



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

Louisiana State Arts Council Meeting – Thursday, January 15, 2026; 11:00 am
Gallier Hall – 545 Saint Charles Street – New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

MINUTES

Council Members in Attendance: Sean Ardoin, Margie Camardelle, Silas Cooper, Dirk Guidry, Brandon Lewis, Joyce Linde, Kelsea McCrary, Gene Meneray, Emily Mott, Tiger Verdin, Ron Villegas,

Staff in attendance: Justin Lemoine, Leea Russell, Scott Finch, April Baham, Quaja Bell, Erica Bergeron, Alora Thompson, Lacey Chataignier

Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 am by Chair Meneray. A short welcome address was given by Fredrick “Wood” delaHoussaye from the New Orleans Office of Cultural Economy. Chair Meneray introduced State Representative Shaun Mena, who was in attendance. Representative Mena spoke briefly about his appreciation for arts and culture and its importance to the state. Ms. Russell called roll and quorum was met.

Approval of October 2025 Minutes

A motion to approve minutes from the October 2025 was made by Mr. Ardoin and seconded by Mr. Verdin. The motion carried without discussion.

Election of Officers

The following slate of officers were presented to the council. Chairman Gene Meneray, Vice-Chairman Kelsey McCrary, Secretary Emily Mott, Parliamentarian Sean Ardoin. A motion to approve this slate was made by Ms. Hanneman and seconded by Ms. Camardelle. The motion carried without discussion.

Reports

Deputy Assistant Secretary Justin Lemoine reported that the Office of Cultural Development budget remains stable. He noted that the legislative session would begin on March 9 and that no bills are anticipated to directly impact the Office or the Louisiana Division of the Arts.

Ms. Russell reported on the ongoing development of the agency’s annual report and provided a recap of the Louisiana Arts Summit. She also announced that Alora Thompson will depart at the end of her contract and noted the addition of a new Music Program, led by Lacey Chataignier.

Ms. Russell reviewed the Division's budget, explaining that after salary, benefits, and grants are allocated, less than \$500,000 remains for operations, programs, travel, and special initiatives. She concluded her report by reminding the Council of the agency's four strategic priorities and the staff's ongoing efforts to align their work with these priorities. She also encouraged Council members to contact their legislators to share the impact of the agency's work.

Chairman Meneray asked how the addition of the Music Program would be funded. Ms. Russell explained that approximately 20 percent of Ms. Chataignier's salary will be applied to the Division's budget, while the interagency transfer—through which the remainder of her salary and benefits are funded—will remain unchanged. (See attachment for additional details related to the Executive Director's report.)

Chairman Meneray reported that the federal government is continuing negotiations on the FY26 budget. He noted strong support in Congress for level funding for the National Endowment for the Arts at \$207 million and emphasized continued support for the federal-state partnership.

Mr. Verdin reported that revenue from the arts license plate program is being received. He described ongoing outreach efforts to promote the plate, including appearances at arts and cultural events across the state and collaboration with Lamar Advertising on a billboard campaign.

Staff provided updates on the Percent for Art, Music, and Folklife programs (see attachment for details).

During public comment, Mr. Lewis announced a music collaboration between the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and the Louisiana Division of the Arts in celebration of America 250. Ms. Linde shared that she has been volunteering with Acadiana Center for the Arts. Mr. Cooper provided instructions regarding the agenda for the tour of New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and parking logistics.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

Dates and locations TBD

**April 15, 2026 – Lafayette
Bogalusa**

July 2026 – New Roads

September 2026 –



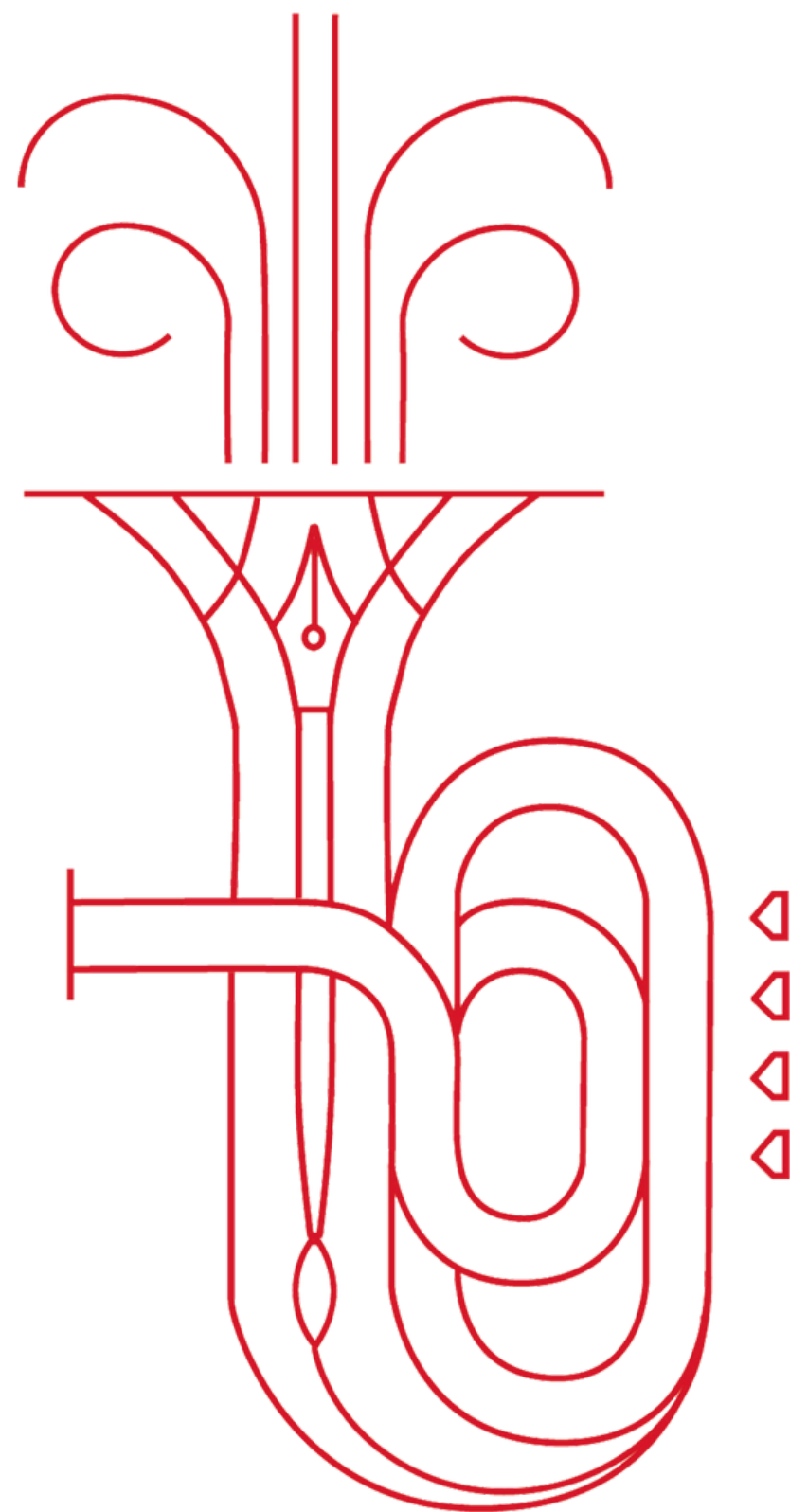
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL MEETING 01/15/2026

louisianaarts.org



LEE A REESE RUSSELL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

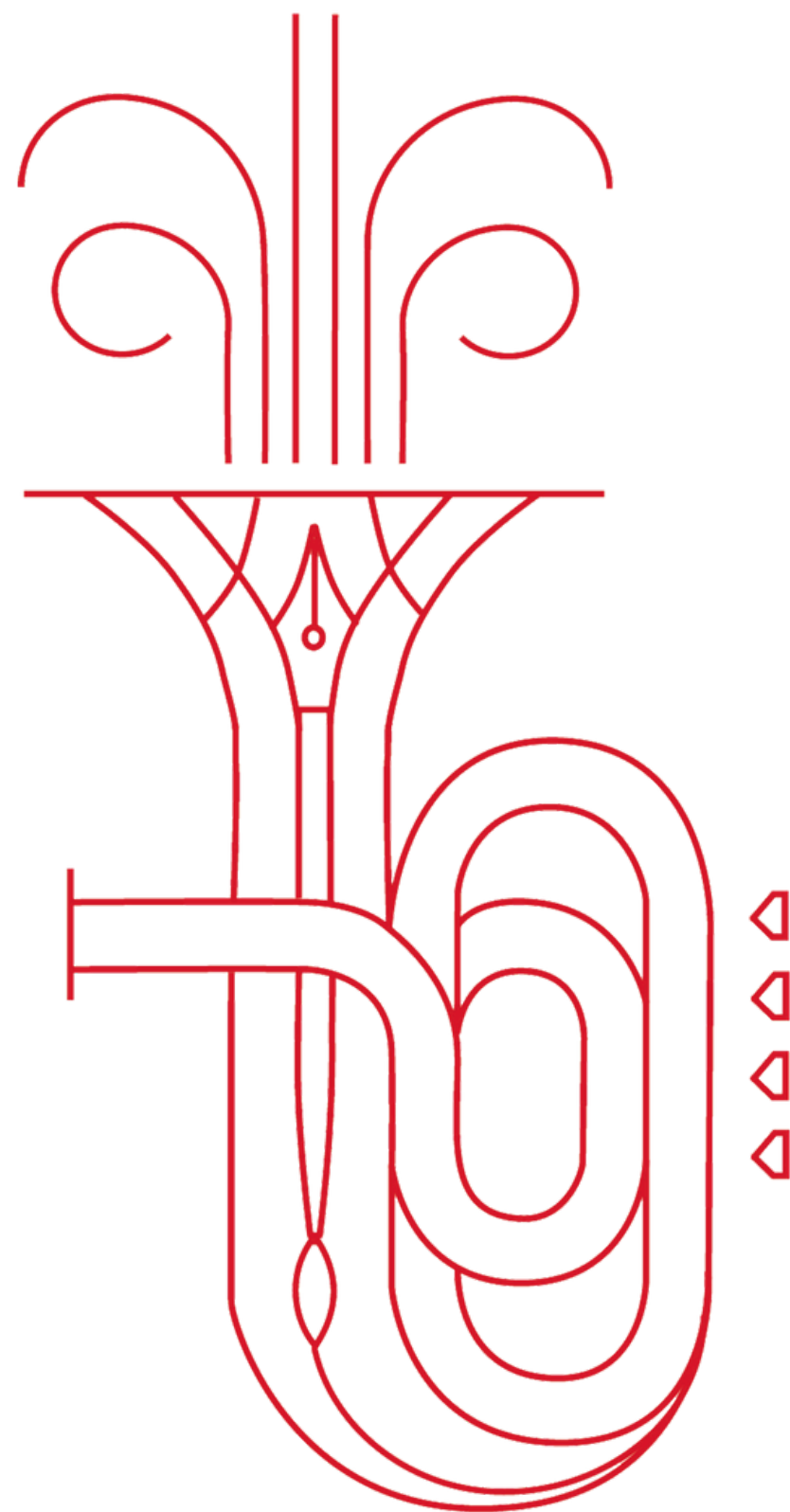


2025 Annual Report

- Will be published in February 2026
- Distributing to legislators and partners

Louisiana Arts Summit Recap

- 130 attendees
- 15 workshops, panels, and presentations
- On hiatus to evaluate programming

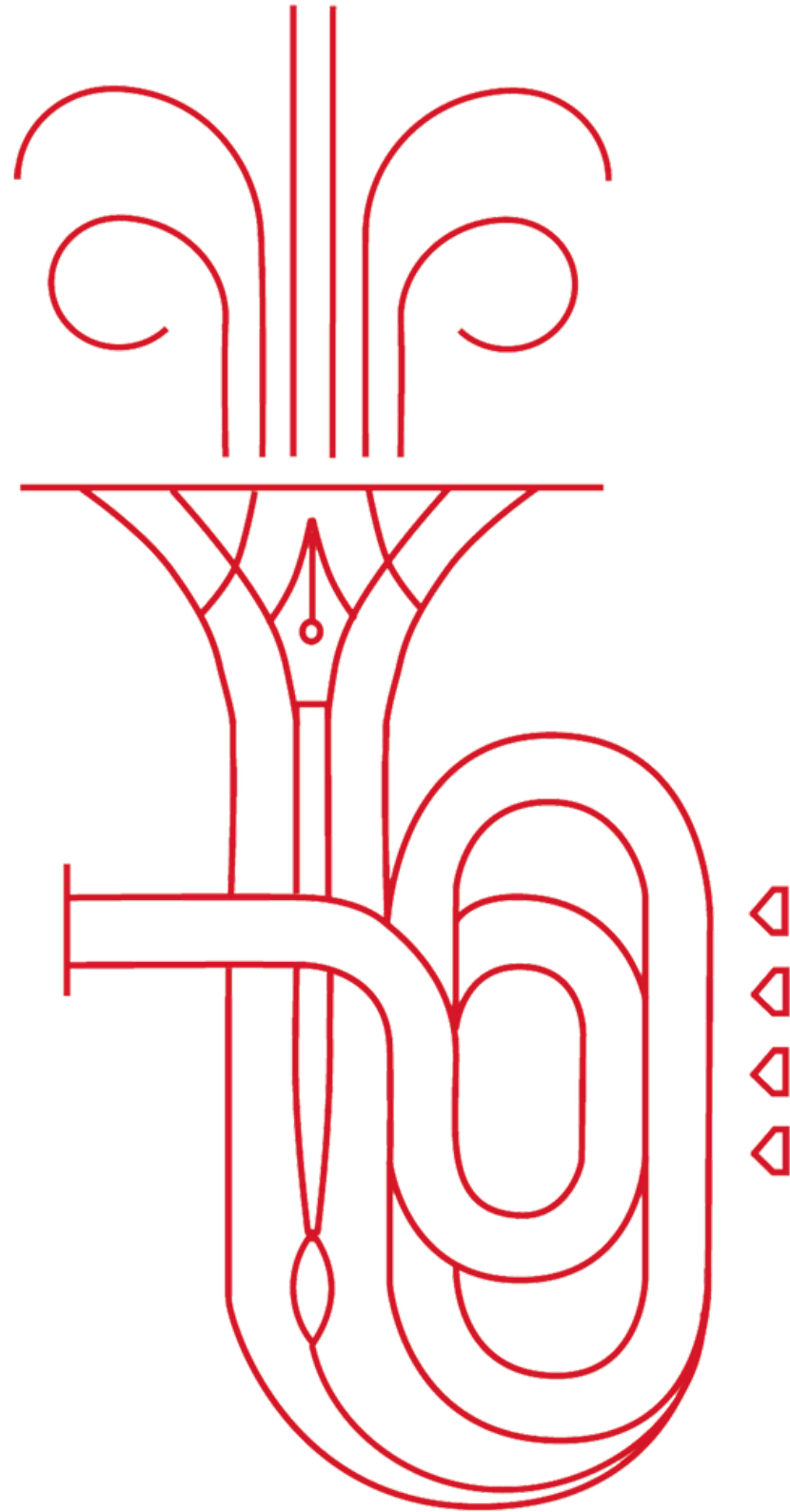


Staffing

- LEAVING. . .Alora Thompson, Folklife Archivist
- WELCOME. . .Lacey Chataignier, Louisiana Music Program Director

LDOA turns 50 in 2027





Revenue - \$3,107,655.00

- \$1,027,538.00 - Federal
- \$2,011,364.00 - Inner-agency transfer from Louisiana Office of Tourism
- \$68,753.00 - State General Fund

Expenses

- \$814,704.00 - Salary and Benefits
- \$529,405.00 - GOS Grantees
- \$335,000.00 - GOS for RACS
- \$1,000,000.00 - LPG (administered by RACs)
- ***This leaves roughly \$428,000 for operations, programs, special initiatives, and travel expenses***

PRIORITIES

LDOA Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Operational
Excellence

Marketing &
Communication

Community
Engagement &
Partnerships

Championing
the Arts

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



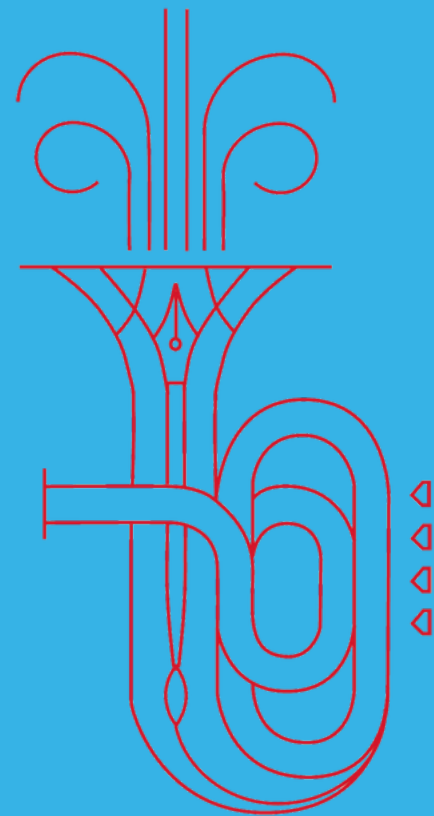
Strengthen cross-program
communication and collaboration

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION



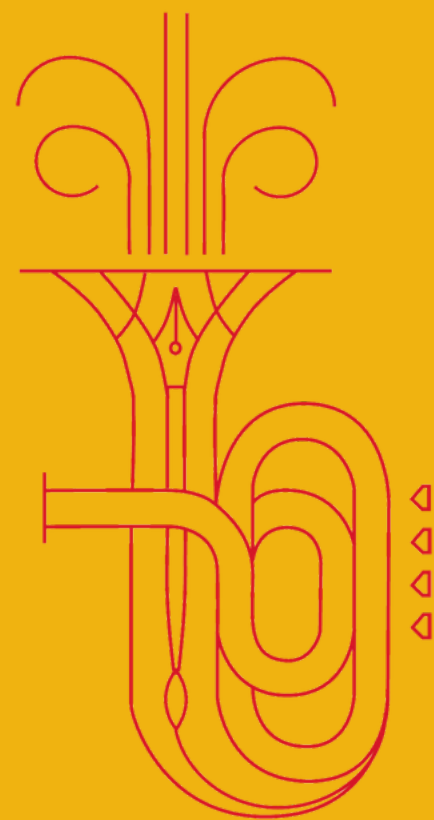
Launched quarterly,
division-wide newsletter

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

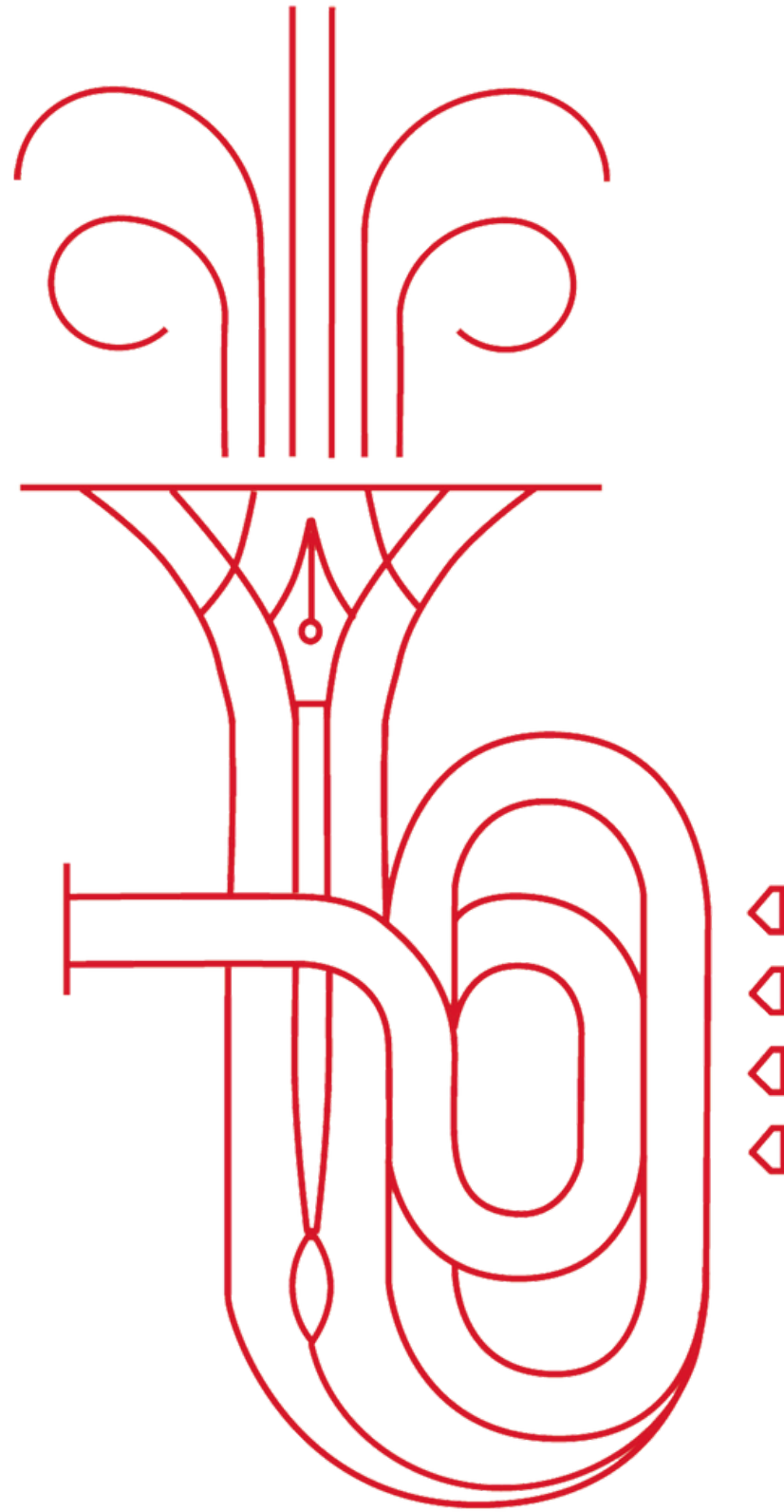


Expand professional development
through Percent for Art and
Cultural District programs.

CHAMPIONING THE ARTS



Share data from trusted sources with partners and grantees; produce a 2025 annual report, activate LSAC in state and federal engagement



SCAN ME

**HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO YOUR LEGISLATOR
ABOUT LDOA AND WHY THE ARTS MATTER?**



SCOTT FINCH



APRIL BAHAM

PERCENT FOR ART

Program Updates

FORECAST



MAKING IT PUBLIC

FOR LOUISIANA ADMINISTRATORS

October 2025 | Baton Rouge

- 2-day professional development workshop in partnership with Forecast Public Art
- 17 participants across the state
- Focused on topics such as community engagement, equitable artist selection, and best practices for managing public art projects from concept through installation.
- Led by Forecast consultant Lauren Kennedy, with guest presenters Maya Curtis & Vitus Shell

Artistic Transformations: Revitalizing Challenging Spaces

Funded Projects

Atelier de la Nature -

St. Martin Parish Recycled Art Project

St. James Parish Public Art

Opelousas Museum - Thinking Big

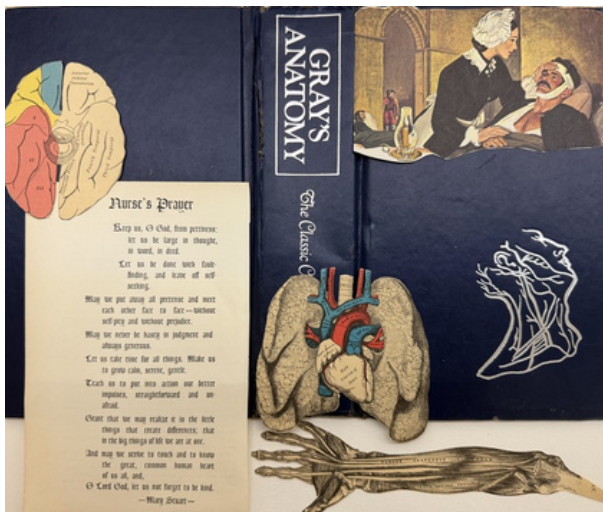
Lafayette Tool Library - Built From Borrowed Tools

City of Hammond - Morrison Alley Revitalization Project

Build EBR - Zachary Community Mural

Walls Project - Our Street, Our Stage: Playable Art in the Capital City

New Artwork for BRCC Nursing & Allied Health Building



Direct purchase works by 10 Louisiana artists





LACEY CHATAIGNIER

MUSIC

Program Updates

LOUISIANA MUSIC PROGRAM

FOCUS AREAS:

PRESERVATION, SUSTAINABILITY, INNOVATION,
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025 STATEWIDE IMPACT:

LOUISIANA MUSIC TRAIL DEVELOPMENT,
LOUISIANA MUSIC COMMISSION REESTABLISHED,
BEST PRACTICES FOR MUSIC CREATORS



D.K. HARRELL
RUSTON, LA



COMMUNITY - CENTERED INITIATIVES



FOLK ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL
JAN 21 - 25, 2026

LOUISIANA RESIDENTS GET 50% OFF
REGISTRATION WITH CODE: LOUISIANA26



JUKE JOINT & DANCEHALL
SCANNING 2025

TEDDY'S JUKE JOINT
BRADFORD'S WHITE EAGLE
SLIM'S Y-KI-K



MUSIC MURAL

HONORING CLIFTON & CLEVELAND CHENIER

SUNSET CULTURAL DISTRICT



DESIGNED AND PAINTED BY LOUISIANA ARTISTS LIZ AND JED CORNETT OF FOREST HILL





MARIA ZERINGUE

FOLKLIFE

Program Updates

FOLKLIFE ARCHIVE

The LA Folklife Digital Files
for LSU Special Collections
are now complete!



Antoinette K-Doe, Ernie K-Doe and Tee Eva Perry perform in Washington D.C. in 1999. Photo: Ben Sandmel.



**FOLKLIFE ARCHIVIST
ALORA THOMPSON**

FOLKLIFE MONTH RECAP

****Thanks to the generous support from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.***

October is Louisiana Folklife Month!





MONIQUE METRAILER

October 4th
Burden Museum and Gardens
Baton Rouge



DIANNE HONORE



October 8th
Dillard University
PSB Atrium
New Orleans





CJ CHENIER

October 12th
Festivals Acadiens et Creoles
Lafayette





SMITHFIELD FAIR

October 17th
Arts Walk
Alexandria



GERALDINE ROBERTSON

October 19th
Rougarou Fest
Houma



PASSING IT ON



2026 PASSING IT ON GRANTEES

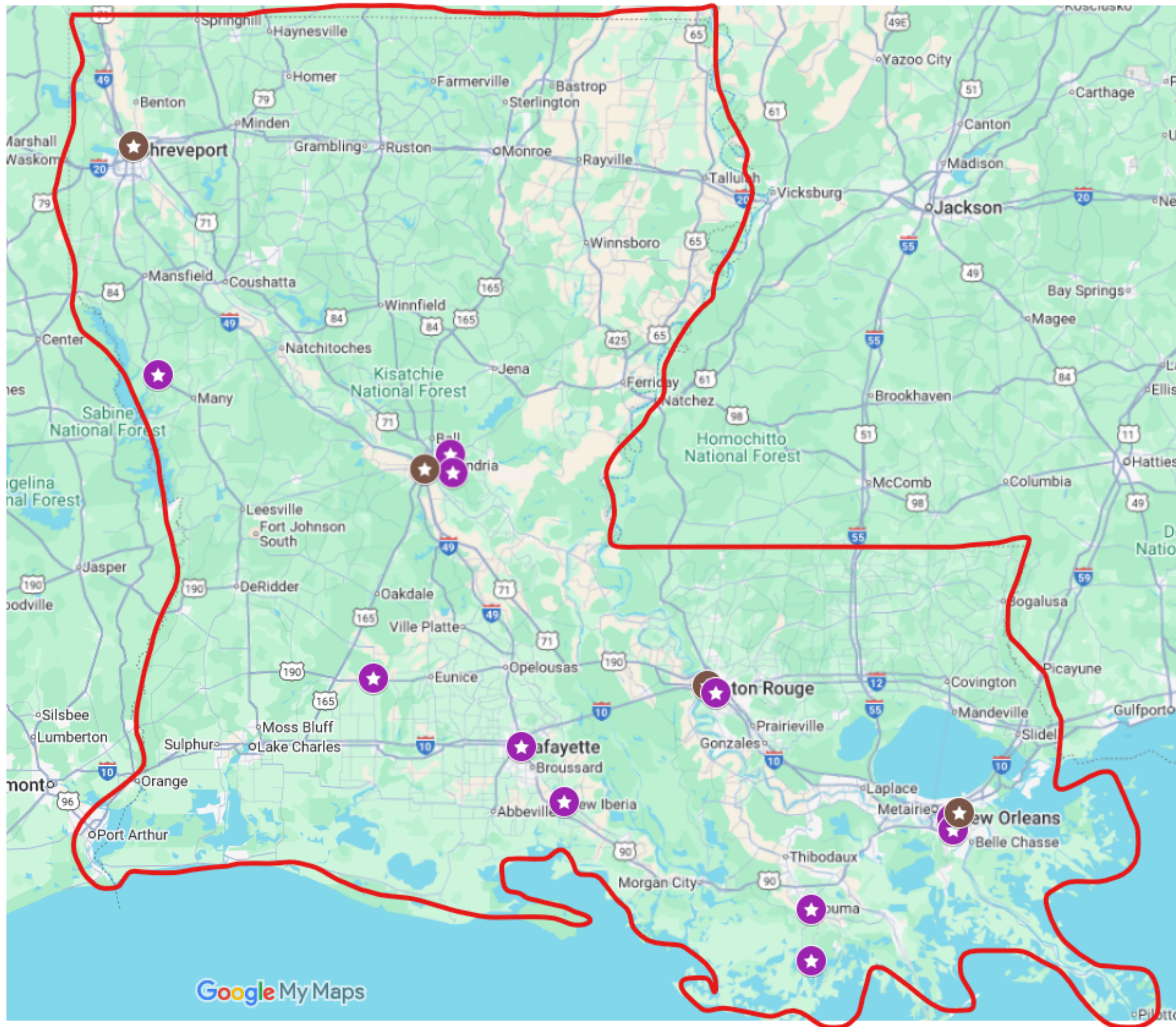
APPLICANT

TRADITION

FOLKLIFE GENRE

LOCATION

Andrew Miller	New Orleans Bread Pudding	foodways	New Orleans
Candace Chauvin	Native American Regalia	material culture/craft	Houma
Carl Parfait	Netmaking	craft/ occupational folklife	Dulac
Chief Kerry, Queen Lorenza, Queen Angie	Giimoozaabi Black Hunters Black Masking Traditions	material culture/craft/ritual & festivity	New Orleans
David Holcombe	Czech Heritage Dancers	performance	Libuse, Kolin
Lucia Alfaro	Coushatta Pine Needle Basket Weaving	material culture/craft	Elton
Pham Thuy	Vietnamese Calligraphy	visual art/craft	Harvey
Palixay Phoumyly	Pa Kwon Arrangements Lao Ritual Life	material culture/craft/ritual	New Iberia, Broussard
Sam Wrobel	Wycinanki, Polish Papercutting	visual art/craft	Lafayette, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Alexandria
Sophie Ziegler	Zine Workshops (Punk and DIY Communities)	visual art/craft	Baton Rouge
Robert Caldwell	Making Choctaw Stickball Sticks and Leather Game Balls	material culture/craft/sport	Zwolle
Nicole Holcombe	Pysanky	material culture/craft	Libuse



PASSING
IT ON
MAP

Merci!