500 Laurel St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
P: 225.248.7600
F: 225.248.7650

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 203

Misty Albrecht
b1BANK
225.286.7879
Misty.Albrecht@b1BANK.com

b1BANK Announces Plans to Relocate and Expand Downtown Lake Charles Banking Center

Baton Rouge, La. – b1BANK today announced plans to relocate its Ryan Street location to a new building in downtown Lake Charles later this year. The bank has been a part of the Lake Charles community since 2009.

"We have experienced significant growth in the Lake Charles market and require a larger facility to better serve our current clients' needs and the community," said Jeffrey Davis, market president, b1BANK. "As we continue to grow, it is important that we remain active in efforts to rebuild and revitalize downtown."

The new b1BANK location will be 825 Ryan Street, currently an empty lot due to past hurricane damage, a short distance from the bank's current location on Ryan Street. Plans for the new location include additional parking, a drive-thru service option and an Interactive Teller Machine (ITM) which will provide clients with access to a live teller before and after normal business hours.

"The building design will reflect some of the historic architecture of the downtown area," said Matt Redd, developer, Redd Properties. "We will also incorporate modern building technology to help prevent damage from future storms."

b1BANK and The Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance will announce a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony when construction is complete.

About Business First Bancshares, Inc.
As of September 30, 2022, Business First Bancshares, Inc. (Nasdaq: BFST), through its banking subsidiary b1BANK, has $5.8 billion in assets, $6.3 billion in assets under management through b1BANK's affiliate Smith Shellnut Wilson, LLC (SSW) (excludes $0.9 billion of b1BANK assets managed by SSW) and operates Banking Centers and Loan Production Offices in markets across Louisiana and the Dallas and Houston, Texas areas, providing commercial and personal banking products and services. Commercial banking services include commercial loans and letters of credit, working capital lines and equipment financing, and treasury management services. b1BANK was awarded #1 Best-In-State Bank, Louisiana, by Forbes and Statista, and is a multiyear winner of American Banker's "Best Banks to Work For." Visit b1BANK.com for more information.

###