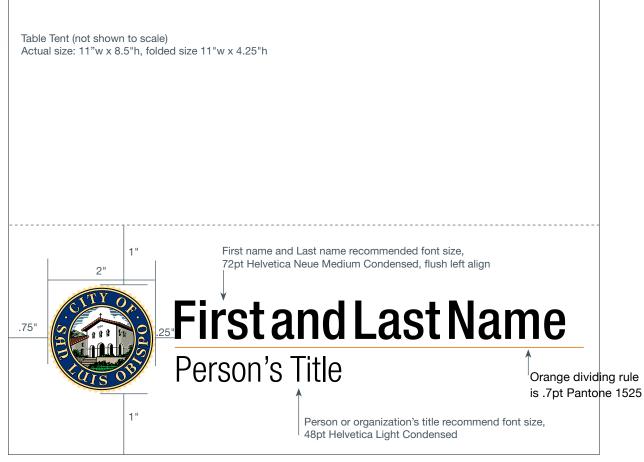


Official City identification badge to be worn by city employees, elected and appointed officials (not shown to scale) Actual size: 3.5" x 1.25"

Name Tags & Badges

Folded table tent cards are intended for use by participants at city sponsored events, presentations, panel discussions, etc.







4.0

- 4.1 E-templates
- 4.2 Outgoing E-mail Signatures
- 4.3 Power Point Presentation
- 4.4 Web design Guidelines

E-Templates

Official City E-templates are to be used only for communications sent via E-mail or digitally. They are not intended to replace official printed letterhead or documents.

E-templetes should not be printed out and used for mailing, as the integrity of the colors and branding will be compromised, especially as color varies from printer to printer. Also, they contain low-resolution images that do not print well.

Available Microsoft Word templates for working documents:

- Department Letterheads
- City Manager Report
- Confidential Memorandum
- Council Agenda
- Council Agenda Report
- Council Agenda Report E-Routing
- Council Memorandum
- Council Notes
- News Release
- Advisory Body Agendas
- Untitled Header for any new documents not listed above

Download template files here

NOTE: Letterheads and Advisory Body agenda templates are department specific. These Microsoft Word templates can be found in the department specific files.

NOTE: When creating a new template, refer to the instruction sheet for adding text boxes in order to maintain digital ADA compliance.







01 Working Documents. (Not shown to scale) Actual size is 8.5"w x 11"h

Outgoing E-mail Signature

The E-mail signature format should be used by all personnel in order to maintain consistency for all outgoing communication. Employees are encouraged not to "personalize" their signatures, but maintain the format shown.

01 To ensure that the relative size and position of the emblem and wordmark remains consistent, a lockup is available.

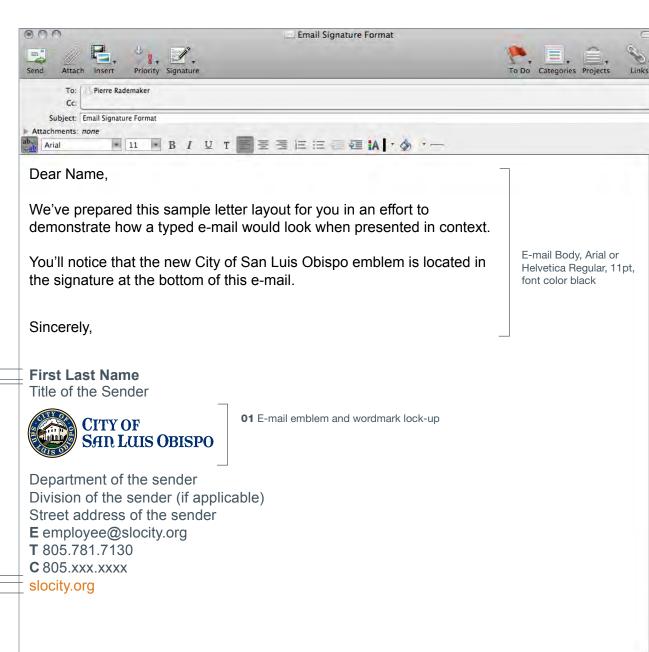
Download master file here

How to create a customize signature

Name, Arial Bold, 11pt, font color (R69 G85 B96)

Title, Address and Contact Information, Arial Regular, 11pt, font color (R69 G85 B96)

City Web Address, Arial Regular, 11pt, font color (R222 G121 B28)



PowerPoint Presentations

PowerPoint templates have been prepared to help ensure visual consistency and can be used for internal and external presentations.

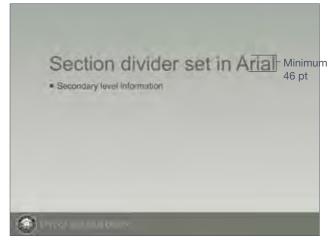
If using images, the style and content of photographs should reflect the diverse work of the City and be vibrant, inspirational and engaging. Only use images that are relevant and add value.

01 A few sample branded page layout options.

Download template files here









01 This template includes several more page layout options. It can be altered or changed to adapt to your presentation needs. Be sure your presentation includes the Emblem, branded fonts, colors, and photography

Web Design Guidelines

First Impression

Proper Use of Colors: Avoid a chaotic mix of colors, instead pick two to four colors from the City's color palette (section 2.7).

Animations, Gadgets, and Media:

Avoid anything unnecessary. In most cases, it's best not to use animated backgrounds or background music.

Layout: Create a clear navigation structure, and organize page elements in a grid fashion. Use of white space is strongly encouraged. Avoid clutter!

Typography: Use font sizes, and font colors that are easy to read. It is almost always best to have white or very light background with black or dark text. Only use approved fonts (section 2.8).

Maintain Consistency

It's best to keep elements on the site fairly consistent from page to page. Elements include the City Emblem, colors, sizes, layout, and placement of those elements. The site needs to have a good flow from page to page. This means colors are primarily the same as well as fonts and layout structure. Navigation should remain in the same location throughout.

Use the Right Images

Image style should have high emotional appeal, be very light in tone, and the settings should be bright. People should look like they're enjoying themselves. Choose candid shots over obviously stages shots. Try to avoid shots with people looking directly into the camera. Try to avoid stock photography.

City employees should appear dependable, friendly, competent, and helpful.

Citizens should look happy.

Create a Solid Navigation System

Keep the structure of the primary navigation simple and near the top of the page.

Include navigation in the footer of each page.

Use breadcrumbs on every page (except for the home page) so people are aware of their navigation trail.

Include a search box near the top of the site so visitors can search by keywords.

Don't offer too many navigation options on a page.

Don't dig too deep. In most cases, it's best to limit navigation to no more than three levels deep.

Include links within your page copy, and make it clear where those links lead. Avoid use of complicated JavaScript — especially Flash — for the navigation. Many mobile phones can't recognize Flash (yet), thus, they won't be able to navigate your website. Same applies to web browsers that don't have an updated version of Flash installed.

Limit Flash and Animation

If animation is required, consider using HTML5, it's a great browser-compliant alternative to Flash.

Make it Accessible

Make sure that anyone visiting the website can view it no matter what browser or application they're using. In order to gain significant traffic the site needs to be compatible with multiple browsers and devices.