

## DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN BENCHES PAINTING GUIDELINES

To ensure that the benches are durable, visually appealing, and compatible with our community's identity, it's important that the following guidelines be adhered to.

### 1. SURFACE PREPARATION

- **Most of the benches have peeling, chipped, and cracked paint**
  - If not adequately removed, this will inhibit the attractiveness of new paint or artwork and lead to a deteriorated appearance within 2 or 3 years.
  - Fixing these issues will likely require a combination of scraping and sanding.
  - Exterior wood primer should be applied after all peeling, chipped, and cracked paint issues are fixed.
  - All benches must receive a coat of primer before painting to ensure good adhesion of paint and prevent future peeling, chipping, and cracking

### 2. PAINT TYPES

- **Base coat / color**
  - Use an exterior wood primer (one coat is best) on the entire bench after appropriate surface preparation and before painting.
  - All benches will receive a base coat and color on the entire bench before other paint and designs are applied.
  - The DDA will prepare all benches with base coats in three different colors (one color per bench): dark teal, light blue, and lime green. There will be roughly 8-10 benches in each base color.
- **Exterior-grade latex paint**
  - Available in many colors from a variety of local retailers, including Ace Hardware, True Value Hardware, Sherwin Williams, Home Depot, Menards, and more.
  - Usually available in sample sizes or quarts so leftovers, waste, and costs can be minimized.
  - Remains flexible over time and resists peeling and cracking, especially since the benches will be outdoors in sun and rain.
  - Cleaning paint brushes, doing touch-ups, and storage of supplies are all easiest with latex paints.
  - If the artist painting a bench has a supply of acrylic paints on hand, or is most comfortable working in that medium, those are an acceptable type of paint since they are water-based. Acrylics are also plentiful, easy to find in stores, and are often reasonably priced. All benches will ultimately receive a coat of clear exterior latex polyurethane for weather sealing.
- **Top or seal coat**
  - After benches are painted with base coat and designs, a coat or two of clear water-based polyurethane will be applied to protect the finish from sun and rain.

### 3. PAINT COLORS

- **Base color:** There will be three base colors to achieve some degree of cohesiveness and uniformity. Those colors and their specifications are Blue Spruce (dark teal, CMYK 70 40 45 10, RGB 85 123 126, HEX #557B7E, PMS 5483 U); Summit (light blue, CMYK 30 10 15 0, RGB 175, 204, 208, HEX #B2CCD0, PMS 552 U); and Thrive (lime green, CMYK 50 20 95 5, RGB 137 161 64. HEX #89A140, PMS 576 U) . As mentioned earlier, the base colors will be evenly distributed among the 24 or so benches.
- **Design Colors:** We don't wish to inhibit creativity by providing a narrow or restrictive list of approved colors beyond the base colors, but simply ask that artists use good judgment and consider that the benches are for public use in a public space. In any event, all designs will be reviewed by the DDA before painting commences.
- **Accent colors:** Bright colors are OK as appropriate or necessary for smaller areas within individual designs, but we want to avoid the overuse of extremely bright pinks, purples, greens.

### 4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Allow adequate **drying time** between coats.
- **Label paint colors** and finishes if possible so future touch-ups can be done if necessary.
- Schedule touch-ups or repainting **every 2–3 years** depending on condition. It may be desirable to apply another coat or two of water-based polyurethane as well.

### 5. REVIEW OF DESIGNS

- The proposed designs to be painted on all benches will be reviewed and approved by a small committee of DDA staff and volunteers. It is recommended that a theme be chosen from the bench design ideas list provided, but suggestions for other design ideas will be considered.
- Designs may be communicated in writing and/or visually. They can be emailed, mailed, or delivered in person to the DDA office at Iron Mountain City Hall.
- DDA staff and the review committee will review all submittals within 2 weeks and provide a reply via phone call or email.
- All designs must conform with City of Iron Mountain Public Art Installation Policies and Guidelines. Generally, art may not contain any logos, branding, advertising, political or religious content, copyrighted or trademarked content.

### 6. SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION, WHERE TO PAINT, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Artists are asked to complete their projects within 3 or 4 months after their design is approved.
- All painting locations, whether indoors or outdoors, will be provided by artists
- Artists will need to transport benches from the City Park pavilion (winter storage location) or from A Street or Iron Mountain Street (summer location) to their painting location
- Upon completion, all art becomes the property of the City of Iron Mountain, in accordance with City of Iron Mountain Public Art Installation Policies and Guidelines. Generally, the City may dispose of or move any art at its discretion.

7. APPLICATION REQUIRED - Please go to [downtownironmountain.com/benches](http://downtownironmountain.com/benches) to download an application. Applications will be reviewed within a week or two and we will contact you soon.