

# Louisiana Children's Museum

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## Design Team Information

Primary points of contact for press-related inquiries:

### Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interiors

Mithun (Design Lead)

- Courtney Rosenstein, Public Relations Lead  
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### Owner

Louisiana Children's Museum

- Leslie Doles, Marketing and Public Relations Director  
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- Julia Bland, CEO  
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## Design Team

- **Owner:** Louisiana Children's Museum
- **Owner's Representative:** Vanir Construction Management
- **Design Architect, Landscape Architect, Interior Design:** Mithun
- **Collaborating Architect:** Waggoner & Ball Architects
- **Exhibit/Interpretive Design:** Gyroscope, Inc.

- **Structural Engineer:** Thornton Tomasetti
- **Mechanical, Electrical, Lighting Design, Plumbing, Security, Telecom, Acoustics and AV Engineers:** ARUP
- **Civil Engineer:** Schrenk Endom Flanagan
- **Building Envelope Consultant:** JRS Engineering
- **Food Service Consultant:** JLR Design Group
- **Environmental Graphics Design:** Studio Matthews
- **Daylighting Consultant:** Integrated Design Lab
- **Hardware:** Gordon Adams
- **Specifications:** Applied Building Information
- **Planting Design Consultant:** Pastorek Habitats
- **Conceptual Stormwater and Shoreline Restoration Consultant:** Biohabitats
- **Arborist:** Bayou Tree Service

## Building and Site Program

- Children's museum exhibit wing and store
- Centers for literacy, parenting, early childhood research and environmental education
- Café with teaching kitchen
- Labyrinth and meadow
- Sensory and edible gardens
- Play hummocks
- Floating classroom barge
- Living shoreline and a freshwater marsh

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## Project Facts

- **Building Area:** 56,400 square feet
- **Building Footprint:** less than one acre
- **Site Area:** 8.44 acres
- **Exhibit Gallery:** 18,000 square feet
- **Parking Spaces:** 44
- Two-story building, designed to meet LEED® Silver Certification
- The project encourages flow between building and site through a series of ramps, porches, bridges and raised courtyards.
- Project exceeds energy code through a high-performance envelope and high-efficiency mechanical system, including innovative technologies such as desiccant wheels and radiant floor hydronic loops.
- 12 child-sized alcove windows for viewing the site
- One bridge and floating platform with water-based art crossing over the lagoon
- Curtain walls, skylights and exterior doors feature impact-resistant glazing for storm resilience.
- 4,140 linear feet of perforated louvers provide solar control and shadow play at porch.
- Hand-cast glass bead art is incorporated into 324 feet of railings to serve as donor recognition.
- Designed to support the New Orleans Water Plan. Part of the green stormwater infrastructure approach in the City's successful bid for 2016 NRDC funds.
- Existing live oaks and the related drainage patterns were integrated into the site grading and will be carefully protected during construction. One hundred twenty-five (125) new native trees expand the grove, part of the world's largest grove of live oaks at City Park.
- 1.7 million gallons/year of rainwater are filtered through a natural drainage system.

- Portion of rainwater is diverted to two 12,000-gallon cisterns that feed a water feature and toilet flushing.
- The building is set an average of five feet above existing grade on piers for flood mitigation.
- 47,000 square feet (1.07 acres) of outdoor exhibit space and gardens
- 15,965 square feet (0.36 acre) of living shoreline restoration
- 270 linear feet of causeway/boardwalks
- 14,483 square foot (0.33 acre) public arrival plaza/promenade along Henry Thomas Drive

## Project Description

### Supporting Children and Families

Following Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana Children's Museum (LCM) adapted its mission to respond to the changing needs of its recovering community. By integrating indoor and outdoor interactive experiences in a park setting, LCM presents a unique model for children's museums.

### Connecting People with Nature

The museum's new home is distributed into two linked buildings, carefully sited to protect existing live oaks while enhancing the lagoon and open space for environmental education. The choreography of the visitor experience connects people and nature—moving through groves of live oaks, across water, and into a courtyard and sensory gardens.

### Diverse Community Resources

The co-location of a two-story exhibit wing with centers for literacy, parenting, early childhood research and environmental education creates a holistic and supportive environment for families. The City Park location uniquely supports outdoor experiences and environmental education, not possible at the current Warehouse District site.