



## Request for Qualifications Jackson Hole Community Pathways Bench Design

**Summary:** Jackson Hole Community Pathways (JHCP) seeks a local artist/team to design, develop, and prototype a unique bench for installation along the Town of Jackson/Teton County Pathways system. The Pathways Bench should reflect the rural character of Teton County (in both the material selection and artistic design), require minimal or low maintenance, be constructed of durable materials, and be designed to be age-friendly, cost effective, and context-sensitive.



**Budget:** Artist Design Fees: \$3,000  
Prototype stipend for (1-2 benches): \$4,000  
*The final bench should cost a maximum of \$2,000.*

**Proposal Deadline:** E-mail completed applications as a single, multipage PDF document to: [carrie@jhpublicart.org](mailto:carrie@jhpublicart.org) no later than April 29, 2017

**Contact:** **Carrie Geraci**, Public Art Coordinator, 307-413-1474, [carrie@jhpublicart.org](mailto:carrie@jhpublicart.org)  
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*Figure 1 - Town Bench*

## **Project Description**

Jackson Hole Community Pathways (JHCP) seeks a local artist/team to design, develop, and prototype a unique bench for installation along the Town of Jackson/Teton County Pathways system. The Pathways Bench should reflect the rural character of Teton County (in both the material selection and artistic design), require minimal or low maintenance, be constructed of durable materials, and be

designed to be age-friendly, cost effective, and context-sensitive. Jackson Hole Public Art will assist the artist/team in conducting community engagement, managing the review process, contracting, design development, and fabrication.

## **Overview History**

Jackson Hole Community Pathways is a jointly funded program of the Town of Jackson and Teton County. The award winning Pathways system has grown since 1995 to include more than 45 miles of separated, paved pathways for non-motorized transportation and recreation.

In 2016, Jackson Hole Public Art worked with a team of local artists and designers to develop a suite of street furniture including the Town Bench (see Figure 1 above), trash receptacles, tree grates, and bike racks. Custom functional furniture adds character to public spaces, distinguishes our pathway system from other systems, and enhances the user experience and makes the Pathways system more enjoyable for all.

## **Artist/Team Selection Process**

The Pathways Task Force will review qualifications based on the criteria defined in this document and select one local artist or design team to design, refine, and prototype the bench.

## **Artist/Team Selection Criteria**

Artist/teams should have experience in product design, creating detailed fabrication specifications for production, integrating feedback into design, and knowledge of the Pathways system and its users. The artist/teams will be reviewed based on:

- Artistic merit, originality, and creativity as evidenced by prior design work
- Demonstrated experience to fulfill the requirements of this project and the ability to undertake the design and prototyping of the bench within the timeline
- Appropriateness of materials, style, scale, and concepts in relation to the rural

- nature of the County Pathways system
- Meeting design criteria outlined in this RFQ
- Responsiveness expressed in the Letter of Interest

### **Design Review Process**

The bench design will be reviewed by the Pathways Task Force, Public Art Task Force, and if necessary the Planning Commission.

The design review will follow this process:

- Develop and present concept design to the Pathways Task Force and Public Art Task Force
- Present refined designs to the public and if necessary, the Planning Commission
- Integrate comments solicited from community groups into final design
- Present construction/fabrication drawings for final approval
- Prototype the bench
- Revise final construction drawings and create final bench design

### **Bench Specifications**

(Adapted from the Project for Public Spaces Outdoor Seating Design Guidelines)

Information should be used as guidelines in developing a bench design. Proposals are not required to adhere strictly to the guidelines, but should recognize the intent of creating an age-friendly, context-sensitive, easily maintained bench for the Pathways system.

The bench shall include the following Basic Features:

- Seating for 3 people minimum (6' wide)
- Backrest
- Armrests
- Durable materials and sturdy design

#### **The Seat**

- The length of the seat shall provide space for at least 3 people and should allow for twenty-four inches per person. However, people will sit closer to each other if there is an armrest separating them.
- The depth of the seat should be 12 to 18 inches for benches with backs.
- A seat height of 18 inches is generally the most comfortable, however seniors prefer slightly higher seat heights.
- To be comfortable, there should be a 95-105 degree angle between the seat and the back, and the seat should be between 2 and 10 degrees off of horizontal.
- The front edge of the seat should be curved rather than squared off.

- The most comfortable seating surface is wood, which is resilient and does not readily conduct heat or cold.
- Small bench slats (2 inches) spaced closely together and following a contoured form are generally more comfortable than larger slats (8 inches). However, in areas where vandalism is a factor a larger size (e.g., 3 inches x 8 inches) should be used.

#### The Back

- Seatbacks that slope back slightly and have a slight curve are the most comfortable.
- The height of the backrest should be 20 inches minimum to provide support for people's backs and shoulders.

#### The Legs

- The legs should not extend out past the seat, otherwise people may trip on them. If a large, solid leg is used, a kickspace (3 inches minimum) under the seat is needed.
- The bench may be designed to be freestanding or to be mounted on a concrete pad, pavers, or wooden platform. Mounting in gravel would also be considered.

#### Armrests

- Armrests are useful both to help people to get out of the seat, and to divide a bench so that more people can fit along it. Segmenting the bench into sections through the use of armrests can provide a sense of privacy among groups as well as encourage people to sit closer together. The edge of the armrest should extend out to the edge of the seat, and it should have a firm, rounded gripping surface.

### **Digital Proposal Requirements**

Please submit the following, compiled into a single PDF document.

Letter of Interest: The letter should articulate your interest in this project in particular. Artists wishing to create a site-specific piece should state that preference in their letter. In doing so, the artist should describe how his/her work, process, and experience as it relates to this project. Please limit the letter to 500 words or less, no more than one page.

Resume: A two-page (maximum) current, professional resume of project lead.

Images of Similar Projects: Please provide 5-7 images of existing work that represents similar projects. Do not submit concept rendering, only projects you have designed and produced. One image per page. Each page should include: image, dimensions, and media.

For best results, images should be sized to 1920 pixels maximum on the longest size, 72 dpi, and with compression settings resulting in the best image quality where the file size remains under 2MB.

## **Budget**

Artist Design Fees	\$ 3,000
Prototype (1-2 benches)	\$ 4,000

*The final bench should cost a maximum of \$2,000.*

## **Proposal Deadline**

E-mail completed applications as a single, multipage PDF document to: [carrie@jhpublicart.org](mailto:carrie@jhpublicart.org) no later than April 29, 2017 at 5:00 pm MST. Materials received after this time will be automatically disqualified.

## **Project Timeline**

April: issue RFQ

May: Identify artist

June – July: design and community outreach finalize design and prototype

August - September: fabricate final bench design

## **Contract Requirements**

The selected artist/team will enter into a design development agreement with JHCP to prepare detailed construction drawings to produce and prototype a bench. The contract will specify the following requirements:

- Revisions to the concept design based on input, from various entities including but not limited to the Pathways Task Force, Planning Commission, public etc.
- Revisions to create a cost effective design that meets the specifications listed in this RFQ at a price point agreed to by JHCP.
- Soliciting community feedback and attending design review meetings.
- Preparing detailed construction drawings sufficient for a fabricator to produce the bench and making revisions to the bench design and construction drawings based on input to the prototype.

JHCP will own the bench design and will be able to order as many of the benches as they need for the Pathways system. JHCP will acknowledge the artist with a nameplate on each bench. The bench design will not be produced anywhere else unless explicit permission is granted by both the artist and JHCP.