

## 'Democracy Bench': a commission



'Fifty Cities' – Langland and Bell



'Social Bench' – Jeppe Hein



'Seesaw Bench' - Martin Nicolausson

### Can you create a park bench to encourage democratic, public debate?

That is the brief for this new commission – designed and funded by a group of 180 people who donated £10 each, then made proposals and voted on what to do with the £1800 total. For more information about how they did this see <http://tinyurl.com/whowantstobench>

**Brief:** Design a bench that encourages democracy – in any shape or form. It might be a place for people to talk, think, vote – whatever. How you interpret 'democracy' is up to you.

**Location:** London Borough of Southwark has very helpfully agreed to house the bench in the beautiful Chumleigh Gardens, an historic and much-loved public space, so do read up on it for further inspiration: info: <http://tinyurl.com/9yr55y> pics: <http://tinyurl.com/9a3n4v>

**Materials:** It's meant for a London Park, so materials should be very durable - unless you want it to be bio-degradable or something. Safety and cost are also major considerations.

**Budget:** We have raised £1800 for the commission, but don't let that cramp your creativity. If your design is really great, but will cost more – tell us and perhaps we can raise it.

**How to apply:** Send your applications to [bench@whowantstobe.co.uk](mailto:bench@whowantstobe.co.uk), including:

- A description of your bench, mentioning your approach to the requirements, materials and the location.
- Outline a budget - how much will each bit cost? Perhaps we can help with some in-kind support so let us know what you need to make it happen.
- Tell us about yourself! Are you the right person to make this bench? Have you got any experience of doing stuff like this before?
- Any images, links, drawing, video or other supplementary materials describing your bench.

**Deadline:** 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2009.

**What happens next:** Once all the applications are in, each person who donated their £10 will be able to discuss and vote on their favourite benches in an online poll. The winner will be announced at the end of March. You can then follow the progress, design, build and installation of the bench on <http://whowantstobe.co.uk>