






Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Aldinger and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager 

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation 
 Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager 

DATE: April 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of Revised Strand Alcove Bench Donor Guidelines

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council review and approve the revisions to the Strand Alcove/Bench Donor Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications on the general fund associated with the recommended action. The program will be supported through donors interested in participating in the program.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the City's 2005-07 Work Plan, Council directed staff and the Cultural Arts Commission to develop guidelines for future donors of the Strand Alcove/Bench improvements. The Donor Guidelines would provide the process for prospective donors to place an approved bench on the Manhattan Beach Strand.

The Commission and Public Art Advisory Committee undertook this project with the intent of making these bench alcoves along the Strand an aesthetically pleasing and restful place to enjoy the beach and surrounding area.

Design teams were identified and design recommendations made to City Council by the Cultural Arts Commission. At the June 19, 2007 Council meeting, Council approved the purchase of the six artistic benches for \$75,000 (the final design selected plus five additional benches of the same design) by artist, Mr. Stacy Dukes. His design is a sculptural curvilinear form which serves as a functional yet attractive bench. The bench is made of "green" material and reflects the City's active environmental program.

DISCUSSION:

On January 8, at the joint City Council and Cultural Arts Commission meeting, the Commission was asked to revise the Donor Guidelines document. Changes to the document were made in the Process section and are underlined.

The Process

The options for donating a bench along the Strand are:

A. Select from Pre-approved Designs

Potential donors can review pre-approved Bench/Alcove designs from pre-qualified artists.

B. Donor's Design Option

The donor is permitted to submit an artist's rendering and model to the Cultural Arts Commission for review. If approved the artist's proposal would be sent to City Council for approval. Future design submissions to the Commission are reviewed twice annually; February and July. Benches donated at the 16th & 17th Streets are examples of acceptable bench styles. Designs that focus on memorializing the lives of individuals will not be considered.

Design Guidelines

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, allowing a 48" entryway for wheelchair access
- Surface mounted (i.e. bolted in place)
- Materials should be environmentally sound
- Back rests and arm rests are optional
- Colors selected for the benches are to be lighter muted shades

Note: Changes to the Site Location map include deleting the words "memorial" and "sample bench" from the map key.

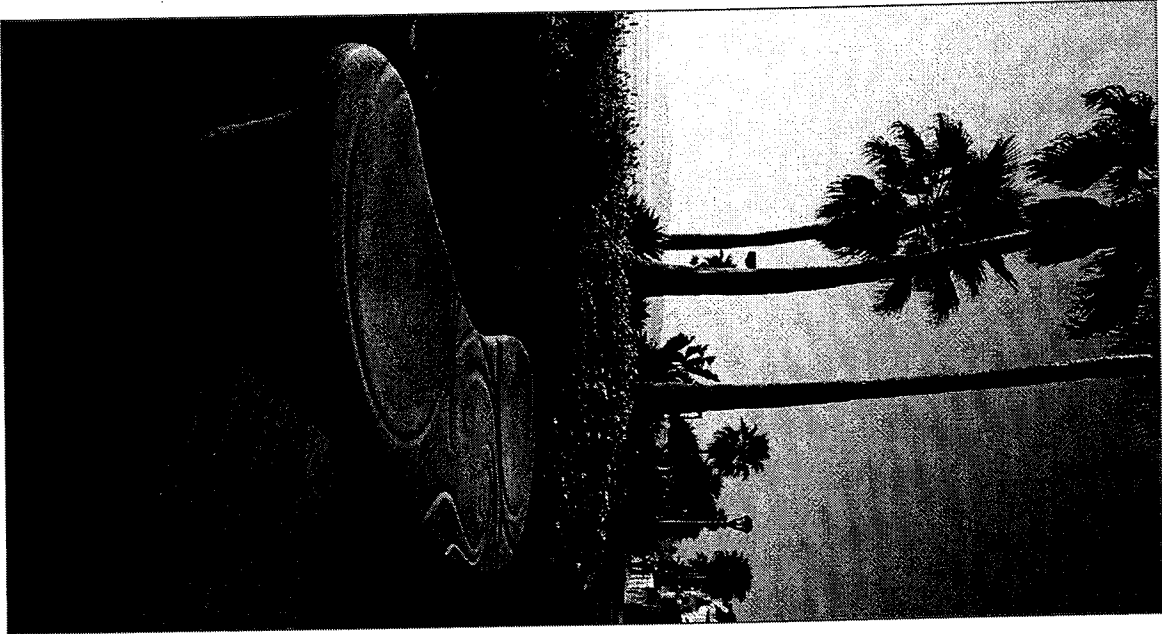
CONCLUSION:

The Commission wanted to provide the City Council with a range of options for filling out the available Strand Alcove/Bench sites. Staff and the Commission believe that the donor guidelines will insure the placement of future benches that are beautiful in design yet incorporate discreet donor recognition.

Staff recommends that City Council review and approve the revised document.

Attachments:

- A. Strand Alcove/Bench Donor Guidelines



City of Manhattan Beach
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Strand Alcove Bench Program

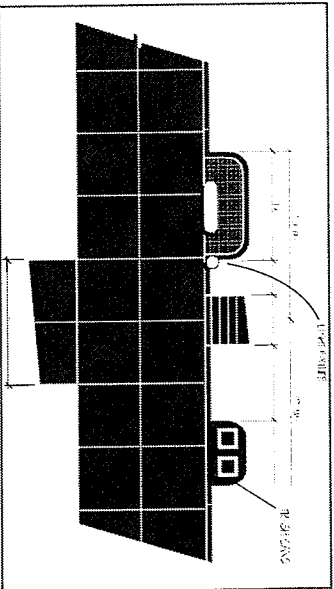
Donor Guidelines

The City of Manhattan Beach
Cultural Arts Division

Introduction

The Cultural Arts Commission and City of Manhattan Beach invite donors to be part of the Manhattan Beach Strand Enhancement Project. The City intends to increase the public's enjoyment and civic pride through the addition of functional, yet artistic Bench/Alcove areas along the Strand. The following information explains the process for individuals interested in participating.

44 alcoves each containing an area for seating have been created adjacent to the Strand. Rather than continuing to maintain the standard benches, there is a desire to make these Bench/Alcoves an artistically pleasing and restful place to enjoy the beach and surrounding area.



PROJECT GOAL

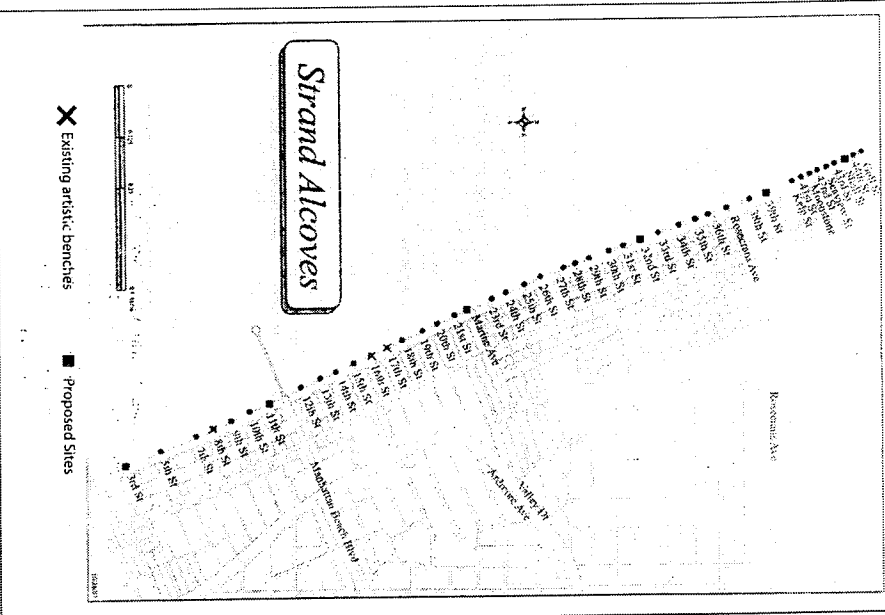
The goal of this project is to create an artistic walk along the Strand and provide seating areas which:

- are of high artistic quality and in keeping with the City's cultural identity of surf, sand and sea;
- provide a comfortable space to rest and enjoy the ocean and surrounding views;
- are appropriate to the site;
- contain seating areas which are durable, safe, vandal resistant, environmentally sound, and require minimum maintenance.

SITE LOCATION

The Manhattan Beach Strand is 2 1/2 miles in length from 1st Street to 45th Street. The concrete walk-way runs parallel to the bike path and ocean on the west. On the east are residential homes.

Each Bench/Alcove will be treated as a whole unit. The alcove dimensions are approximately 5' by 15' in size. The concrete curb surrounding the alcove is 10" high. There is no access to water or electricity.



THE PROCESS

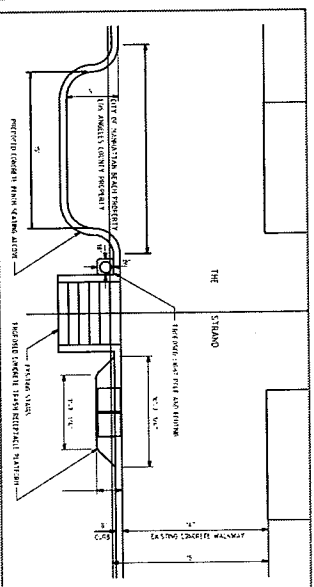
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ARTIST AND DONOR RECOGNITION

Recognition of the artist and donor for each Bench/Alcove area may be placed in a discreet location and the size of the letters will be no larger than one inch high. Wording as follows: *Donated by: Rodney Benson - Artist: Joe Johnson*

CITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A letter and Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Mayor and City Council will be issued.