January 20, 2015

Call for Artists – Request for Proposals for the *Lost Spaces and Stories of Vizcaya* Site-Specific Project

The Project
Vizcaya Museum and Gardens is seeking artists to create site-specific original artwork as part of the *Lost Spaces and Stories of Vizcaya* Contemporary Arts Program (CAP). This opportunity is open to emerging and established professional artists living in the South Florida region (Lee, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Monroe and Miami-Dade counties).

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2015.

The Award
Each commissioned artist will receive an $8,000 honorarium to realize his/her work and participate in project-related programming.

Project Concept
Over the past one hundred years, since its inception, nature and time have transformed Vizcaya, and many of its most whimsical spaces and stories have been lost. By commissioning up to eight local artists to create site-specific installations, we will bring these spaces and stories “back to life.” This project will strengthen our relationship with the local arts community and provide new ways of seeing Vizcaya—demonstrating its creative origins and connections to Miami’s roots.

For example, visitors to Vizcaya marvel at the stone Barge in Biscayne Bay. Described as a breakwater, it is first and foremost an extraordinary piece of sculpture. But few people know the background of the Barge: how it was constructed and used; that a summer house and fountains once adorned it; and the debate about morality that changed its appearance. Even fewer people know the stories about James Deering, his guests, Vizcaya’s staff, and the happenings that took place throughout the estate in Deering’s time.

Project Intent
*Lost Spaces and Stories of Vizcaya* is a two-and-a-half-year project that is part of our Contemporary Arts Program, repositioning Vizcaya as a vital resource for our entire community during its centennial. Selection of artists and concept development will allow us to deepen relationships with local artists. Projects should connect to Vizcaya’s illustrious past, Vizcaya’s bright and interesting future, and Vizcaya’s value to Miami. Projects should provide excitement and interest for the community as a whole.

Vizcaya currently welcomes approximately 200,000 visitors annually and we intend for Lost Spaces installations to provide a deeper understanding of Vizcaya, its history, its transition from a private home to a public space, its evolving reality, and contemporary interpretations of it.

Through an open call, Vizcaya will solicit and commission up to eight local artists or artist groups to develop site-specific pieces that will “bring back to life” a sampling of the estate’s lost spaces or stories. These projects will be installed throughout 2016 and will remain on exhibit for six months to one year depending upon location choice. A committee of internal and external panelists will select the artists. Final project honorarium is not affected by
the length of the installation. Artists will be required to participate in related public programs at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. Multimedia approaches are encouraged.

The commissioned artists will work with Vizcaya staff, including but not limited to staff in Collections and Curatorial Affairs, Learning Division and Facilities to create site-specific, durable artworks for either indoor or outdoor installation. The selected artists will be given access to Vizcaya’s rich archives. Installations will be accompanied by public programs, including initiatives for local universities and public schools, and in partnership with local organizations. In addition, installations will be featured during Art Basel Miami Beach 2016.

Proposed Lost Spaces and their respective project locations are listed below, accompanied by an installation schedule. Vizcaya will select up to four projects from each phase. All projects will remain on exhibit until spring 2017, regardless of initial date of installation. Please see the “Lost Spaces and Stories Descriptions” document, which includes basic descriptions of each area and special considerations that need to be adhered to. Please keep in mind that many of the locations require artwork that is appropriate for outdoor installation and able to withstand the natural environment and be adequately and safely displayed and secured.

Lost Spaces
Phase I: Main House, Recreational Rooms (April 2016)
Phase I: Main House, Staff Life (April 2016)
Phase I: Main House, Lost Decorated Rooms (April 2016)
Phase I: Main House, Map Racks (April 2016)
Phase I: Gardens, Casino Rooms (April 2016)
Phase I: Gardens, Moat (April 2016)

Phase II: Gardens, North Gardens (Nov 2016)
Phase II: Gardens, South Property (Nov 2016)
Phase II: Gardens, Fountain Garden Swing (Nov 2016)
Phase II: Gardens, Casba (Nov 2016)
Phase II: Gardens, Summer House on Barge (Nov 2016)
Phase II: Gardens, Boating and Leisure (Nov 2016)

Eligibility
The competition is open to emerging and established artists living in the South Florida region (Lee, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Monroe and Miami-Dade counties). Only artists with reviewable portfolios (i.e., hardcopy, digital or online) are eligible to apply. Applicants who wish to be considered for this project should have experience working within the public process, in public settings, as well as a proven ability to fabricate their own work or to work with fabricators and installers. The artwork for this site must reflect the Project Intent as described above. Collaborations are encouraged but the submitting artist must be living in the region described above.

Required Info Session
Vizcaya will host Artist Info Sessions on February 2 and 25, March 2 and 25 and April 6 of 2015. These info sessions will orient artists to the project and walk artists through the proposed sites. Attendance at one of the info sessions is required to submit a proposal. Additional materials will be provided during the program. Limited space available and RSVP required.

Requirements for Selection
This includes an initial proposal that reflects Project Intent as described in this document, a body of work reflecting artistic excellence, and proven experience working in public settings and within a public process. Artists must have experience fabricating or working with fabricators and installing semi-permanent artwork suitable for outdoor and/or highly trafficked environments, depending on the location of the piece. References
provided as part of this application will be contacted prior to selection. Vizcaya Museum and Gardens is committed to reflecting the diversity and cultural richness of South Florida in our selection process.

**Final Artist Selection**
The selection process will be conducted by a committee organized by Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. The committee will review the proposals and meet with selected applicants to discuss project proposals prior to final selection. The commissions of artwork for the site will be awarded by May 29, 2015. Site specific installation dates will be determined by location. Contracts will outline dates for public program participation.

**Additional Information**
Vizcaya Museum and Gardens is a National Historic Landmark that preserves the Miami estate of agricultural industrialist James Deering to engage our community and its visitors in learning through the arts, history and the environment. The museum is committed to preservation, environmental stewardship and sustainable building practices. We encourage artists to consider stewardship and sustainability in the construction of their artwork.

Selected artists or artist groups will receive a contract fee for the commission in the amount of $8,000 to be used towards fabrication, shipping, installation, maintenance, and all other project-related expenses. Vizcaya Museum and Gardens is under no obligation to award a commission for artwork based on the conceptual design proposals submitted. Artists will be responsible for the maintenance and general upkeep of their work through the duration of the installation.

All award recipients will enter into a contract with Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. Artists are responsible for installation and de-installation of artwork and leaving site as it was prior to project. All artists are considered Independent Contractors, will receive a 1099, and are responsible for any tax obligations under federal, state or local laws.

**Questions**
If you have any questions please contact Collections and Curatorial Assistant Nydia Perez at nydia.perez@vizcaya.org

**Application Process and Timeline**
February 2, 2015 - Artist Info Session
February 25, 2015 - Artist Info Session
February 2 through April 30, 2015 - Artists visit sites
March 2, 2015 - Artist Info Session
March 25, 2015 – Artist Info Session
April 6, 2015 – Artist Info Session
April 30, 2015 - Application deadline (5:00 PM)
May 2015 - Follow-up with selected applicants
May 29, 2015 - Awardees notified
June through July 2015 - Artists access to Vizcaya archives and staff by appointment
August through October 2015 - Artists plan projects, public program component, and installation for 2016-2017 in consultation with Vizcaya staff
November 18, 2015 - Public Program (all artists panel)
April 4-15, 2016 - Installation of Phase I Projects
May 11, 2016 - Public Program of Phase I Projects
November 15-29, 2016 - Installation of Phase II Projects
December 3, 2016 - Art Basel (all projects unveiled)
January 18, 2016 - Public Program of Phase II Projects
May 3, 2017 - Culminating Public Program