

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

te: MAY 08 1997

NN MEADOWS DISCOVERY CENTER
/O ROSE ALMAN
6 DOLAN AVE
LEFPORT, 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).

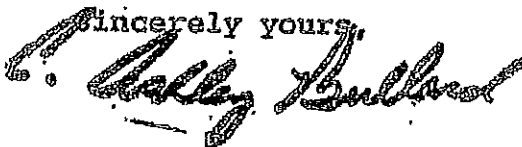
Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(1) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the 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)

Budget Description

Coastal Environmental Learning Trail and Resource Improvements

Category	Description	Estimated Cost
1. Salaries, Wages, & Fringe	Partial salary support for the project manager, responsible for coordinating project planning, design, procurement, contractors, vendors, construction and installation, inspections, project documentation, grant compliance, and closeout.	\$25,000
2. Travel	None requested.	\$0
3. Architecture & Engineering	Site survey, existing-condition assessment, accessible pathway and site planning, construction drawings, infrastructure design, and technical specifications for the proposed outdoor improvements.	\$12,000
4. Legal	Project-related contract review, permitting assistance, and legal services associated with construction and implementation.	\$1,500
5. Consulting	Specialized environmental, accessibility, technical, and project consultation to support the development and implementation of coastal learning and conservation features.	\$4,000
6. Construction	Construction of approximately 35 feet of sidewalk, covered and paved trike parking/corral, concrete and structural improvements, contractor mobilization, and associated construction labor and materials.	\$57,000
7. Site Work	Site preparation, grading and leveling, drainage adjustments, preparation and installation of accessible native plant gardens, landscaping, and final site restoration.	\$18,000
8. Equipment	Ten heavy-duty trikes; six wheelchair-accessible raised garden beds and associated materials; weather-resistant interpretive and wayfinding signage; live-camera systems and outdoor displays; Coastal Weather and Climate Learning Station; Wi-Fi/network improvements; and related mounting and installation equipment.	\$47,500
9. Indirect Costs	None requested.	\$0
10. Other	Permitting and regulatory fees, electrical and connectivity installation, equipment installation, inspections, testing, project closeout, and other implementation expenses not otherwise classified.	\$10,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$175,000



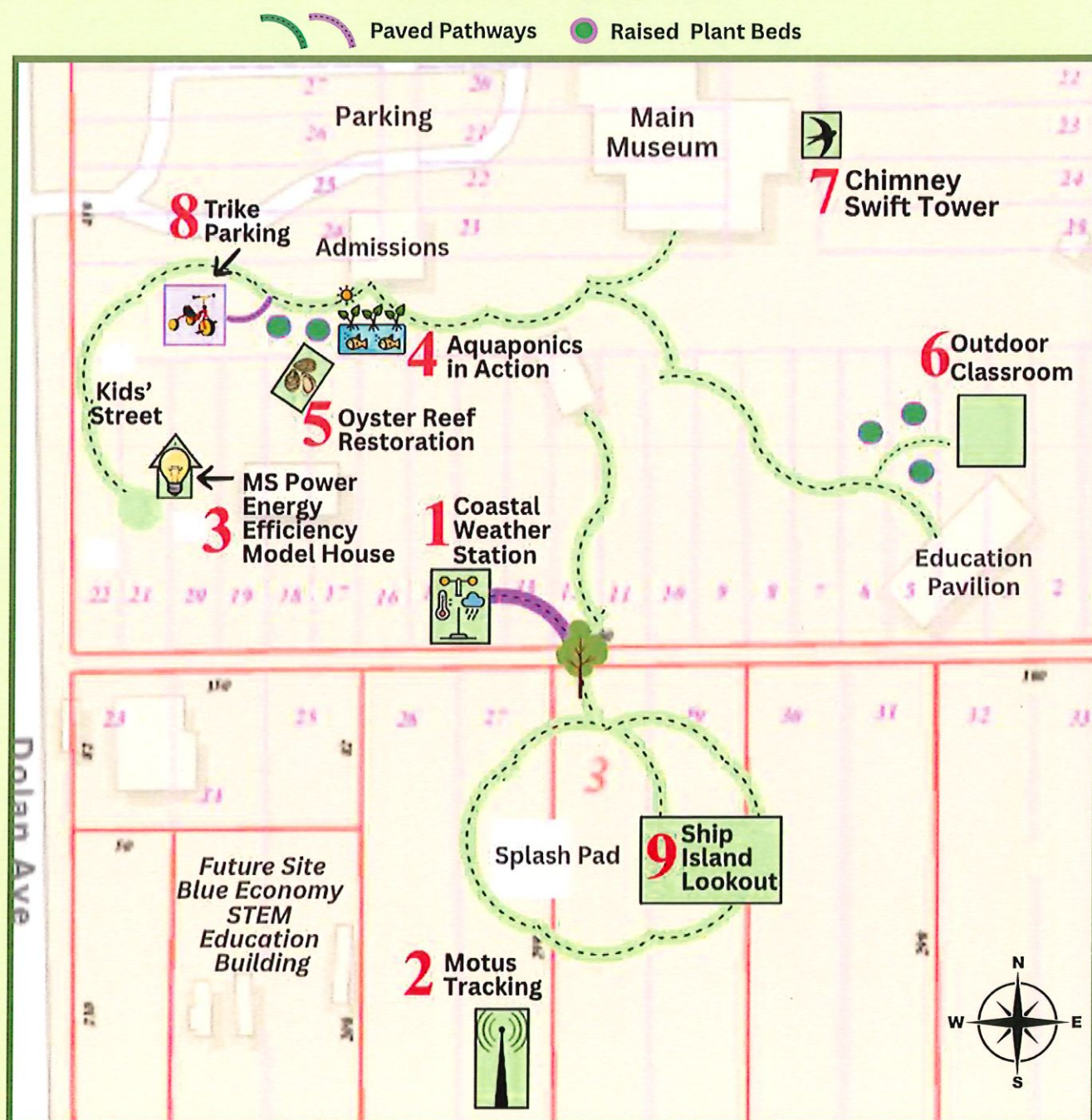
Existing Site Conditions & Photo Documentation

Discovery on the Green

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed project site for *Discovery On the Green* is located on the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center outdoor campus grounds, where educational features and open spaces provide opportunities for hands-on exploration of Mississippi's coastal resources. The project will connect and enhance resources through accessible pathways, educational features, outdoor learning areas, native plantings, and visitor amenities, creating a more cohesive coastal discovery experience. The improvements will strengthen connections and expand offerings across the msueums's coastal learning features.

SITE PLAN AERIAL VIEW



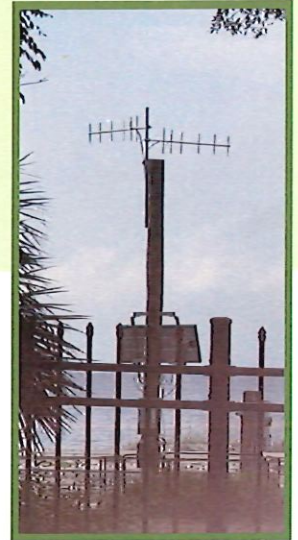
1- Coastal Weather & Climate Station

Existing outdoor rain gauge and pergola will become the learning station used to observe and explore local weather conditions, including temperature, rainfall, wind, and other atmospheric measurements.



2- Motus Wildlife Tracking

Motus wildlife-tracking station used to support the observation and study of migratory birds and other wildlife along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



3- Mississippi Power Energy Efficiency House

Educational structure featuring interactive exhibits and activities related to energy, electricity, and power generation.



Dusk-to-Dawn LED Fixture

Dusk-to-dawn fixtures automatically turn on at night and off during the day. This smart feature prevents wasted electricity and ensures your outdoor spaces stay safely lit. The LED technology inside uses very little power, making it both convenient and efficient.

4- Aquaponics in Action

Aquaponics demonstration system that provides hands-on learning about water, food production, plant growth, and sustainable growing practices.



5- Oyster Reef Restoration

Oyster reef learning feature that introduces visitors to the ecological and coastal benefits of oysters, their role in Gulf Coast habitats, and strategies for conservation.



6- Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor learning space used for hands-on programs, group activities, and exploration of the natural world.



7- Chimney Swift Tower

Chimney swift habitat structure that provides a nesting and roosting site for migratory birds and an opportunity for visitors to learn about local bird species.



8- Plant Beds & Trike Parking Area

Open areas adjacent to the outdoor pathways that provides space for future plant beds, visitor circulation, and organized trike parking.



9- Ship Island Lookout

Elevated observation area offering views toward the Mississippi Sound and providing an opportunity for visitors to explore and learn about the coastal landscape and wildlife.



LOGIC MODEL

Project Title: *Discovery on the Green: Coastal Resource Connectivity Project*

Project Will Address: *Discovery on the Green will connect LMDC's existing outdoor environmental resources into an accessible, hands-on learning experience focused on Mississippi's coastal habitats, wildlife, aquaculture, native plants, weather, climate, and conservation. The project will strengthen environmental literacy by helping children, families, and community visitors explore local ecosystems and develop a deeper connection to coastal conservation and stewardship.*

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
LMDC outdoor campus Existing coastal/ environmental learning features: Motus Wildlife Tracking Station, MS Power Energy Efficiency House, Aquaponics in Action, Oyster Reef Restoration Exhibit, Campus Sidewalks & Pathways, Outdoor Classroom, Chimney Swift Tower, Ship Island Lookout GOMESA funding LMDC Facilities Director, administrative and museum staff Audubon Delta partnership Gulf Coast community and school partnerships Existing aquaponics, oyster reef, native plant and wildlife resources	Connect existing outdoor environmental resources into a cohesive Discovery on the Green experience Extend accessible pathways and improve visitor circulation Add accessible trikes & trike storage/parking Add accessible raised garden beds/ native plant and coastal habitat learning areas Install interpretive signage connecting visitors to coastal science and conservation Add/expand wildlife observation technology, including Aquaponics and Chimney Swift cameras Install a weather/climate station Provide hands-on environmental education for children, families, school groups, and community visitors	Connected, accessible outdoor learning area Wheelchair/ mobility assistance accessible pathway extensions and raised plant beds Additional trikes and trike parking Interpretive and wayfinding signs Restored Chimney Swift live-feed system Aquaponics underwater camera and display Weather/climate monitoring station Expanded native plant habitat Increased opportunities for wildlife observation and environmental learning	<i>Short-Term Outcomes</i> - Increased access to outdoor environmental education - Increased visitor understanding of coastal habitats, wildlife, climate & conservation - Increased opportunities for children to engage in hands-on STEM learning - Increased awareness of local wildlife and conservation research - Improved accessibility for visitors with mobility needs - Increased connection between scientific research and informal learning - Increased family and community engagement with coastal resources <i>Long-Term Outcomes</i> - Greater environmental literacy among children, families, and community members - Increased awareness of Mississippi Gulf Coast conservation needs - Greater appreciation for coastal habitats and wildlife - Increased interest in STEM and environmental science - Stronger community connection to local conservation efforts - Establish a sustained regional resource for accessible coastal environmental education - Visitors better equipped to understand and participate in stewardship of Mississippi's coastal ecosystems

Theory of Change

Invest in the campus → Connect existing resources → Make them accessible and engaging → Provide hands-on learning → Increase environmental understanding → Build stronger connections to coastal conservation and stewardship



September 15, 2026

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*.

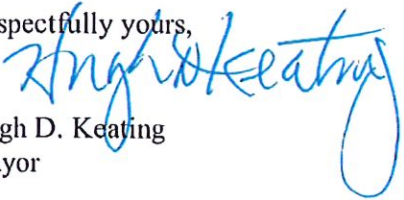
This initiative is directly aligned with the goals of GOMESA, advancing both environmental conservation and community resilience. By creating an outdoor educational space designed with sustainable infrastructure, native landscaping, and hurricane-resilient features, *Discovery on the Green* will strengthen 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

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

Date: April 30, 2026

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) renewal supports 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

- **Field Trips:** **Cost: \$14,169.00**
 - Provide GSD kindergarten students and their teachers the opportunity to engage with the **SMARTIES** program, which includes interactive STEM-related activities based on the **Engineering Is Elementary** curriculum.
 - This program integrates literacy and social studies with engineering and science, helping students understand the relevance of STEM subjects in their lives.
 - Each elementary school will schedule two field trips for each Kindergarten Class (One field trip each semester)
- **Transportation / Bus Fees** **Cost: \$3,000.00**
 - Provide bus transportation
- **Family and Staff Events:** **Cost: \$3,000.00**
 - 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 the events with a free admission pass for a visit to Lynn Meadows Discovery Center.
- **Blue Economy STEM for Middle School** **Cost: \$10,400.00**
 - 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: FREE
 - 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: **\$30,569**

Gulfport School District will allocate a total of \$30,569 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 1:1
- 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 August 1, 2026 to May 30, 2027, 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: Cindy DeFrances

Date: 4/30/26

Name: Cindy DeFrances, Executive Director

Gulfport School District

Signature: Glen V. East

Date: 5/5/26

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.



LYNN MEADOWS DISCOVERY CENTER AND AUDUBON DELTA



MISSISSIPPI COASTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center and Audubon Delta share a commitment to connecting our community with Mississippi's coastal environment through education, conservation, and stewardship. LMDC provides a venue for Audubon Delta's monthly coastal stewardship meetings, while Audubon Delta provides consultation and expertise to help strengthen LMDC's environmental education programs. Together, the organizations create opportunities to connect children, families, and the community with the importance of protecting our coastal resources.



A key part of this partnership is the Motus Wildlife Tracking System, an international network that uses automated radio telemetry to study the movements of migratory wildlife.



Through the Mississippi Coastal Bird Stewardship Program, Audubon Delta installed a Motus receiving station at LMDC, connecting the museum's outdoor campus to a much larger network of research stations across the hemisphere. The station provides valuable data for understanding bird migration while offering LMDC visitors a unique opportunity to see real-world conservation science in action.

