

## Call to Artists

The popular Gators on the Geaux campaign is back! Gators on the Geaux is a public art extravaganza that is showcasing Southwest Louisiana as an eccentric and creative community. Gators on the Geaux features dozens of fiberglass life-size gators that measure five and one feet standing.

The Lake Charles Symphony, in partnership with the Arts & Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana and our generous sponsors, is producing Gators on the Geaux again, Southwest Louisiana's largest public art project. This art campaign is modeled after Chicago's remarkable Cows on Parade project and will feature an alligator as its theme icon.

Gators on the Geaux is a community effort designed to make public art accessible, to expand tourism, and to have fun! The project is also intended to increase awareness of the arts and humanities and of the Lake Charles Symphony. Gators on the Geaux will descend upon Southwest Louisiana by placing creatively designed gators in highly visible locations throughout the area.

## Guidelines

Artists or their representatives, as well as Southwest Louisiana community groups, are eligible to submit design proposals to Gators on the Geaux for consideration. There is no limit to the number of proposals an artist can submit, but artists should take into consideration the number of gators that can be completed within the project timeframe without compromising design and implementation.

All proposed designs must be submitted to the Review Committee for approval and inclusion in the Gator Gallery, where juried artist designs will be selected by gator buyers and/or the Review Committee, (unless the buyer has prior arrangements with an artist or design group). Regardless of how an artist is contracted, a design proposal of every gator must be submitted for Review Committee approval. No gator will be released to an artist without prior design approval.

The Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA and Gators on the Geaux Committee maintain 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 Review Committee's approval, artist creativity that produces subtle and clever messages associating the artwork with products or missions will be considered. The Review Committee reserves the right to reject, censor or delete artist submissions. The committee may also suggest changes to proposed designs and maintains final discretion of all designs. If an artist approaches a gator buyer or is approached directly by a gator buyer, paying the artist becomes the buyer's responsibility. In this instance, the honorarium amount is settled between the artist and the buyer. However, the Gators on the Geaux Review Committee

reserves the right to approve all designs, and a design proposal must be submitted to the committee. No gator will be released to an artist or buyer without prior approval. 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 Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA for committee review before the process continues. Failure to submit changes could result in a reduced honorarium to the artist and possible rejection of the gator for inclusion in Gators on the Geaux.

The artist has the right to add appendages to the basic fiberglass gator. Proposed additions must be made clear at the time of the original submission to the Review Committee. Materials used must follow guidelines provided by the Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA. Artists interested in adding appendages may request guidelines from the Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA.

Artists are required to work with approved types of paints and finishes to assure the longevity of the artwork on the gator fiberglass surfaces. All materials must withstand climatic conditions and be safe and durable enough for the public to touch. A list of acceptable materials will be given to artists when the blank gator is released.

Artists or groups must be able to pick up and transport the gator(s) from and back to a location to be announced. The Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA, the Lake Charles Symphony, and Gators on the Geaux will not provide pick-up or delivery services. Pick-up will be March 31, 2022, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The date for the return of completed gators is May 25, 2022, and the return location will be coordinated with the committee.

## **Artist Honorarium**

Once the Review Committee accepts a proposed design, the design is then placed in the Gator Portfolio, where it becomes eligible to compete in the Gator Gallery. Designs that are successful in both the Review Committee and the Gator Gallery will receive commissions.

The artist or artist groups will receive a total honorarium of \$750 per gator. Cost of materials and supplies are to be deducted from the honorarium. The gator buyer and the artist will be linked and a contract will be signed with the Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA on behalf of Gators on the Geaux. The honorarium will be divided into two payments: \$375 upon signing of contract and receipt of gator, and final payment of \$375 upon delivery and approval of the decorated gator.

In addition to the honorarium, all artists and artist groups who complete accepted gators will be eligible for \$2,000 in cash prizes. The prizes are as follows: best in show award receives a \$1,000 check, second place award receives a \$750 check, and the people's choice award receives a \$250 check. Further, all designs accepted for commissions will be

included in the Gators on the Geaux exhibition, to be held at a location to be announced. The exhibition will be sponsored by the Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA and the Lake Charles Symphony.

## **Ownership**

The gator buyer will own the completed gator. Once an artist submits a design, the design shall remain in the custody of Gators on the Geaux until after the project is completed; anticipated project completion date is October 31, 2022. Gators on the Geaux 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. Gators on the Geaux shall also have the right to use the design on a variety of merchandise during the project period. From November 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023, artists will be granted shared design rights by Gators on the Geaux; however, all design reproduction must be approved by Gators on the Geaux. On November 1, 2023, design rights will be fully reverted to the artists, and said rights will be specified in the Gators on the Geaux artist contracts.

## **Gator Care and Feeding**

The gators are in standing position, hollow and made of fiberglass. They will be sanded by the foundry/fabricator. Artists will be required to prime and paint their creations.

## **Timetable\***

- March 15, 2022-Artists Sketches due
- March 20, 2022-Gators Delivered to Lake Charles
- March 22, 2022- Artists selected
- March 31, 2022-Gator Pickup and Signing of Artist Contracts
- April 25, 2022-Deadline to Paint First Gator
- April 27, 2022-Deliver First Gator to LCS
- May 1, 2022-Set Up First Gator Display at Concert
- May 16, 2022-Gator Order #1 Delivered to LCS
- May 23, 2022-Gator Order #1 to Artists
- Memorial Day Weekend Through October 31, 2022- Delivery of completed gators for mounting and placement Gators are exhibited throughout the area
- July 1, 2022-Order #1 Painted and Delivered to LCS
- July 9, 2022-Order #1 Display at Summer Pops
- July 9, 2022-Raffle of First Gator
- TBA-End Date

\*Should the delivery date of the gators change, the timeline outlined will be adjusted accordingly.

## **Submission Requirements**

**Please include the following in your submission:**

- 3 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.

Email the above documents, gator design, and the “Intent to Participate” (next page), to the contact information below:

GATORS ON THE GEAX

Attn: Devan Corbello

Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA

[Devanc@artscouncilswla.org](mailto:Devanc@artscouncilswla.org)

## Intent to Participate

Email this form to [devanc@artscouncilswla.org](mailto:devanc@artscouncilswla.org) by March 15, 2022

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How many gators would you be able to complete? \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Title and other information:

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