

Literary Book Benches

The Switzerland County Public Library is seeking artists to paint “book benches” with a literary theme. Benches will be placed in the new Outdoor Learning Lab on the south side of the library building.

Chosen artists will be compensated.

Emily Fox

[director@scpl.us](mailto:director@scpl.us)

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*Photo courtesy Manchester Evening News*

**Request for Proposals**

The Switzerland County Public Library is seeking artists (or artistic teams) to design and paint two (2) benches. The Library is inviting artists from different areas of Indiana to paint and embellish fiberglass benches (Book Benches) in the shape of open books, drawing on themes and inspiration for their designs from a pre-chosen list of beloved children and young adult books.

Priority will be given for one (1) bench to be designed by an adult artist (or artistic team) and one (1) bench to be designed by a Switzerland County High School student (or artistic team) enrolled during the 2022-2023 school year, or a homeschooled Switzerland County student (or artistic team) within the ages of 14-18. If there are insufficient submissions from high school artists, both benches will be designed by adults and vice-versa.

These Book Benches will be placed at the Switzerland County Public Library in the newly constructed Outdoor Learning Lab once construction is complete. This project intends to encourage reading, provide a place for people to rest, and to instill in the community an understanding and appreciation of public art. The artists chosen for this project will serve as independent contractors of the Switzerland County Public Library, serving as the steward of grant funds received from the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation, and memorial contributions to the Library’s Memorial Fund. The Switzerland County Public Library shall retain ownership of the bench and the design, including, but not limited to, reproduction rights, physical maintenance, and lifespan. In all uses of the bench, the creative product will be credited to the artist.

**Project Goals**

• To commission artists (or artist teams) to design and paint two (2) benches; and

• To enhance the city of Vevay with an immersive art experience that can be enjoyed by all.

• To involve community members and students in library business and provide an opportunity for buy-in

**Project Timeline**

• Request for Proposal (RFP) Published: January 17th, 2023

• Deadline for Submissions: March 24th, 2023 at 5 p.m. (ET)

• Notification of Finalist(s): On or before March 31st, 2023

• Pick up benches: April 3rd-April 8th, 2023

• Drop off completed benches: May 1st-5th, 2023. Benches will need to be delivered to Madison Auto Collision, 3109 Clifty Dr., Madison, IN 47250 for sealing.

• Pick up benches from Madison Auto Collision and deliver to Switzerland County Public Library: May 8th-12th, 2023

• Pick up and drop off dates and times are rough estimates and will need to be coordinated with the Library representatives, Emily Fox at [director@scpl.us](mailto:director@scpl.us) or Heather Peelman at [youthservices@scpl.us](mailto:youthservices@scpl.us)

All terms and conditions will be laid out in a contract to be signed by the artist and the Library representative upon selection of the artist.

**Project Description**

• The design should:

o be original ideas directly from the artist; and

o be transformative in nature, no direct copies of covers or illustrated scenes pulled directly from the book.

• Each design should cover the entire bench, front, back, and sides. The bottom of the structure should be left unpainted.

o The bench measures 48"x38"x38", weighs 180 lbs., has white primer, and is ready to paint.

o Fabrication is a fiberglass book sculpture with a steel bottom plate which can be bolted down to a platform.

o Material additions and/or extensions are prohibited; all art must be 2 dimensional. No sculpture, fabric or other 3-dimensional facets are allowed.

o A vinyl application or plastic weather resistant plaque will be applied to the bench in the lower right-hand corner of the back of the bench, approximately 6 inches x 6 inches and it will include artist name, title of artwork, and the names of the sponsoring groups.

o Any additional revisions that are requested for the design must be submitted at least 5 days prior to contract signing.

**Artist Eligibility**

• This project is open to all artists, including high school students.

o Students currently studying art in high school and/or secondary education institutions are highly encouraged to submit proposals.

• Call is open to artists statewide.

• Experience with public art is preferred, but not required.

• Artists must be willing to meet all contractual obligations and adhere to the project timeline.

**Compensation**

The Switzerland County Public Library with grant funding from the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation will compensate each artist/artist team in the amount of $1,000.00 per design. Each design compensation will be made in two payments of $500.00, one at contract signing and one upon finished design approval pending necessary adjustments. Invoices are required for payment. Contract signing can be done electronically if necessary – for those who might live outside the county.

**Artist(s) Responsibilities**

The selected artist(s) shall be responsible for the following:

• Arranging to pick up the benches from the Switzerland County Public Library and deliver the finished bench to Madison Auto Collision for clear coating. Benches are approximately 180 lbs. and will fit in the back of a pickup truck.

o Benches will be prepped and primed when picked up, and once the artist has completed the design and returned it to Madison Auto Collision, it will be clear coated with an automotive sealant.

• Providing their own painting supplies; please see the Attachment B and B.2 for painting tips and recommendations.

• If a design changes radically from the initial proposal, a new design specification must be submitted. If the design changes radically and no new specs are submitted, the artists will not receive the balance of the contracted compensation and will be expected to return the initial good-faith installment

**Submission Requirements**

• Proposals must be submitted to the Switzerland County Public Library

no later than March 24th, 2023, 5 p.m. (ET)

• Submissions must be made to director@scpl.us

• Submissions must include:

o Title of Book with brief description of imagery/meaning/concept

o PDF File of Design

o The bench sketches provided – Attachment D - show four angles: front,

back, and both sides. Indicate your intended illustration on all four

surfaces on four separate sheets. You may submit designs for up to three

different books. Identify each submission with your name as well as the

title and author of your book choice.

• Photos of unfinished benches are provided in Attachment C. Please note the

ridged “page edges” on the front and sides.

• A title of the design and a brief description of the art piece. This will be used

during the review of the submission, and if chosen, will be used for public

relations/media announcements regarding the project.

• Resume including contact information for at least three (3) professional or

teacher references.

• Three (3) Examples of Previous Work, either professional or school related.

o Clearly identify each photograph with your name and medium used in the

work.

**Selection Criteria**

• Clarity of design

• Clearly depicts book choice

• Originality

• Vibrancy of color choices

• Design must reflect a book that is on the approved list; for the list of books - please see

Attachment A

• Only one selection of any particular book title will be chosen for execution.

**Selection Process**

A panel of Switzerland County Public Library staff members will review and vote on the submissions. Final decision of the design will be approved by the panel members.

**Adjustments to Design Concept**

Any artist submitting proposals should be aware that the Switzerland County Public Library reserves the right to require changes to the design to ensure appropriateness for all audiences.

Any additional revisions that are requested by the artist must be submitted within five

(5) days of contract signing.

**Other Information**

• Selected Artist(s) will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement to prevent sharing of the winning design before it is unveiled. This includes, but is not limited to, social media and personal portfolios, etc.

• Once the benches have been unveiled, artists are welcome to share their designs in their portfolio and/or social media accounts.

• If desired, artists may see the unfinished benches at the Switzerland County Public Library during regular open hours. Please contact Emily, [director@scpl.us](mailto:director@scpl.us), to arrange a day and time.

**Contact for Questions or Additional Information**

Emily Fox – Switzerland County Public Library Director

director@scpl.us or 812-427-3363

Heather Peelman – Switzerland County Public Library Youth Services Coordinator

[youthservices@scpl.us](mailto:youthservices@scpl.us) or 812-427-3363

*The Switzerland County Public Library does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities.*