



*Bound for Books
A Public Art Project Featuring Book Benches*

Danville, California
Summer 2023

Call For Proposals

Images courtesy of Fayette, KY & Naperville, IL



Call for Proposals

The Town of Danville, in collaboration with the Danville Public Library and Rakestraw Books, seeks artists (or artist teams) to design and paint ten original book benches. The Town of Danville is inviting artists who reside in one of the nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties to paint and embellish fiberglass benches (Book Benches) in the shape of open books, drawing on themes and inspiration for their designs from beloved children's books and/or adult classics. Book Benches will be placed throughout the Downtown Danville area and at the Danville Library. 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 Town of Danville. The Town of Danville shall retain ownership of the benches and the designs, 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.

Project Goals

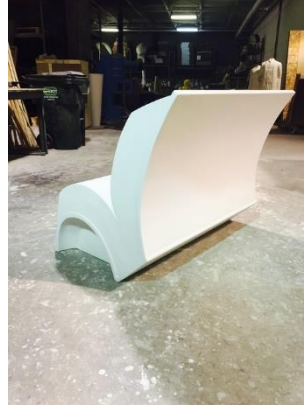
- To commission artists (or artist teams) to design and paint ten artistic book benches; and
- To enhance Downtown Danville with an immersive art experience that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors to the Town of Danville

Project Description

The design should:

- Be original ideas directly from the artist; and
- Be transformative in nature, no direct copies of a book cover, nor illustrated scenes pulled directly from a book.
- Each design should cover the entire bench, front and sides and back.
- The bench is 48 inches wide, 38 inches tall, and 38 inches deep, and weighs approximately 110 pounds. Artist must be able to physically handle moving the bench or have an assistant who can.
- A vinyl placard will be applied to the bench in the lower right-hand corner, approximately 6 inches x 6 inches and it will include artist name, sponsor, and the Town's Logo in black ink.





Artist Eligibility

- This project is open to all artists, including students.
- Artists must reside in one of the nine SF Bay Area Counties and;
- Be able to transport the Book Bench to their own art studio where the Book Bench will be painted and return it to the Town of Danville by the determined due date.
- Experience with public art is preferred.
- Students currently studying art in high school and/or secondary education institutions are welcome to submit proposals.
- Artists must be willing to meet all contractual obligations and adhere to the project timeline.
- Artists must agree to supply their own materials and paints for the project.
- The Town of Danville will provide a kit of clear graffiti varnish to the Artist that the Artist will apply to the final layer of the [dried] artwork to protect the Book Bench from the elements and from the risk of potential graffiti.

Artist(s) Responsibilities

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

- Arranging to pick up the benches from and return them to the Village Theatre Art Gallery at 233 Front Street Danville, CA . Benches are approximately 110 lbs. and will fit in the back of a pickup truck or moving van.
- Benches will be prepped and primed when picked up.
- Artists provide their own painting supplies
- Paint recommendations: Please see Attachment A
- Design changes cannot be changed from the initial proposal, if the Artist wishes to make changes, a new design specification must be submitted and approved. 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.

Compensation

- The Town of Danville will compensate artist/artist team in the amount of \$1,000.00 per design. Compensation will be paid upon completion of project with an invoice and W9 submitted to the Visual Arts Coordinator. Invoices and W9 forms are required for payment.

Submission Requirements

1. Proposals must be submitted to the Town of Danville no later than 11:00 p.m. (PST) on January 23, 2023
2. Submissions must be made through the **Call For Entry Website** <https://www.callforentry.org/>
3. *Submissions may not be exact replicas of existing books.* They must be original designs and 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 four angles: front, back and both sides (indicate if both sides are the same or different designs). Indicate your intended illustration on all four surfaces on four separate sheets. You may submit designs for up to three different book designs. 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 B.
 - 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

Project Timeline

- RFP Published December 15, 2022
 - Deadline for Submissions January 23, 2023, 11:00 p.m. (PST)
 - Notification of Finalist(s) On or before February 7, 2023
 - Pick up benches from the Village Theatre Art Gallery (Town of Danville) April 10-April 13, 2023
 - Drop off completed benches June 5-7, 2023
 - Opening Reception for Book Benches on Friday, June 9, 2023 at the Village Theatre Art Gallery and the Town Green (at the Danville Library and Community Center)
- *The Town of Danville reserves the right to change project timeline as necessary.*

Selection Criteria

- Clarity of design that clearly depicts book choice
- Originality of design concept
- Vibrancy of color choices
- Design must reflect a book imagery that is appropriate for all audiences
- Only one selection of any particular book title will be chosen for execution

Selection Process

An Art selection committee comprised of the following will review all eligible proposals to select finalists for each bench: Arts Staff at the Town of Danville, Arts Advisory Board for the Town of Danville, Danville Librarians and Staff of Rakestraw Books. Any artist submitting proposals should be aware that the Town of Danville reserves the right to require changes to the design to ensure appropriateness for all audiences.

Contact for Questions or Additional Information

Marija Nelson Bleier, Visual Arts Coordinator for the Town of Danville
mnelsonbleier@danville.ca.gov or 925.314.3460

The Town of Danville does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or selection of artists.



Attachment A

Resources for Artists:

Artists are encouraged to view websites that provide information about similar projects that have taken place in other communities. The Book Benches are fabricated by Chicago Fiberglass Works in Chicago, IL. And they may have helpful tips. Another fiberglass sculpture fabricator that has a website that lists helpful tips for painting fiberglass surfaces is www.cowpaintersofchicago.com they provide prep and painting tips.

Please read all of this information on how to proceed with painting your Book Bench. The success of the entire process depends upon an artist's knowledge of materials and proper application. If in doubt, experiment first in a small area and/or consult the website for tips and/or call the Visual Arts Coordinator for the Town of Danville.

Preparation: Wash the surface off (it will already be primed) and look it over carefully to see if there are any defects, etc. that need to be fixed before proceeding. Please contact the Visual Arts Coordinator if you notice any imperfections so that you may discuss together how to proceed.

Recommended Paint:

Acrylics by Golden, Windsor-Newton, Daler-Rowney, Pebeo, Lascaux, Liquitex and other professional-grade paint. Read your paint labels carefully and avoid paints that do not have high colorfast rating. You don't want your design to disappear in the sun.

Protect your Artwork:

After the painted design on your bench has dried, and before the form leaves your studio, protect your work by varnishing with the graffiti varnish that the Town of Danville will provide to you upon pickup of the Book Bench. Allow the bench to fully dry before applying this clear coat of varnish and allow 2 days for the varnish to fully dry before transporting back to the Town of Danville.

Attachment B

