



ARTIST OPPORTUNITY: Call for Artists

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY: COASTAL CENTER INTERIOR SCULPTURAL INSTALLATION

This opportunity is possible through the Louisiana Percent for Art program which is administered by the Office of Cultural Development /Division of the Arts, in the Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism of the State of Louisiana, in collaboration with the Division of Administration and the Office of Facility Planning and Control.

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY: CALL TO ARTISTS

OVERVIEW

The Louisiana Percent for Art Program seeks artists or artist teams to design and implement an interior site-specific sculptural installation of original design for the Coastal Center at Nicholls State University. The installation should represent the wind-swept trees commonly seen on forested islands and other areas directly affected by continuous Gulf winds. This commission is open nationally to professional artists 18 and over.

BUDGET

The proposal selected by the Committee will include an all-inclusive budget of **\$95,000** to cover all costs associated with the project and commensurate with the intended scale, including but not limited to research, professional consultations, formal reports from licensed structural and electrical engineers where appropriate, a long-term care and maintenance report from a licensed professional conservator, materials, fabrication, transportation, travel, insurance, foundation, installation, and photography and documentation of the artwork.

ELIGIBILITY

This call for artists is open to professional artists 18 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender identification, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical ability.

Artist teams may apply and must designate one artist as the lead contact. **Examples of work submitted must be original, recently completed artwork (within the last ten years).**

The application, including all examples of work and supporting documents, is considered the artist's official "submission." If any information submitted by the artist or artist's representative, including all supporting documents, is found fraudulent, the submission will be disqualified.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Application materials must be received by **July 28th** via the **Call for Entry (CaFÉ) system** available online at www.callforentry.org. **Deadlines in CaFÉ are at 11:59 PM Mountain Time Zone** [Denver, Colorado, USA] on the deadline day.

The CaFÉ system will remain open until 11:59 PM MDT on July 28th. Staff will only be available for technical or website assistance Monday – Friday from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM MDT (*Holidays may affect this time*). Applicants are encouraged to apply early to reduce the risk of technical difficulties. Staff will not accept incomplete or late submissions for any reason.

A complete application must include the following:

- **Artist résumé** demonstrating at least five (5) years of professional visual art experience (**NOT STUDENT WORK**). If submitting as a team, a current résumé should be submitted for each team member (compiled into one document). A biography will not be accepted in place of a résumé.
- **Statement of interest** describing:
 1. Why you are interested in this project

2. Previous experience with public art
 3. Your methods of working
 4. Your connection to (if any) or interest in the University
 5. How you believe the art will enhance the chosen space
- **References** with the names and current contact details of **three** people you have previously partnered with, worked with or commissioned your work.
References will be contacted for artists invited to develop a proposal for the commission.
 - **Images (up to 10)** of your **original completed** commissions or artworks, not proposals, which demonstrate your qualifications for the project. 3-D models, sketches, or drawings will not be accepted. You must include the title, medium, dimensions, project budget (price), year completed, location, and description. The value must be indicated in US dollars. Each image must contain only one view of the work.
 - Up to 3 **videos** (optional) of work examples

Image specifications: JPG, PNG - Maximum size per image 5MB, total 30MB.

*Slides, emailed prints, or any physical submissions will NOT be accepted.

BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE COASTAL CENTER

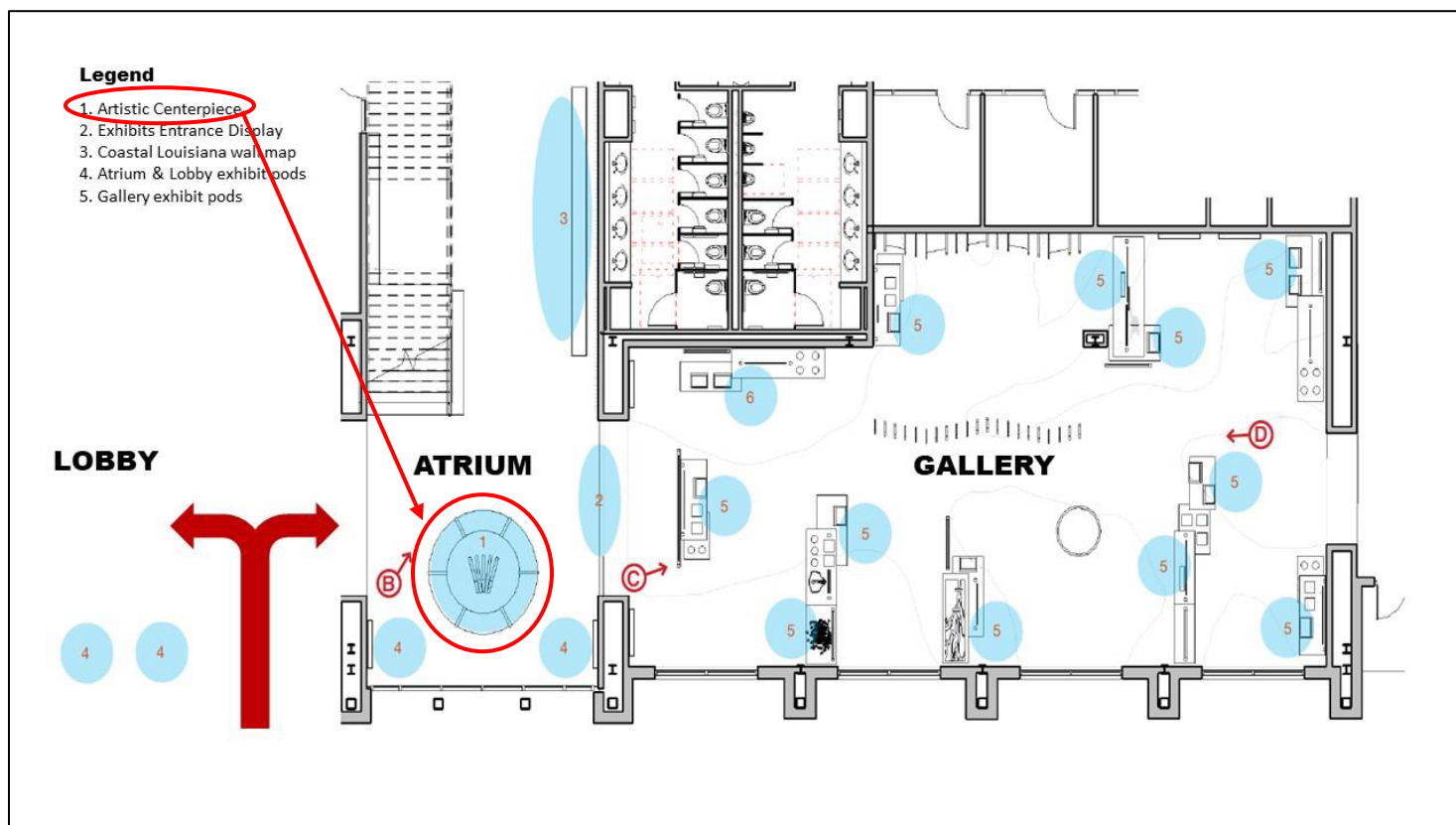
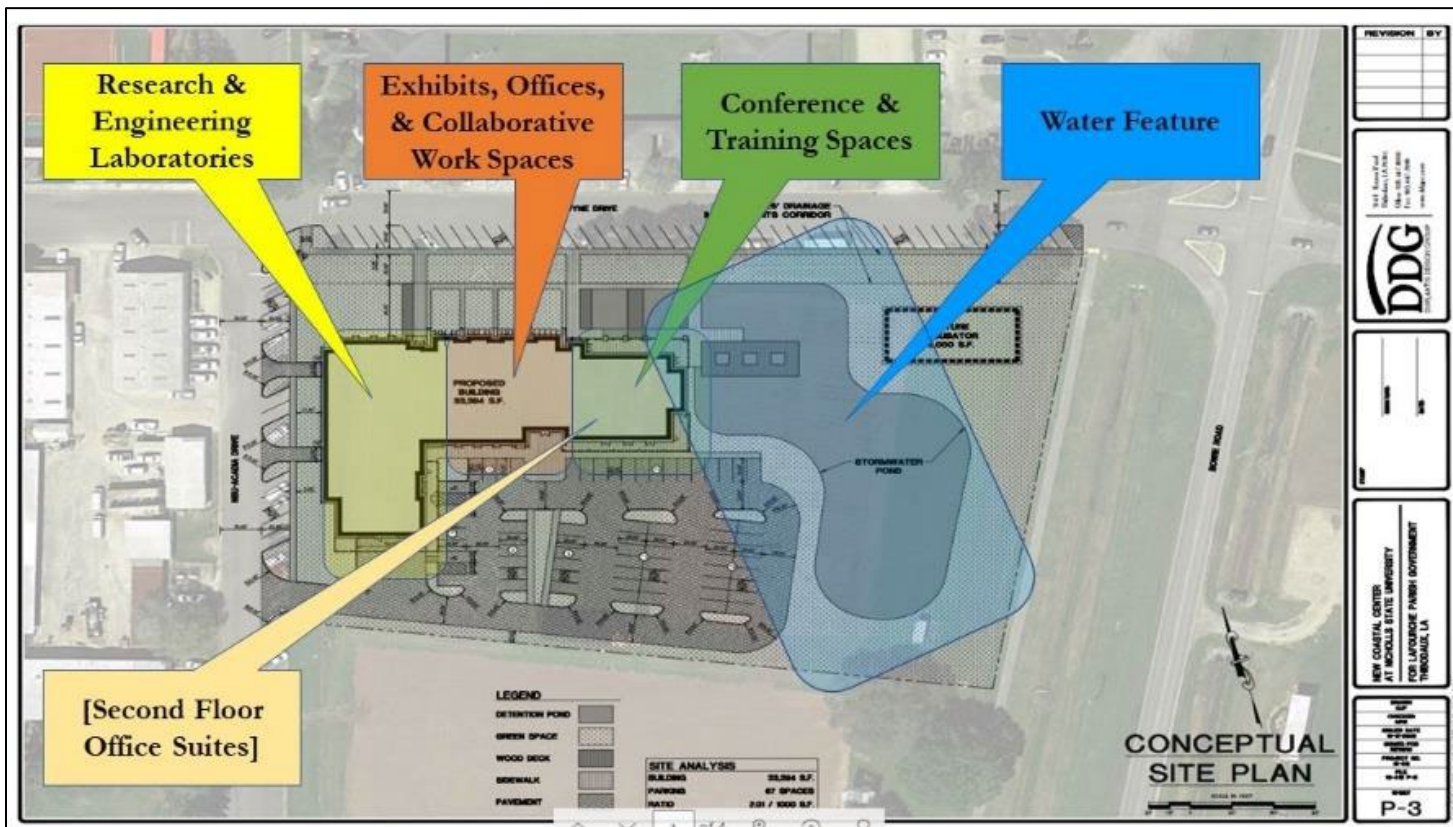
Nicholls State University (est. 1948) is the closest Louisiana university to the Gulf Coast. Located in Thibodaux, Louisiana, Nicholls is built atop the right descending bank of historical Bayou Lafourche—once a prehistoric Mississippi River floodplain. A large portion of the land that extends west to the Atchafalaya River, east to Barataria Bay, and south for 100 miles to the present-day Port Fourchon, Cheniere Camindada, and Grand Isle was built during the last 3000-5000 years. The natural levees of the bayou and its distributaries supported the establishment of the historical bayou communities in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.

The service regions of Nicholls include the south-central Louisiana parishes Lafourche and Terrebonne —areas with the highest land loss and subsidence rate in the United States. Cities and towns in coastal parishes like Lafourche and Terrebonne are home to nearly 90% of the university's faculty, staff, and students. Nicholls communities have first-hand experience with Louisiana's waterways affecting everyday life, work, environment, and culture.

Nicholls was chosen in 2019 by Governor John Bel Edwards and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority as the site of a new Coastal Center focused on solving issues faced by the Atchafalaya and Terrebonne Basins and providing coastal education. Nicholls' proximity to the coast and its 75-year history of addressing the needs of coastal communities give the university a special opportunity to serve as the epicenter for science.

THE BUILDING AND SPACES

The Coastal Center building is approximately 40,000 sq. ft. of space designed for research, conferences, educational exhibits, and offices and work spaces for coastal professionals and students. At the front center of the building, a multi-story glass Atrium separates the conference area lobby from the education exhibits gallery, with open access to both. The Atrium receives visitors from the main entrance and will serve as an occasional meeting place for conference intermission and receptions.





ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

The schematic on page 4 ("Artistic Centerpiece," labeled 1) indicates a location for the art installation in the front center of the multi-story glass Atrium.

The installation at the Coastal Center should represent the wind-swept trees commonly seen on forested barrier islands and other areas directly affected by continuous Gulf winds. This image represents multiple aspects of the Coastal Center vision: (1) a tree of the Gulf coastline immediately recognizable to both residents and visitors of the coast, (2) major coastal vegetation that retains silts and sediment, (3) a major indicator of coastal well-being in the form of resistance to saltwater incursion, (4) a metaphor for historical families and communities retreated from the Gulf Coast (a "swept family tree") due to severe hurricanes, particularly a triumvirate of severe storms that struck the Lafourche-Terrebonne coast at the turn of the 20th century—that ultimately determined today's settlement patterns in those parishes, and (5) a symbol of the submission a living thing to natural forces representing the burden we face in resisting coast-damaging forces.

Artists are encouraged to design a realistic, highly recognizable representation that may incorporate kinetic and light elements to convey a sense of movement and energy and facilitate visualization from outside the building through the Atrium's glass face. Ideally, the installation should generate awe and excitement and the remembrance of and hope for the once and future coastline.

SELECTION PROCESS & EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Art Selection Committee may include (but is not limited to) a project manager from the Louisiana Office of Facility Planning & Control, the building architect or design professionals, representatives from the University, professional artist(s), and a member of the State Arts Council.

Submissions are evaluated by:

- Artistic excellence and originality, as evidenced by the representations of past work images and other supporting materials
- Appropriateness of the artist's medium, style, and previous experience as they relate to the project goals and setting
- Experience with projects of a similar scale and scope
- Ability to create site-specific or site-reactive works
- Availability to participate in the design and implementation of the project as required
- Special consideration will be given to Louisiana artists as defined by La. R.S.25:9000.1(E)
- The Committee may also take into consideration when selecting artists whether or not an artist is already represented in the state's collection

SCOPE OF WORK

The selected artist or artist team will be asked to:

- Consider the elements of the site as a source of design ideas
- Consider the facility and the area(s) surrounding the artwork and their intended uses as described in this call
- Compliment the building(s) and the campus' architecture and aesthetic values
- Be durable, sturdy, stable, suitable for climate conditions, resistant to UV damage, and safe for public interaction

NOTIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

Notifications will be issued by the end of **August 2023**. A full timeline will be provided to those finalists who have been shortlisted.

This is a call for the submission of proposals. If your proposal is selected, you will be contacted by the Percent for Art program staff. A selection will be made within two weeks of the proposal meeting.

Finalists will be required to attend two (2) meetings: A site visit to meet with the Committee and to view the space, and the presentation of the artist's proposal before the Committee.

The proposal must include the concept, materials, size, weight, installation requirements, details of maintenance, and budget. **The proposal must also include a maquette (if applicable) or digital renderings, which display the physical volume of the space and allow for multiple perspectives of the artwork within the space.**

All proposal documents, including the maquette and renderings, will become property of the State of Louisiana and will be used for educational and/or promotional purposes of the program. Each finalist's proposal and/or maquette may be exhibited for Committee and community consideration.

An honorarium/proposal fee of \$1,500 will be paid to artists to offset expenses associated with the development of proposals and travel (if applicable).

NOTE: "The Percent for Art Program and the Artist Selection Committee reserves the right to change, modify, or revise the Call to Artists, in part or whole, at any time before the submittal deadline without prior notice. Any change, modification or revision can be found [here](#). The Percent for Art Program and the Artist Selection Committee also reserves the right to reject any or all applications or proposals, to reject any finalist, or to terminate the selection process for any project without prior notice."

The Louisiana Percent for Art Program was established by law in the 1999 legislative session. The law specifies that on projects using more than \$2,000,000.00 in state funds, one percent (1%) of the expenditure for construction or renovation of a state building shall be for works of art by artists and craftsmen for the building or its grounds.

Please direct questions about the Percent for Art Program or this project to:

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<https://www.crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/arts/>



