



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Center for
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and Training

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NCPTT News Release

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NATCHITOCHESES TO HOST EXHIBIT ON PRESERVATION OF AMERICA'S OUTDOOR SCULPTURE DURING AUGUST

Since Louisiana joined the Union in 1812, nearly 600 outdoor sculptures have been added to the state's landscape—55 percent since 1960.

To honor the impact outdoor sculpture has had on the culture of Louisiana and the rest of the country, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) in Natchitoches is hosting an exhibit titled "Preserving Memory: America's Monumental Legacy." The exhibit will be open throughout the month of August at the Center's headquarters, Lee H. Nelson Hall, on the campus of Northwestern State University. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The exhibit is sponsored by Save Outdoor Sculpture! NCPTT was home to the Louisiana SOS! initiative in the 1990s, which involved the documentation of hundreds of Louisiana's outdoor sculptures. It is the only site in Louisiana to host the exhibit. Additionally, one of the panels features one of the monuments from the American Cemetery.

Louisiana's sculptures are part of a national collection of over 35,000 public sculptures. Individually, each holds secrets and stories nearly forgotten. To unlock those mysteries, the exhibit asks questions like: what is depicted in each monument? Who paid for that memorial? Some stories, not surprisingly, involve money or politics. All are stories of collaboration. These fragile landmarks preserve memory.

Save Outdoor Sculpture! is a joint program of Heritage Preservation and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. This exhibition was made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Lee H. Nelson Hall is located at 645 College Avenue in Natchitoches. The exhibit is free and open to the public. To schedule a group, contact NCPTT at 318-356-7444



"Preserving Memory: America's Outdoor Legacy", a 25-panel traveling exhibit sponsored by the Smithsonian Art Museum and Heritage Preservation, will be available for viewing at NCPTT during the month of August. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. NCPTT is located at 645 College Ave. To book a group viewing, contact the office at 356-7444.

