



PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMO

Meeting Date: 6/16/2025

To: Public Art Advisory Committee

From: Noreen Leek, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: Consideration of an Artfully Designed Bench Program

Recommendation

Consider establishing an artfully designed bench program that combines public seating with site-specific artwork, enhancing both the functional and aesthetic value of public spaces throughout the community. Such a program would provide opportunities for local artists, increase civic engagement, and contribute to a more vibrant and welcoming streetscape.

Background & Discussion

An artfully designed bench program would commission artists to design or collaborate on public benches that serve both utilitarian and artistic purposes. These benches could be installed in parks, on trails, adjacent to public facilities, and in other key public areas. Considerations should be made regarding the following:

1. Program administration, structure & oversight
2. Budget & funding
3. Artist criteria & selection process
4. Materials, durability, and compliance with City codes
5. Location planning, installation, and maintenance

Nationwide, similar programs exist and can be referenced. Attachment 1 includes links to other artful bench programs for reference. Attachment 2 includes a gallery of images to showcase various styles of artfully designed benches. At this time, the Committee should consider the feasibility of this type of program in Brisbane and provide direction to staff on next steps desired.

Attachments

1. Links to existing artful bench programs
2. Samples of artfully designed benches

Noreen Leek, Parks & Recreation Director

Existing Artful Bench Programs

Mill Valley, CA

<https://www.millvalleylibrary.org/802/Art-Benches>

Palm Springs

<https://pspublicarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Art-Benches-for-PSPAC-2.pdf>

Chehalis, WA

<https://experiencechehalis.com/call-for-artists-apply-to-paint-a-downtown-chehalis-bench-2/>

Woodland, TX

<https://www.thewoodlandsartscouncil.org/businesses/woodlandspublicart>

Santa Clara Valley Water

<https://valleywaternews.org/2021/03/17/adopt-a-bench-public-art-project-with-the-youth-commission/>

Chico

<https://chico.ca.us/documents/Community/Arts--Culture/Public-Arts-Program/downtownartbenchbrochure.pdf>

Henderson, NV

<https://www.cityofhenderson.com/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/cultural-arts/army-street-bench-project>

Iowa City, IA

<https://downtowniowacity.com/arts-and-culture/uiccu-benchmarks-public-art-program/>

Claremont, CA

<https://www.cmc.edu/public-art/jeppe-hein>

Samples of Artfully Designed Benches





