



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2021.** Please include this submission form with the 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 Set "Benchmark" for Preserving Local Government Feature
Program Category: Customer Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton
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Signature: *Brandon Hinton*

Program Overview

Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) students worked on a project with the Henrico County Government to renovate and install a historic concrete bench that surrounds a county government facility. During snow removal in 2019, the bench had suffered extensive damage.

Finding a contractor to complete this project proved to be a challenge for county administrators, and they turned to the school division to see if students in the masonry program could complete this project. Students from the Academy at Virginia Randolph had the opportunity to complete this project for the county’s general government.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Henrico County needed to have a bench repaired but was having difficulty finding a contractor that wanted to tackle the project. The county wanted to repair this bench as it was specially built for the opening of the government building where it is located. Years of weathering and the scope of the project (the concrete was not only damaged, but the bench itself was curved and sloped) added a significant layer of difficulty to this project.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This project is an exemplary example of Henrico County Public Schools and Henrico County Government forming a collaborative and mutually beneficial partnership. The opportunity for our students to help the county created a sense of pride and honor in the upkeep of county property. It also gave them an opportunity to develop their expertise in a project requiring unique skills. This work allowed our counterparts in Henrico County government to use funds that would have been expended for the bench repair in another manner to support our county and its citizens.

How Program Was Carried Out

The program objectives for this project were to remove the damaged existing bench section, reconstruct it into the same dimensions and reinstall the repaired bench into the existing section from where it was originally removed. Because the bench was made of concrete, special equipment had to be used to remove and reinstall the bench section.

The development and implementation timeframe for this project took approximately four months, concluding in April 2019. Working with the unique curvature and slope of the bench and matching the bench to the existing ones accounted for a significant amount of project time. An exact match was nearly impossible due to the weathering of the existing benches over an extended amount of time. The new bench is a close replica, but should match even closer once it has weathered.

The importance of being able to complete this project was of the utmost since this building serves our county government and this bench area is the first thing patrons notice when they arrive. This project was so specialized that the government was not able to obtain a quote from outside companies. While this project was relatively small in scale, the project was also complex because of the many nuances of the bench itself, including curvature, slope, color and texture.

Once the bench was completed, our students were extremely excited that they played a role in this project. You will see that excitement in the pictures that are attached to this submission.

Financing and Staffing

Because of the nature of the program and because it was a student learning experience, the cost incurred by the Henrico County government was only the cost of the materials themselves, which was extremely minimal. This type of project would have been a large labor cost for the county had

an outside contractor been employed due to the level of difficulty and the level of care that the project entailed.

Program Results

The results of the program were significant. Not only did the county government have the bench renovated and installed, but the excitement of the students truly made the positive outcomes of the project immeasurable. The students were so excited about their work and excited about the fact that as county residents, this is a building they will frequent during their adulthood. It was knowing that they made an impact and had the ability to help their own county that meant a lot to the students. The end result is the bench area was installed and made to look quite similar to what was already there. The students looked through numerous rock patterns to try to identify the closest match. In addition, students had to learn how to make the curvature of the bench, which is an extremely difficult task, even for an experienced mason. Within a few years, the match between existing and repaired sections will be even closer as the bench weathers.

Brief Summary

Students enrolled in HCPS’ masonry program assisted the county government with repair of a historic concrete bench. The county had encountered difficulties in locating a contractor that could take on the job and contacted HCPS Career and Technical Education (CTE) staff about the possibility of collaborating on the project.

Students had to learn new skills in order to repair and re-install the bench and worked to complete the job in a timely manner. Some of these masonry skills were quite difficult and they were excited about the work they did. The bench is visible to any visitor to the county’s offices and students

took pride in knowing that they had contributed to their community using their masonry skills and knowledge.

Students Set "Benchmark" for preserving Local Government Feature
Supplemental Material

