Archaeologists Study 19th Century Life of Mobile at New Courthouse Site

Researchers from New South Associates, Inc. wrapped up their archaeological dig at the new Federal Courthouse site in August. The General Services Administration hired New South as consultants to help meet environmental and historic preservation needs for the project. At the same time, the dig offered a chance to study the lives of nineteenth-century Mobile residents.

Archaeologists prize finds like these because they contain household goods like ceramic and glass tableware, medicine and beverage bottles, furniture and clothing parts, and food remains that can be used to study how people lived in the past. The artifacts and records will be stored at the University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Research in Moundville for future study or exhibits.

The Art in Architecture Program oversees the commissioning of artworks for federal facilities nationwide. These artworks—including sculpture, murals, paintings and other architecturally scaled works in a variety of media—are created by living American artists (citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States).

Commission opportunities are advertised on the government’s federal procurement Web site, https://www.fbo.gov/spg/GSA/PBS/4PCA/GS-04-P-15-BV-C-7004/listing.html. However, artists need not submit their materials for each specific solicitation; once on the GSA registry, artists are part of the broad pool of candidates considered for each upcoming commission.

The solicitation for the new U.S. Courthouse project in Mobile, Alabama, has not yet been posted. If you are interested in being considered for this project, I would encourage you to join the GSA registry before October 14, 2015, or else by whatever later deadline is posted in the forthcoming fbo.gov announcement.