“The Bus Stops Here” project is a timely tribute to one of the most enduring icons of community life, the often overlooked and under-appreciated bus stop and park bench.

The finished designs provide seating and benches at bus stops and wherever people may choose to rest, to help Ferndale become one of Michigan’s most walkable and healthy communities.
“The Bus Stops Here” project features the 2006 work of Cranbrook Academy of Art students who redefine the form and function of the often overlooked and under-appreciated bus stop and park bench. You can view these finished pieces at the locations on the map above.

A  Bridge Bench by John Truex
B  Bus Bench Monument by Aaron Blendowski
C  Edgy by Jada Schumacher
D  Soft Steel Bench by Yu-Chih Hsiao
E  Yummy Concrete by Jada Schumacher
F  Aggregate Wall by Patrick Casey
G  Flight Path #1 by Shan Sutherland

All benches are on display at the Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery, July 29 – August 31, 2006.
Yu-Chih Hsiao is an Interior and Architectural Designer born in Taipei, Taiwan. He received his BFA from Shih Chien University in Taipei. In 2002, he won the Formosa Ironware International Ornamental Design Competition sponsored by the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art. He is pursuing a Master of Architecture degree at Cranbrook Academy of Art.

**SOFT STEEL BENCH**

The idea for Soft Steel Bench is to create prototype seating for a bus stop which can be mass produced using laser cut technology for easy assembly. This bench transfers the elements of a standard solid wood bench into one made of steel, while retaining an organic reference. The design also develops an intricate shadow effect that will decorate the pavement during the summer or mark the snow during winter months. This bench thus enacts a kind of "drawing" upon the surrounding urban environment.

**TWIN BENCHES**

The idea of Twin Benches involved creating two benches using a single sheet of 5'x5'x1" steel. A water-jet cutting process routed the sheet to develop a series of thin rings. The rings were then separated into two groups and each group was stacked to create a bench with a unique pattern. The stacked rings were then welded together to produce the two individual benches. Light passing through the rings creates an ever-changing shadow play on the ground during different hours and seasons.

Shan Sutherland received his MFA in Metalsmithing from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2006. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, his father is a furniture maker and his mother a sculptor. He received a BA in Art History from Swarthmore College in Philadelphia and studied Sculpture and Metalsmithing at the University of Georgia.

**FLIGHT PATH #1**

The form of this cantilevered bench makes reference to the lanes of a road, the wings of a bird or the hull of a ship; forms which evoke travel and movement through space. The form of the benches, though contemporary, is achieved through traditional blacksmithing techniques that have a rich tradition at Cranbrook.

**AGGREGATE WALL**

Aggregate, the collection of particles into a body, refers not only to the material of the wall, but also to the act of gathering people together in the cityscape. By creating an identifiable "place" in a formerly ambiguous locale, separate from the parking lot behind, the wall defines a space for resting, talking or waiting for a bus.

Patrick Casey is currently enrolled in the Masters Program in Architecture at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. Earning his Bachelors in Architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, he comes to Cranbrook by way of Boston, where he practiced architecture and taught courses at the Boston Architectural Center.
This bench uses felled White Ash wood as a tribute to the tree species disappearing from Midwest American cities (as of 2003 ten million+ Ash trees were lost in Michigan). The unique seat back forms express the different individuals who may sit together and visit as they wait for the next bus.

Aaron Blendowski completed the Masters program in 3D Design at Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2006. He is a graduate of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, where he focused on interdisciplinary studies. His design work investigates sustainability and the potential of objects to contribute to a sustainable culture.

John Truex received his BFA in Sculpture at the University of Tennessee in 2004 and recently graduated with an MFA in 3D Design at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. His current work focuses on furniture and domestic objects in the critical design realm, proposing alternative scenarios of value and use.

This scaled down section of a highway overpass returns a portion of the automotive infrastructure to the human-scaled community environment. The interior cavity below the seating surface contains a miniature landscape, an organic growth sprouting from an industrial form.

Jada Schumacher designed furniture in the 3D Design Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art. She has a Master of Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin and has practiced professionally in the areas of interior design and architecture.

"I use color as a fundamental driver of the design process, a method that is atypical in the industry today. In the design of objects and environments, I explore how the use of color can enhance the experience of a space."

– Jada

The angular seating surfaces reflect the frozen geometry of the nearby building facade. The overlapping forms and shiny automotive colors reference the activity of car culture which was born right here on Woodward Avenue.

These concrete tuffets playfully draw inspiration from the existing Dunkin’ Donuts site. Each candy-colored tuffet is sized for one person, allowing individuals to avoid awkward sharing of benches while waiting for the bus.
Paramount Bank, a true community bank, takes pride in its versatility and progressiveness and is proud to open its newest branch, designed by renowned architect Ron Rea, in “fabulous” Ferndale. This unique, open and modern 3,800 square-foot design allocates 1,300 square feet to the Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery which will present monthly exhibits of local artists and community interest.

As a genuine community bank, Paramount Bank is made up of people who can provide fast answers, customized products and a level of service and respect that meets the needs of the Ferndale residential and business communities. Paramount Bank offers a full range of banking products including some of the highest rates on FDIC insured CDs and money markets, a high-rate, interest-bearing personal checking account, customized mortgages, business loans and seasonal lines of credit.