



# 20th annual Benches on the Avenue CALL TO ARTISTS



The Village of Tinley Park will host the 20th season of the Benches on the Avenue from May to October of 2023 in Downtown Tinley Park. Each handcrafted wooden bench will be sponsored by a local business or individual who will take possession of the bench at the end of the season. The 2023 Benches on the Avenue will be themed **"Industry, Invention, and Progress"** showcasing groundbreaking creations that have made a mark on the world and changed the way we live. The Village is looking for artists to create unique, kid- and family-friendly, imaginative and three-dimensional designs that will take visitors on a journey through the years of progress. Portrayals should be vibrant, colorful and include some degree of three-dimensional art. Anyone with an imagination and a bit of artistic creativity can be part of Benches on the Avenue. All you must do is fill out the attached form and submit it with your designs for review. Selected artists will receive \$425 for supplies and the chance to win one of several awards based on selection criteria. All artists will have their biography and image of their bench posted on the Village of Tinley Park website (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 brochure which is available throughout the summer. A copy of the brochure is available from the Village Hall or on the Village website.

**Guidelines:** The artists 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 and corporate logos or advertising is not allowed.

**Selection Process:** Each artist is required to submit two different designs to avoid duplications. 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 11, 2023.

**Awards:** There will be several categories of awards. A minimum of two benches must qualify per category for a prize to be awarded. Winners are determined by a panel of judges. Categories are subject to change based on submissions received.

**Bench Production:** 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 February 17 and transporting it back to that location by April 29, 2023. 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 flower boxes should be decorated and remain unattached so they can be transported to their location, filled and then attached.

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

- You are the original creator of your design
- You have not copied anyone else's original work
- Your design does not infringe on anyone else's intellectual property right (For example, trademark, copyrights, trade dress or design patent)

**What You Need to Do:** As soon as you decide on your designs, please notify Kelly Oswald at [koswald@tinleypark.org](mailto:koswald@tinleypark.org) with 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. Sketches must show the design on all sides of the bench, including the back and flower boxes. Entries must be postmarked no later than *January 20, 2023* 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 Village.

## **Timeline:**

**Application Submission Deadline:** Postmarked or dropped off at Village Hall by January 20, 2023

**Artist Notification:** January 24, 2023

**Meeting with Selected Artists:** February 1, 2023

**Benches Available for Pick-Up:** Tentatively February 6, 2023

**Deadline for Return of Finished Bench:** April 28, 2023

**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 contact Kelly Oswald at (708) 444-5024 or email [koswald@tinleypark.org](mailto:koswald@tinleypark.org)