



# Meet, Seat, Eat: Melrose!

# Elevator Pitch

Melrose has a beautiful downtown area, with many delicious restaurants and fun stores. However, many of these businesses have been hit hard by the pandemic. We would like to use the budget to create an atmosphere that would encourage people to shop local and support Melrose businesses.

Imagine an area with brightly painted benches, tables, and chairs surrounded by beautiful potted plants and white lights with outdoor games for people to use downtown. We want Melrose to be a place where people meet, have a seat, and eat!



# Summary

Our goal is to provide a fun, comfortable seating area for people shopping and eating downtown. We want to support local businesses struggling during the pandemic, especially restaurants because eating inside does not work for many people. Having outdoor seating and hang-out places will encourage people to shop and get food, then sit downtown to eat. Or people will go downtown to hang out and might get food or visit a store. We would also like to enlist the talents of the Follow Your Art Studio (we have reached out and are waiting to hear back) artists and ask them to design and paint picnic tables and/or Adirondack chairs. We thought about not only placing this seating downtown but in other places throughout the city, including parks and city hall.



# Project Narrative

**Background:** We enjoy going downtown and getting food with friends, but many places are takeout only due to the pandemic and finding a place to eat is a challenge. Providing the place will be beneficial to the people eating and the businesses they are supporting.



# Project Narrative Continued

**Statement of Need:** We need to create these spaces to make our downtown better and to support local restaurants and stores.

**Goals:** Provide fun hang-out areas downtown to support local businesses. As well as creating fun, flexible seating throughout the city. The seating will be uniquely painted adirondack chairs and a few picnic tables (see images throughout slideshow). Our goal is to commission some the Follow Your Arts and some MHS art students to paint the seating. We hope some community members would like to 'adopt' a chair to either paint themselves or have painted by a professional.

**Objectives:** Add seating to our downtown and other areas around the community (We can send out a survey a few weeks later to see if people like them).

**Sustainability:** We will help set up the areas and check in on them regularly, we will also talk to DPW and other city resources.



# Additional Information

We have also reached out to the Follow Your Art Studio and they are willing to pool their resources and work with students involved to purchase the needed supplies and bulk purchase and store, likely saving money since there won't be duplicate purchases.

FYAS also want to involve the community in their process, building stakes for the community and increasing the likelihood that others will want to get involved and "adopt" in the future. For example, they will put out a call for community members, especially students, to team up with an artist for each piece of furniture they are finishing to engage in the finish and design work. When they did this for the community parklet they got a lot of interest from folks as to how they could contribute next time.



# Possible locations

Location	Public or Private Space	Contact
The Melrose Commons (picnic tables)	Public	<a href="https://www.cityofmelrose.org/webforms/contact-us">https://www.cityofmelrose.org/webforms/contact-us</a>
Melrose Cedar Park (picnic tables)	Public	
Franklin Field (picnic tables)	Public	
The Knoll (picnic tables)	Public	
Storefront on Main, W. Emerson, W. Wyoming, Franklin, Essex Streets		Ask individual store owners
Lewis Monk field (Picnic tables and chairs)		<a href="#">Churchill Little League:</a>
Gooch Park (adirondack chairs)		
YMCA space (adirondack chairs)		
Melino Park (adirondack chairs)	private	
Memorial Hall and/or City Hall (adirondack chairs)	Public	<a href="https://www.cityofmelrose.org/webforms/contact-us">https://www.cityofmelrose.org/webforms/contact-us</a>
Franklin Street Market (adirondack chairs)	public	<a href="https://www.cityofmelrose.org/webforms/contact-us">https://www.cityofmelrose.org/webforms/contact-us</a>
Green spaces on Belmont Street (adirondack chairs and picnic tables)		

# Budget

Item	Cost
Unfinished Adirondack Chairs	Approximately \$70 per <a href="#">unfinished wood adirondack</a> 14 Chairs = <b>\$980</b>
Unfinished Picnic Tables	Approximately \$150 per <a href="#">unfinished wood table</a> 3 Tables = <b>\$450</b>
<a href="#">Follow Your Art</a> Costs	8 Painted Chairs = <b>\$2000</b> (\$250 per chair) 2 Painted Tables = <b>\$1100</b> (\$550 per table)
Art Supplies for MHS Art Students	<b>\$350</b>
Misc.	<b>\$120</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5000</b>



# Potential Pitfalls/limitations

We need to find places that the city or private businesses are willing to give to us. This could take a long time. We also have to get and paint all the benches.

The community/businesses might not like this idea and not give us a place to establish this area.

They might get too crowded (covid restrictions).