

# CULTURE COMMUNIQUÉ

SEPTEMBER 2014

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 preservation.

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LOUISIANA  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



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### *A message from Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne*



Louisiana is still celebrating Poverty Point's inscription as a World Heritage Site as a result of the incredible work of countless folks throughout Louisiana and beyond. The ancient northeast Louisiana site has been deemed a globally valuable cultural site worthy of protection by the world community, and I am so proud to have worked on this initiative. Learn more about its inscription and the entire World Heritage List [here](#).

In many ways, the work is just beginning as we prepare the site for high-level promotion and larger crowds, including an inscription ceremony on Oct. 11. Stay tuned as we release more details about everything happening at Poverty Point in the coming months and year. I hope all of you will seek out more information on this site and plan a visit to see Louisiana's own World Heritage Site yourself.

### *A message from Assistant Secretary Pam Breaux*



Another hot Louisiana summer is winding down, and our office continues the work of supporting the state's culture.

Poverty Point is still very much on our minds. Its World Heritage inscription on June 22 was truly a milestone not just for our office but for the state as a whole. Learn more about the archaeology at Poverty Point [here](#), and stay tuned as we promote the official inscription ceremony at the site on Oct. 11.

Elsewhere, just a sampling of our work includes: the [Division of the Arts'](#) support of artists, from the [Louisiana Artist Roster](#) to the [Decentralized Arts Funding program](#); the [Division of Historic Preservation's](#) management of [tax credits, Section 106](#) and the [Main Street program](#); and [CODOFIL's](#) continued work to preserve and support French in the state.

Stay updated on all our work on [Facebook](#) and our [website](#) as we await cooler weather—perhaps!

## Historic tax credits transform historic structure into artists' lofts

Lafayette Wholesale Grocery was constructed in 1925 and operated as a grocery store in Lafayette for decades. The property was then used as an ancillary building for a local nonprofit organization before becoming vacant in recent years. The Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority purchased the building in 2011 to revive the historic structure and surrounding community, John Arceneaux, chairman of the LPTFA, said.

The Studios at LWG, named in honor of its original occupant, is a 15-unit mixed-income development that provides housing to local artists earning 60 percent of the area median income and below. Of the 15 units, there are seven market-rate units, six units reserved for local artists earning 60 percent of the AMI and two units reserved for artists earning 50 percent of the AMI.

"We wanted to create lofts in Lafayette to support the local artists," Arceneaux said. "This development is in a blighted area of downtown Lafayette. It is bringing income into the area that was not there before."

Arceneaux said that the property was attractive because the LPTFA was eager to get involved with the revitalization of downtown Lafayette. Arceneaux came up with the idea of creating artist lofts, and brought it to the LPTFA board of trustees, which embraced the idea.

"[Our goals were to] revitalize the area, return the historic structure back into commerce, create affordable urban housing opportunities for area artists; and demonstrate the success of mixed-income communities," Greg Gachassin, president of



The Studios at LWG is a 15-unit mixed-income development that provides housing to local artists. (Courtesy of the Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority)

The Cartesian Company, which developed the property, said.

Not only does The Studios at LWG provide affordable housing for local artists—rents range from \$490 to \$775 per month—but it also has studio and gallery space for artists to practice their crafts and show their works. Gachassin said that the location is also perfect for local artists. The Studios at LWG is within one mile of several amenities, including parks, a public library, museums, retail outlets and restaurants. Individual units feature high ceilings with exposed wood beams, large storefront style windows, Energy Star-rated appliances and fixtures, including in-unit washers and dryers, and interior brick walls.

### Financing the Historic Rehab

The \$2.7 million development used a number of funding sources to rehabilitate the historic structure, including the State Commercial Tax Credit program. Alison Saunders, tax incentives director at the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development's Di-

vision of Historic Preservation, which administers the credit with the Louisiana Department of Revenue, said that The Cartesian Company and the LPTFA have submitted part three of their tax credit application. Saunders anticipates that the completed project will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The state tax credit is equal to 25 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. Saunders added that there is no statewide cap to this program and projects do not rely on a set allocation of available credits.

"They had an excellent application," Saunders said. "It achieved the exact intention of the program. It took an unused building and brought it back to good economic use. A good project can create a domino effect. We see this as a big catalyst in downtown Lafayette."

Based on interest from a few potential investors, Gachassin anticipates the development will receive roughly \$460,000 in tax credit equity.

# STAFF UPDATES

*From Gaye Hamilton, cultural districts director*

## Southwest La.'s Culture Fest Louisiana 2014 to take place Oct. 25

Culture Fest Louisiana, a southwest Louisiana program that bills itself as a local blend of global arts, food and culture, will celebrate its fourth year on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Lake Charles Civic Center.

A group of diverse locals has been working for years with the community to promote cultural harmony based on mutual understanding and respect. Fittingly, this group calls itself called Common Ground. Common Ground believes that by celebrating the local diversity, southwest Louisiana will become a more vibrant and exciting community and be even more attractive to new families, businesses and industries considering locating there. It is from this perspective that Culture Fest Louisiana was born and continues to grow as an important cultural celebration for the region and the state.

Culture Fest Louisiana 2014 will showcase the art, music, dance, fashion and food of the different countries represented in the area. This community event is free to the public and designed to encourage family participation.

The event will include a cultural display area featuring many artistic, scientific and historic

achievements each of the area's cultures has contributed to the global community. Visitors will be led from continent to continent to experience the arts, textiles, literature and visual achievements of the world's great countries.

The countries represented at Culture Fest Louisiana is diverse and continues to grow. Currently, the following countries will be represented: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Brazil, Cuba, China, Egypt, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, India, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom, the United States of America, Venezuela and Vietnam. There are other countries still not represented, and anyone who can showcase the culture of an unrepresented country by putting together a display booth at Culture Fest Louisiana is asked to contact the organizers [here](#).

Learn more about Culture Fest Louisiana 2014 [here](#), and remember to mark your calendars for Oct. 25.

*From Dána La Fonta, director of artist services and Percent for Art*

## New Percent for Art work installed at Pennington Center



Louisiana artist Laurel Porcari recently had three works installed at the Pennington Biomedical Research Imaging Facility in Baton Rouge as a [Percent for Art](#) commission. The beautiful panels are strongly influenced by science and the effect of heat and gravity on stacks of glass. Heat changes the color and viscosity of the glass, while gravity is harnessed to make patterns representing cell division. This work was commissioned through the Percent For Art program and is part of a collection that includes about 35 pieces of original artwork to date. Learn more about the Percent for Art program [here](#).





# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- USArtists International, which supports American dance, music and theater ensembles and solo artists invited to perform at international festivals and performing arts markets, is accepting applications for its 2015 program. **Sept. 5** is the deadline for the first of three grant rounds. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The National Park Service is accepting proposals for its National Maritime Heritage Grants Program for education or preservation projects. Winning proposals will be awarded a share of \$1.7 million. The submission deadline is **Sept. 23**. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The 360 Xochi Quetzal Artist and Writer's Residency Program is a free residency in Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico. Artists of diverse media are welcome to apply for a one-month residency with free housing and a food stipend. The application deadline for the winter residency, which runs Dec. 16, 2014, through Jan. 16, 2015, is **Sept. 28**. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Levitt Pavilions is accepting applications for its AMP [YOUR CITY] Grant Awards. Applicants must be non-profits or municipalities partnering with nonprofits in small to mid-size cities for free, outdoor concerts to be presented between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016. Each grantee will receive up to \$25,000 in matching funds for the concert series. The deadline to apply is **Oct. 15**. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The Japan Foundation is accepting project proposals for Performing Arts Japan (PAJ) touring and collaboration grants. The deadline to apply is **Oct. 27**. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The National Endowment for the Arts Office of Research and Analysis is accepting applications for *Research: Art Works*, which supports research that investigates the value of the U.S. arts ecosystem and the impact of the arts on other domains of American life. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The New England Foundation for the Arts is accepting proposals for its National Native Artist Exchange Program, which supports an exchange of ideas between two Native American artists from different regions. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The Pollination Project is accepting applications from social entrepreneurs for seed grants of up to \$1,000. The grants are awarded to individuals whose projects are in the early stages of development and promote compassion toward all life, environmental sustainability, justice, community health and wellness and social change-oriented arts and culture. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The New Orleans Theatre Association is a leading presenter of touring Broadway productions and other performing presentations in Louisiana. All revenue generated is returned to the community in the form of grants and other support for cultural, educational and arts-based organizations. Click [here](#) to learn more about applying for a NOTA grant.

*Artists can stay updated on arts opportunities throughout the state and beyond by clicking [here](#).*

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Stay connected to us through our [website](#) and our [Facebook](#). [Email](#) us to comment on Culture Communiqué.