

2018 Benches on the Avenue

Call to Artists

We are pleased to announce that the Village of Tinley Park will host the 15th season of Benches on the Avenue. The handcrafted wooden benches will be on display from May to October along Oak Park Avenue in Downtown Tinley. Each bench will be sponsored by a local business or individual who will take possession of the bench.

The Village is currently seeking artists to create unique, kid-and family-friendly designs that will ultimately become bench art. For the 2018 program, the benches will be based on the theme **“Treasured Family Musicals”**. We are looking for exciting, imaginative, three-dimensional, designs depicting some of the most classic musicals of both stage and screen. **Portrayals should be vibrant, colorful and include some degree of 3-D art. Please submit two different designs based on the “Treasured Family Musicals” theme.**

Anyone with imagination and a bit of artistic creativity can be part of *Benches on the Avenue*. All you have to do is fill out the attached form and submit it with your designs for review. Selected artists will receive \$400 for supplies and the chance to win one of several awards based on selection criteria (see page 2). All artists will have their biography and image of their bench posted on the Village of Tinley Park website (www.tinleypark.org). A plaque will be attached to the bench with the artist and sponsor’s names. In addition to the tens of thousands of residents and visitors who will view the benches, the artists and sponsors will be recognized in the *Benches on the Avenue* walking tour brochure which is available throughout the summer. A copy of the brochure is available from the Village Hall or at the Village website.

Guidelines: The artist may paint, sculpt, transform or adorn the bench, but may not compromise its structural integrity and functionality. **The seating area of the bench must remain clear of decoration except for paint in order to retain its usefulness.** The benches will be placed in areas fully accessible to the public. In creating a design, please consider carefully the weather and other elements of nature, including sun, rain, wind and dirt. Designs should be created with durability and public safety in mind. If you are adding height to your bench, please ensure that it is stable and will not tip over. **Although objects may be attached to the benches, they should be very sturdy as vandalism could occur.** Any object added to a bench should be attached in such a way that it cannot be easily removed. Designs that are religious, political or sexual in nature will not be accepted. Additionally, neither corporate logos nor advertising is allowed.

Selection Process: To avoid duplication of ideas, each artist is required to submit **two different designs**. Once the application has been submitted, it will be reviewed to ensure that the designs conform to the standard outlined above. Artists whose designs have been selected will be notified by **February 23rd**. An artist meeting will be held on **February 28, 2018**.

Production of Benches: Artists will create their designs on the six-foot benches in their studios or homes. Artists are responsible for picking up the bench from a Tinley Park location beginning **March 1st** and transporting it back to that location by **May 4th**.

The artist must prime and putty the entire bench before painting. Any raw edges, especially the top edge of the seat back must be finished with an outdoor spackling paste or wood putty and then exterior water based primer. (Suggested primers are Kilz or Zinzer.) Acrylic paint can be used to paint or spray a design on the bench. All surfaces (front, back and sides) of the bench and planters must be decorated. To complete the artwork, each bench must be finished with three (3) coats of varnish. An exterior grade sealer that is non-reactive, not-toxic, UV-resistant and waterproof is strongly recommended. (Polycrylic by Minwax is sold in a satin, semi-gloss and gloss finish.). Remember, this is an outdoor bench, so it must be finished appropriately. The flowerpots should be decorated and remain unattached so they can be transported to their location, filled and then attached. Artists will **not** be responsible for installation or removal of finished benches at the selected locations.

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Prize Categories: Winners are determined by a panel of judges. A minimum of two benches must qualify per category in order for a prize to be awarded. Categories are subject to change based on submissions received.

- Most Creative
- Best First-Time Participant
- Best Family / Group Project
- Best Use of Materials
- Best Portrayal of Theme
- Best Three-Dimensional Bench
- Judge’s Choice

Rights and Entitlements: By submitting your application, you confirm that:

1. You are the original creator of your design
2. You have not copied anyone else’s original work
3. Your design does not infringe on anyone else’s intellectual property rights
(For example, trademark, copyrights, trade dress or design patent)

What You Need to Do: As soon as you decide on your design, notify jcarroll@tinleypark.org of your choices so that we can avoid duplication of ideas. *Next*, send in one copy of the following: application form, color sketch of each of your two design ideas, an artist bio, the title of each bench and a paragraph about each design. Each sketch submitted should show the **front and back** of the bench on separate sheets of 8.5” x 11” paper. The design should fill the paper and should be in full color exactly as it will appear on the bench. *An application form should be filled out for each of the two sketches.* The paragraph describing the bench and the artist bio should be completed in the space provided, not on a separate sheet of paper. Handwriting needs to be legible. The artist name on the top line should read exactly as you want it to read on the plaque and in the brochure. Sketches must show the design on **all sides of the bench, including the back and flower boxes.**

Entries must be postmarked no later than February 2, 2018 or dropped off at the Tinley Park Village Hall, 16250 S. Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60477. Please restrict all material submitted to no larger than **8.5” x 11”**. All materials submitted as part of the application will become the property of the Benches on the Avenue Committee.

Timeline:

Application Submission Deadline.....	Postmarked or dropped off at Village Hall by February 2, 2018
Artist Notification.....	By February 23, 2018
Meeting with Selected Artists.....	February 28, 2018
Benches Available for Pick-Up.....	March 1, 2018
Deadline for Return of Finished Bench.....	May 4, 2018
Meet the Artists Night / Award Night.....	Date to be determined

Eligibility: *Benches on the Avenue* is open to all artists from the acclaimed to the amateur. The selection committee will choose sketches anonymously. To ensure anonymity, please put your name on the reverse side of your sketch.

Contact: For more information about *Benches on the Avenue* and the design submission process please call (708) 444-5031 or email jcarroll@tinleypark.org. This prospectus may be downloaded from www.tinleypark.org.

Tinley Park - An Illinois Arts Friendly Community

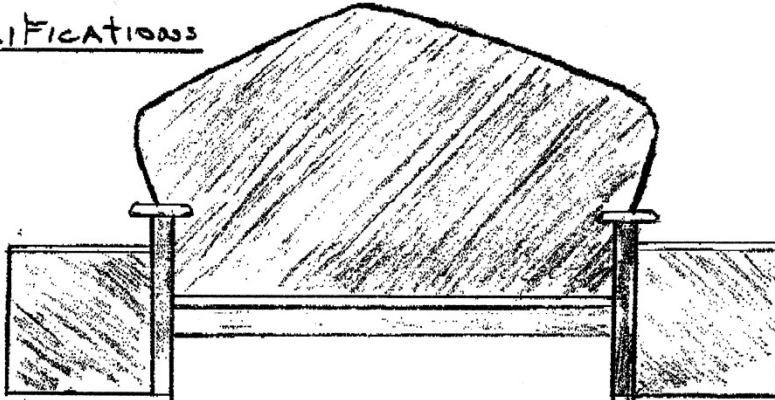


Presented by the Illinois Arts Alliance and the Illinois Municipal League

Sponsored by the Village of Tinley Park MainStreet Commission

BENCHES ON THE AVENUE

SPECIFICATIONS

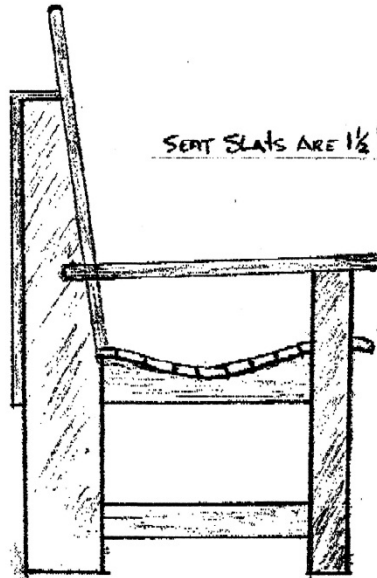


FRONT OF BENCH
72" WIDE

SEAT BACK BOARD 30" X 72"

PLANTERS: 17" X 22" X 24"

OVERALL BENCH HEIGHT 48"



SEAT SLATS ARE 1 1/2" WIDE SMOOTH CEDAR

SEAT HEIGHT 18"

OVERALL BENCH DEPTH 28"

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Application Form

Please type or print legibly.

Deadline: Postmarked or dropped off at Tinley Park Village Hall by February 2, 2018

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Bench Title _____

Paragraph description of bench, including types of materials used _____

Artist Bio _____

Assurances and Terms

By signing this application, I acknowledge that the ***Benches on the Avenue*** Committee are not liable for damage or loss of materials submitted.

Artist Signature _____ Date _____

Application Checklist

- One copy of the application for each design
- One color copy of each of your two proposed designs (8.5 x 11")
- Name on the reverse side of your sketches
- Mail sketches to: **Village of Tinley Park
16250 S. Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477
Attn: Joanne Carroll**

All application materials become the property of the Benches on the Avenue Committee.

Please keep a copy of your application for your records.

The Village of Tinley Park reserves the right to determine the placement of all benches in Downtown Tinley Park.

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