Street Seats
Design Challenge
Call for Entries
Submission Deadline: May 11, 2018 11:59pm PDT

Design Museum
Portland

Presented by:
Design Museum Portland is a new kind of museum focused on educating the world about design. We’re based in Portland, but don’t have our own gallery space — we’re a distributed museum with exhibits and events all over town. Connecting design and the city is core to our approach, we believe great placemaking is a mix of engagement, education, and action that leads to deeper understanding and lasting impact.

We believe design can change the world.

Done well, it can elevate our quality of life, make businesses more competitive, and protect our environment. Design awareness, education, and expertise are more important now than ever before as design continues to impact communities, organizations, and markets around the world.

OUR MISSION

Bring the transformative power of design everywhere, to inspire a world full of creative problem solvers.

We do this by producing inspiring exhibitions & events, educating everyone from kids to CEOs in design thinking, and transforming cities and communities through innovative public demonstration projects.

designmuseumportland.org/streetseats
@designmuseumpdx #StreetSeats
Street Seats
Design Challenge • Call for Entries

Design brings communities together. Public seating sets the scene for chance encounters, people watching, connecting with nature, or just taking a break.

Street Seats is an international design challenge which will culminate in an outdoor design exhibition and walking tour around the World Trade Center Portland plaza in Downtown Portland, Oregon. Entrants will participate by designing sustainable outdoor sidewalk furniture with a focus on reuse, using environmentally-friendly materials and innovative construction methods. Design teams will record and submit their process along with their final designs to, in the end, create the public design exhibition.

Street Seats provides an opportunity to improve the visibility and livability of an urban area while being socially and environmentally conscious. Design Museum Portland invites individuals and groups from around the world to design an iconic bench, or ‘street seat,’ for the World Trade Center Portland plaza. The area is a lively destination for residents and visitors alike, with access to Portland’s major financial, government, and business institutions, as well as the Tom McCall Waterfront Park and a burgeoning tourism district.

World Trade Center, site for Street Seats in 2018.
Twofold Bench, After Architecture — 2013

StrataForm Bench, SG&A — 2013
Street Seats

Schedule at a Glance

January 18, 2018
Call for Entries Opens

March 16, 2018
Early Bird Registration Deadline

May 11, 2018, 11:59pm PDT
Final Submission Deadline

June 6, 2018
Semi-Finalist Announcement

July 23, 2018
Semi-Finalist Full-Scale Bench Delivery Deadline

August 2, 2018
Exhibition Opening, Final Judging, Finalists Announced

February 2019
Street Seats Collection Moves to Permanent Installation Locations

Why Enter?

*Street Seats* is a catalyst for designers to use their creative minds and innovative talents to produce a real, tangible, usable object that helps transform the urban environment. Participating designers receive international recognition in the design community and visibility with major organizations interested in supporting the arts, design, and urban innovation industries. Every entry will be featured online and in our scale model gallery. Semi-finalists will receive a grant to fabricate their bench, which we’ll install around the World Trade Center Portland plaza and Tom McCall Waterfront Park — and winning entries will receive cash prizes and additional publicity.

"Street Seats is a testament to the power of collaborative design and its ability to engage and inspire community with something as seemingly simple as a place to sit. Local, national, and international designers transformed Boston’s Fort Point Channel neighborhood in 2013, and will bring new, innovative designs to Downtown Portland in 2018!"

Matt Edlen
Gerding Edlen

"Street Seats is more than a design competition. It is a career accelerator. For two quietly talented designers at my firm, Street Seats provided a platform for them to express their creativity, hone their leadership skills and increase their visibility in the firm and design community at large. Having having proven their ability to represent the firm well, they now lead complex design projects and mentor others making their way in this industry."

Brittney Herrera
SERA Architects
Downtown Portland

The City of Portland has a rich history of artists, makers, and manufacturers flourishing alongside major business, academic, and civic institutions. As Portland continues to grow at an exponential pace, the city is working to prepare for this residential and tourist increase while maintaining its core values in the arts and crafts and “Keeping Portland Weird.” The neighborhood has an expected 5 new hotels opening by 2019, part of the 40% projected increase of hotel room inventory in the city at large.

Downtown Portland is bustling with activity. Street cars, the Max light rail, and buses provide public transit, while many people travel by foot or by bicycle. Visitors and residents alike are flocking to the city because of its walkability, attention to sustainability and the environment, and waterfront access. While Downtown Portland’s growth is leading to increased construction to welcome the influx of people, there is a significant lack of visual placemaking and community engagement stimulation to reflect the area’s vibrancy.

The Site

The World Trade Center Portland stands as one of Portland’s architectural icons overlooking the Willamette River and Tom McCall Waterfront Park. It is a three-building office complex, connected by a glass-enclosed, elevated walkway that lead visitors from one building to the next as they walk over the streets of Downtown Portland. The facade of the modernist-style buildings consists of gray-colored granite. The skywalk is designed with angular white poles and encased in glass.

The World Trade Center Portland is nestled into the historic downtown district, defined by its brick sidewalks, iconic gold water fountains, and ample foliage. Portland is a city defined by its bridges, the Willamette River, and the surrounding natural landscape. With ample rain in the fall, winter, and spring, and a gorgeously sunny summertime, the city is resilient in all weather conditions and celebrates the greenery provided by the precipitation.

“Portland’s compact, walkable downtown offers easy access to great food, green spaces, cultural offerings and ample shopping.”

Travel PORTLAND
Challenge Overview

PHASE 1
January 18 - May 11, 2018
Call for Entries Opens
Competitors must register to participate. Register online at designmuseumportland.org/streetseats. Registered competitors will receive an entry form, including project details and file upload instructions. Competitors must submit entries for Street Seats Design Challenge by May 11, 2018 at 11:59pm PDT. A ⅛ scale model is required — models must be shipped to Design Museum Portland (1355 NW Everett St., Portland, OR 97209) and arrive no later than May 18, 2018.

PHASE 2
May 18 - June 6, 2018
Round 1 Judging, Model Gallery Exhibition
The jury will judge all eligible entries received and determine the 15 Semi-Finalists. A gallery exhibition displaying all entries will be curated in Portland, OR, and the jury-selected Semi-Finalists will be announced at the gallery opening. All Semi-Finalists will receive a US$1,000* reimbursement grant from Design Museum Portland for seat fabrication as well as regional, national, and international promotion. *Note, the reimbursement grant covers materials and fabrication processes adding up to US$1000; competitors may elect to spend more non-grant funds on seat fabrication.

PHASE 3
June 6 - July 23, 2018
Final Seat Development & Fabrication
Semi-Finalists fabricate final, full-scale seats. Semi-Finalists are responsible for delivering fabricated benches to a designated site in Portland, OR. Selected Semi-Finalists will receive information on the specific location. The deadline for receiving full-scale benches from Semi-Finalists is July 23, 2018 at 6:00pm PDT.

PHASE 4
July 24 - August 2, 2018
Outdoor Installation, Exhibition, Round 2 Judging
Final fabricated pieces will be installed around the World Trade Center Portland and the Street Seats exhibition will be open to the public. Design Museum Portland will hold an outdoor public opening reception on August 2, 2018. From the Semi-Finalists’ full-scale entries, using the Judging & Design Criteria, the jury will select the top 3 seats. The grand prize winning entry will receive a cash prize: US$5,000, the other 2 top entries will each receive US$2,000. Finalists will receive a feature in the Summer 2018 Design Museum Magazine. All the Semi-Finalist and Finalist entries will be viewable online in an exhibition on designmuseumportland.org as well.

PHASE 5
August 2 - January 2019
Exhibition Open to Public, Opening Celebration
For 6 months, the Street Seats Exhibition and Walking Tour will be on view outside around the World Trade Center Portland. Design Museum Portland will host walking tours and special events in conjunction with the exhibition, including a panel event on urban placemaking and a kids workshop.

PHASE 6
February 2019
Permanent Installations
The Semi-Finalist bench collection is moved to respective locations; 5 will be selected as the “PGE Choice” winners and will be permanently installed on the plaza. The remaining seats will be the property of Design Museum Portland, installed around the city.

Maximum Dimensions

72”
Design & Judging Criteria

The Jury will base its scoring on the following considerations. It may award extra points for originality. The Jury will not consider any optional or additional materials when judging entries.

- Sustainable design using recycled, reclaimed, and/or renewable materials
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Innovative design and construction
- Safe for outdoor public use
- Must fit within bench envelope (30” x 72” x 48”)
- Seat at least 2 people - hold 600 lbs of weight at various seating positions
- Suitable for outdoor use (durable, robust, weatherproof, etc)
- Stable and securable at the site once installed
- Depth and quality of design process documentation

Jury

Design Museum Portland will be announcing Jury members during the course of the open Call for Entries. The Jury will consist of design thought leaders, arts and culture leaders, and urban innovators.

Registration Process

All individuals or teams submitting an entry must register through the competition website, designmuseumportland.org/streets seats. Once registered, participants will receive access to the entry form, including file submission. Submitting the entry form will constitute final submission, which cannot be altered thereafter.

Fees & Deadlines

Early Registration
January 18 - March 16, 2018
Design Museum Member: Free!
Non-Member: US$30

General Registration
March 17 - May 11, 2018
Design Museum Member: US$20
Non-Member: US$75

Submission Deadline
May 11, 2018 11:59pm PDT
*Registration fees are due upon registration.

Refunds

Based on the information submitted in the online registration form, Design Museum Portland will refund the registration fee of: (i) any individual Competitor who resides in a jurisdiction whose laws, in effect on January 18, 2018, prohibit charging a fee to enter a competition of this nature, and (ii) any team if its designated team leader resides in a jurisdiction whose laws, in effect on January 18, 2018, prohibit charging a fee to enter a competition of this nature. Competitors must submit their final submissions in the design challenge entry form prior to May 11, 2018 at 11:59 PDT. Clicking the “Submit” button on the entry form completes submission of the Entry, which cannot be altered thereafter. If a file uploaded to the form is corrupt, Design Museum Portland will notify the Competitor and request a replacement file. All replacement files must be provided no later than 5:00 pm PDT on May 16, 2018.
How to Enter: designmuseumportland.org/streetseats

All submissions must be submitted digitally through the entry form provided to registered entrants by Design Museum Portland. The entry form will include project details as well as file upload instructions.

The final submissions will be judged through a jury-driven process focused on creativity, durability, safety, and the overall quality of design process documentation. We request that participants track and document their progress from initial sketch to final piece and provide a poster and video for the exhibition.

The following items are required to complete your submission. All entries will be reviewed by the jury anonymously. Thus, all submitted text and images must be free from any marks, logos or writing that identifies authorship. The presence of any such insignia will result in disqualification. When naming files and labeling your poster include the entry title only. Your name(s) and affiliations will be added later if your design is selected to be exhibited.

Do not include your name or other identifying information in your text submission, as judging will be blind.

*NOTE: We want to show the public how designers develop ideas. When creating your poster and video, consider that this is an equally valid part of the judges criteria. Remember that some members of the museum’s audience may be new to the design process.

Eligibility

The Street Seats Design Challenge is open to local and international individuals and teams. Individuals, teams, professionals, and students are encouraged to contribute their designs. Multiple submissions from any one individual or team are permitted, although each entry must be submitted under a unique entry title. Employees of Design Museum Portland and their immediate family members are ineligible to take part in the Street Seats design challenge. Immediate family members and employees of Jurors are also ineligible.

1 Poster

One (1) poster using the provided Design Museum template; must be submitted in a high-resolution PDF file; each file should not exceed 50MB. Input entry title in the appropriate space on the template. Please include:
- High Resolution images of the design process
- High Resolution images/renderings of the final piece
- Renderings, in context
- Overall and key dimensions noted

2 Biography

Description of team (in English, 150 word max)

3 Video

All design process work should be documented in video format:
- Capture designers at work, interviews, research, sketches, concepts, models, prototypes, etc
- A music soundtrack and/or narration are allowed
- The title screen should include the entry title and no other identification
- 3 minutes maximum
- Video file size should not exceed 100 MB
- Subtitles are allowed for non-English speaking entries
Prizes

All Entries
All 1/8 scale model entries will be on view at a gallery exhibition in Portland, OR, and featured on the Design Museum Portland website. Design credits will include name, professional or academic affiliation (if any), city, state, country, twitter handle and website (if any). The gallery will be curated by Design Museum Portland.

Semi-Finalists
15 Semi-Finalists will be selected by the Jury from the entries and announced at the gallery opening on June 6, 2018. All Semi-Finalists will receive promotion from Design Museum Portland, media coverage, and a mention in our national Design Museum Magazine. Semi-Finalists will receive a US$1,000 reimbursement grant for use in fabricating their full-scale bench. All Semi-Finalists' final designs will be installed at the World Trade Center Portland as part of the public design exhibition, on view for six months.

Finalists
Three finalists will receive trophies, promotion and media coverage, a feature in the Design Museum Magazine, as well as cash prizes. Grand prize (1 entry): US$5,000 cash prize. Runners-up (2 entries) will each receive a US$2,000 cash prize.

PGE Choice
Five Semi-Finalists will be selected by Portland General Electric to be installed permanently on-site at World Trade Center Portland. The other 10 Semi-Finalists will be installed around Portland.

Exhibition Installation
Final designs must be ready for installation and tested for structural stability 10 days before the final exhibition opening. The deadline for receiving final full-scale benches from Semi-Finalists is July 23, 2018. We will be asking for you to send us a video of your entry in action to evaluate its safety for a public venue. Judges and guests will be asked to try out and rate the benches at the exhibition so be confident in your work.

Intellectual Property & Ownership
The full-scale Street Seats benches and scale models become the property of Design Museum Portland once submitted. The design intellectual property remains with the designer(s). Design Museum Portland will use the benches in exhibitions, media products, promotional campaigns, and other uses. Each design team will receive a $1,000US stipend to assist in the production and shipment of their bench.

Scale Model
Create a 1/8 scale model from any medium (i.e. clay, wire, wood, paper, etc.)
- Make a scale model that is 1/8th the size of your final bench; i.e. if your seat is 6ft long: 6ft = 72in, your model should be 9in long
- Mail to: Design Museum Portland, 1355 NW Everett St., Portland, OR 97209
- Must arrive no later than May 18, 2018 at 5:00pm PDT

Project Information
Complete all fields in the online submission form.
- Project Title (in any language)
- Description of design process (in English) (max 500 words): Give a written account of the design processes used in designing your bench. What research did you do, what inspired you, how did you go about designing your Street Seat?
- Estimated total cost of fabricated full-scale bench (in US$)
- Description of final design (in English) (Maximum 500 words): This must include a clear description of the method by which you intend to fabricate and information on your ability to develop a full-scale seat
It’s a joy to see how people from all over the world reinterpret the humble public bench, and what an amazing impact public seating can have on an urban space. Street Seats is a chance for designers of all kinds to take their ideas outside the studio and be part of something big — and make real change in the built environment.”

Sam Aquillano
Design Museum Foundation

Praise for Street Seats Boston, 2013:

In 2013 I had the honor of participating on the jury of Design Museum Boston’s Street Seats Challenge. This amazing competition generated interest from all over the world. Designers from 23 different countries and 22 different states submitted over 200 entries. All of the teams submitted fantastic and innovative ideas while considering sustainability, durability, aesthetics, and the benches relation to placemaking.”
— David Silverman, STA

I never saw more force of support for Boston — feet on the street — than I did at the ‘Street Seats’ exhibition opening. A fortuitous focus for community spirit and an ambitious and excellent event and long-term installation by the young and energetic Design Museum Boston.”
— Jules Pieri, The Grommet

Knot Bench, pillowculture — 2013
Terms & Conditions

(1) Individuals or teams (“Competitors”) submit materials (each an “Entry”) for consideration by the Jury in this Competition without compensation and at their own risk. Design Museum Portland may delay, suspend or cancel the Competition at any time without compensation to any Competitor, and Design Museum Portland has no obligation to proceed with the selection of Top Designs or finalists or a winner, or to exhibit any prototypes, or to build any seat. (2) All decisions of the Jury are final and binding on all Competitors. The number of Top Designs, finalists, and winning Entries selected is within the sole discretion of the Jury. (3) Submission of an Entry constitutes a grant to Design Museum Portland by the individual submitting the Entry and by each individual on the team submitting the Entry of: (a) a worldwide, exclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, transferable, and sub-licensable license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, display, distribute, transmit, post, broadcast, and create derivative works of the Entry or any part thereof, in any medium now known or hereafter devised, in connection with the Design Challenge, in advertising, educational, or promotional materials relating to the Challenge; (b) semi-finalists release physical ownership of their final full-scale submission to Design Museum Portland with the right to use, donate, gift, or auction the piece (c) the right to use, in connection with the Challenge, the Competitor’s name and likeness and any other information that the Competitor provides to Design Museum Portland in connection with the Competition, including in credits for top designs, prototypes, and winning design. (4) Each Competitor shall execute any additional documentation that Design Museum Portland reasonably determines to be necessary to allow it to use any seat or any part of any Entry as the Competitor has agreed herein. (5) All entries (including the photographs of work and written descriptions entered) become the permanent property of Design Museum Portland for use in the challenge or promotion of future contests or promotional materials at the sole discretion of Design Museum Portland. The ownership of the item transfers to Design Museum Portland while creative, design, and intellectual property rights remain with entrants. (6) Entrants will cooperate with Design Museum Portland’s request in connection with the Design Challenge and the fabrication of any prototypes or seats. (7) Although a Competitor may use his or her own previous research and development to inspire the submitted design, the submitted design must be unique to this exhibition. By submitting an Entry, each individual submitting the Entry and each individual on the team submitting the Entry: (a) represents and warrants that (i) the design of its seat is original, (ii) the design of its seat has not been previously fabricated, (iii) the Competitor owns all rights in the design of its seat, and (iv) no part of its Entry and no use thereof and no use of the proposed seat, violates, infringes or otherwise conflicts in any way with any copyright, trademark or any other right of any third party; and (b) waives all moral rights, if any, in its Entry in connection with the uses of such Entry and of the proposed seat permitted herein. (8) By submitting an Entry, each individual submitting the Entry and each individual on the team submitting the Entry agrees: (i) to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Design Museum Portland and its officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, consultants, and contractors for, from, and against all costs, expenses, losses, and damages, including reasonable attorney’s fees, incurred as a result of a claim, action, suit, or proceeding by a third party arising out of or related to such Competitor’s Entry or participation in the Competition; and (ii) to release, except as prohibited by law, Design Museum Portland and its officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, consultants, and contractors from any responsibility or liability for any damages arising out of or related to such Competitor’s Entry or participation in the Competition, including, without limitation, indirect, incidental, consequential, special, exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or related to such Competitor’s Entry or participation in the Design Challenge, whether such damages arise in contract or tort, even if such party knew or may have known about the possibility of such damages, except that no party’s liability will be limited for its gross negligence or willful misconduct resulting in death or personal injury. (9) Design Museum Portland is not liable for: (a) the inaccuracy of any information provided in connection with the Challenge, whether such inaccuracy is caused by a Competitor or by human or mechanical error or technical failure; or (b) technical failures or electronic errors of any kind, or any inaccessibility or unavailability of any telecommunications service or network hardware or software, in connection with the submission of Entries or otherwise. (10) Any and all applicable taxes, fees, and expenses related to the submission of Entries, the acceptance and use of any prize, or any other aspect of the Entrant’s participation in the Challenge are the sole responsibility of the applicable Competitor. No prize can be substituted, assigned, or transferred. By submitting an Entry, each individual submitting the Entry and each individual on the team submitting the Entry agrees to provide Design Museum Portland with all information and documentation required in connection with the Entrant’s payment of any applicable taxes, fees, or expenses. (11) By submitting an Entry, each individual submitting the Entry and each individual on the team submitting the Entry affirms that he or she has read and accepted these Rules and Regulations. Disputes or questions of interpretation of the Rules and Regulations of the Competition or concerning the registration or eligibility of any Competitor will be considered by Design Museum Portland, which will render a final determination binding on all Competitors. (12) The Competition is subject to all applicable laws and regulations and is void where prohibited. No resident of a state or country the laws of which prohibit the operation of a competition of this nature is eligible to enter the Competition. No resident of a country to which exports or payments from the United States are banned is eligible to enter the Competition. (13) By submitting an Entry, each individual submitting the Entry and each individual on the team submitting the Entry agrees that, except where prohibited: (a) any disputes or claims arising out of or in connection with this Challenge will be resolved exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction in the state of Oregon; and (b) all questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these Rules and Regulations shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Oregon without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws. (14) Failure by Design Museum Portland to enforce any of its rights under these Rules and Regulations at any time does not constitute a waiver of those rights.