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**George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts and City of New Orleans  
Announce Statewide “New Orleans Tricentennial” Art Contest**

*Louisiana high school students compete for individual college scholarships and awards totaling \$45,000*

**NEW ORLEANS** – Monday, Nov. 14, 2016, leaders from the City of New Orleans, the 2018 NOLA Foundation and the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts (GRFA) announced a call for entries for the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts 8th Annual Art Contest.

The 2017 GRFA Scholarship Art Contest, themed “New Orleans Tricentennial,” reinforces the historical significance of the city and its celebration to citizens across Louisiana. Contest winners will be awarded \$45,000 in college scholarships and their artwork will tour museums and cultural venues across the state including the Ogden Museum of Southern Art (New Orleans), the R.W. Norton Art Gallery (Shreveport), the Imperial Calcasieu Museum (Lake Charles), the Shaw Center for the Arts (Baton Rouge), the Alexandria Museum of Art, and the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum (Lafayette). The Grand Prize Winner will work with GRFA and the City of New Orleans to transform their design into the official New Orleans Tricentennial Poster, to be sold at 300th Anniversary events across the city and online.

“This is a great opportunity for the youth to contribute to our city’s 300th anniversary through the arts,” said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. “This city is home to some of the most talented young artists in the country, and I look forward to seeing the imaginative, thoughtful pieces they create for this contest.”

Artist George Rodrigue founded this annual statewide art contest in 2009. Since then GRFA has received 5,100 entries from across Louisiana, awarding 119 students a combined \$320,000 in college scholarships. Applications are now being accepted at [www.rodriguefoundation.org](http://www.rodriguefoundation.org).

“We invite all Louisiana high school juniors and seniors to explore the richness of New Orleans' 300-year history. As we approach 2018, we honor this history while celebrating the on-going contributions made by generations of dedicated New Orleanians.”

*-Jacques Rodrigue, Executive Director, George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts*

Winners will be announced at the 8th Annual Art Contest Awards Luncheon on March 25, 2017, at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Guests include the fifteen finalists with their families and teachers, as well as members of George Rodrigue’s family, including his wife Wendy and sons, André and Jacques. The 2017 Art Contest is sponsored by the Louisiana Education Loan Authority, Cox Communications, Sheraton Hotel New Orleans and Jones Walker Law Firm.

All high school juniors and seniors in Louisiana are eligible for entry in the GRFA Art Contest. Submissions must be received by January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. No test score, grade point average, or college major requirement is necessary for entry. A blind, two-part judging process focuses on three categories: concept/design, technical skill and creativity. GRFA requires that submissions be between 11 x 14 and 18 x 24 inches. Acceptable mediums include oil or acrylic paint, charcoal, pencil or graphite, watercolor, photography, mixed media or

digital media. GRFA is unable to accept framed canvases or three-dimensional work. The first place senior winner receives a \$6,000 college scholarship, and the top ten senior and top five junior winners receive a combined \$45,000 in scholarship awards. To enter, visit [www.georgerodriguefoundation.org](http://www.georgerodriguefoundation.org)

#### **About The George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts**

Artist George Rodrigue (1944-2013) was a passionate advocate for the arts in education. In 2009 he established the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts (GRFA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization emphasizing the importance of the arts in the development of our youth.

[www.georgerodriguefoundation.org](http://www.georgerodriguefoundation.org)

#### **About The 2018 NOLA Foundation**

The 2018 NOLA Foundation is the non-profit 501c3 support organization formed to support the official activities of the 2018 Tricentennial Commission of the City of New Orleans. Funds raised will be used to support various programs throughout the Tricentennial calendar year, and will also support the restoration of historic Gallier Hall.

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