



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF THE ARTS

CARRIE BROUSSARD
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MINUTES

Louisiana State Arts Council Meeting - Friday, October 8, 2025 1:00 pm
Cary Saurage Community Arts Center – 233 St. Ferdinand Street – Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Council members in attendance: Sean Ardoin (arrived at 1:26pm) Carrie Broussard, Margie Camardelle, Silas Cooper, Dirk Guidry, Brandon Lewis, Joyce Linde, Kelsea McCrary, Gene Meneray, Emily Mott, Claire Amy, Tiger Verdin, Ron Villegas

Staff in attendance: Carrie Broussard, Leea Russell, Scott Finch, April Baham, Quaja Bell, Francesca Vega, Erica Bergeron, Alora Thompson,

Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call

- Chair Meneray called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.
- Jonathan Grimes (President & CEO, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge) welcomed the council and highlighted upcoming events: Louisiana Arts Summit, River City Jazz Masters, and the JR Art exhibition.
- Roll was called by Leea Russell; 13 of 17 council members were present, establishing a quorum.

Approval of Minutes (April 2025; July 2025)

- April 2025 minutes: Motion by Margie; second by Tiger; approved unanimously without discussion.
- July 2025 minutes: Motion by Tiger; second by Emily; approved unanimously without discussion.

Nominating Committee

- Leea outlined the need and structure for a three-member nominating committee: one appointee by the Executive Director, one by the Executive Committee, and one by the full council.
- Carrie noted the committee may meet virtually and will present a slate for the January meeting.
- Nominations: Emily (Executive Director's choice), Gene (Executive Committee's choice), Joyce (Full Council's choice).
- Motion to approve the slate by Tiger; second by Ron; approved unanimously without discussion.

2026 Meeting Dates and Venues

- Gene reviewed the typical schedule (January, April, July, October) and invited venue offers from council members.
- Dirk shared that Basin Arts (Lafayette) recently opened and could host in January or April.
- Leea noted preliminary plans to visit Lafayette, Natchitoches, New Roads, and New Orleans; potential venues include the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and KID smART's new space.
- Ron offered Preservation Hall as a New Orleans option.
- Sean relayed a message from Brook Hanemann recommending Bogalusa to elevate a rural community.

- Kelsea proposed replacing an October Natchitoches visit with late-September Bogalusa, moving Natchitoches to January 2027; the council agreed.
- Leea will send a Doodle poll to set a January 2026 date in New Orleans.

Reports

- Carrie: Office funding remains stable; no interruptions to NEA or NPS funding despite the federal shutdown.
- Gene: Shared NASAA insights indicating registered Republicans generally support the arts but question public funding; priorities include arts for veterans, America 250 projects, and arts & health. Identified key congressional targets: Scalise, Higgins, and Letlow. A white paper is forthcoming from NASAA.
- Emily: Noted connections in Speaker Mike Johnson's office to assist with advocacy.
- Tiger (Louisiana Partnership for the Arts): Attended the Fringe Festival in July with students from St. Mary and East Baton Rouge Parishes; announced a statewide billboard campaign promoting the arts license plate to generate revenue.
 - Kelsea requested a direct OMV link due to access issues; Tiger has a QR code.
 - Gene recommended replying to Leea's last email with the QR code so all members have the direct link.
- *See attachment for Executive Director and Staff Updates.*

Public Comment

- No public present.
- Member updates: Ron relocated from New Orleans to Washington, LA; Kelsea transitioned from the City of Monroe to Emergent Method (Baton Rouge); Sean released a new album, "All the Lights."

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Sean; second by Tiger; approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next Meeting

- January 2026 — location to be determined (Doodle poll forthcoming).



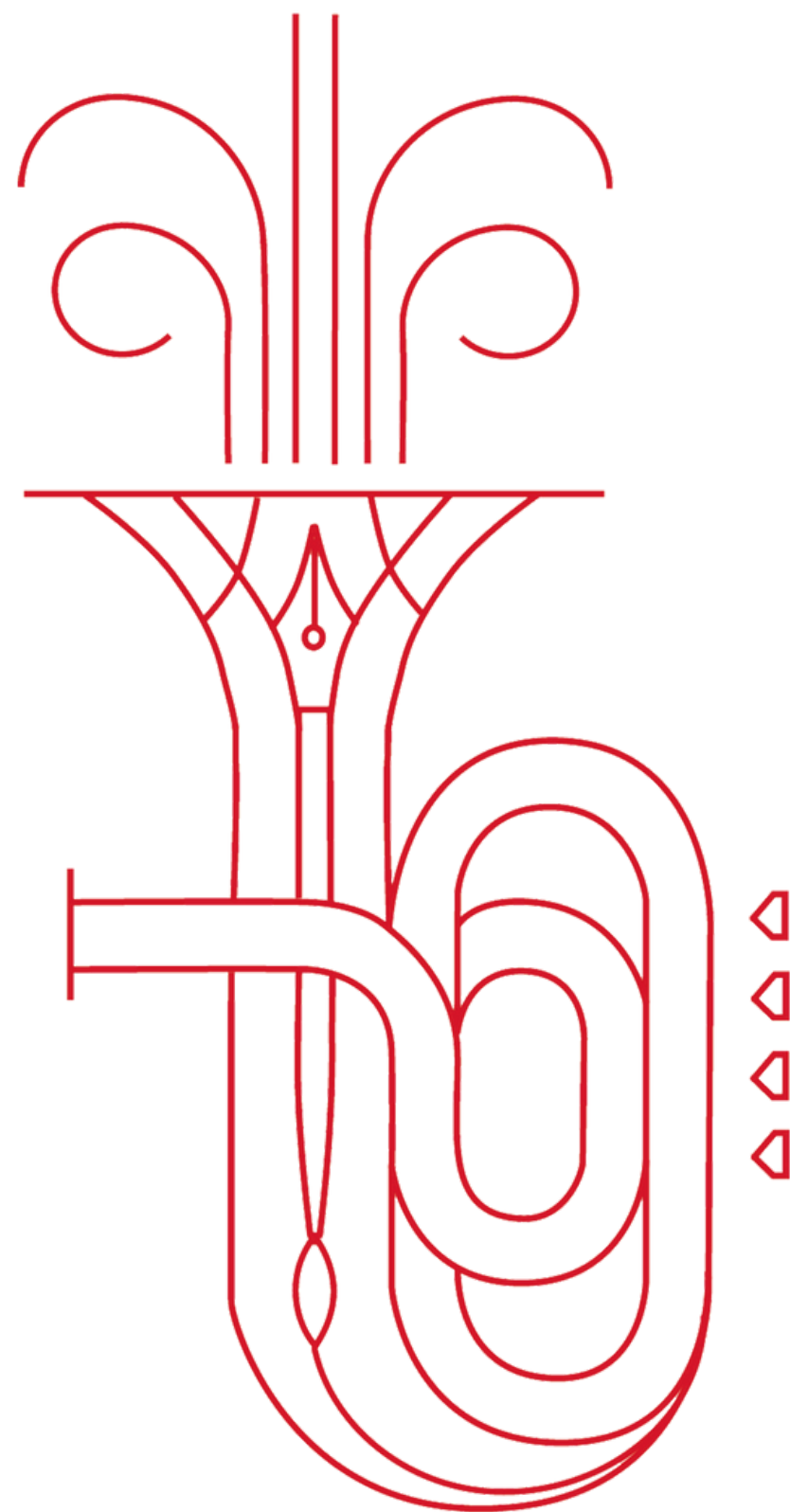
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL MEETING 10/08/2025

louisianaarts.org



LEE A REESE RUSSELL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



NEA

- No interruption to SAA access to funding

In the Field

- Natchitoches Folk Festival
- Louisiana Municipal Association
- Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference
- Southern Arts Advocacy Convening (South Arts)
- NASAA PDI (Iowa)
- Shreveport, Alexandria, Lafayette, Ruston, Lake Charles, Lafayette, New Orleans

Louisiana Arts Summit

- Opening Reception - today from 5:00-6:00 at Cary Saurage CAC
- October 9th - EBR River Center Branch Library
- October 10th - Manship Theatre
- Lunch on October 9th sponsored by LOUISIANA SEAFOOD

FORECAST



MAKING IT PUBLIC FOR LOUISIANA ADMINISTRATORS

REGISTER by October 8

OCTOBER 17 – 18

IN-PERSON TRAINING

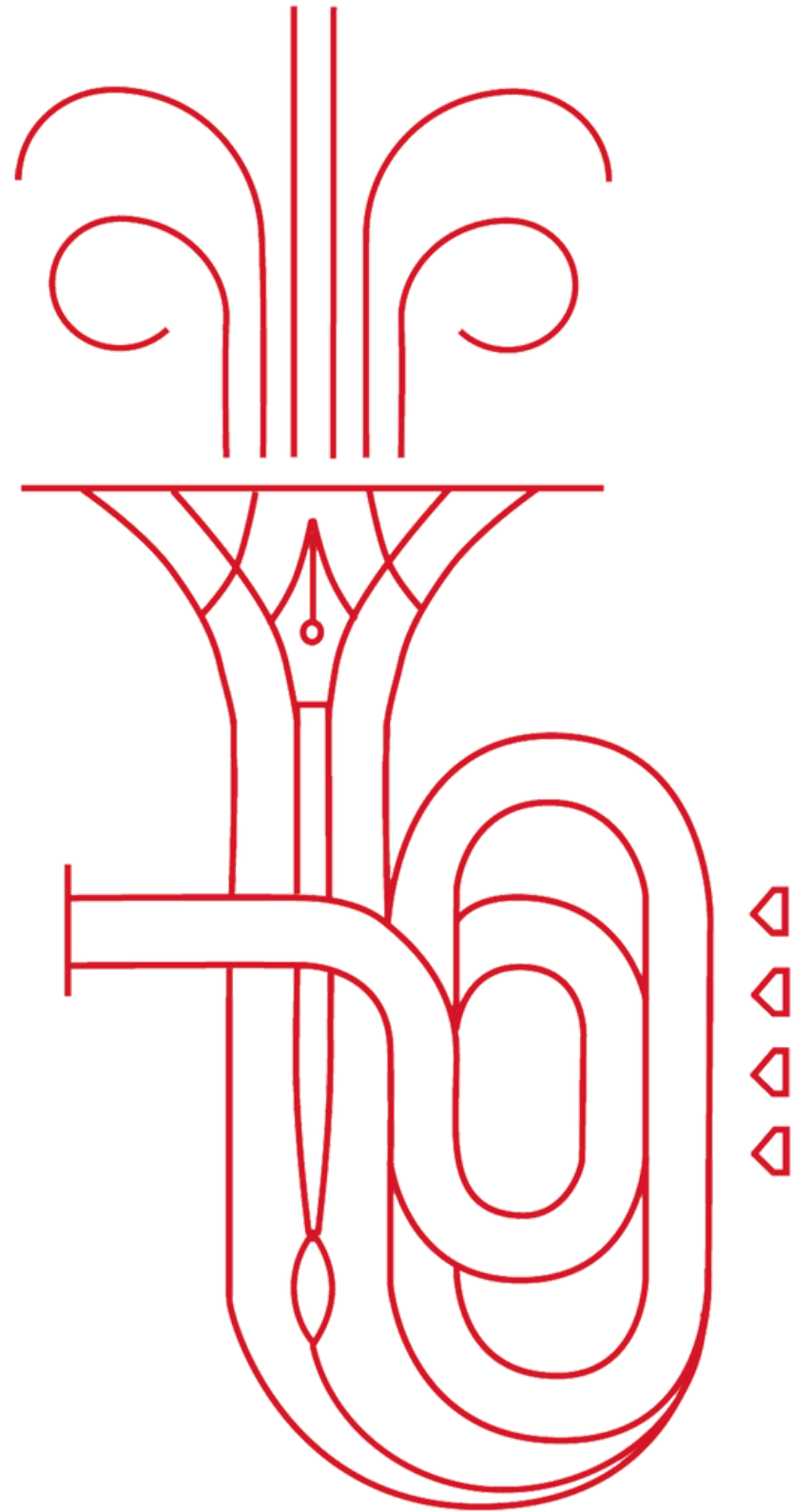




Collab is Fab!

- Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States
- Highlighting Louisiana's cultural influence on the nation
- Creating K–12 educational materials that engage students in this history
- Culminating in a large-scale video installation and quilt exhibition





CALL TO ACTION

Louisiana Arts Caucus



- Email or call your Arts Caucus members
- Schedule a brief meeting—virtual or in person
- Share about your role on LSAC
- Highlight grant-funded projects and organizations
- Emphasize the impact of **LDOA**
- Aim to make a meaningful connection with at least one caucus member by the end of 2025



FRANCESCA VEGA

CULTURAL DISTRICTS

Program Updates

PILOT PROGRAM

PARTNERS **IN**
PLACE



Public Planning Workshops:

- **Tremé/7th Ward Cultural District (New Orleans, LA)**

Saturday, September 27, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tremé Market Branch
800 North Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, LA

- **Hammond Cultural District (Hammond, LA)**

Saturday, November 1, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
First Christian Church
305 E. Charles Street, Hammond, LA

- **Railroad Avenue Historic Cultural District (Jeanerette, LA)**

Saturday, November 8, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Historic St. Paul United Methodist Church
1405 Annie R. Moore, Jeanerette, LA



NAHM POSTCARD

Chase Julien, *The Boot's Best and Boudin Yes*, 2025, acrylic on paper.

LDOA x Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA)

In partnership with ANHA, we commissioned an artist to celebrate NAHM, Atchafalaya Month, & Folklife Month. Reveal planned for October 9 lunch and learn session at Arts Summit.





ERICA BERGERON

GRANTS

Program Updates

THIS YEAR'S LPG CULINARY GRANTEES

FIRST LINE SCHOOLS - ENHANCING EDIBLE EXPERIENCES AT EDIBLE SCHOOLS YARD NOLA

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA WETLANDS DISCOVERY CENTER - TAST OF THE BAYOU: A CULINARY DEMONSTRATION SERIES AS LIVING ART

VUES DE CULTURE - ANNUAL CREOLE CULTURE DAY

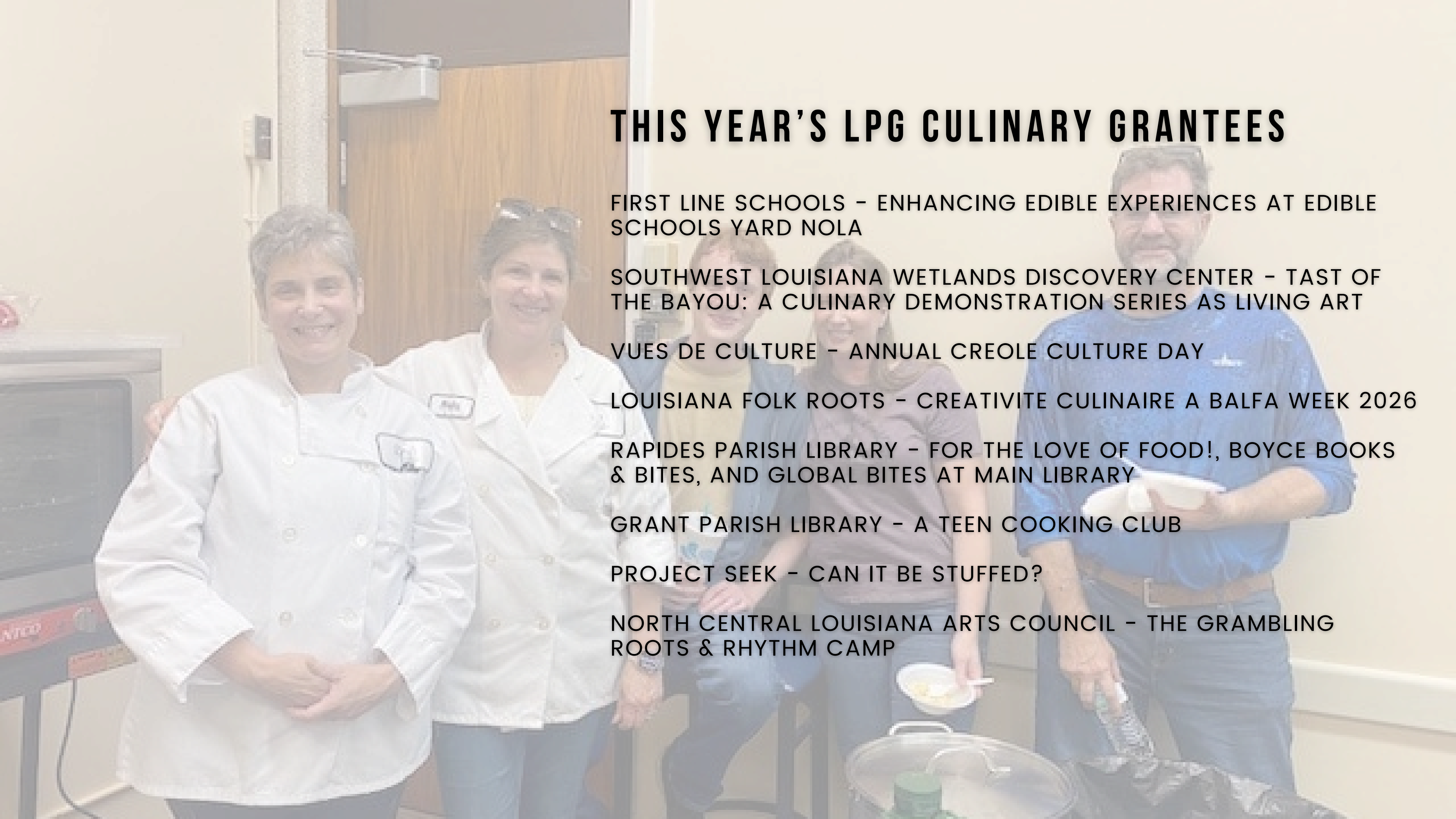
LOUISIANA FOLK ROOTS - CREATIVITE CULINAIRE A BALFA WEEK 2026

RAPIDES PARISH LIBRARY - FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD!, BOYCE BOOKS & BITES, AND GLOBAL BITES AT MAIN LIBRARY

GRANT PARISH LIBRARY - A TEEN COOKING CLUB

PROJECT SEEK - CAN IT BE STUFFED?

NORTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA ARTS COUNCIL - THE GRAMBLING ROOTS & RHYTHM CAMP





ANNUAL CREOLE HERITAGE DAY

VUES DE CULTURE

LAFAYETTE, LA | OCT. 4TH 2025

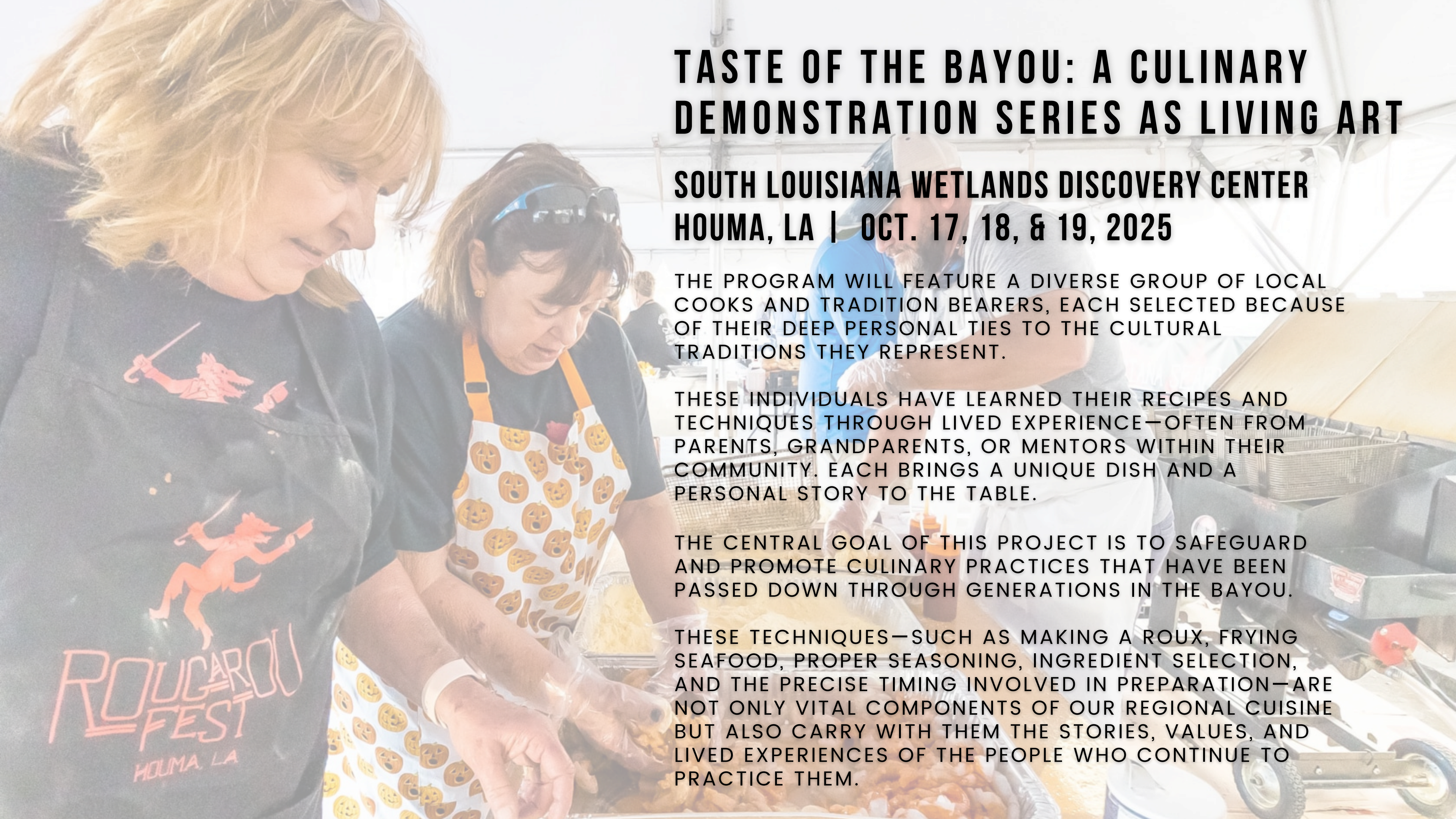
MAIN ANCHOR OF THE EVENT IS A BOUCHERIE, A FULL-DAY CULINARY AND FOLK LIFE DEMONSTRATION THAT BEGINS AT 6:00 A.M.

FEATURES MULTIPLE CREOLE FAMILIES FROM ACROSS LOUISIANA WHO DEMONSTRATE THEIR OWN PRACTICES WHILE HONORING SHARED TRADITIONS PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS.

ATTENDEES WILL WITNESS EACH STEP OF THE BOUCHERIE—FROM HUMANE SLAUGHTER AND PROCESSING TO SEASONING, COOKING, AND SERVING.

DISHES SUCH AS CRACKLIN, BOUDIN, AND BACKBONE STEW WILL BE PREPARED THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE DEMONSTRATION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CREOLE FRENCH, ALLOWING THE PUBLIC TO EXPERIENCE NOT JUST TECHNIQUE, BUT LANGUAGE AND STORYTELLING.



TASTE OF THE BAYOU: A CULINARY DEMONSTRATION SERIES AS LIVING ART

**SOUTH LOUISIANA WETLANDS DISCOVERY CENTER
HOUMA, LA | OCT. 17, 18, & 19, 2025**

THE PROGRAM WILL FEATURE A DIVERSE GROUP OF LOCAL COOKS AND TRADITION BEARERS, EACH SELECTED BECAUSE OF THEIR DEEP PERSONAL TIES TO THE CULTURAL TRADITIONS THEY REPRESENT.

THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE LEARNED THEIR RECIPES AND TECHNIQUES THROUGH LIVED EXPERIENCE—OFTEN FROM PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, OR MENTORS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY. EACH BRINGS A UNIQUE DISH AND A PERSONAL STORY TO THE TABLE.

THE CENTRAL GOAL OF THIS PROJECT IS TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE CULINARY PRACTICES THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS IN THE BAYOU.

THESE TECHNIQUES—SUCH AS MAKING A ROUX, FRYING SEAFOOD, PROPER SEASONING, INGREDIENT SELECTION, AND THE PRECISE TIMING INVOLVED IN PREPARATION—ARE NOT ONLY VITAL COMPONENTS OF OUR REGIONAL CUISINE BUT ALSO CARRY WITH THEM THE STORIES, VALUES, AND LIVED EXPERIENCES OF THE PEOPLE WHO CONTINUE TO PRACTICE THEM.

CAN IT BE STUFFED?

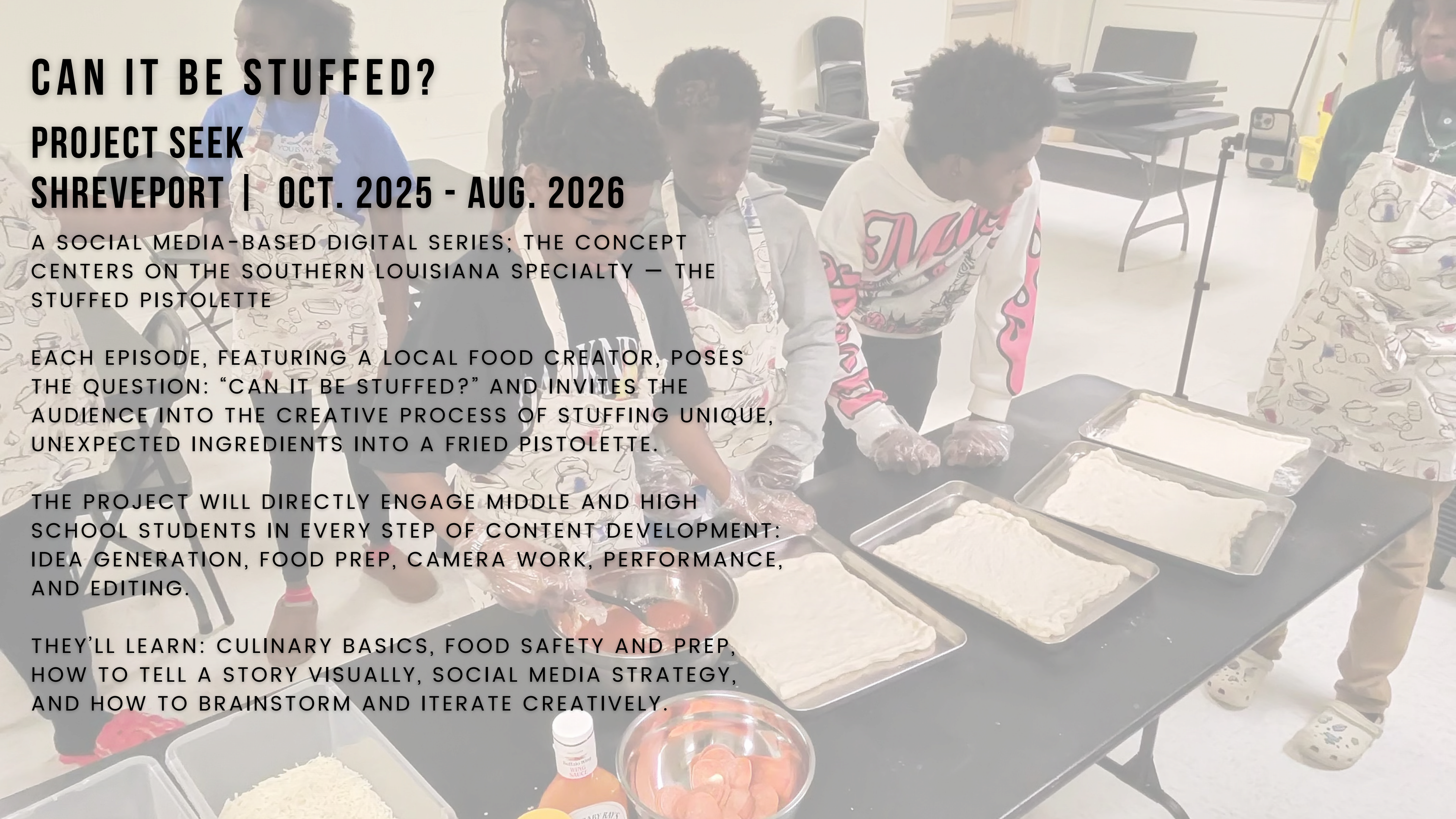
PROJECT SEEK SHREVEPORT | OCT. 2025 - AUG. 2026

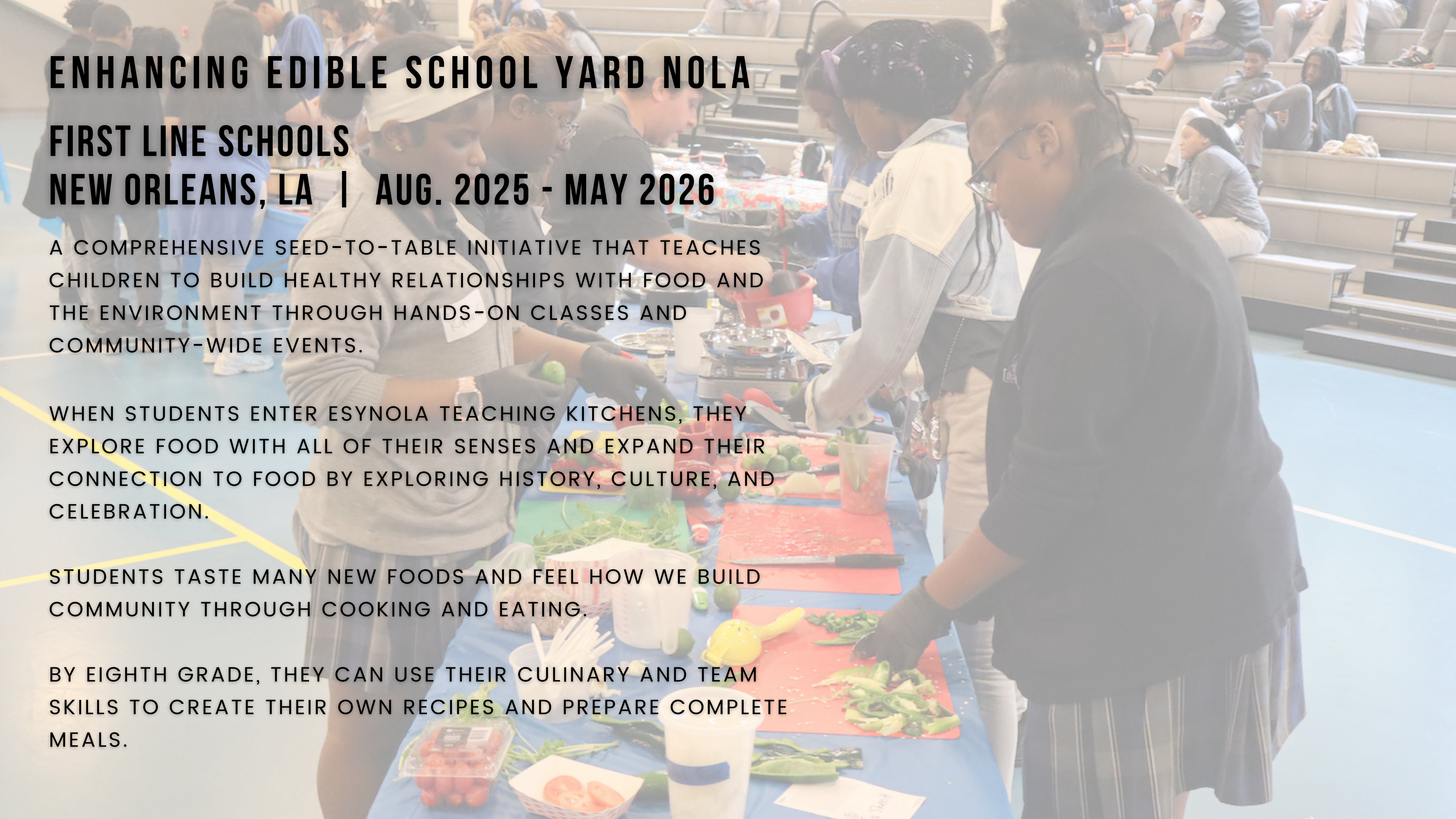
A SOCIAL MEDIA-BASED DIGITAL SERIES; THE CONCEPT CENTERS ON THE SOUTHERN LOUISIANA SPECIALTY — THE STUFFED PISTOLETTE

EACH EPISODE, FEATURING A LOCAL FOOD CREATOR, POSES THE QUESTION: “CAN IT BE STUFFED?” AND INVITES THE AUDIENCE INTO THE CREATIVE PROCESS OF STUFFING UNIQUE, UNEXPECTED INGREDIENTS INTO A FRIED PISTOLETTE.

THE PROJECT WILL DIRECTLY ENGAGE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN EVERY STEP OF CONTENT DEVELOPMENT: IDEA GENERATION, FOOD PREP, CAMERA WORK, PERFORMANCE, AND EDITING.

THEY’LL LEARN: CULINARY BASICS, FOOD SAFETY AND PREP, HOW TO TELL A STORY VISUALLY, SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY, AND HOW TO BRAINSTORM AND ITERATE CREATIVELY.



A group of students in a school cafeteria are participating in a food preparation activity. They are standing around a long table covered with a blue cloth, which is laden with various fresh ingredients like tomatoes, cucumbers, and leafy greens. Some students are wearing white chef hats and gloves, while others are in casual school attire. In the background, other students are seated on bleachers, and the overall atmosphere is one of active learning and community. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

ENHANCING EDIBLE SCHOOL YARD NOLA

FIRST LINE SCHOOLS

NEW ORLEANS, LA | AUG. 2025 - MAY 2026

A COMPREHENSIVE SEED-TO-TABLE INITIATIVE THAT TEACHES CHILDREN TO BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH HANDS-ON CLASSES AND COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENTS.

WHEN STUDENTS ENTER ESYNOLA TEACHING KITCHENS, THEY EXPLORE FOOD WITH ALL OF THEIR SENSES AND EXPAND THEIR CONNECTION TO FOOD BY EXPLORING HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CELEBRATION.

STUDENTS TASTE MANY NEW FOODS AND FEEL HOW WE BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH COOKING AND EATING.

BY EIGHTH GRADE, THEY CAN USE THEIR CULINARY AND TEAM SKILLS TO CREATE THEIR OWN RECIPES AND PREPARE COMPLETE MEALS.

Merci!