



Request for City Council Committee Action from Community Planning and Economic Development and the Minneapolis Arts Commission

Date: March 10, 2006

To: Gary Schiff, Zoning and Planning

Subject: Relocation of Artist-Designed Bus Benches

Recommendation: Direct CPED to relocate *Oasis* bench to the Leamington Transit Hub, *Chippendale* bench to the bus stop in front of 1413 Nicollet Avenue S. and , *Minneapolis Water Toy* bench to Second Avenue A. and the Convention Center Plaza.

Previous Directives: None.

Prepared or Submitted by: Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator, 612-673-3006

Approved by: _____
Barb Sporlein, Planning Director

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval _____ Not Applicable

Note: To determine if applicable see <http://insite/finance/purchasing/permanent-review-committee-overview.asp>

Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Date of Approval _____ Not Applicable

Note: The Policy Review Group is a committee co-chaired by the City Clerk and the City Coordinator that must review all requests related to establishing or changing enterprise policies.

Presenters in Committee (name, title): Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Action requires an appropriation increase to the _____ Capital Budget or _____ Operating Budget.

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.

Action requires use of contingency or reserves.

Business Plan: _____ Action is within the plan. _____ Action requires a change to plan.

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals: 1, 3, 6 and 7

Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 6

Zoning Code

Other: Public Art Policies, Section 11

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Art in Public Places Program has been seeking a new home for three artist designed bus benches commissioned by the City in 1988 and recently renovated. Photographs of *Oasis*, *Minneapolis Water Toy* and *Chippendale* benches are and the new proposed locations are attached. These benches were originally commissioned for Hennepin Avenue in downtown Minneapolis, but have to be relocated because of the new streetscape plan constructed on Hennepin, which included a consistent bench design for the entire street.

Over the last six months, the Public Art Advisory Panel of the Minneapolis Arts Commission has looked at several sites throughout the City, including:

- 1) Lake Street between Lake of the Isles and Lake Calhoun,
- 2) Hennepin Avenue between Franklin and the Midtown Greenway;
- 3) Nicollet Avenue between Grant Street and I94; and
- 4) Nicollet Avenue between Franklin and 25th Streets.
- 5) Bus Stops and Transit areas near the Minneapolis Convention Center

The Panel also sought further input from the Uptown and Nicollet Avenue South Service Districts, the Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association, Whittier Alliance, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, Stevens Square Community Organization and, Stevens Square Center for the Arts on whether these sites would be appropriate for the benches, and their organizations might work with the City on this project.

The Panel received very strong indications of support from the above neighborhood and business groups, and as a result this was an extremely hard decision for the Panel to make. They spent five of their monthly meetings conducting site visits, reviewing letters of support and ranking proposals. The factors considered by the panel, included:

- Relocating the three benches in proximity to one another;
- Continued use of the benches at bus stops;
- Access to the benches by pedestrians, bikes and cars;
- Relocation to an entertainment district that is accessible to visitors, convention groups and residents, (this was the original intent of the project);
- Sustainability of the benches (sites that are safe, highly visible and as far away from the curb as possible);
- Possible support from partners along the corridor (such the neighborhood association and/service district.

After careful consideration, the Panel decided to relocate *Oasis*, at an interior site, because it is constructed from wood and plaster, and would be hard to sustain in the right-of-way. The proposed location is at Leamington Transit Hub on 2nd Avenue North and 11th Street. This ramp is used by bus riders and school groups on visits to Orchestra Hall. The location

they selected for *Chippendale* was in front of the Music Box Theater on Nicollet Avenue North. And, finally they selected a bus stop outside the Convention Center on 2nd Avenue north to be the new home for *Minneapolis Water Toy*.

The Department of Public Works (Property Services and Right of Way), US Bench and the Minneapolis Convention Center have also reviewed and approved the above locations.

The timeline for this project includes permanently installing the benches at these locations this spring.

Attachment: Proposed Locations