



THE WATER COLLABORATIVE
LIVE . THRIVE . LOVE . WATER

Green Theory™

**SEEDS OF INNOVATION:
DESIGN RESILIENCE COMPETITION**

Floating Planter Box

**Design Brief
and Requirements**



ASLA
LOUISIANA



Judge's Rubric

Judge's Criteria	Judge's Comments	Possible Score	Actual Score
Specifications		20	
Additional Specifications		Max 30	
Construction and Durability		20	
Affordability		20	
Aesthetic		10	
Community and Climate Resilience		20	
Innovation/ X-Factor		30	
Subtotal		150	
Public Input	Public Comments	No Max	
Additional Judge's Comments			
Total			

About the Floating Planter Box Competition Judging and Scoring

Key Dates:

- **September 25th, 2022 | Design Submission:**

Each team can submit their designs until September 25th at 11:59 PM.

- **September 26th - October 11th | Judges Deliberations:**

Using Openwater, 8 judges will review each design independently to prevent groupthink or bias. Each team will receive a filled rubric with comments from judges after the competition is complete via Openwater. To ensure fairness, no judge will see any of the designs ahead of time.

- **October 17th - 19th, 2022 | Public Voting:**

Open to the public, anyone from around the world can anonymously vote on the top 10 judges scored designs. Each individual receives a maximum of 3 votes per person.

- **October 20th - 21st, 2022 | 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Winners Chosen:**

A panel of 8 judges will review the top scored 5 designs based on the public's vote

- **October 21st, 2022 | Winner Announcement:**

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be announced via webinar. Moving forward, the first place winning team will work with partners to manufacture and sell their designs.

- **Post Competition:**

There will be a volunteer day and party to celebrate the winning design and install the planter box in the Grand Bayou Village and other sites along the Louisiana coast. The winner will be invited to participate in the celebration. The date of this event will be based on design specifications and manufacturing demands.

Submissions

Each team MUST submit these items to be considered for judging. Not having one of the items will result in disqualification.

- **Design Mock-up:**

Any 3-D sketch is acceptable as long as it provides details on size, how it works, specialty parts, and any other items that will support the manufacturing process.

- **1-3 Graphics:**

Show how your planter works, as well as any designs, and materials. A flowchart graphic would be helpful but not required.

- **Up to a 3-minute video:**

Introduce yourself and your team, your location (country, city, state, community), a description of your design, why you're participating, and any other pertinent information that would help judges understand your team's design.

Meet the Judges!



Reedy Brooks

Glory Gardens, Executive Director



Estephania Barajas

OJT, Designer, and 2021 Winner of the
Seeds of Innovation



Joel Franske

Green Theory, Managing Partner



Kenneth Bahlinger

CPRA, Program Manager



Marguerite Green

Sprout NOLA, Executive Director



Kellyn LaCour-Conant

Taproot Earth, #WeChooseNow Program
Manager



Danielle Duhe

Dana Brown & Associates, Principal
and Marketing Coordinator, President
of ASLA - Louisiana



Gaylan Williams

Design Workshop, Urban Designer

Metric Descriptions

Each metric description has guiding questions. No one design should or is expected to meet each question. Judges recommend teams use these questions as tools in the design process. designs are required to meet every specification but not required to meet bonus specifications in the rubric.

Specifications:

(Possible 20): Specifications for the Planter Boxes are based on community feedback. Each team must meet each of the 5 specifications designated below:

- 80" L x 42"H x 42" W
- Powder coated aluminum
- Ability to successfully float in brackish water
- Ability to be moved by boat or vehicle
- Ability to drain and manage salt spray or saltwater inundation

Bonus Specifications:

(Each bonus specification adds 10 points to the final score! Max 30 points): The Grand Bayou Tribe has identified three additional considerations for the planter box. For each bonus specification demonstrated, 10 points will be added to the final subtotal..

- Ability for planters to be connected for ease of transport during evacuation events
- Accessibility for elderly and disabled residents
- Built-in or attachable water catchment system

Construction and Durability

(Possible 20): Does the design presented reflect a planter box that will be durable in all weather conditions and in saltwater or brackish water? Is your design clear on how water will be recirculated and discharged? Can the planter fit on one or a few palettes to reduce shipping costs? Are you considering the weight of the planter for shipping and moving during evacuation events? Will the planter be prone to rust or mold? If so, how does your planter reduce or tackle the issue? Will the planter be easy to cultivate produce in?

Affordability

(Possible 20): An affordable planter will cost roughly between \$2,000 - \$4,000, so consider how much the planter will cost to manufacture, set up, and maintain. Is it something low-income communities, schools, churches, and businesses can purchase easily, or will they need to fundraise or get financial support to install your planter? Are material choices and replacement parts sustainable and accessible? Will flotation, water catchment, or other technology be user-friendly, or do they require specialist maintenance?

Metric Descriptions

Aesthetics

(Possible 10): Will the planter be desirable to be purchased by businesses, schools, community centers, and residential households? What colors, designs, or raw materials will be used? Will it be compatible with local environments? Can it be customized?

Successful Food and Medicinal Propagation

(Possible 20): Does the planter box allow food and medicinals to grow in normal and extreme weather events? Is the design most conducive to growing large amounts of a particular food or native plant variety? Does it have a process to maintain soil health and prevent contamination? Is it rooted in regenerative agriculture (see FAQ Sheet)?

Innovation/ X-Factor

(Possible 30): X-Factor written answer will be up to 500 characters. Each answer must describe what gives your team's design the "X-Factor". Your X-Factor should describe how your design is innovative, transformative, and revolutionary. Your graphics and video should supplement your written answer and express how your design goes beyond being novel, and could potentially modernize or alter how planter boxes are used. Your team should address sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, and food sovereignty while speaking to climate adaptation, and other social issues plaguing coastal communities around the world.

Public Voting

(No Maximum): From October 17th-19th, the public will have access to see the top 10 designs and view their videos. The public can vote up to 3 times per session, but can vote in multiple sessions. This section will have no Maximum. Thus, if one team gets 50 votes, that will be 50 additional points added to the team's score. Similarly, another team could receive 100 votes added to their final score. While the public votes can go above 100 points, top teams selected to win must score a sub-total of 90 or above in all other metrics to be considered for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. This is to prevent unfair voting and assure that even if a planter is beautifully designed it won't be considered over the best constructed or innovative planter.

FAQ Sheet

What are some of the most pertinent coastal restoration issues that Louisiana faces?

What are some community-based solutions to address them?

Louisiana faces high rates of coastal erosion and sea-level rise, increasing frequency and intensity of hurricanes, and saltwater intrusion. There are neighborhood scale solutions like adaptive agriculture that can tolerate saltwater intrusion and provide food and medicine to communities distant from grocery resources. Regional and systemic solutions can also be rooted in community, like divesting from extractive industry practices, including forced labor, and increasing sovereignty of Indigenous tribes.

What is the importance of community building in the actual design of the planter?

Many hands make light work when it comes to gardening, harvesting, processing, and cooking produce. Community gardens are a way to create intergenerational bonds in families and neighborhoods around something we can all relate to – food. They also provide benefits like beauty and environmental quality control that help build healthy communities.

What is regenerative agriculture?

Regenerative agriculture is a neologism for Indigenous stewardship methods, newly placed in the context of ecosystem restoration and climate change. Agriculture that emphasizes nutrient cycling (via cover crops, composting, etc.), native plants, soil and water conservation, and other sustainable approaches can limit the environmental impacts of current agriculture industry practices.

How can gardeners maintain soil health and prevent contamination, if the planter box is floating and susceptible to water pollution?

Natural products like neem oil can be used as fungicide and insecticide to help mitigate plant health issues caused by waterlogging. Companion planting using trap or cover crops can be a means to divert water-soluble contaminants. Raising soil bed levels, mulching, composting, and leaving plant roots in place when harvesting can all help improve soil structure and drainage.

What is the average conservation status of native plant species? (Vulnerable? Endangered? Extinct?)

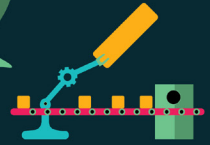
There are roughly 365 rare, threatened, and endangered plant species recorded by Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, including the Federally endangered southern spicebush (*Lindera melissifolia*). Spicebush leaf, stem, fruit, wood, and oil are all used in traditional Native cuisine and medicine.

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**Seeds of Innovation:
Design Resilience Competition**
Floating Planter Box



Sustainable

Reasonably priced to build and maintain.



Manufacturable

Boxes must be designed to be manufacturable in bulk.

**Food
Sovereignty**



**Foster
Food Safety**



Food grown in boxes must be safe to eat!



Fixable

The average individual should be able to fix or upkeep the planter box.



Drainable

Soil inside must be easily drainable.



**Encourage a Healthy
Soil System**



Boxes must be able to support a healthy soil system.



Floating

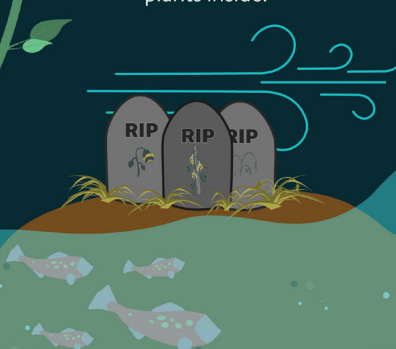
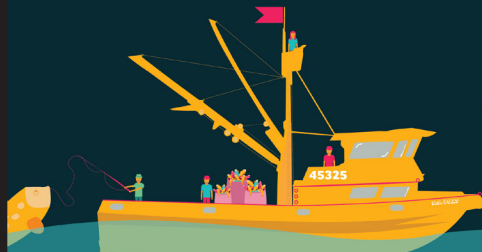
Box design should allow for mooring or anchoring & should be able to float.

**Hurricane
Resilient**

Boxes must be resilient against hurricanes & flooding.

**Saltwater
Resistant**

Boxes must be resistant to salt water, as to not kill the plants inside.



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