

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Bench Enhancement Project for Downtown Olympia

Contact: David Rauh - 360-943-9937 / downtownbench@mixx96.com

Deadline for applications: 5:00 pm, April 25, 2008. (Address below.)

The PBIA (Parking & Business Improvement Area) invites area artists to submit designs to artistically enhance existing seating benches in downtown Olympia.

Up to five artists will be selected to enhance 1 bench each.

Why?

- To create added artistic interest to the streetscape of downtown Olympia.
- To engage the local arts community in a downtown project.
- To create a more inviting, welcoming atmosphere.

Artist Honorarium

Each selected artist will receive an honorarium of \$1000 plus up to \$500 for materials.

Selection Process and Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of three PBIA members and two other members of the community involved in the arts and downtown. Deliberation will be based on the following criteria:

- Artistic merit and creativity
- Originality of design
- Quality of work presented in slides
- Demonstrated ability of the artist to produce large scale, outdoor work
- Balance and diversity within the group of selected artists/proposals
- Compliance to guidelines and submission requirements

Application Materials

To apply, each artist must submit the following materials:

- Application Form
- Cover letter explaining interest in the project and inspiration for the design
- Bench Proposal Form
- Current resume
- Five slides or digital images of current work: Digital images must be in JPEG format, no larger than 1 MB each, and on a CD, labeled with the artist's name and contact information. Images should be titled to correspond with the work sample description and **should not** be embedded in a Power Point or other program.
- Work sample description to include artist's name, title of work, media and dimensions and

- date.
- Self-addressed, stamped envelope to return slides and proposal
(See Application Form for details)

Bench Locations

The benches will be installed in June of 2008 and could remain on display up to a year or more. The artist may suggest a preferred location (from the list below) with the understanding that the PBIA will make the final determination of the location for each bench design. The PBIA will provide cost and labor for installation. Pending the condition of each bench over time, the PBIA reserves the right to have benches removed from public view and hold another competition to allow other artists to repaint them.

A list of current bench locations is at the end of this document.

Artist Guidelines

- The artist must create a color design proposal using the shape and format provided (see Bench Proposal Form). The design must take into account the slats of the benches.
- Designs must be original.
- Artists may propose any 2-dimensional medium to enhance the bench, provided that it is compatible with the clear coat/UV Varnish selected by the PBIA.
- Artists are responsible for prepping benches – could include sanding and priming, depending on the artist's intent for the finished work.
- The bench design should be designed with workmanship and materials that are able to withstand weather, potential vandalism and regular cleaning.
- The bench must still be fully functional (as seating for pedestrians) after it is decorated/enhanced and finished.
- Designs that include overt political, religious, sexual messages, advertising or logos will not be accepted.
- Your workspace must be large enough to accommodate the bench.
- You must be able to meet the deadlines as outlined in the schedule.

Transportation Requirements – artist must be able to:

- Transport the bench from downtown Olympia to your personal work space.
- Transport finished piece to independent contractor for clear coat/UV varnish.
- Transport completed work to downtown Olympia for installation.

Material and Media Options

- The selected artists shall choose and purchase all art materials necessary to execute their design. When preparing your proposal, please keep in mind that the PBIA will pay up to \$500 for material costs.
- The artist must make every effort to guarantee that the materials will withstand normal wear and tear and continuous exposure to outdoor elements, including people sitting on the bench.
- Application of a clear coat/UV varnish to the final piece will be required in order to protect the work and make it suitable for use by the public.

All selected designs and the commissioned benches will become the property of the PBIA/City of Olympia. The PBIA will have the right to graphically reproduce the work through print or electronic media for educational, promotional, marketing collateral or advertising purposes. Designs that are not selected will be returned to the submitting artist.

The PBIA will make every effort to provide maintenance and repair during the display period. The PBIA has the right to modify, repair, paint over or remove a bench at any time due to excess damage, maintenance or public safety concerns. The PBIA may contract with the artist or others for repairs or restoration during the display period at its discretion.

Due to the nature of temporary display, the PBIA will not be liable for any distortion, mutilation, modification or destruction of the benches.

Pending the condition of each bench, the PBIA will have the right to extend the display period, or relocate the work.

Sponsored by:

The PBIA (Parking & Business Improvement Area) Advisory Committee

For More Information:

David Rauh, PBIA: 360-943-9937 (x107) or downtownbench@mixx96.com.

Copies of this document and application forms, etc. are available at www.olympiapbia.org (click on the link for **Downtown Bench Project**)

Timeline may be subject to change. The PBIA reserves the right to choose any or all of the applicants, or none of the applicants, and may extend the deadline for applications if they choose.

Submit applications to:

PBIA Bench Project
c/o David Rauh
KXXO
PO Box 7937
Olympia, WA 98507

List of downtown bench locations (approx. 15 benches).
NOTE: Locations may have changed, this is for guideline purposes ONLY.

Washington Center-2

Starbucks-1

Tasty Morsels-1

601 Capitol Bldg/ corner-1

Tea Lady-1

Capitol Theater-1

Capitol Playhouse-2

Last Word Books-1

Quality Burrito (Old Chinatown Rest)-1

Bank of America-1

Heritage Bank-1

Danger Room Comics-1

City Parking lot/ 4th&Columbia-1