



*Rest Surprise* by Lisa Bade



*Skateboard* by Carol Poppenga, Warden Bourne, and Shane Ruckman

## **Request for Artist Proposals Public Art Bench Project Revised 2010**

The Idaho Falls Historic Downtown Foundation is seeking artists to design, fabricate and deliver “sculptural seating” for the Idaho Falls Snake River Greenbelt. The Snake River Greenbelt is one of Idaho Falls top attractions. Additional public seating, especially when combined with public art, would further enhance its appeal. It is our goal to create an aesthetically pleasing yet functional public art seating project which can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

**Number and Location of Artistic Seats:** We are hoping to fund 20 different sculptural seats. The seats will be installed on the east and west sides of the Snake River Greenbelt with special emphasis on the section between Broadway and the LDS Temple on the east side and between Broadway and John’s Hole Bridge on the west side. Because context is such an important part of design work, artists are strongly encouraged to view photos of proposed bench locations on <http://greenbeltartbenches.blogspot.com/> Artists may submit proposals for more than one sculptural seat. It is unlikely, however, that any one artist will be awarded all 20 seat commissions. Artists may also submit more than one design for consideration, even if they want to construct only one seat. A general briefing to answer artist questions will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Willard Arts Center on 450 A St.

**Budget:** The Idaho Falls Historic Downtown Foundation is offering artists \$2900 per sculptural seat. This must cover all artist costs such as materials, labor (including collaborative work with other craftspeople such as metal workers, masonry folks, etc), and delivery. Funds will be paid upon successful and timely delivery of the sculptural seat(s). We are hoping to fund the seats by means of \$3000 sponsorships per seat from local businesses and individuals. Please note that the \$100 variation between the sponsorships and the artist payments will be used to pay for plaques acknowledging the artist and sponsor as well as some miscellaneous expenses.

### **Artistic Seat Requirements:**

- 1) Seats must allow enough room for at least two adults to be seated at the same time. It may be one free standing piece or a group of seats (e.g. three separate Idaho spuds). The seating area must be a minimum of 18 inches above the ground although exceptions may be made for a group of seats with varying heights (e.g. three toadstools). Because seats

will be placed on 4 ft. x 6 ft. pre-poured cement pads, special consideration will be given to seats which do not exceed the pad's dimensions. However the city has agreed to pour a small number of larger cement pads to allow some artists to construct larger seats. Seating must be level and stable so that it doesn't rock back forth. To prevent theft, seats with legs less than 4" in width/diameter must have "footings or pads" with 2-4 holes that are 3/8" in diameter which can be used to bolt the seat to a concrete pad. The City will install concrete pads under all benches. The artist can build the footing into the leg design. For example, legs on a goose bench (*see right*) could have feet large enough to include two to three 3/8" diameter bolt holes to secure it. Or the artist can attach a square, triangular, circular or other shaped pad that best fits the seat's theme as long as it includes the necessary bolt holes and can be secured to a cement pad (*see right*). For seats with block, pedestal or legs wider than 4", the City will use an adhesive to secure the bench to the concrete pad.



- 2) Seats must be made of durable, low maintenance materials such as metal, stone, concrete, composites such as trex and other materials which weather well and can withstand temperatures ranging from -25 degrees to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. If metal is used, it should be treated with a heat resistant coating (e.g. powder coating, paint, etc.) so people don't burn themselves sitting on a hot bench in the summer sun. If concrete or stone are used, the bench must be sealed. The city recommends "Thoro Concrete and Masonry Sealer" or similar sealants. This will make it easier for the city to remove graffiti, hard water stains from sprinklers, etc. during the normal cleaning process. Because the seating will be located outdoors 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, it will be subject to sun, wind, rain and snow. Seating must also be skateboard resistant and have a minimum life span of ten years. Wood and plaster are NOT acceptable as construction materials because they weather poorly. If tile or glass are included in the design, be sure they are sealed in such a way as to withstand extreme temperatures. Otherwise the artist will end up having to perform frequent repair work.
- 3) Maintenance Requirements: Because the materials and/or designs used in the benches generally require special expertise to repair, artists will be responsible for repairing damage to the bench resulting from usage, vandalism, weatherization, etc. during its 10 year life span. If artists are unable to or unwilling to take on this responsibility, they should not participate in this project. Artists will NOT be responsible for routine cleaning.
- 4) Special consideration will be given to designs which incorporate elements reflecting the physical and cultural attributes of the Snake River and the Falls. Examples include wildlife and physical features indigenous to the Snake River region, related historical or agricultural images, and water as an energy source. Because the Snake River runs through the Downtown Cultural District, consideration will also be given to themes related to art and music.
- 5) A few sample benches from our 2005 downtown cultural district art bench project are included in this RFP. To see other designs, go to [www.idahofallsarts.org/benches.html](http://www.idahofallsarts.org/benches.html).

**Who May Submit:** This is an open competition, however, artists from eastern Idaho will be given special consideration. Artists must either have some experience constructing three dimensional work or team up with someone who does.

**Submission Info and Timeline:** Artists are required to submit the following **no later than April 9, 2010**. Earlier submissions are encouraged.

- Artist application form for each seat submission. Copies can be downloaded from <http://idahofallsarts.org/2010benches.html> or <http://greenbeltartbenches.blogspot.com/>
- Detailed working drawing(s)/rendering(s) of sculptural seat(s). Drawings should be at least 5" x 7" (larger ones are welcome). Drawing/Rendering(s) should use actual seat colors rather than black & white. If you wish to be considered for more than one seat, please submit a different design/sketch for each. You may also submit more than one design for consideration, even if you want to construct only one seat. Please indicate how many benches you wish to construct.

**Artist Briefing on Thursday, March 11 at 7 pm.** You are invited to attend an artist's briefing about this project at the Willard Arts Center on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Attendance at the meeting is encouraged, but not required. If you would like to attend, please RSVP at [cscheid@Q.com](mailto:cscheid@Q.com) or call Carrie Scheid at 206-9505 or 529-0668. (Area code is 208).

**Send submissions to: Carrie Scheid, c/o Idaho Falls Arts Council, 498 A Street, Idaho Falls, Idaho. 83402. Office hours are M-F, 9 am to 5 pm and Sat. 10-4 pm. Or email to [cscheid@Q.com](mailto:cscheid@Q.com).**

**Jury Panel:** Submissions will be reviewed by a panel made up of Carrie Scheid, Project Director; Jill Barnes, Executive Director of the Idaho Falls Arts Council; Catherine Smith, Public Art Advisor for eastern Idaho; Sharon Parry, City Council Member; Anne Voilleque, a local artist and philanthropist; and John Parsons, member of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

**Winner Notification & Timeline:** Artist finalists will be notified by late April. However, artists may not begin construction until they have signed a contract with the Historic Downtown Idaho Falls Foundation. Contracts will not be issued until sponsors have committed and paid the seat funds. While we do not have funding at this time, we expect to have sponsor fundraising completed no later than the end of June. Benches should be completed and delivered to the city warehouse no later than August 26th. Our goal is for the City of Idaho Falls to install them on the Greenbelt by August 30, 2010.

**Questions:** Email Carrie Scheid at [cscheid@Q.com](mailto:cscheid@Q.com) or call 206-9506 or 529-0668 (Area code is 208).

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