



## SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** 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: Solid as a Rock  
Program Category: Customer Service

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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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**

Students in Henrico County Public Schools worked on a project with Henrico County General Government to renovate and install a historic concrete bench that surrounds the opening of the county government building. During snow removal in 2019, the bench suffered extensive damage.

Finding a contractor to complete this project proved challenging for Henrico County, and they turned to the schools to see if one of their masonry programs could complete this project. Students from the Academy at Virginia Randolph had the opportunity to work on and complete this project for the county's general government.

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

The main problem was the inability to find a contractor that wanted to tackle this project. The county wanted to be able to repair this bench, as it was specially made when the building opened. Years of weathering and the scope of the project added a significant layer of difficulty to this project, as the concrete was not only damaged, but the bench itself was curved and sloped.

## **How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria**

This project is an effective collaboration between Henrico County Public Schools and Henrico County General Government. The entities came together to form a partnership that was mutually beneficial and a boon to Henrico citizens. The opportunity for our students to help the county created a sense of pride and honor in our students. This also allowed our counterparts on the government side to use those funds in another manner.

## **How Program Was Carried Out**

The program objectives for the project were to remove the damaged existing bench section, have the masonry students reconstruct it in the exact dimensions and reinstall the repaired bench at the site. Because the bench was made of concrete, special equipment had to be used to remove and reinstall the bench area.

The development and implementation time frame took approximately four months. Replicating the exact curvature and slope of the bench and trying to match the bench to the old one required additional 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 match.

The importance of being able to complete this project was paramount, since this building serves our county government, and the bench area is the first thing residents notice when they arrive. 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 focus, it was also a lengthy undertaking because of the nuances of the bench itself; curvature, slope, color and texture.

Once the bench was completed, our students were extremely excited about the role they had played.

### **Financing and Staffing**

With no comparative quotes, the cost savings were immeasurable. Because of the nature of the program and the student learning experience, the cost incurred by the county government was only the cost of the materials themselves, which was minimal. This type of project would have been a large labor cost for the government for an outside contractor because of the weathered bench's condition and level of difficulty.

### **Program Results**

Not only did Henrico County have its signature bench renovated and installed, but the excitement of the students made the project worthwhile. The students were so excited about their work and the fact that as Henrico County residents, they contributed to a building they will frequent during their adult lives. Knowing they had made an impact and had the ability to help their own county meant a lot to the students. The end result? The bench area was repaired, installed and made to look close to the original. With more weathering, this bench will match the existing benches even more within a few years.

### **Brief Summary**

Students from HCPS' Academy at Virginia Randolph were tasked to reconstruct a historic concrete bench outside of a government building that was severely damaged. The project required extensive repair and attention that made it difficult to find a suitable contractor, but the masonry students were able to refurbish the bench to great condition, closely matching the specifications of the original bench based on curvature, slope, color and texture. The project gave students the ability to tackle an arduous project and manage all facets of it, from planning to development to installation. It was just as valuable to Henrico County, as it was able to suitably

repair the bench without paying a premium for a third-party contractor. Students finished the project with a significant sense of achievement by completing the project for the county.

**Solid As A Rock  
Supplemental Material**

