RELISH A RESPISTE

Discover for yourself the vibrant array of public art throughout Cambridge. Explore this creative collection of benches that promote both rest and reflection.

EXPLORE MORE: CAMBRIDGEMA.GOV/PUBLICART
ALTERED BENCHES
LOCATION: GREENE-ROSE HERITAGE PARK, 155 HARVARD STREET
DETAILS: BY LAURA EVANS, TORY FAIR, KENNETH SPEISER / 2007 / BRONZE, FIBERGLASS, FOAM, BRICK, STEEL, CONCRETE

These three artists were asked to create an artwork in dialogue with standard park benches. Evans introduces curious bronze elements and playfully alters the steel back. Fair’s *Hopscotch* adds a sculptural element that reflects her interpretation of athletic field markings as zones of social space. Speiser’s *Hearth* turns a bench into a symbolic hearth where people gather.

ARTESIAN WELL
LOCATION: SACRAMENTO FIELD, 21 SACRAMENTO STREET
DETAILS: BY BLAND HOKE / 2017 / STAINLESS STEEL, POLYCARBONATE

Hoke did extensive research and learned that this site was once a bleachery that made use of plentiful underground water in the area. Later it was turned into a verdant park with a long rectangular pool. To evoke the water, Hoke cut shapes for this artwork from a large section of steel pipe, creating flowing arabesques accented by cool blue polycarbonate.

ALLEY CATS
LOCATION: CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY/VALENTE BRANCH, 826 CAMBRIDGE STREET (IN GARDEN)
DETAILS: BY JUDY MCKIE / 2005 (PARK REDESIGNED, ARTWORK RE-SITED 2019) / SILICON BRONZE

Working closely with park designer, Carol R. Johnson Associates, McKie created a garden that welcomes you to sit among friendly cats, read a book, chat with a friend, or contemplate in a peaceful space off a busy street corner. It was the artist’s intent that two of the cat benches are situated in conversation with each other, while a third greets you nearby.

CHAIRS AND ENDLESS LAMPS
LOCATION: MOSES YOUTH CENTER, BEHIND 243 HARVARD STREET (BETWEEN THE CENTER AND SENNOTT PARK BASKETBALL COURT)
DETAILS: BY JOHN TAGIURI / 2002 / CONCRETE, PAINT, METAL

The artist learned through conversations with youth at the center that a nearby fence had become a barrier to activity in the park and on the basketball court. Tagiuri created a feature that helps mitigate the problem, welcoming social interaction and lingering. His theme references large living room furniture—upholstered arm chairs and two lamps, a tribute to Brancusi’s *Endless Column*. 

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