

Strand Alcove Bench Program

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The City intends to increase the public's enjoyment and civic pride through the addition of functional, yet artistic Bench/Alcove areas along the Strand. Forty-four alcoves, each containing an area for seating, have been created adjacent to the Strand. Rather than continuing to maintain the standard benches, there is a desire to make these Bench/Alcoves an artistically pleasing and restful place to enjoy the beach and surrounding area. Responding to the public's need for a more streamlined and efficient process by which a donated bench could be procured and installed on the Manhattan Beach Strand, the Strand Alcove Bench Program has been updated.

GOALS

To create a Strand Bench Alcove Program Policy that will:

- a. Promote the arts while streamlining the donation process.
- b. Follow a design/aesthetic palette that expresses a theme relating to the City of Manhattan Beach.
- c. Fit the criteria of the Public Art Master Plan

SELECTION PROCESS

Every two years, the Cultural Arts Commission shall solicit proposals for additional benches to be included in the City of Manhattan Beach Strand Alcove Bench Program Catalog. Current bench designs will be reviewed and considered for ongoing inclusion in the catalog. The benches will be reviewed and selected by the Cultural Arts Commission with recommendations to the City Council for approval. Criteria will include artistic merit, public safety and appropriateness of the artwork and materials used. A maximum of five benches will ultimately be included in the catalog at any given time.

SCHEDULE AND ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to anyone who can complete the requirements as specified, including the designing, fabrication and delivery of the artwork. Bench design projects are intended to be functional and comfortable as seating but artistic in nature. No designs that include advertising, soliciting, campaigning or other promotional or commercially driven entries are eligible. There are two possible

All Designer proposals are due in August of any given year (specific dates to be determined) by 4:00 PM.

All individual bench proposals must be submitted in February or July of any given year to the Cultural Arts Commission, which meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Individual bench proposals are subject to the same requirements as the designer bench proposals.

SCOPE OF WORK

The benches will be chosen from design models/proposals responding to a Call for Designers. The Cultural Arts Commission will review and recommend a short-list of selected designs from the proposals submitted. These recommendations will be forwarded the City Council for final review and approval. A maximum of five designs are presented to the public in any given year. If a new design(s) are chosen it must replace an existing one.

The approved Designers will agree to be responsible for all design, client agreements, fabrication, and delivery of the benches to the City Yard for final installation at the location by City staff. Ownership rights will be transferred to the City of Manhattan Beach prior to installation.

Designers must comply with governing City of Manhattan Beach rules, regulations and guidelines for construction, American's Disabilities Act compliance, and the aesthetic profile outlined by the Cultural Arts Commission. (available upon request)

Designers are encouraged to be creative in their selection of materials while considering safety requirements common to publicly accessible works of art as well as the harsh micro-climate of the beachside Strand. Views to and from the ocean, material selection and aesthetics will be carefully assessed for applicability in the public space. Benches must withstand extensive public use and a harsh marine environment and are intended to be permanent Public Art installations that function primarily as seating.

Designers who have submitted a proposal agree that the City of Manhattan Beach may display models and reproductions/images for non-commercial, educational, and promotional purpose with credit given to the Designer. The City will affix a plaque by each bench showing the Designer's name and title of the bench along with the donor's name. City will provide insurance for the piece for the length of the installation.

SUBMITTING A BENCH PROPOSAL

Designer applicants are requested to create a 3D model (1" = 1 foot) and sketches of their proposed Benches and attach them to a 30-inch width by 40-inch height ½" thick foam core board. Minimum submission requirements include:

- a. plan view
- b. elevation views (north, south, east and west)
- c. section views showing profile and shape of benches
- d. construction details showing materials and all fastening devices
- e. detailed dimensioned drawings representing compliance with American Disability Act (ADA) requirements for clearances and seating

f. perspective renderings that convey the project design, color, texture, context, materials and scale relative to a human figure

A descriptive label must be attached to the mounting board of the submitted Bench design with a short narrative outlining the concept, showing overall dimensions and proposed materials. Each drawing on the front side of the board must be labeled. Contact information, including name, address, phone number and email address must be securely taped to the backside of the board.

REQUIREMENTS

A Bench proposal can be any shape, form or design. The City engineers will review each design for safety and wind loading and will recommend modifications, if necessary. A full scale mock up or identification and location of an existing example of the bench proposal for the purpose of testing ergonomics is required.

SUBMITTALS

Incomplete submittals will not be considered. Please submit the following items:

- a. Properly labeled 3D scale model, photographs and/or sketches
- b. A separate single sheet containing: Name, address, phone number, and email
- c. Description of the design concept, dimensions, materials & value/cost to purchase

FABRICATION, DONORS, AND INSTALLATION

BENCH DONORS

When a donor solicits the City of Manhattan Beach with an interest in donating a Bench, a mandatory meeting with the Cultural Arts Manager or a Parks and Recreation Department representative is required. The donor will select a bench design. The donor will be connected with the artist/designer and develop an agreement to purchase and produce a bench. The agreement with the donor/client must include a deposit to hold the agreed upon location and should include a client/ donor letter of agreement (copy to Cultural Arts office) and a timeline for completion and delivery of the bench.(All financial and production agreements are between the designer/fabricator and the donor/ client). The bench becomes the property of the City of Manhattan Beach, by way of a Public Art donation agreement and a donor gift letter. No reservation will be made without a designer-donor agreement (copy to the City) and a deposit with the designer/fabricator. The donation is irrevocable for twenty years, or at a time when the bench is designated to be in need of replacement due to damage or other conditions. Method of removal and replacement shall follow the guidelines as noted in the City of Manhattan Beach Art Deaccessioning Policy.

ARTIST AND DONOR RECOGNITION PLAQUE

Recognition of the artist and donor for each Bench/Alcove area may be placed in a discreet location. The style guide for plaques must be followed and approved by Cultural Arts staff. The plaque will be ordered by the City of Manhattan Beach through the Cultural Arts Division.

Wording is as follows:

Option 1

- Donated by _____ Artist _____

Option 2

- Donated by _____ for _____ Artist _____

Option 3

- Donated by Friends and Family for _____ Artist _____

ALCOVES

Each artist designed alcove/bench will be treated as a whole unit. The alcove dimensions are approximately 5' x 15' in size; the concrete curb, surrounding the alcove, is 10" high, there is no access to water or electricity.

FINAL INSTALLATION

The completed bench will be prominently displayed at the reserved and designated location on the Strand. A plaque acknowledging the donor and artist will be mounted at the location.