



## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2020.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**County:** County of Henrico

**Program Title:** Students: The Best Contractors Money Can Buy

**Program Category:** Customer Service

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Name:** Victoria Davis

**Title:** Public Relations Specialist

**Department:** Public Relations

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

**Name:** Brandon Hinton

**Title:** Deputy County Manager for Administration

**Signature:** 

## **Program Overview**

Henrico County Public Schools students worked on a project in collaboration with departments within Henrico County general government to renovate and install a historic concrete bench at the opening of a Henrico County administrative building. During snow removal in 2019, the bench suffered extensive damage.

Finding a contractor to complete the project proved to be a challenge for Henrico County, and officials turned to Henrico County Public Schools to see if one of the school division's masonry programs could complete the project. Students from the school division's Academy at Virginia Randolph had the opportunity to work on and complete the project for Henrico County.

## **Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality**

Henrico County was unable to find a contractor who wanted to tackle the project. County staff members wanted to have the bench repaired; it is a unique structure built to match the county administrative building. Years of weathering and the scope of the project (the concrete was not only damaged, but the bench itself had a unique, curved and sloped design) added a significant layer of difficulty to the project.

## **How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria**

The project is an excellent example of effective collaboration between two public entities. Henrico County Public Schools and Henrico County General Government worked together for a result that benefited both. The opportunity for Henrico students to be able to contribute to a visible and symbolic structure created a sense of pride and honor in our students. The project is also an example of good stewardship of public money; Henrico County is now able to use funds that might have gone to this project in other ways.

### **How Program Was Carried Out**

The project goals were to remove the existing, damaged bench section, reconstruct it in the same dimensions, and reinstall the repaired section in the existing bench structure. Because the bench was made of concrete, special equipment had to be used to remove and reinstall the part affected area.

Development and implementation took about four months, and the bench was installed in January 2020. Much of the time was spent calculating the exact curvature and slope of the bench and trying to match the bench section to the old ones. An exact match was nearly impossible due to decades of weathering of the existing benches. The new bench section is a close match and should match more closely as it weathers.

This was a high-visibility project. The building houses many of Henrico County's governmental offices and the bench structure is the first thing citizens see when arriving. The project was so specialized that the government was not able to obtain a quote from outside companies. While the project was relatively small in scale, the project was a challenge because of the many nuances of the bench itself, including its curvature, slope, color, and texture.

Once the bench was reconstructed, our students were extremely excited about their role. That excitement was evident in the photos that accompany this submission.

### **Financing and Staffing**

The project was unique in the fact that the county could not find a company willing to give an estimate for such a specialized project. The project was extensive because of the challenges of

blending the new bench section into the current structure and replicating the slope and curvature.

Therefore, the cost savings were immeasurable, even with no comparative quotes.

Since students and instructors did the work as a learning experience, costs were limited to the materials. Because of the level of difficulty and the necessary level of care, the project would have required a significant labor cost had Henrico County found an outside contractor to do the work.

### **Program Results**

The project was a success for all stakeholders. Not only did Henrico County's administration building have a renovated bench, but the students' excitement made the benefits immeasurable. The students were proud about their work; when they next visit the complex, they will know that they completed this task. Students expressed their pride in making an impact and using their skills to help their county. The result is that the bench sections were installed and closely resemble the original structure. With the proper weathering, within a few years, the sections will more closely match the existing ones.

### **Brief Summary**

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**Students: The Best Contractors Money Can Buy**  
**Supplemental Material**

