Local artists advance in airport competition

More than 90 Louisiana artists responded to the Lafayette Regional Airport’s call for entries in its Interior Art Competition and jurors have narrowed that list to 38 artists for Phase II of the competition.

On May 11, Airport officials held their first meeting with nearly 30 Phase II finalists and took them on a walk-through tour of the Terminal Building to acquaint them with the six sites of repose for the selected art. According to LRA Director of Aviation Robert E. Mouton, the artists responded with enthusiasm as well as professionalism.

The Interior Art Competition was designed to commission original art for the Airport now undergoing a $4.9 million terminal renovation. The competition was open only to Louisiana artists, and approximately $75,000, or 1.5 percent of the renovation budget, was earmarked for the Interior Art project.

“We are very excited with the level of interest in the Interior Art Competition and we feel good about encouraging Louisiana artists,” says Marilyn Tarpy, chairman of the Interior Art Competition, an ad hoc committee of the Lafayette Airport Commission. Tarpy is also a member of the Louisiana Arts Council.

Six specific terminal sites were selected as sites of repose for the chosen art—the airport atrium, departure lounge glass wall, arrival stairwell, departure stairwells for gates two and three, central stair and restaurant and lounge. Selected artworks must effectively relate to the ambiance of the airport terminal as well as to each specific site.

The jurors selecting artists for Phase II are John Bullard, director of the New Orleans Museum of Art; Joe Bova, professor of Visual Arts at LSU; and Herman Mhire, director of USL’s University Art Museum.

Local artists selected by jurors include David Alpha, John Arceneaux, Robert Dafford, John F. Hathorn, Francis X. Pavy, John E. Richard and Joyce Bowie Scott, all of Lafayette.

Other area artists chosen to advance in the competition were John Geldersma, Breaux Bridge; Tom Ladoue, Carencro; Tina Girouard, Cecilia; Elemore Morgan Jr., Maurice; Mary Martin Allbritton, Opelousas; and Lynda Frese, Scott.