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Inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences

Crenshaw Environmental Magnet Program

Outdoor Classroom for field based education and exploration of the five ecosystems of the Bolivar Peninsula on its own 20+ acre dune/swale complex of freshwater & saltwater wetlands, coastal prairies, relic dunes, and oak motts

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Artist Boat will Coordinate and Manage the design, fabrication, and installation of an outdoor classroom sited in the Crenshaw Environmental Magnet Program 20 acre habitat on their campus. This project will be conducted in partnership with the school, Artist Boat, and the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture's Gulf Coast DesignLab (GCDL). This will further the goals of the environmental magnet program (curriculum for the ecosystems hosted on campus, professional development training and mentoring for your teachers, and on-site and field experiences for your students. A next step is to provide a much-needed outdoor classroom on the school's campus that will provide a bridge from the natural wilds to the human / student needs for sheltering and gathering while still being in the "wilds" of the campus preserved area.

The Gulf Coast DesignLab and Artist Boat have now over a six year history of developing and implementing facilities that meet the needs of students in conserved areas where curriculum is provided by professional educators. This is more than a gathering area as one might find in a park. As this area must meet the needs of professional educators who have equipment, supplies, and hands-on experiences designed to occur with interactions in the coastal environment.

This will move the Crenshaw Environmental Magnet program beyond traditional classroom and take students out into the landscape, actively immersing them in hands-on learning, to appreciate and respect our environment as it teaches them good stewardship habits. Artist Boat's program enthusiastically supports this through the past two years of work provisioning curriculum, public art, professional development, and field experiences. The Gulf Coast Design Lab's commitment to it comes in the form of in-kind design / build services through donated college student's time, that provides design services and labor associated with building that design.

This results of this collaboration will result in thoughtfully-designed outdoor environmental education classroom that can be used for decades. Artist Boat will coordinate the activities (reviews, permits and permission, acquisition of supplies, communications and meetings between parties) and communications locally to assure that the site is prepared and other requirements are met to assure timely installation of the classroom.

Very importantly while, the Crenshaw School gains a new outdoor learning classroom, the architecture students benefit as well. Not only as a laboratory to test their design ideas, the UTSOA students learn how to listen and communicate with those involved in the work, in a real world setting. By learning through doing this way, our future generation of designers become a more effective catalyst for change. This is a model program for cross-curricula goals for learners K- University Level students.

After meeting with Crenshaw's staff, principal and Artist Boat on April 30th and with the facilities department this summer to discuss the new outdoor classroom, we propose the following schedule for the fall of 2021.

- September 10st: The GCDL begins their design investigation by working closely with Crenshaw leadership and teachers, Artist Boat coordinator, and select students to fully understand their needs in the new outdoor classroom. UTSOA GCDL will review the curriculum developed by Artist Boat for the Crenshaw ecosystems.
- September 15th: Gas lines and other obstacles for installation identified.
- September 21st: GCDL students present their initial design ideas, working closely with Crenshaw and Artist Boat to further develop goals and design direction and alignment to the existing curriculum (which will be provided to UTSOA) .
- October 1st: GCDL students present their final design and receive input from Crenshaw and Artist Boat for finetuned changes.
- October 5th: Students make final design changes and begin Construction Document Drawings and construction material pricing.
- October 15th: Working within Crenshaw's budget the GCDL outlines materials for final approval and acquisition by Artist Boat.
- October 20th: The GCDL completes Construction Documents and submits material costs to Artist Boat and Crenshaw for final approval. Obtain engineering stamp and permits
- October 21st: The GCDL and Artist Boat begins purchasing construction materials and on-campus fabrication process of certain building components.
- November 5th: On site installation begins over 4 - four day (Friday-Monday) periods.
- December 15th: Crenshaw classroom complete and ready for spring 2022 semester's use.
- January 30th: Final design for signage submitted
- February 28th: Signage installed on site

This is meant as an initial anticipated schedule and will be refined as we work with Crenshaw's staff, faculty and Artist Boat in the coming months. The scope of work for the new classroom will be based on a materials budget agreed upon in advance of any work by August 30, 2021. All design work is overseen by a licensed structural engineer and architect so that the design meets building codes and coastal wind load requirements.

We look forward to this opportunity of working together on what will become a low maintenance, long-lasting and well-designed addition to the Crenshaw School campus. I and the School of Architecture appreciate this opportunity to outline our initial scheduling proposal in anticipation of working together in the fall.

This project will be implemented and managed by Matthew Abernathy, Operations Director of Artist Boat with certifications in park management, park interpretation, and natural resource management.

Procurement and invoicing will be over seen by Jane Marie Phillips, Bookkeeper with over 20+ years of financial management.

PROJECT SCOPE OF WORK

- Provide facilitation and installation of outdoor classroom in partnership with the University of Texas School of Architecture.
- Designing and building an Outdoor Classroom with the University of Texas School of Architecture Gulf Coast Design Lab that can host:
 - a full classroom,
 - provide shade,
 - proper access to field exploration,
 - tables and seating for outdoor lessons, and
 - is designed and built with Crenshaw Elementary and Middle School teacher and administration stakeholder meetings with the University of Texas School of Architecture students.
- Procure site map of all gas lines or other obstacles to installation.
- Coordinate all stakeholder meetings with school, UTSOA, and Facilities Department (4-6 total with two already completed).
- This feature will serve as a gathering place for teaching and bridge from the human made to the “Natural made” environments and signage will be developed for this purpose (2 interpretive signs, and 4 for rules/behaviors).
- Attend all reviews (2 -4) with students and assure compliance with good natural resource management and mitigate for habitat disturbance if possible.
- Assure all permitting and permissions are obtained from the district, county, and facilities department.
- Purchase and obtain all supplies and materials for construction in Austin and final construction in Bolivar.
- Make any site visits as needed prior to construction and during permitting process that are needed.
- Four weekly site visits when students engaged in final installation.
- Attend review of designs in Austin.
- Assure schedule is met by UTSOA and construction is completed.
- Invoice monthly for components of project and supplies.

See Budget on Next Page:

Outdoor Classroom						
Description	Qty	cost per	subtotal	UTSOA	District	In Kind Crenshaw
University of Austin School of Architecture In-Kind Cost of Design Services Gulf Coast Studio	1	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
University of Austin School of Architecture In-Kind Cost for Project Labor Gulf Coast Design Lab	1	\$ 17,200.00	\$ 17,200.00	\$ 17,200.00	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies and Materials	1	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00	
Engineering Stamp	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	
Permitting Fees	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	
Crenshaw to provide for lodging of 2 instructors and 12 students	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -		\$ 2,500.00
Travel and Lodging for Professor	1	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	
Shipping of Constructed Parts	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	
Artist Boat Director of Operations - Coordination - coordinating partnership, meetings (4-6 and some conducted already), Site visits (6+ with one completed), reviews and stakeholder meetings (3-4 on site and one in Austin), , permitting, logistics, attend all meetings, locate gas lines, assure permissions	1	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	
Financial Administration and Procurement (obtain and pay for all supplies and materials, invoice monthly GISD, and assure project completed)	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
Site visits and Travel Mileage to Bolivar	1	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
Lodging, Mileage, and Per Diem to mid-year review	1	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00		\$ 450.00	
Interpretive Signage about Site/Ecosystem, Birds, and Fauna - Production and Installation	2	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	
Design	2	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	
Rules Signage Production and Installation	4	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00	
Design	1	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	
Total			\$ 67,900.00	\$ 21,700.00	\$ 57,000.00	\$ 2,500.00