



LOUISIANA
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CULTURE

communiqué

The mission of the Office of Cultural Development is to serve the citizens of Louisiana by preserving, supporting, developing and promoting Louisiana culture, including archaeology, arts, French language and historic places.



A note from the assistant secretary...

Dear friends,

The Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, a division of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and the Office of Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, is charged with the support and development of culture in Louisiana, specifically through archaeology, the arts, historic preservation and French language development. To that end we are pleased to launch our monthly newsletter for you—our stakeholders! The periodical will include everything from interesting news happening within the state and throughout the country to grant opportunities for culture professionals—and some fun stories about our office's work as well.

I speak for Lt. Governor Dardenne and the Office of Cultural Development staff when I say that we are enthusiastic about the future and working with all of you to support culture in Louisiana. Many of you are professionals in your specialized fields, while others may simply have an interest in our state's one-of-a-kind culture. Regardless of your position, our goals are comparable. Please stay connected to our office through our website and Facebook, and feel free to contact our staff to assist you as well.

We hope you enjoy *Culture Communiqué*. Here's to a tremendous September!

Best regards,

Pam Breaux

Forbes lists New Iberia on 'America's Prettiest Towns'



Of course, "prettiest" is subjective, but *Forbes* chose 15 towns that would not only stand out in a beauty pageant but also could be your next getaway.

A trip to New Iberia—near Avery Island where the Tabasco factory is located—might be just the sort of pilgrimage needed to spice up your next trip. Take a tour, dodge a gator or just stock up on Tabasco. Whether you arrive by car or air boat, it's hard to resist the pull of real down-home bayou cooking and culture. Just kick back and enjoy the heat.

Click [here](#) to see the entire list.

Interest in French turns into growing business

The Advocate—The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana is launching a *Franco-responsible* program, encouraging French speakers who own businesses or provide services to do business in French. The program—its name meaning “French responsible”—is designed to encourage French speakers to take responsibility for promoting the language in their daily lives and at work.

Participating businesses will be identified with a Franco-responsible decal. The program, still under development, is an update on a program initiated about 30 years ago that identified businesses with another decal: “Ici on parle Français,” meaning French is spoken here.

The goal, CODOFIL Executive Director Joseph Dunn said, is to create a statewide database accessible to tourists and Louisiana residents. “It’s essential for the people in Louisiana who speak French to take personal and professional responsibility for their linguistic identity,” Dunn said. “French is spoken throughout the state. We want to begin to build that network.”

Click [here](#) to read more.



The Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation’s new National Register coordinator, Jessica Richardson, sends out her first pre-application form.

Click [here](#) to find out more about National Register work in the Division of Historic Preservation.

Longtime National Register coordinator retiring



Patricia Duncan (pictured), Louisiana’s National Register program coordinator since August 2007, retired in August after nearly 25 years of service to the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Her work brought National Register status—and all the benefits that come with it—to numerous historically significant places throughout Louisiana.

“When I came to Louisiana in late 1988, I knew very little about the state,” Duncan said. “I’ve learned so much over the last 25 years, and I’ve come to appreciate and love our state. I now consider it my home and will stay here after my retirement. I remain a preservationist at heart and will do whatever I can to help the cause in Louisiana.”

The Louisiana Office of Cultural Development and its staff thank Ms. Duncan for her hard work and service to the state and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Ms. Duncan is succeeded by Jessica Richardson.

LTHP developing bold program to save historic properties

National Trust for Historic Preservation moving offices to the Watergate



The Washington Post—The National Trust for Historic Preservation was looking for a building with a story to it, and it found one—the Watergate.

In February, the Trust—a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect historical buildings—announced that it was selling its Dupont Circle headquarters, which was built in 1917 and once served as a luxury apartment building for then-Treasury Secretary Andrew W. Mellon.

The search began for another historical building in town, and the group announced recently that it had settled on the Watergate office building, home to Washington’s most famous burglary.

Click [here](#) to read more.

The Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation is developing a bold new program to save historic properties throughout our state. Inspired by Preservation North Carolina’s award-winning Endangered Properties Program, the LTHP will launch its program in the coming months. By using the North Carolina model, which has saved more than 600 properties, the LTHP will acquire endangered historic properties, then find purchasers willing and able to rehabilitate them.

This preservation-centric “match-making program” will match historic properties to buyers, paving the way to a multitude of new uses for the properties—residential, commercial, nonprofit, etc. At its core, the program will generate private investments in historic building rehabilitation as a key to economic development and community revitalization. It will also raise the level of awareness about the cultural and economic value of historic preservation to Louisiana’s local communities.

The Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation is working to determine its primary focus for the program’s launch. It is considering focusing its efforts on at least one of the following:

- Vacant historic properties
- Commercial
- Residential
- Public buildings
- Rural locales
- Suburban locales
- Urban locales
- Main Streets
- Cultural districts
- Historic districts



This is where the LTHP needs your input. Are there vacant historic properties in your community that need to be rescued? If so, the Louisiana Trust wants to know! This will help the organization determine its focus as well as balance needs with opportunities. If you have one or more properties to recommend, please share that information with the LTHP by submitting it to Sherry McInnis, smcondumaine@aol.com or 504.256.0912.

The Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation is excited about the future and looks forward to saving our state’s endangered properties.

Fourth ICI Institute cultivates arts education

The fourth annual Imagination, Creativity and Innovation Summer Institute took place mid-June on LSU's Baton Rouge campus. The institute—which is a Louisiana Division of the Arts program administered by KID smART, an arts education nonprofit in New Orleans—was a challenging three days for administrators and teachers from eight pilot schools throughout Louisiana. The focus of this year's professional development was "Reflection as Practice." Workshops included integrating arts into the common core, along with arts activities that could be used in the classroom to enhance critical thinking skills.



Teachers had the option to attend any of the three tracks provided— theater, music and performing arts—among other arts experiences and mini-courses. Teaching artists were offered a one-day seminar focusing on creating an effective lesson plan, childhood development and multiple learning theories, assessment for teaching artists and arts integration. To learn more about this program, visit [here](#).

Folklife Opportunity

Maida Owens, director of the Louisiana Division of the Arts Folklife Program, is announcing the beginning of the Baton Rouge Folklife Survey. This survey will allow the program to continue its efforts to document Louisiana's folklife statewide. National Endowment for the Arts funds will be used to hire one or two folklorists to document Baton Rouge traditional artists. Students at LSU and BRCC will also be documenting Baton Rouge traditions and tradition bearers. Information about the project is online [here](#), along with the request for qualifications. If you know of traditions or traditional artists who should be documented, please contact Maida Owens at mowens@crt.la.gov.

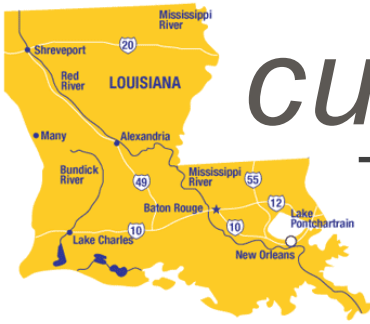
LAA+ Schools gets new deputy director

The George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts is excited to announce Kim Leavitt as the deputy director of Louisiana A+ Schools. In this role, Leavitt provides support to a statewide school network and liaisons nationally.

Prior to joining the staff of LAA+, Leavitt was director of education and community engagement at The Phoenix Symphony, where she launched Mind Over Music, an unprecedented STE[+a]M initiative in which Symphony musicians team-teach alongside classroom teachers to support STEM learning. STEM, which stands for science, technology, engineering and math, is a national education and research movement aimed at raising the performance of American students in science and math. STE[+a]M is an expansion of the same movement with the addition of "art." She also created two nationally known arts integration initiatives, Value Plus Schools and Arts360, which launched when she was director of arts education for the Tennessee Arts Commission.

"To be part of the revolution that is coming to Louisiana education through the A+ Schools program is an honor," Leavitt said. "I have followed A+ for many years as it grew. . . and am thrilled to work with the George Rodrigue Foundation."

For more, visit [here](#).



cultureROADMAP

U.S. Gulf Coast States Geotourism MapGuide



Nomination deadline extended

The U.S. Gulf States Geotourism Program, which seeks to capture and promote the culture and heritage of this extraordinary region through the voices and stories of the people that live there, has extended its deadline for submitting nominations of sites for inclusion. The program resulted from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in early 2010 to support efforts to rekindle visitation to the region. Its purpose is to help capture the warm and welcoming persona of the Gulf Coast through an informative National Geographic Society co-branded print map, online interactive map and app that presents the sites and stories of the region in the words of its residents. To submit nominations, visit [here](#).

McNeese receives Percent for Art project



A bronze statue titled *The Cowboy*, created by legendary Western artist Buck McCain, was officially dedicated Aug. 14 at the Jack V. Doland Field House. *The Cowboy* depicts a working cowboy after a long day's work. The statue, one of only 35 produced, is finished in a rich brown patina and stands 6 feet 8 inches, including the base, and weighs almost 900 pounds.

McCain is known for his attention to detail and all dress and gear are authentic reproductions based on clothing and accessories he wore while working on the family ranch in southern California. The cowboy is carrying a Fred Mueller saddle typical of the 1920s and '30s, with high wells favored by the bronco riders of that day. The belt buckle was cast from an original buckle issued by Justin Boot Co.

"I tried very hard to make *The Cowboy* as authentic as I could—he even stands on some old saddle shed planking. It is my tribute to the stoic men who made up my family, my heritage and my world as a youngster," McCain, who attended the installation, said. "I hope *The Cowboy* brings good luck, many wins and pride to the McNeese Cowboys."

McCain's studio is located in the mountains north of Tucson, Ariz. His work is found in numerous galleries, private collections and museums throughout the country.

Funding for the statue came from the Percent for Art program under the Louisiana Division of the Arts. In 1999, then-senator Jay Dardenne passed the Percent for Art bill requiring the state to set aside one percent of the construction budget for projects with budgets exceeding \$2 million on works of art for that project.

Click [here](#) for more information on the Percent for Art program. Click [here](#) to read more about the dedication.



Grant Opportunities

- Through USArtists International, grants are available to American dance, music and theater ensembles and solo performers who have been invited to perform at significant international festivals outside of the United States. Applications are submitted to Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and the submission deadline is Friday, Sept. 6. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- The LSU Student Union Art Gallery is accepting entries for a competitive juried exhibition *2014 20"x20"x20": A National Compact Competition and Exhibit*. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- The National Endowment for the Arts' Office of Research and Analysis is accepting application for *Research: Art Works*, which supports research that investigates the value of the U.S. arts ecosystem and the impact of the arts with other domains of American life. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- The Japanese Agency of Cultural Affairs has organized an artist-in-residence program which aims to provide three outstanding young animation artists from around the world with an opportunity to go to Tokyo and create new works while directly interacting with Japanese animation culture. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- The Fledgling Fund provides grants to support outreach and audience engagement for social issue documentaries and range from smaller planning grants to implementation grants for projects that have a clear plan ready to launch. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- The Burden Horticulture Society is accepting entries for the 2014 Brush with Burden Juried Art Competition. The 2014 theme is The Nature and Culture of Louisiana, and paintings and 3-D entries are accepted. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- The National Dance Project Touring Award supports national tours of new dance works. Click [here](#) to apply.

- The James Marston Finch Charitable Foundation awards grants to mid-career professionals who have an academic background, professional experience and an established identity in either historic preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, architectural history and/or decorative arts. Click [here](#) to apply.

- The GRAMMY Foundation Grant Program awards grants each year to organizations and individuals to support efforts that advance the archiving and preservation of music and recorded sound heritage. Preservation allows future generations and research projects access to the sounds of culture in the Americas. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- The National Art Education Association invites applications for the Ruth Halvorsen Professional Development Grants, Mary McMullan Grants, NAEF Research Grants, SHIP Grants and Teacher Incentive Grants. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Upcoming Events

- October is Archaeology Month. Look for news on events to celebrate archaeology throughout Louisiana during October [here](#).
- November is the Month of Main Street. “Remember November” celebrates Louisiana’s 34 Main Street Communities, with events planned all month. Keep up with all the exciting Main Street events planned during November [here](#).

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