

# **Bench-Mark Design Competition Submission Requirements**

## **What is the competition looking for?**

We want design solutions that encourage safe pedestrian travel and provide a sense of place. We want designs that enhance Westport's small, pedestrian friendly village character as well as accommodate changing needs.

"What we always have with us is the need to make decisions for the future; history hints at our choices." (*A look at Westport through four centuries*, published 1976 by the Westport Bicentennial Exhibition Committee)

**What is unique about Westport? Where can I learn more?** Westport is a rural, seacoast town with a historic farming and fishing base...The earliest documentation of Westport-related activity is in 1602. Early settlers bought Acoaxet from the Wampanoag Indians in 1652. Until the beginning of the twentieth century it was a distinctly Yankee community with residents who were primarily of Scottish and English origins. Now the population has become much more culturally diverse. During the last century it developed an active summer vacation community that has more recently expanded into year round retirement population. Presently, new residential developments are being built at an increasing pace on abandoned farmland.

"...Westport, still the most rural of all the towns along the coast and ripe for overdevelopment." "Westport is the fourth largest town in area in Massachusetts, embracing some 61 square miles with about 35 miles of shoreline along rivers and the ocean." (*Westport Enters the Fifth Century*, William Wyatt, Editor, David Allen. Photographer. Published in 2001.

The above publications along with *History of Westport in the Twentieth Century* are on reserve at the Westport Free Public Library. Ask for the Westport history books for the Bench-Mark Design Competition. The library hours are: Monday, 12:30 to 8:30 PM; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM; Thursday, 12:30 to 8:30 PM, Friday and Saturday, 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The library phone number is 508-636-1100.

## **Who is eligible?**

The competition is limited to artists and designers who live or work or have gone to school or are currently students in Massachusetts or Rhode Island. NOTE: Applicants must be prepared for a design-build competition. This is not a conceptual exercise.

## **What are the awards?**

There is \$2500 for awards, to be divided by the jurors among the five selected Bench-Mark winners. There will be considerable publicity in regional media and a print brochure locating and describing the Bench-Marks that will be distributed widely. All submissions will be exhibited in June and July 2006. The winning 5 designs will be built and the designer's name will be on each exhibit.

### **What is the budget?**

The budget range is \$2000 to \$5000 for each of the five Bench-Marks. The low end of the budget is limited but we are working on additional money through fundraising. Please think about what you could do for the minimum budget but don't limit your ideas. Think about what might be included if more money is available.

### **Schedule**

September 30, 2005	Early announcement
November 15, 2005	Full details about submissions, budget, and background information posted on the website
December 10, 2005 (December 17 alternate date for rain or snow)	Walk through Central Village (optional)
February 15, 2006	Registration deadline
April 3, 2006	Submissions must be received
June 1, 2006	Winners notified
June - July, 2006	Exhibit of all submissions
December 1, 2006	Anticipated date for completion of installations

### **How does one register?**

Beginning January 1, 2006 there will be an online form linked to the opening page of the Bench-Mark design competition. The registration deadline is February 15, 2006.

### **What are the criteria for judging?**

- Sensitivity to Westport history and culture
- Attention to character of rural village
- Use of indigenous materials
- Use of native/regional landscaping materials
- Design sophistication
- Weather proof
- Simple installation
- Safety and durability
- Long range, low maintenance requirements

### **What are the rules for submissions?**

To submit an entry, you must register online at this website by February 15, 2006. Each submission must be designated for a specific location. You may submit designs for more than one location, and could submit as many as designs for the five locations.

Submissions must be anonymous; be sure to keep all elements of the submission free of any identification.

**Design elements:**

- A place to sit and one or more of the following:
- Landscape element
- A celebratory element
- Other design elements

Please include within the design a place for the artist's name, and any major donor's name

**Each submission must include the following documentation:**

- Budget, including any in-kind contributions such as lumber or landscaping
- Written description of a process for participatory involvement in the construction of the Bench-Mark and/or in its use.
- A statement about the concept, 500 words or less
- Brief descriptions or photographs of related work that demonstrates your ability.

**Format for submissions:**

1. All information must be presented on 20 inch x 30 inch foam core boards, with the 30 inch dimension horizontal; a maximum of two boards may be submitted; stacked one on top of the other. Entries should show the overall Central Village context as well as the detail on the specific Bench-Mark.
2. Annotations on the board(s) should be no smaller than 16-point font.
3. Include construction drawings that detail installation requirements.
4. Experiential views to give jurors and the public a way to understand your design and how it might be used. This could include your choice of:
  - Hand drawn perspective views
  - Computer model with axonometric views
  - An actual model that is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch scale
5. All content that is on the boards should be provided digitally as PDF files on a CD.
6. Submission identification should go in an envelope attached to the back of a board that includes:
  - The completed signed submission form that you download from this website.
  - A check made out to the Westport Arts Council for \$15.00.

**Where should submissions be sent (or hand delivered)?**

Westport Arts Council, c/o Board of Selectmen, Westport Town Hall, 816 Main Road Westport, MA 02790. Phone number 508-636-1003 (this is for shipping purposes only – do not call for competition information).

The hours at Town Hall are Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Submissions must be received by Monday April 3, 2006.

**What about return of submissions?**

We will keep the winning entries for future exhibits. Other submissions may be picked up any time from September 1 to September 30, 2006, at the Town Hall. We will not ship any returns.

**What if we have questions?**

Use the link on the Bench-Mark Design Competition website at [www.westportartscouncil.org](http://www.westportartscouncil.org) or write to [design@westportartscouncil.org](mailto:design@westportartscouncil.org) with your questions. Questions and answers will be posted.

**What happens if we win?**

The selected winners will negotiate final design details and then sign contracts. The Westport Arts Council will pay 50% deposit of the approved budget at that time. The remaining 50% will be paid upon installation.