



SCULPTURE DESIGN PROJECT

CALL TO ARTISTS

Cane River National Heritage Area seeks artist designs for the Natchitoches in Bloom Public Art Project. The Natchitoches in Bloom public art project was created by the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission and the Cane River National Heritage Area. Together these entities have partnered with artist Corbin Covher, an Associate Professor of art at the Northwestern State University of Louisiana, School of Creative and Performing Arts to design and sculpt a series of metal public art sculptures featuring native or noteworthy flora from the Cane River region. These sculptures will be placed in public parks across the City of Natchitoches and help bring awareness to the visual arts. In 2023 four sculptures will be unveiled: the Louisiana Iris, the Zinnia, the Tulip, and the Magnolia.

GUIDELINES

Natchitoches in Bloom is a free sculpture design contest open to all people. *Preference will be given to residents of Natchitoches Parish or residents of Louisiana.*

- Artists or their representatives, as well as Northwest Louisiana community groups, are eligible to submit design proposals to the Natchitoches in Bloom contest for consideration. There is no limit to the number of design proposals an artist can submit. Each design must be submitted for all four sculptures.
- The Natchitoches in Bloom Committee maintains that the success of this project lies in creativity and artistry. Accordingly, the project does not allow for any direct advertising of a product, company's name, libel, slander, or social disrespect. However, subject to the Natchitoches in Bloom Committee's approval, artist creativity that produces subtle and clever messages associating the artwork with products or missions will be considered. The Natchitoches in Bloom Committee reserves the right to reject, censor or delete artist submissions. The committee may also suggest changes to the proposed designs and maintain final discretion of all designs.
- During the creative process minor changes are anticipated. If a design changes radically from the initial proposal, these changes must be re-submitted to the Natchitoches in Bloom Committee for review before the process continues. Failure to submit changes could result in a reduced honorarium to the artist and possible rejection of the flower for inclusion in Natchitoches in Bloom series.

- All proposed designs must be submitted to the Natchitoches in Bloom Committee by the contest deadline for approval and inclusion in the contest. An anonymous art counsel will select the winning designs.
- Winning artists will be notified via email and/or phone.
- Artists are required to work with approved types of paints and finishes to assure the longevity of the artwork on the steel flower surfaces. All materials must withstand climatic conditions and be safe and durable enough for the public to touch. An acceptable materials list will be provided to the winning artists by the Natchitoches in Bloom Committee. Artists will be reimbursed for supply costs up to \$400.
- Artists or groups must be able to pick up and transport the flower from and back to a location to be announced. The Natchitoches in Bloom Committee will not provide pick-up or delivery services. Pick-up will be **May 29 – June 2, 2023, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.** The date for the return of completed flowers is **Monday, July 31, 2023**, and the return location will be coordinated with the committee and communicated to the artists.

DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

- Artwork must be the contestant's original creation. Any artwork that is an exact replica of a photo or other work will be disqualified. Any artwork found infringing on copyright laws will be disqualified from the contest.
- Designs may be submitted in any 2D medium but must be able to be replicated on the sculpture using paint if selected.
- Design must cover the entirety of the floral sculpture including the stem, leaves and base.
- The design should tell a story unique to the artist and if possible, highlight Natchitoches' unique heritage, history, and culture.
- Submitted designs must be free of any writing unless it relates to the artwork. Art must also be free of any signatures or initials on the sculpture. Credit will be given to the artist on the base plaque.

ARTIST HONORARIUM

- Once the Natchitoches in Bloom Committee selects the winning designs, the selected artists will receive a commission to complete the painting of the design.
- The artist or artist groups will receive a total honorarium of \$1,000 per flower. Cost of materials and supplies are reimbursable up to \$400. A contract will be signed between the artist and Cane River National Heritage Area on behalf of Natchitoches in Bloom. The honorarium will be divided into three payments: \$300 upon signing of contract and receipt of flower, and final honorarium payment of \$700 upon delivery and approval of the decorated flower. The third payment is a reimbursement of up to \$400 upon delivery with an itemized receipt of supply expenditures.
- In addition to the honorarium, all artists and artist groups who complete a flower will receive their name on the base plaque of the flower.

OWNERSHIP

The Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission and Cane River National Heritage Area will own the completed flowers and the artwork design selected in perpetuity. Once an

artist submits a design, the design shall remain in the custody of Natchitoches in Bloom until after the project is completed; anticipated project completion date is September 30, 2024.

Natchitoches in Bloom shall have the right to reproduce and distribute the design or derivatives of the design for the purpose of promoting the event by all forms of media. Natchitoches in Bloom shall also have the right to use the selected designs on a variety of merchandise. Artists are not allowed to reproduce the design selected and are only allowed to share publish or promote the design via the Natchitoches in Bloom brand and approved mediums.

FLOWER DETAILS

The Zinnia, Magnolia, and Louisiana Iris sculptures are approximately 3 feet in height and will be placed on a 1.5-2 ft pedestal. The Tulip sculpture is approximately 6 feet in height and will be placed on a 1.5-2 ft pedestal. Flower Sculptures include the Louisiana Iris, the Zinnia, the Tulip, and the Magnolia.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Please include the following in your submission:

- Three photos of recently completed projects.
 - Include title, media, dimensions, year completed
- Resume/CV
 - Full name, current address, contact information
 - May include education, exhibitions, public art projects, awards, etc.
- Completed flower designs.
 - Artists must submit artwork on all of the sculpture outlines provided.
- Signed artist agreement
- Intent to Participate

SUBMISSION

Design submissions will be accepted from March 11, 2023, to May 1, 2023. All entries must be received by 5:00pm on May 1, 2023, to be accepted for consideration in the contest.

Please email completed digital submissions to the contact information below:

Natchitoches in Bloom
Attn: Jessica Mullican
Cane River National Heritage Area
jessica@canerivernha.org

Please mail completed printed submissions to the contact information below:

Natchitoches in Bloom
Attn: Jessica Mullican
Cane River National Heritage Area
4115 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71457

