

MONTGOMERY



PUBLIC ART

The Montgomery
Book Bench Project
Call for Proposals

Call for Proposals

The City of Montgomery Public Art Commission in collaboration with the Montgomery Public Libraries, Montgomery City Council, and the Montgomery County Commission seeks artists (or artist teams) to design and paint twelve benches. The Commission is inviting artists from different areas of the City of Montgomery and Montgomery County to paint and embellish fiberglass benches (Book Benches) in the shape of open books, drawing on themes and inspiration for their designs from a pre-chosen list of beloved children and young adult books. Book Benches will be placed throughout the City and County of Montgomery for permanent use at local libraries, community centers, and elementary schools. This project intends to encourage reading, provide a place for people to rest, and to instill in the community an understanding and appreciation of public art.

The artists chosen for this project will serve as independent contractors of the City of Montgomery through the Public Art Commission.

The City of Montgomery Public Art Commission shall retain ownership of the bench and the design, including, but not limited to, reproduction rights, physical maintenance, and lifespan. In all uses of the bench, the creative product will be credited to the artist.

All terms and conditions will be laid out in a contract to be signed by the artist upon selection of the artist.

Project Goals

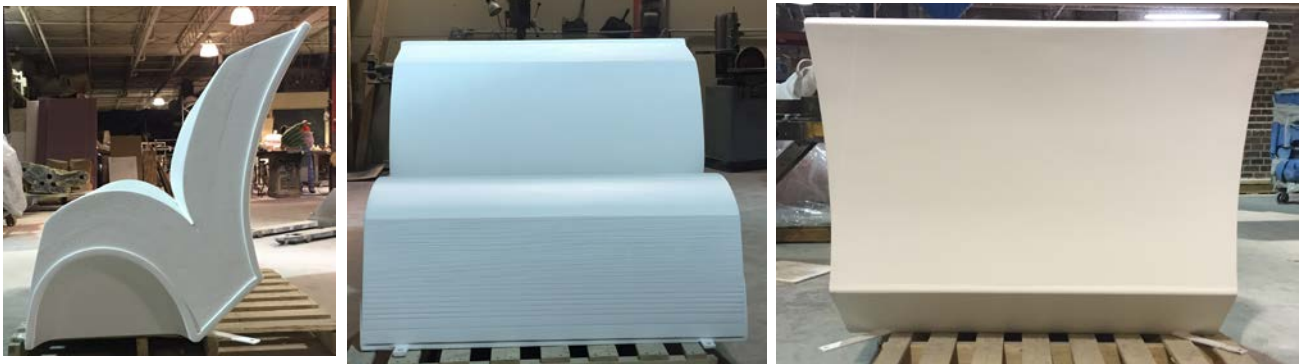
- To commission artists (or artist teams) to design and paint twelve benches; and
- To enhance Montgomery with an immersive art experience that can be enjoyed from many areas of the city and county.



Example bench designed by Marianne Lisson Kuhn in Naperville, IL

Project Description

- The design should:
 - Be original ideas directly from the artist; and
 - Be transformative in nature, no direct copies of covers or illustrated scenes pulled directly from the book.
- Each design should cover the entire bench, front and sides; the back is to be a solid color with no designs.
 - The bench is 48” wide, 38” tall, and 38” deep, and weighs approximately 110 lbs
 - A vinyl application will be applied to the bench in the lower right hand corner, approximately 6 inches x 6 inches and it will include artist name, title of artwork, and the Public Art Commission Logo in black ink.



- Any additional revisions that are requested for the design must be submitted **within five (5) days of contract execution.**

Project Timeline

RFP Published	March 18, 2019
RFP Addendum	April 15, 2019 (if needed)
Deadline for Submissions	May 17, 2019, 4:00 p.m. (CDT)
Notification of Finalist(s)	On or before May 31st, 2019
Pick up benches	June 24 th - June 28 th , 2019
Drop off completed benches	July 8 th – July 12 th , 2019

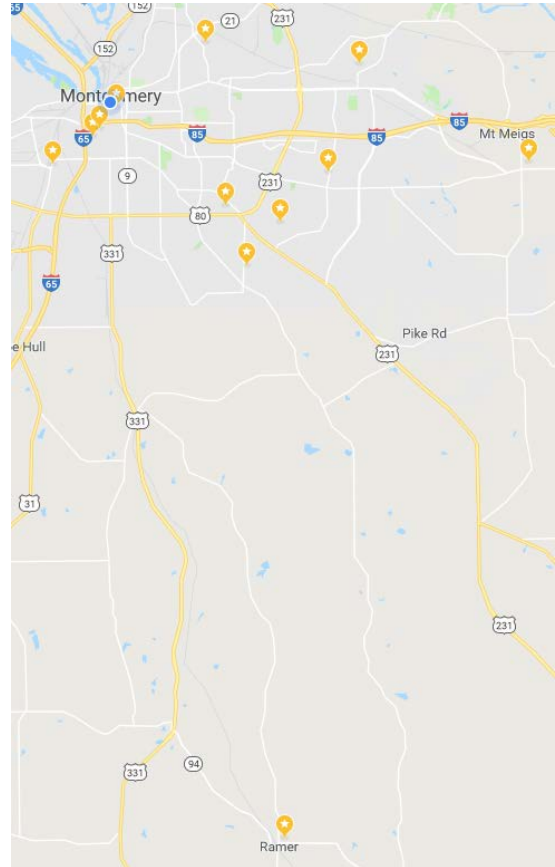
The Commission reserves the right to change project timeline as necessary.



Books About Town, London, UK

Artist Eligibility

- This project is open to all artists, including students.
- Call is open to artists nationwide; however, preference will be given to artists living, working, and/or studying within any of the participating City Council/County Commission Districts:
 - City District 1, Councilman Richard Bollinger, Garrett Elementary School
 - City District 3, Councilman Tracy Larkin, Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library
 - City District 4, Councilwoman Audrey Graham, Rufus A. Lewis Library
 - City District 5, Councilman William Green, Jr., Governor's Square Library
 - City District 6, Councilman Fred Bell, Fitzpatrick Elementary
 - City District 7, Councilman Arch Lee, Bertha Williams Library
 - City District 8, Councilman Glen Pruitt, Brewbaker Community Center
 - City District 9, Charles Jinright, E. L. Lowder Library
 - County District 3, Commissioner Ronda Walker, Coliseum Branch Library
 - County District 4, Commissioner Isaiah Sankey, E.D. Nixon Elementary School
 - County District 5, Commissioner Doug Singleton, Pike Road Branch Library and Ramer Branch Library
- Experience with public art is preferred, but not required.
 - **Students currently studying art in high school and/or secondary education institutions are highly encouraged to submit proposals.**
- Artists must be willing to meet all contractual obligations and adhere to the project timeline.



Compensation

- The Public Art Commission will compensate artist/artist team in the amount of \$1,000.00 per design. Each design compensation be made in two payments of \$500.00, one at contract execution and one upon final design approval pending necessary adjustments. Invoices are required for payment.

Artist(s) Responsibilities

The selected artist(s) shall be responsible for the following:

- Arranging to pick up the benches from and return benches to Bo Pittman's studio located in Elmore, Alabama. Benches are approximately 110 lbs. and will fit in the back of a pickup truck.
- Benches will be prepped and primed when picked up, and once the artist has completed the design and returned it to Bo Pittman, it will be clear coated.
- Providing their own painting supplies; please see the **Attachment A** for paint recommendations.
- If a design changes radically from the initial proposal, a new design specification must be submitted. If the design changes radically and no new specs are submitted, the artists will not receive the balance of the contract and will be expected to return the initial good-faith installment.

Submission Requirements

1. Proposals must be submitted to the Public Art Commission no later than 4:00 p.m. (CDT) on **May 17th, 2019**
2. Submissions must be made through the Public Art Commission's website
www.mgmpublicart.com
3. Submissions must include:
 - 3.1. Title of Book with brief description of imagery meaning/concept
 - 3.2. PDF File of Design
 - 3.2.1. The bench sketches provided show three angles: front and both sides. Indicate your intended illustration on all three surfaces on three separate sheets. You may submit designs for up to five different books. Identify each submission with your name as well as the title and author of your book choice.
 - 3.2.2. Front and side bench sketches are provided in **Attachment C**.
 - 3.3. A title of the design and a brief description of the art piece. This will be used during the review of the submission, and if chosen will be used public relations/media announcements regarding the project.
 - 3.4. Resume including contact information for at least three (3) professional or teacher references.
 - 3.5. Three (3) Examples of Previous Work, either professional or school related.
 - 3.5.1. Clearly identify each photograph with your name and medium used in the work.

Selection Criteria

- Clarity of design
 - Clearly depicts book choice
 - Originality
- Vibrancy of color choices
- Design must reflect a book that is on the approved list; for a list of books please see **Attachment B**
- Only one selection of any particular book title will be chosen for execution.

Selection Process

A group of the following will review all eligible proposals to select finalists for each bench:

- Montgomery Public Art Commission
- Local Librarians
- MABCA Representative

Final decision of the design will be approved by the City Council member or County Commissioner of the district in which the bench will be placed.

Adjustments to Design Concept

Any artist submitting proposals should be aware that the Public Art Commission reserves the right to require changes to the design to ensure appropriateness for all audiences. Any additional revisions that are requested by the artist must be submitted within five (5) days of contract execution.

IMPORTANT Information

- Selected Artist(s) will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement to prevent sharing of the winning design before it is unveiled. This includes, but is not limited to, social media and personal portfolios, etc. Once the benches have been unveiled, artists are welcomed to share their designs in their portfolio and/or social media accounts.

Contact for Questions or Additional Information

Ashley Ledbetter, Chair, Public Art Commission
Mabca2@yahoo.com or 334-263-2224

Adena Kramer, Department of Development
akramer@montgomeryal.gov or 334-625-3730



Naperville, IL



*Lexington Book Bench Project,
Lexington, KY*

About the Public Art Commission

The Public Art Commission was established by City Council Resolution No. 140-2013 to coordinate activities dedicated to the placement of art in public places and to the promotion of public art to enhance the vibrancy of the city and quality of life of its citizens.

The commission's primary goal is to have a systematic, but flexible, approach for

- identifying suitable locations for the placement of public art;
- evaluating the aesthetic value of work proposed for placement in public places; and
- making informed decisions about the future needs for care and maintenance before art objects are placed on properties owned by the city or in partnership with private property owners.

Working with private developers, property owners, museums, universities and other organizations the Public Art Commission is able to provide assistance in locating artists for specific projects that, although on private property, are open to the public for viewing and enjoyment.



The BookBench Project, Birmingham, UK

City of Montgomery Public Art Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or selection of artists.

