

BENCHMARK

CALL FOR ENTRIES 2026 EDITION

QUESTIONS: benchmark@storefrontmb.ca

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
PROPOSALS:**
October 20, 2025
at 11:59PM CST

COMPETITION FORMAT - 2026 EDITION

Storefront Manitoba and Winnipeg Trails are launching the 2026 Call for Proposals to select a project for Grant Park High School, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The selected project will be part of the Grant Park - Indigenous Language Nodes and Outdoor Classroom project, located North of Grant Park High School, including the "food forest" that was planted starting in 2023 with the support from multiple levels of government and the Govt. of Canada's 2 Billion Tree Program to educate youth regarding sustainability. The goal is to have the final Benchmark intervention be unveiled and open to the community in June of 2026.

The 2025 Edition of Benchmark brings together several partners:

Grant Park High School

Winnipeg School Division

Telus Friendly Future Foundation



ELIGIBILITY

The Benchmark design challenge is open to local and international individuals and teams. Individuals and teams consisting of designers, architects, landscape architects, and/or artists are encouraged to contribute their designs. Individuals may be students, interns, or practitioners. Multiple submissions permitted.

SELECTION PROCESS

The project will be selected by a jury with the following considerations:

- The creative response to the brief for the 2025 edition;
- Consideration of budget;
- Suitable for outdoor use (durable, weatherproof, etc);
- Fabrication methods relating to the brief;
- Context and interpretation of site;
- Potential for public engagement.

All winning participants will receive the results of the competition by email. The Jury will not consider any optional or additional materials when judging entries.

The jury is comprised of a Grant Park High School Student, a Language Keeper/Elder/Liaison, an architect, a landscape architect, an artist, and a fabricator.

THEME

The Benchmark 2025 Grant Park edition challenges designers to think about the following themes:

The language of the land, and the life of a tree...
_ how does the natural world speak to us?
_ how do we in turn speak back?

**The language
of the land,**



**and the life of
a tree...**

Image: a sapling and mature trees on site

BENCHMARK

Benchmark is an international design competition which culminates in permanent installations along Winnipeg and Manitoba’s trail systems. Benchmark has attracted entries from all over the world: 5 continents, 21 countries, 7 provinces, and 12 U.S. states. Storefront Manitoba and the Winnipeg Trails Association invite individuals and groups from around the world to submit iconic designs that enhance the experience and accessibility of the trails for a diversity of users.

We are looking for an intervention that has the power to bring people together, a place to rest, take a break, people watch, lean, ponder one’s surroundings, and even create new activities for the diverse users of our trails.

Benchmark 2025 is an open competition, made possible through the generous support of Grant Park High School, the Winnipeg School Division, and Telus Friendly Future Foundation.:

GENERAL SITE INFORMATION

Grant Park High School is located in a historically heavily populated urban Métis community called Pakan Ville, and commonly referred to by those outside the community as Rooster Town. In the late 1950s, the development of Grant Park Mall and Grant Park High School, in addition to the City’s drive to develop the surrounding suburbs resulted in the community being pressured to relocate. Together, Winnipeg Trails and Grant Park High School have been working with students to develop the underused outdoor space north of the school, into a welcoming and engaging environment, including the development of Indigenous Language Nodes, Outdoor Classrooms, and a “food forest” since 2023. StorefrontMB is helping to coordinate the addition of this new iconic “Benchmark” to enhance the work already done by the students, partners, and community members.

City of Winnipeg Pakan Ville: [click here](#)

PROJECT OVERSIGHT AND DESIGN

The designer will oversee the design and construction of the project, in collaboration with the Benchmark subcommittee. StorefrontMB can help connect designers with local manufacturers and fabricators to help fabricate the design in consultation with the Benchmark subcommittee. Proponents are encouraged to consider budget.

SCHEDULE

September 2, 2025	Launch of the Call for Proposals
September 20, 2025	Benchmark 2025 Launch Party
October 20, 2025	Deadline for Competition Submissions
November 2025	Adjudication and Technical Review
January 2025	Detailed Design Document Submission
February - March 2026	Coordination of Construction Documents
April - May 2026	Fabrication & Installation
June 2026	Unveiling

BUDGET + HONORARIA

A final budget for each constructed piece will be subject to funding. The breakdown is as follows:

Team/Artist Honorarium:	\$ 2,000
Fabrication & Installation:	\$ 10,000*
Total Budget:	\$ 12,000

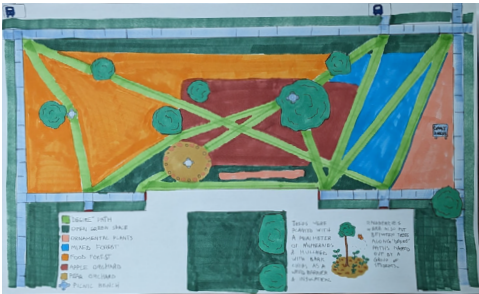
*The total budget available for the piece is to include fabrication, construction and installation.



Site Location



More Site Images: [click here](#)



schematic plan developed from student plans

SITE PLAN

Site planning has been organic in responding to existing desire paths and the ideas of the students. The garden is a dynamic and changing landscape of trails, trees, and nodes that promote physical literacy. The site features a mature ash, oak, and elm tree, most other plantings are saplings. The general rule of thumb is unplanted areas are located under the mature trees.

50% of the Team/Artist Honorarium will be awarded in January 2025, upon receipt of detailed design and a signed agreement in which you commit to provide a constructed work as per your submission and any revisions as requested by the subcommittee. The remaining fee will be awarded following delivery and approval of the installation.

In addition, up to \$1000 will be provided to help offset transportation and accommodation costs for winning teams located outside of the province of Manitoba. Out-of-province teams are encouraged to seek travel grants from their own jurisdictions to make up the difference.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals meeting the criteria outlined below shall be submitted in English using the google form below before the deadline. Files must follow the format and entry requirements listed below for both the Design Proposal and Team Information.

Design Proposal Information

One (1) page PDF, formatted for 11x17" landscape. Ensure designer information (names, logos, contact etc.) are excluded from the Design Proposal document. Please include the following as appropriate:

- Project Summary - describe the concept and the experience offered to visitors, including how the design responds to the competition brief;
- 3D rendering / sketches showing the concept in its entirety;
- Design Detail(s), sketches, plan, elevation(s) - any drawings required to communicate the idea;
- Indicate dimensions and materials proposed and methods of installation considering existing site conditions.

Submission document must be in landscape format, PDF with 300dpi resolution.

Google Form Submission: [click here](#)

Team Information

Maximum two (2) page PDF, format for 8.5" x 11" printing:

- Name of proposed project
- Name of one main contact person with contact information
- Names of additional team members
- Description of relevant technical/design experience of the team members

Information on individuals and team members will be withheld from the jury until the final selection. Information provided will be used to verify eligibility and to assess whether teams have the capacity and expertise required to manage the design and construction of the installation.



2017. Scattered Spheres,
Wood Anchor Inc.

Photo by Stationpoint
Photographic



2019. Seesaw bench, JeongChoi Works



2020. Reflection Station,
sophie & hans

Photo by Stationpoint
Photographic

BENCHMARK 2025 LAUNCH EVENT

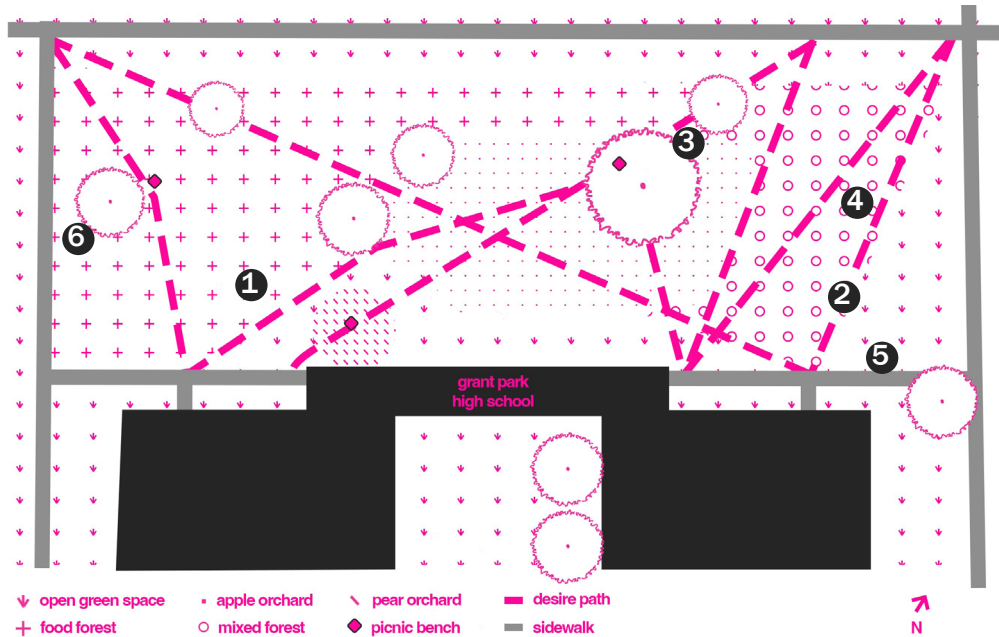
September 20, 2025 at 3pm

For local teams, there is a Winnipeg Design Festival event at the Benchmark site. Come learn about Benchmark and plant a tree!

FINE PRINT

* Decisions of the jury represent their professional judgements and all decisions are final. The Winnipeg Trails Association and StorefrontMB reserve the right to reject any and all submissions.
* The Winnipeg Trails Association and StorefrontMB reserve the right to use & distribute submission documentation and images for promotion and publication.

* The scope of Benchmark 2025-2026 is contingent upon funding.



view of site facing grant avenue



newly planted trees following site's desire lines



existing seating and programming opportunity underneath & surrounding existing trees

