

# BENCHMARK

CALL FOR ENTRIES 2020 EDITION

QUESTIONS: [info@benchmarkmb.ca](mailto:info@benchmarkmb.ca)

**Benchmark** is an international design challenge which will culminate in permanent installations along Winnipeg and Manitoba's trail systems. Storefront Manitoba and the Winnipeg Trails Association invite individuals and groups from around the world to submit an iconic design that will enhance the experience and accessibility of the trails to a diversity of users. We are looking for an intervention that has the power to bring people together, a place to rest, take a break, people watch, lean, ponder one's surroundings, and even create new activities for the diverse users of our trails.

Benchmark is an open competition, made possible through the generous support of: Trans Canada Trail, City of Winnipeg, Downtown BIZ and Trails Manitoba.

## GENERAL SITE INFORMATION

Two sites have been identified: one in the Downtown core of the City of Winnipeg and the other is in Pinawa, MB which is 110 kilometers north-east of Winnipeg. Our trails offers a multitude of trail experiences from wilderness pathways, rail trails, forested trails, rural tracks, historic canoe routes to paved urban walkways, downtown streets, country roads, logging roads, and secondary highways. It offers Canadians and international visitors a unique way to get outdoors, explore major cities and small towns; experience our ever-changing landscapes; and discover Canada's rich history, and diverse cultures, communities and people.

Design teams will select one of the following sites for their design proposal [Refer to Page 3, Submission Requirements]:

### SITE 1 DOWNTOWN Winnipeg, Manitoba

[DOWNLOAD ALL  
MAPS + PHOTOS](#)

The existing site is located on Treaty 1 land , along Graham Avenue, in a busy commercial area of Downtown Winnipeg. Also known as Graham Mall, the District is home to several large and small retail operations, restaurants and services, and is anchored by two shopping malls, The Hudson Bay and Cityplace. The Mall is also home to a nineteenth century heritage-designated church, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's offices, studios, and student residence buildings. In addition, Graham Mall is also linked to downtown's covered Skywalk and is in the heart of the newly formed Sports, Hospitality and Entertainment District (SHED).

The specific location for Benchmark 2020, is situated along the south side of Graham Avenue, between Edmonton St. and Kennedy St., in a highly traveled pedestrian and transit corridor. Because of the surrounding building orientation, the site is shaded for the majority of the day except for the late afternoon. Key landmarks surrounding the site are: Portage Place Mall to the North, Bell MTS Place, True North Square & Hargrave St. Market and the MB Hydro Place to the East, RBC Convention Centre and the MB Legislative Building to the South and Hudson's Bay, Winnipeg Art Gallery and the University of Winnipeg to the West.

The location of the installation will be determined following award, in coordination with the design team. The existing conditions are concrete sidewalk and precast unit pavers. The design team should consider mounting requirements into their design concept and budget.

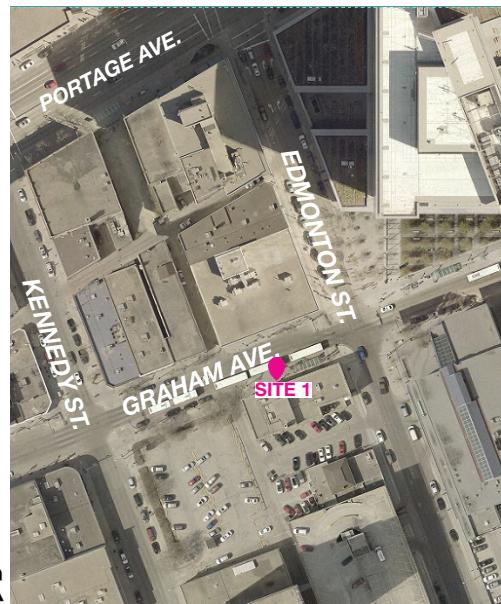
**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS:**

**Thursday, February 20th, 2020  
at 11:59PM CST**

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS:

**StorefrontMB** was established in 2011 to foster design culture in Manitoba. Since its inception, StorefrontMB has coordinated a host of events, including: forums, film series, the annual Winnipeg Design Festival, Winnipeg Commerce Design Competition, the Architecture Fringe Festival, Table for 1200 More, as well as publishing numerous books on design in Manitoba. The organization is overseen by a board of directors that draws from all spatial disciplines: Landscape, Architecture, Interiors, and Planners.

**The Winnipeg Trails Association** is a dynamic organization that plays a critical and comprehensive role in the development of a modern, sustainable city through the primary lens of active transportation. The Winnipeg Trails Association was founded in 2003 and incorporated as a non-profit in 2017.



## SITE 2 PINAWA, Manitoba

#pinawa

DOWNLOAD ALL  
MAPS + PHOTOS

Located on Treaty 3 land, the 28.43 km long Pinawa Trail runs through Métis and Anishinabewaki territory, on its winding journey from Pinawa Dam Provincial Heritage Park to the Seven Sisters Generating Station. Maintained by the Pinawa Trails Association and The Friends of The Ironwood Trail, the Pinawa Trail traverses truly stunning scenery of the wetlands, granite outcrops, and trembling aspens that characterize the Lake of the Woods Ecoregion. Along the trail lies a provincial icon, the Pinawa Suspension Bridge. The 1m wide suspension bridge spans the 54m width of the Pinawa Channel, offering a prime view of the channel's popular summer fishing and tubing recreation. The bridge also acts as a primary connection between the local hiking loop and The Great Trail, featuring a covered picnic shelter displaying the brass plaques honouring all the bridge sponsors at its western end.



The location of the installation will be determined following award, in coordination with the design team. Location point shown on the map above marks the entry point into The Great Trail leading to the suspension bridge. The existing conditions are compacted gravel pathways and forest understory as shown in the photographs via the link above and therefore the design team should consider mounting requirements into their design concept and budget.

### DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Proposed designs should be inclusive for all individuals. The design should allow ease in sitting and rising (include armrests & backrest or design solutions that provide options for sitting, leaning and rising for a minimum of one seat). Creative solutions are welcome!

For your convenience, to the right are a few quick questions to think about when creating your concept. Also, below are links to the most relevant sections of the standard to use as guide for your design:

- Universal Design Principles and Guidelines offered in Appendix A;
- The design guidance contained in Section 1.3.5.Seating.

Other sections of the standard may be relevant, depending on the nature of the design entry. All entries will be reviewed prior to adjudication to ensure the requirements (or functional equivalent) of the Winnipeg Accessibility Design Standard have been met.

A place to sit inherently makes the trail more accessible and usable by people with a broad range of abilities, below are some reference to help the needs of all potential users.

- Are the height, depth and width of seating components of the design appropriate for a broad range of possible users?
- Does the configuration of the seating area(s) provide physical support(s) for some users to lean their backs against?
- Does the configuration provide adequate heel space and supports on either side of a seating surface to support the action of sitting down and getting up?

### BUDGET + HONORARIA

A final budget for each constructed piece will be subject to funding. The breakdown is as follows:

#### SITE 1

#### DOWNTOWN, WINNIPEG, MB

Team / Artist Fees:	\$1,500
Fabrication & Installation:	<u>\$5,000*</u>
Total Budget:	\$6,500

#### SITE 2

#### PINAWA, MB

Team / Artist Fees:	\$1,500
Fabrication & Installation:	<u>\$10,000*</u>
Total Budget:	\$11,500

\*The total budget available for the piece is to include fabrication, construction and installation at the selected site, including the surface material (if required) for the mounting / installation of the piece (concrete pad, etc.). Refer to site descriptions on Pages 1 & 2 for more information.

Half of the Team / Artist Fees will be awarded in March 2020, on receipt of a signed agreement in which you commit to provide a constructed work as per your submission and any revisions as requested. The remaining fee will be awarded following delivery and approval of the installation.

In addition, up to \$1000 will be provided to help offset transport and accommodation costs for each winning team from outside the province of Manitoba. Out-of-province teams are encouraged to seek travel grants from their own jurisdictions to make up the difference.

Shape Industries Inc., a local manufacturer, will work with the winning entrants to fabricate the design in consultation with the **Benchmark** curators. The designer(s) may select an alternate manufacturer with approval from the curators.

## REGISTRATION

Registration and Registration Fees must be received by **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6th, 2020 at 11:59pm CST**. Participants can register by emailing a completed Registration Form [[Download Here](#)] to info@benchmarkmb.ca. **Benchmark** will confirm the registration by providing a unique Registration Number via email.

A Registration Fee of \$25 CDN is payable online [ visit: <https://squareup.com/store/storefrontmb> ] or by cheque / money order to 'Storefront Manitoba'. Cheques or money orders that are sent by mail must be postmarked no later than the payment deadline. Please include your Competition Registration Number in the memo line of the cheque or money order.

- All submission documents must clearly indicate the team Registration Number.
- Design Submission documents must only indicate the Registration Number.

## ELIGIBILITY

The **Benchmark** design challenge is open to local and international individuals and teams. Individual and teams consisting of designers, architects, landscape architects, and / or artists are encouraged to contribute their designs. Individuals may be students, interns, or practitioners. Multiple submissions are permitted.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals meeting the criteria outlined below shall be submitted in English to [info@benchmarkmb.ca](mailto:info@benchmarkmb.ca) before the deadline (with subject line: Benchmark 2020 Design Competition). Email size must not exceed 7.5MB. Files must follow the format and entry requirements listed below for both team information and design proposal information (1 PDF document).

### Team Information

Four page maximum [ format for 8.5" x 11" printing ]:

- Name of proposed project;
- Individual or team members names with brief CV;
- Name of one main contact person;
- A maximum 100-word description of the individual or team including any relevant technical / design expertise;

Information on individuals and team members will be withheld from the jury until the final selection. Information provided will be used to verify eligibility and assess whether teams have the capacity and expertise required to manage the design and construction of the installation.

### Design Proposal Information

One Page, formatted for 11" x 17", landscape [ include Registration Number ]:

- Project Summary - describe the overall design idea and the experience offered to visitors, including site selection;
- 3D rendering / sketch showing the concept in its entirety;
- Design Detail(s), sketches, plan, elevation(s) - drawings required to communicate the idea;
- Indicate size and the specific materials proposed;
- Reference armrests & backrest in the design proposal (See **Design Requirements** Section on Page 2).

Submission document must be in landscape format, PDF with 300dpi resolution.



2019. Seesaw bench, JeongChoi Works



2019. Wall Chair, Li Jiapei, Tan Yeqian & Yang Hengyuan

Photo by Stationpoint Photographic



2017. Scattered Spheres, Wood Anchor Inc.

Photo by Stationpoint Photographic



2018. Gridlock Bench, Thomas Nuyten

Photo by Stationpoint Photographic

## **SCHEDULE**

December 18, 2019	Launch of the Call for Proposals
February 20, 2020	Deadline for Competition Submissions [electronic]
February 25, 2020	Adjudication
March 9, 2020	Announcement of the chosen project(s)
March 23, 2020	Deadline to submit Preliminary Construction Drawings & Budget
March & April 2020	Coordination of shop drawings with Shape Industries (or approved manufacturer) incorporating comments from the Technical Advisors
April 15, 2020	Final Approval of Shop Drawings
April - July 2020	Fabrication
July 2020	Unveiling

## **JURY PANEL**

The Competition Jury is composed of the following individuals:

Nils Vik	Senior Director of Brand Development, EQ3
Tom Monteyne	Architect, Monteyne Architecture Works Inc.
Leanne Muir	Landscape Architect & Instructor, Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba
Stephanie Voyce	Landscape Architect
Lee Caldwell	Senior Planner, City of Winnipeg

alongside Co-Curators of Benchmark 2020:

Suzy Melo	Curator, Benchmark 2020; Board Member, StorefrontMB; Landscape Architect, ft3
Anders Swanson	Curator, Benchmark 2020; Coordinator / Manager, Winnipeg Trails Association

Technical Advisors:

Darcy Granove	Project Manager, Trails Manitoba
Christina Harris	Landscape Architect, City of Winnipeg
Kyle Lucyk	Park Services Administrator, City of Winnipeg
Andy Farrer	Parks Superintendent, City of Winnipeg
Susanne Dewey Povoledo	Universal Design Coordinator, City of Winnipeg

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The jury will base its scoring on the following considerations:

- Artistic merit (creativity, originality, clarity of the design & cultural integrity);
- Ease of fabrication and maintenance;
- Suitable for outdoor use (durable, weatherproof, etc);
- Budget;
- Context and interpretation of site;
- Potential for public engagement;
- Inclusiveness of the design: functional and experiential accessibility;
- Satisfies the Design Requirements as referenced on Page 2.

The winning proposals will be announced in March 2020 on the Storefront Manitoba website and to local / international media. All winning participants will receive the results of the competition by email. The Jury will not consider any optional or additional materials when judging entries.

## **FINE PRINT**

\* Decisions of the jury represent their professional judgements and all decisions are final. The Winnipeg Trails Association and StorefrontMB reserves the right to reject any and all submissions for a specific site.

\* The Winnipeg Trails Association and StorefrontMB reserve the right to use & distribute submission documentation and images for promotion and publication.

\* The scope of Benchmark 2020 is contingent upon funding.