



GOMESA PHASE II PROJECT FUNDING

Request for Funding FY2026

Submission ID: #202509301370

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Title of Project

Discovery On The Green: Coastal Conservation for Mississippi's Future

2. Location of Project

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center 246 Dolan Ave. Gulfport, MS 39507 County: Harrison

3. Requesting Organization:

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center

4. Requesting Agency Representative

a. Name:

Cindy DeFrances

b. Phone:

228-897-6039

d. Email:

cdefrances@lmdc.org

c. Address:

246 Dolan Avenue

Gulfport Mississippi

5. Funding Requested:

\$1874723.00

6. Have any other State or Federal funding sources been identified for the project?

No

7. If yes, enter amount and source of additional funds:

\$

Source of Additional Funds:

8. Total Project Funds

\$1874723.00



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9. Provide Brief Project Description/Overview:

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center (LMDC) is seeking funding for Discovery on the Green, a signature outdoor coastal conservation project spanning nine acres and dedicated to advancing early childhood environmental literacy, promoting the conservation of coastal land and water resources and serving as a model inspiring community-wide ecological stewardship. Discovery on the Green will be an immersive experience that brings these goals to life by connecting children directly to the Gulf Coast's ecosystems through place-based education. Aligned with GOMESA's mission, the project is designed to strengthen regional resilience by encouraging hands-on exploration of conservation, sustainability, and coastal resource protection. Planned interactive exhibits such as Blue Economy Coastal Climber, Oyster Reef Quest, Backyard Biology, and Physics in Motion will demonstrate real-world environmental concepts. A Trike Track will lead children through eco-tourism "stops" focused on native species, land and water preservation, and habitat restoration, encouraging curiosity about our unique regional resources. Located just a block from the Gulf of Mexico/America, LMDC's coastal setting provides a powerful backdrop for place-based environmental education. The coastal conservation project will be universally accessible and designed to inspire children and families from across the nation. Initiated in 2023 with the acquisition of two adjacent properties, the project positions LMDC as a regional leader in conservation education through partnerships with the Gulfport School District, University of Southern Mississippi, and Gulf Blue. Discovery on the Green will also serve as a model of the conservation and resilience principles it teaches. Sustainable features will guide design and construction throughout the process. Native plants will support local pollinators and wildlife while minimizing irrigation needs. Hurricane-resilient structures, elevated play areas, and preserved live oaks will enhance storm protection. Educational signage, citizen science stations, and the use of conservation design elements will promote eco-friendly practices. In alignment with GOMESA's priorities, Discovery on the Green will be an engaging educational space and living model of coastal conservation, integrating resilience, adaptation, and community engagement to tackle the complex environmental challenges of the future.

10. LIST Project Goals/Objectives:

Discovery on the Green Project Goals

1. Advance Environmental Literacy: Deliver hands-on, place-based education to build early childhood understanding of coastal ecosystems and sustainability. (Supports Environmental Education and Public Awareness)
2. Promote Coastal Stewardship: Inspire children and families to become responsible stewards of Mississippi's coastal resources. (Supports Environmental Stewardship and Conservation)
3. Enhance Coastal Resilience: Incorporate hurricane-resistant and environmentally conscious design and native landscaping to protect ecosystems and infrastructure. (Supports Coastal Resilience and Habitat Restoration)
4. Support Workforce Development: Prepare future scientists and engineers through interactive exhibits and community partnerships. (Supports Workforce Development in the Blue Economy)
6. Engage the Community: Provide informational programs and citizen science activities that foster public participation and climate adaptation awareness. (Supports Community Engagement and Public Participation)
7. Utilize Sustainable Materials: Employ recycled and sustainable materials and comprehensive waste management where feasible to minimize environmental impact. (Supports Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship)
8. Demonstrate Best Practices: Serve as a model for sustainable coastal development by integrating conservation and resilience principles in both design and programming. (Supports Demonstration Projects and Innovative Practices)

11. Which of the following authorized uses set forth in the GOMESA Act does this project fall under? Explain SPECIFICALLY and in detail how the project meets the required criteria. Check all that apply - At least one must be checked.

(A) Projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses

Discovery on the Green will incorporate sustainable design elements to protect coastal ecosystems and infrastructure. Hurricane-resilient structures, elevated play areas, and preserved live oaks will enhance storm protection. Native plants will enhance habitat resilience. The project will provide the perfect outdoor venue for community-wide storm preparedness and environmental education programming. This approach supports long-term coastal protection, restoration, and infrastructure



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resilience in a storm-prone region.

(B) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources.

The project will preserve live oaks and use native plants to create habitats that support pollinators and wildlife, all highlighted through the Eco-Tourism Trike Track exhibit. The Oyster Reef Quest Exhibit will educate visitors on oysters' role in marine health, fostering local aquaculture stewardship. Community education will encourage reduction in man-made environmental impacts. These efforts help mitigate damage to coastal species by enhancing habitats and promoting conservation awareness, encouraging the protection and recovery of local natural resources.

(C) Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or conservation management plan

Discovery on the Green aligns with federally approved coastal conservation plans by integrating sustainable design, habitat restoration, and public engagement. Educational and citizen science programs promote community participation and support regional strategies for conservation efforts and community resilience. The project serves as a model for conservation best practices, advancing marine and coastal management goals.

(D) Mitigation of the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects.



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While Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) infrastructure mitigation is not a primary focus of this project, Discovery on the Green's emphasis on environmental education and coastal resilience indirectly supports regional preparedness for OCS-related impacts.

12. Project Timetable/Milestones:

July 2026 - February 2027: Project Planning & Design Finalization

- Confirm partnerships with exhibit fabricators and educational collaborators
- Complete final exhibit and architectural designs with conservation and resilience elements
- Begin permitting, site surveying, and green infrastructure planning
- Finalize storm water management strategies and native plant landscape plan

February- July 2027: Site Preparation & Infrastructure Work

- Clear and grade site to support drainage and elevated features
- Install foundational utilities using sustainable methods and materials where feasible
- Preserve existing live oaks and prepare for native planting zones

July 2027 - July 2028: Exhibit Fabrication & Installation

- Construct and install key exhibits: Blue Economy Coastal Climber, Oyster Reef Quest, Backyard Biology, Physics in Motion, and Eco-Tourism Trike Track
- Install educational and interpretive signage on conservation, native species, and resilience
- Finalize native landscaping and complete habitat zones for pollinators and wildlife
- Begin marketing campaign Spring 2028
- Begin developing correlating curriculum Spring 2028

July - September 2028: Staff Training & Soft Launch

- Train staff on environmental themes, exhibit functionality, and conservation messaging
- Host pilot visits for schools and community groups to gather user feedback
- Adjust interpretive content and physical features based on testing and visitor input

October- November 2028: Grand Opening & Community Launch

- Hold ribbon-cutting ceremony and open exhibit to the public
- Launch environmental programming and citizen science activities
- Engage partners in public events promoting coastal stewardship and resilience

Ongoing: Evaluation & Reporting

- Collect visitor data, feedback, and initial outcomes on engagement and learning
- Submit reports to GOMESA and other stakeholders
- Create long-term evaluation plan to track environmental literacy and conservation impact

13. Project Timing



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Short-term (3 year or less)



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APPLICATION SUMMARY QUESTIONNAIRE

14. Current status of architectural/engineering plans & specifications for this project (if applicable):

Group 1:

In Progress

Group 2:

Funds not budgeted

15. In what way does this project meet the goals and objectives of the Department of Marine Resources, which includes enhancing, protecting and conserving the marine interest of Mississippi for present and future generations.?

The Discovery on the Green Outdoor Coastal Conservation Project at Lynn Meadows Discovery Center directly advances the goals of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) by enhancing public understanding of coastal and marine systems, protecting natural resources through education and conservation design, and building long-term capacity for marine stewardship and resilience in Mississippi.

1. Enhancing Marine Awareness and Literacy: Discovery on the Green will immerse children and families in hands-on, place-based learning about the Gulf Coast's ecosystems. Interactive exhibits, such as the Blue Economy Coastal Climber, Oyster Reef Quest, Backyard Biology, and Physics in Motion introduce core concepts in science and engineering, marine ecology, sustainability, and climate resilience. The Trike Track's eco-tourism stops further reinforce awareness of habitat restoration, native species, and sustainable coastal practices.

2. Protecting Coastal Resources Through Education and Design: Through interpretive signage, citizen science stations, and community programming, the project teaches visitors about pollution reduction, weather impacts, and natural resource protection. The seven acres of exhibit space models responsible coastal development with sustainable design elements supporting healthy coastal land and water. Native plants create wildlife habitat and minimize environmental impact.

3. Conserving Marine Interests for the Future: By sparking early interest in marine science, engineering, and conservation careers, Discovery on the Green contributes to a growing, environmentally-literate workforce aligned with Mississippi's Blue Economy. Through established partnerships with the Gulfport School District, University of Southern Mississippi, and Gulf Blue, the project supports continued environmental literacy and career readiness, helping to build the next generation of coastal professionals committed to preserving Mississippi's natural resources.

4. Promoting Resilience and Long-Term Stewardship; All built features are designed with climate adaptation and hurricane resilience in mind, including elevated play zones, preserved live oaks, and hurricane-rated structures, demonstrating sustainable practices in coastal construction. These design choices not only protect infrastructure but also serve as visible teaching tools that model resilience strategies for coastal communities. Together, these efforts directly support MDMR's mission to enhance, protect, and conserve Mississippi's marine interests for present and future generations.

16. Estimated number of years to completion:

2.5

17. Estimated Completion Date:

November 2028

18. Prioritize if your agency has submitted multiple projects:

n/a



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BUDGET

Category	Total
Salaries	94748.00
Travel	0.00
Architecture & Engineering	250000.00
Legal	20000.00
Consulting	75000.00
Construction	800000.00
Site Work	350000.00
Equipment	200000.00
Indirects	24975.00
Other	60000.00
Total	1874723

Attachments

1. budget-description-lmdc.pdf
2. logic-model-lmdc.pdf
3. preliminary-concept-images-lmdc.pdf
4. lmdc-501c3-letter.pdf
5. gulfport-mayor-letter-of-support-for-lmdc.pdf
6. mou-gulfport-school-district-lmdc.pdf

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that all information contained in this application packet is true and correct. I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any false information. I understand that a false statement on this application may be grounds for rejection of my application or termination of the award. In addition, a false statement may be punishable under applicable state or federal laws, which may also result in a fine and/or imprisonment.

I certify that the above referenced agency / entity has given me the authority to submit this application.

Name

Phone

Date

Cindy DeFrances

228-897-6039

09/30/2025

Budget Description

Discovery on the Green: Coastal Conservation for Mississippi's Future

Category	Description	Estimated Cost
1. Salaries, Wages, and Fringe	Project manager to oversee planning and implementation, museum educators to develop curriculum and citizen science programming, admin support for grant reporting and marketing	\$94,748
3. Architecture and Engineering	Design and engineering for hurricane-resilient outdoor exhibits, accessible pathways, elevated structures, stormwater management, and water systems.	\$250,000
4. Legal	Permitting, environmental compliance, contracts, and land-use agreements.	\$20,000
5. Consulting	Environmental science and conservation specialists, accessibility consultants, and exhibit designers for Blue Economy and place-based environmental features.	\$75,000
6. Construction	Building elevated structures, exhibits, platforms, signage bases, and citizen science stations.	\$800,000
7. Site Work	Land preparation, native landscaping, tree preservation, drainage, eco-friendly, sustainable features	\$350,000
8. Equipment	Large outdoor learning equipment, demonstration systems, educational signage, weather-resistant seating, and supporting technology and mechanics	\$200,000
9. Indirect Costs	Calculated at 10% of direct costs adhering to the uniform administrative requirements of 2 CFR Part 200.	\$24,975
10. Other	Community outreach materials, workshops, programs and class materials, accessibility supports (ADA materials), staff and volunteer training.	\$60,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$1,874,723



September 17, 2025

Dear GOMESA Grant Selection Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Gulfport, I am writing to convey our strong support for the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center's application for funding through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) program for their project, *Discovery on the Green*.

This initiative is directly aligned with the goals of GOMESA, advancing both environmental conservation and community resilience. By creating an outdoor educational space designed with sustainable infrastructure, native landscaping, and hurricane-resilient features, *Discovery on the Green* will strengthen our region's ability to withstand coastal challenges while serving as a long-term investment in the ecological health of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Equally important, this project advances early childhood environmental literacy by connecting children and families to our coastal ecosystems through hands-on, place-based learning. By fostering environmental awareness and stewardship at a young age, the project ensures that the next generation will be both knowledgeable and invested in the protection of our coastal resources. This aligns with statewide priorities to safeguard natural assets while promoting educational and workforce readiness in conservation-related fields.

The Lynn Meadows Discovery Center has an established record of excellence in community service and education, making them a trusted partner for a project of this magnitude. Their ability to deliver transformative, high-quality programming ensures that GOMESA funds will be utilized effectively and with lasting regional impact.

Discovery on the Green is a strategic, forward-looking project that will deliver measurable benefits in education, conservation, and resilience for the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to protecting our state's coastal resources and communities.

Respectfully yours,

Hugh D. Keating
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hugh D. Keating", is written over the typed name and title.



FEDERAL REVENUE SERVICE
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: MAY 08 1987

NEW MEADOWS DISCOVERY CENTER
10 ROSE ALMAN
6 DOLAN AVE
LEFFORT, MS 39507-1310

Employer Identification Number:
64-0829058
DLN:
17053081815007
Contact Person:
D. A. DOWNING
Contact Telephone Number:
(513) 241-5199
Our Letter Dated:
December 23, 1993
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

This modifies our letter of the above date in which we stated that you would be treated as an organization that is not a private foundation until the expiration of your advance ruling period.

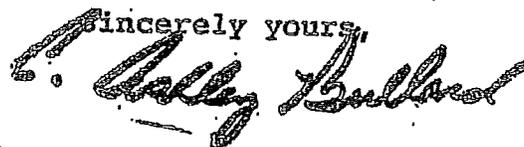
Your exempt status under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) is still in effect. Based on the information you submitted, we have determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are an organization of the type described in section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(1) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on his determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, or the substantial or material change on the part of the organization that resulted in your loss of such status, or if he or she acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you could no longer be classified as a section 509(a)(1) organization.

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the addendum enclosed is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your private foundation status, please keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown above.

Sincerely yours,


District Director

Letter 1050 (DO/CG)

72-606-07-1-1-000 Rev. 08/07

STATE TAX COMMISSION
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

State of Mississippi

NOT TRANSFERABLE

PERMIT TO ENGAGE IN BUSINESS OF SELLING TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR SERVICES TAXABLE UNDER THE SALES TAX LAW

This permit is issued as provided by Section 27-65-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, upon condition that the holder shall pay all taxes accruing under the provisions of this act and shall keep adequate records, including daily sales and all purchase invoices. These records shall be open for inspection by any authorized agent of the State Tax Commissioner. Failure to keep such records and to pay the sales tax due under this chapter shall be cause for revocation of this permit. Please make all sales tax reports in the name and account number shown below. This permit acts as a resale certificate and authorizes the holder to purchase materials or services for resale, in the regular line of business, exempt from tax.

Issued to: THE LYNN MEADOWS
DISCOVERY CENTER

246 DOLAN AVE
GULFPORT , MS 39507

Account No.: 024-31516-0

Date Issued: 09/01/06

By: J. ED MORGAN , COMMISSIONER

This license shall not make lawful any act or thing declared to be unlawful by the State of Mississippi

ORIGINAL

MISSISSIPPI STATE TAX COMMISSION

MISSISSIPPI STATE TAX COMMISSION

LOGIC MODEL

Project Title: ***Discovery on the Green: Coastal Conservation for Mississippi's Future***

Project Will Address: ***Discovery on the Green will engage children and families in hands-on learning about Mississippi's coastal ecosystems, promoting environmental literacy, stewardship, and resilience. Using sustainable design and community-based programming, the project models best practices, fosters conservation awareness, and prepares future leaders to protect and sustain the Gulf Coast's resources.***

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
<p>Project funding from GOMESA</p> <p>LMDC staff (educators, marketing, and project manager)</p> <p>Sustainable construction materials and native plants</p> <p>Professional exhibit engineers and landscape architects translate educational concepts into safe, accessible, and engaging outdoor learning environments.</p> <p>Community partners (schools, civic groups, local experts)</p> <p>Outdoor site and facilities (9-acre coastal property home to children's museum)</p> <p>Educational materials, signage, interactive exhibits</p>	<p>Create interactive exhibits highlighting coastal ecosystems, conservation, and climate adaptation</p> <p>Construct hurricane-resilient infrastructure and sustainable landscapes</p> <p>Develop and deliver hands-on, place-based environmental education programs</p> <p>Implement citizen science projects and community engagement events</p> <p>Partner with schools and workforce programs to integrate STEAM/Blue Economy learning</p>	<p>Signature environmental science and conservation exhibits constructed</p> <p>Trike Track with multiple eco-stations completed</p> <p>Existing live oaks preserved</p> <p>Coastal native plants installed</p> <p>Educational signage & citizen science stations installed</p> <p>Correlated Curriculum Developed</p>	<p><i>Short-Term Outcomes (0–12 months)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of coastal ecosystems and conservation. • Greater awareness of sustainable practices and climate adaptation. • Participation in hands-on learning and citizen science. • Exposure to sustainable materials, native landscaping, and resilient design. • Engagement with interactive exhibits and educational signage. <p><i>Long-Term Outcomes (3+ years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally literate, conservation-minded children, families, and community members. • Adoption of sustainable behaviors and stronger community participation in conservation. • Improved habitat preservation and ecosystem resilience. • Public spaces serving as models for sustainable coastal development. • Enhanced workforce preparedness in science, engineering, and environmental fields. • Lasting cultural shift toward stewardship and climate-conscious decision-making.



August 22, 2025

Re: Renewal and Expansion of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Lynn Meadows Discovery Center (LMDC) and Gulfport School District (GSD)

Dear Mr. East,

On behalf of Lynn Meadows Discovery Center (LMDC), I would like to express our appreciation for the continued partnership with the Gulfport School District. Together, we have worked to ensure that students and families in our community experience engaging, hands-on learning opportunities that support academic growth and family engagement. The impact of last year's MOU was felt by students, teachers, and families across the district, and we are grateful for your trust and collaboration.

As we present the updated 2025–2026 MOU for your review, you will note a shift in the investment from [REDACTED] last year to [REDACTED] this year. This increase reflects both the expanded scope of programming (including all GSD middle school students, grades 6th, 7th, and 8th) and the intentional alignment with Gulfport School District's strategic goals—particularly reaching middle school students with STEM opportunities and deepening student engagement in the region's growing Blue Economy.

Key Additions and Enhancements

- NEW Blue Economy STEM for ALL Middle School Students
- Kindergarten Field Trips with NEW Blue Economy STEM
- Family and Staff Events at a significantly REDUCED cost
- Blue Economy Teacher Training (No Cost) FREE

Alignment with GSD Goals

This renewed MOU directly supports the district's strategic planning action step to advance STEM for all students by increasing interest, engagement, and success in STEM education by

partnering with local businesses and colleges for field trips and hands-on learning experiences. By expanding into middle schools, we are not only preparing younger students for STEM readiness but also bridging career awareness and future workforce development in the Blue Economy.

Continued Partnership and Community Impact

We deeply value our partnership with the Gulfport School District. Together, we are helping students make real-world connections to their studies, broadening family involvement in learning, and contributing to the resiliency of our community. We respectfully submit the attached MOU for your approval and look forward to another successful year of partnership. Thank you for your leadership, commitment to innovation, and dedication to the students and families of Gulfport.

Cost Comparison Summary

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center & Gulfport School District

Category	2022 Actual (\$)	2023 Budget (\$)	Change (\$)
Kindergarten Field Trips	██████	██████	██
Transportation / Bus Fees	██████	██████	██
Family and Staff Events	██████	██████	██████
Blue Economy STEM for Middle School	██	██████	██████
Blue Economy STEM Teacher Training	██	██████	██
TOTAL	██████	██████	██████

Notes: • The total increase of █████ reflects the addition of Blue Economy STEM programming for middle school students. • Family and Staff Events cost decreased due to LMDC's community partner discount. • Teacher training is provided at no cost to the district, extending impact into classrooms.

Sincerely,



Cindy DeFrances
 Executive Director
 Lynn Meadows Discovery Center

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
Between Lynn Meadows Discovery Center
And
Gulfport School District

Date: August 22, 2025

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a partnership between Lynn Meadows Discovery Center (LMDC) and Gulfport School District (GSD) to facilitate elementary educational STEM field trips, family events for students and families within the Gulfport community, Blue Economy STEM classes for middle school students, and GSD Blue Economy Teacher Training. This partnership aims to enhance educational experiences, promote family engagement, and foster community resiliency.

II. Objectives

- **STEM Field Trips for Kindergarten:** **Cost:** [REDACTED]
 - Provide GSD kindergarten students and their teachers with the opportunity to engage with the educational exhibits in the museum and participate in STEM educational classes with the SMARTIES program. This year's program will include a newly designed Blue Economy Curriculum and will incorporate our new Aquaponics Exhibit in the Spring semester.
 - This program integrates STEM, Literacy, Art, and Career Readiness Standards.
 - Each elementary school will schedule two field trips for each Kindergarten Class (One field trip each semester)
- **Transportation / Bus Fees** **Cost:** [REDACTED]
 - Provide bus transportation
- **Family and Staff Events:** Prior Year Cost: [REDACTED]
Community Partner Discount [REDACTED]
Cost: [REDACTED]
 - Organize community family events at LMDC to encourage family participation in educational activities:
 1. District Level Reading Fair
 2. District Level Art Show
 3. District Data Walk – A Celebration
 - Provide families at events with a free admission pass for a visit to Lynn Meadows Discovery Center.
- **Blue Economy STEM for Middle School** **Cost:** [REDACTED]
 - Provide middle school students and their teachers with hands-on learning activities focused on the careers related to the Blue Economy in their classroom, taught by LMDC Educators, including all supplies, once per semester (twice per year).
 - Lessons have been developed in 6 different career fields, including Hydrography, Marine Geology, Ocean Engineering, Aquaculture, Chemical Oceanography, and Marine Ecology.
- **Blue Economy STEM Teacher Training** **Cost:** [REDACTED]
 - Provide K through 8 teachers with training at a GSD scheduled teacher training date of the district's choice on 2 Blue Economy STEM hands-on learning activities

teachers can use in their classrooms. This training will equip teachers with the skills and lessons necessary to complete the activities independently.

- o *Consumable supplies for these lessons are not included since we are not charging for the training or lessons themselves. However, consumable supplies can be purchased, packaged, and delivered to teachers by LMDC at an additional cost.

III. Financial Commitment

Total Cost: [REDACTED]

Gulfport School District will allocate a total of [REDACTED] for the purposes outlined in this MOU.

These funds will be used for:

- LMDC Educators facilitating classes, field trips, and teacher training
- Transportation for field trips.
- Materials, consumable supplies, and resources for field trips, family events, and STEM activities.
- Facility use and family passes for family and staff events.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center Will:

- Provide access to educational exhibits and programming aligned with GSD's curriculum and designed to promote the district's Blue Economy initiatives
- Provide an educational field trip and Blue Economy STEM class for all GSD kindergarten students once each semester (twice per year) at LMDC
- Provide Blue Economy STEM career education to all GSD middle school students once each semester (twice per year) at each middle school
- Offer LMDC staff support for field trip visits and family events
- Collaborate with GSD Curriculum Specialists to develop specific programs and schedules
- Ensure that during museum trips, students are supported by their teachers, museum staff, and Gulfport School District high school students involved in the Teacher Academy, with an adult to student ratio of 1:10
- Provide GSD K-8th teacher training for Blue Economy focused STEM lessons at a GSD teacher training date of the district's choice that will include lessons to be replicated in their classrooms.

Gulfport School District Will:

- Coordinate logistics for field trips, including scheduling and transportation.
- Promote family events to GSD families and encourage participation.
- Provide feedback on programs to LMDC for continuous improvement.
- Support the Strategic Planning action step to "advance STEM for all students by increasing interest, engagement, and success in STEM education by partnering with local businesses and colleges for field trips and hands-on learning experiences."

V. Duration

This MOU will be effective from September 5, 2025 to May 30, 2026, with the option to renew upon mutual agreement.

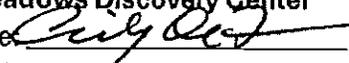
VI. Amendments

Any amendments to this MOU must be made in writing and agreed upon by both parties.

VII. Signatures

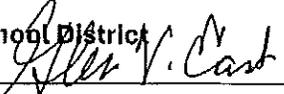
By signing below, both parties agree to the terms and conditions outlined in this MOU.

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center

Signature:  Date: 3/22/25

Name: Cindy DeFrances, Executive Director

Gulfport School District

Signature:  Date: 9/3/25

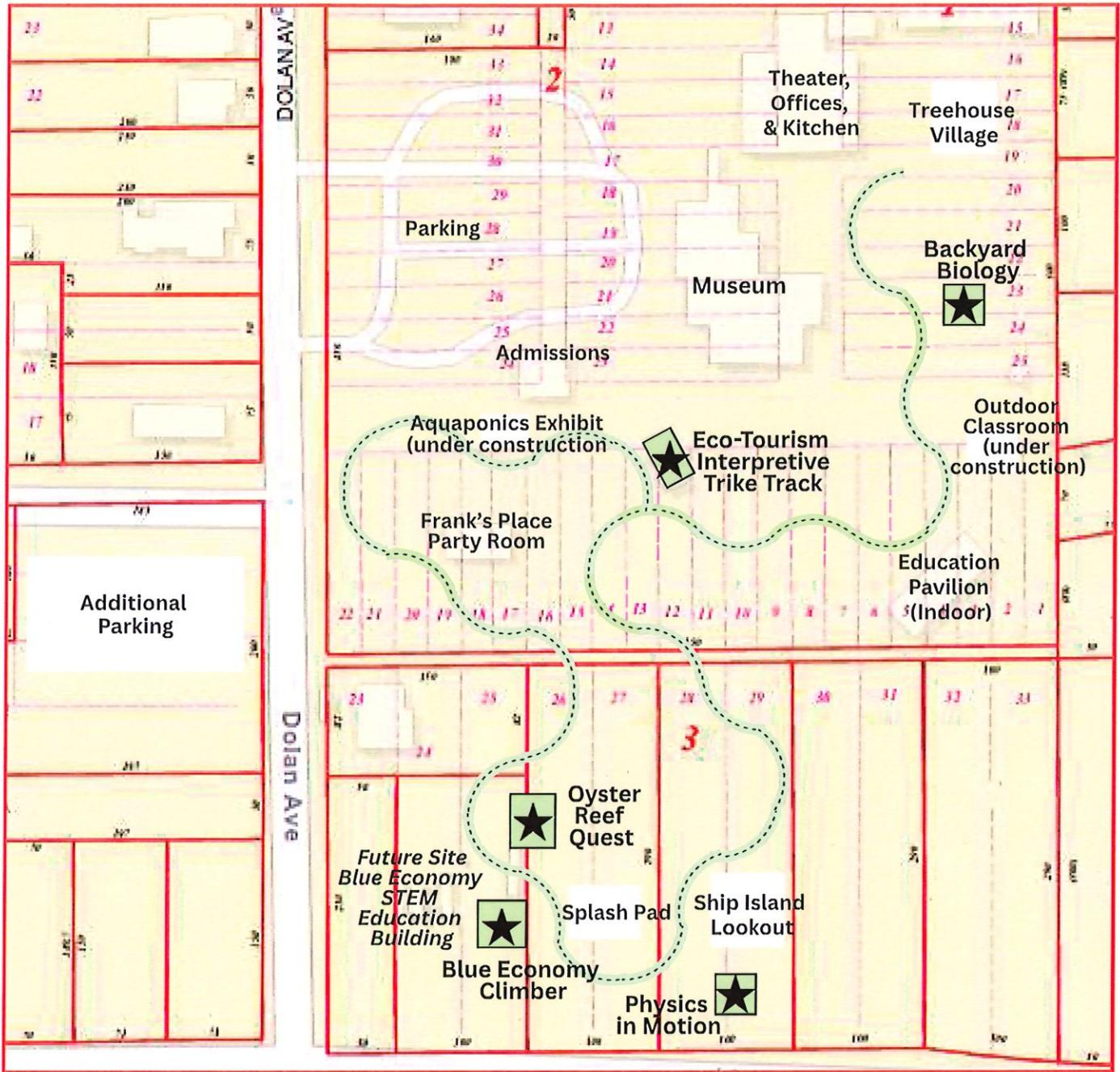
Name: Glen East

Title: Superintendent

This MOU represents the mutual understanding between Lynn Meadows Discovery Center and Gulfport School District and is intended to foster a collaborative partnership that benefits students and families in the Gulfport community.

Discovery on the Green: Coastal Conservation for Mississippi's Future

Proposed Layout for Interactive Outdoor Exhibits

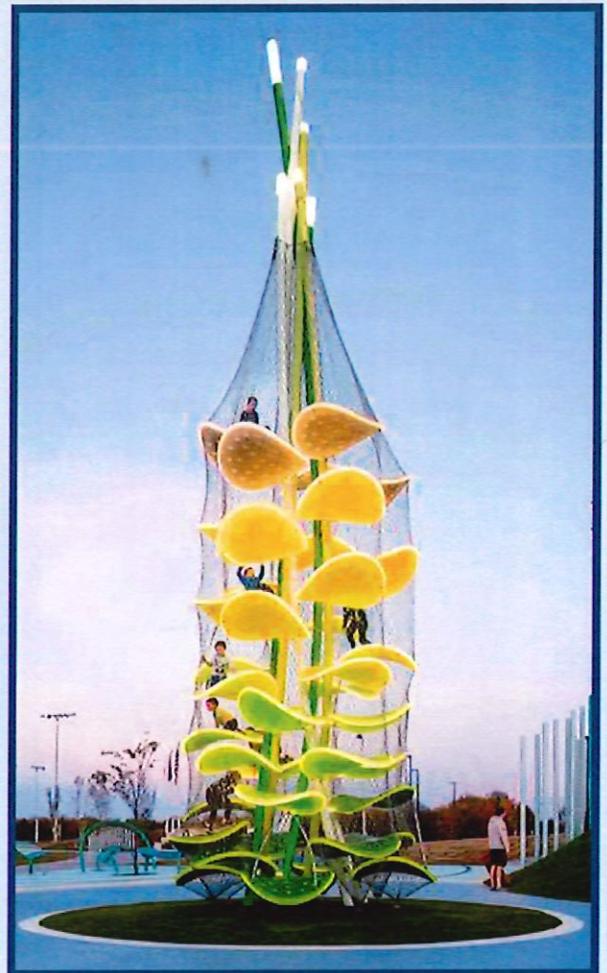
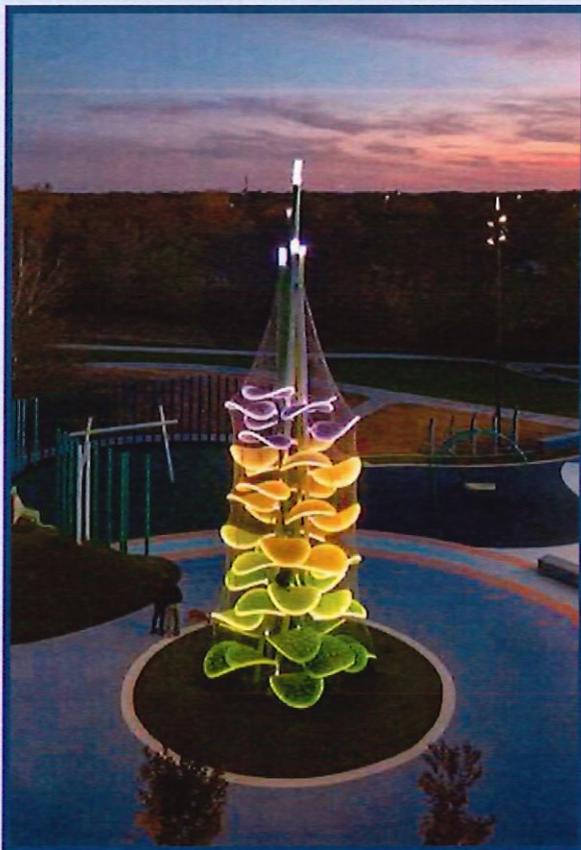
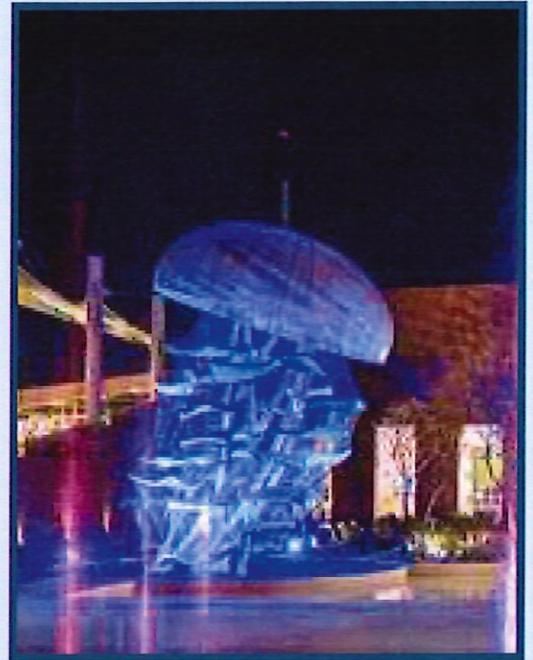
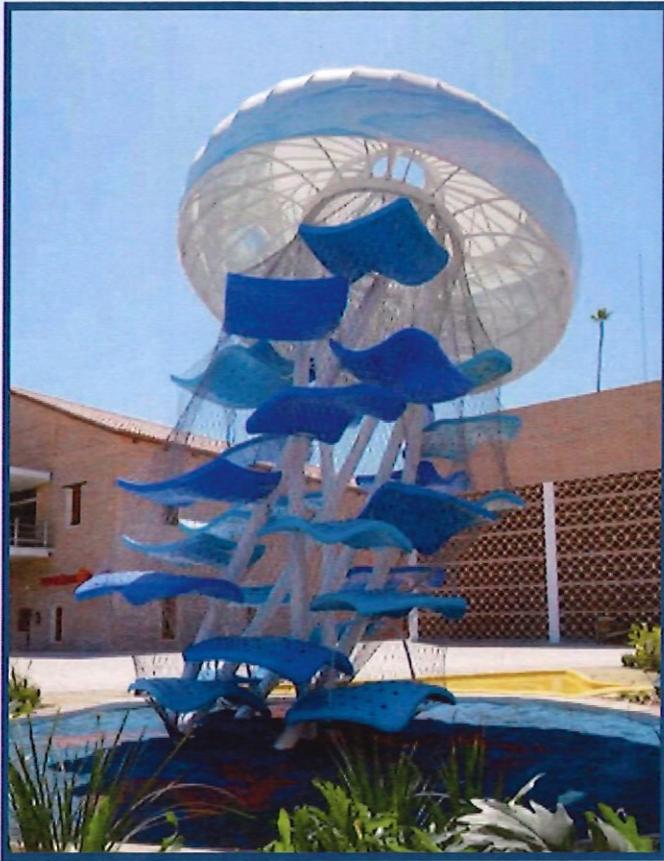


 Current Structures

 Proposed Discovery on the Green Structures



Blue Economy Climber
Preliminary Concept Images



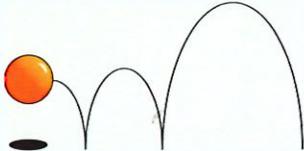
Outdoor Interactive Exhibits Preliminary Concept Images



Oyster Reef Quest



Physics
in Motion



Backyard
Biology



Interpretive
Trike Track

