



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 – Wednesday, April 15, 2026; 1:00 pm
Basin Arts – 126 South Buchanan Street #101 – Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

MEETING MINUTES

Council Members in attendance: Claire Amy, Sean Ardoin, Carrie Broussard, Margie Camardelle, Silas Cooper, Nydia Freedman, Dirk Guidry, Brook Hanemann, Brandon Lewis, Joyce Linde, Gene Meneray, Ron Villegas, Richard Williams

Council Members absent: Kelsea McCrary, Emily Mott, Ed “Tiger” Verdin, Judith Vitanza-Kattan

Staff in attendance: Justin Lemoine, Leea Russell, Scott Finch, April Baham, Francesca Vega, Maria Zeringue, Lacey Chataignier, Alora Thompson

Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:06pm by Gene Meneray. Clare Cook of Basin Arts welcomed the Council, staff, and members of the public (2). Roll was called by Mr. Ardoin. 13 council members were present and 4 were absent.

Approval of January 2026 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 2026 meeting minutes by Mr. Ardoin and seconded by Dr. Hanemann. The motion was approved without discussion

Legislative Report

Ms. Broussard reported that the legislative session was halfway complete and that the budget bill would move from the House to the Senate later in the week. She stated that the OCD budget remains stable at \$9.4 million. She also shared that HB201, authored by Representative Dixon McMakin, proposes a fine arts seal on high school diplomas for students who complete the required curriculum.

Dr. Hanemann asked whether the seal would be retroactive; Ms. Broussard confirmed it would not. Ms. Amy raised concerns about eligibility given the reduction of arts courses in some schools, and Mr. Cooper asked which courses would qualify. Ms. Broussard stated she would review the bill for more details and encouraged members to contact Representative McMakin’s office with additional questions.

Executive Director, Cultural Districts, and Grants Report – see attachments

50th Anniversary Committee

Mr. Meneray introduced the concept of forming an ad hoc committee to plan events and commemorations for the agency's 50th year. Ms. Russell informed the Council that the agency was incorporated in July 1977 and stated that the committee's role would be to honor the past while looking aspirational toward the future of the arts in Louisiana.

Ms. Freedman, Ms. Camardelle, Ms. Linde, Mr. Villegas, Dr. Hanemann, Ms. Amy, and Mr. Lewis agreed to serve on the committee. Ms. Russell will follow up via email to schedule the committee's first virtual meeting.

Ms. Zeringue noted that a prominent artist, whose work is held in the Historic New Orleans Collection, attributes part of his success to an LDOA grant received years ago and suggested highlighting similar stories as part of the 50th anniversary. Ms. Russell affirmed this approach.

Private Fundraising Mechanism

Mr. Meneray opened a discussion on the creation of a private foundation to enable LDOA to access private funding. He noted that several state arts agencies operate with similar structures and referenced a conversation with the Washington State arts agency regarding their fund.

Ms. Broussard confirmed that while a DCRT Foundation is listed on the Secretary of State's website, it is not registered with the IRS and therefore is not a viable option. Mr. Lewis offered to research the concept further and report back at the next meeting. Mr. Cooper recommended continued research on best practices before moving forward.

Mr. Guidry asked whether the Council preferred pursuing private fundraising over continued advocacy for state legislative funding. Mr. Meneray stated that the head of DCRT has not expressed interest in increasing legislative funding and suggested that private dollars could help advance the agency in lieu of additional public funding.

Mr. Villegas and Dr. Hanemann supported the idea of a gala-style fundraising event. Ms. Freedman cautioned against competing with existing arts organizations for funding. Ms. Vega noted that the agency would likely pursue a different donor base than those targeted by arts organizations.

Ms. Russell asked Ms. Zeringue to share her experience with private funding at the Mississippi Arts Commission. Ms. Zeringue explained that those funds were designated specifically for individual artist awards.

Call for Public Comment

Members of the public were no longer present. No additional comments were made.

Adjournment

Mr. Ardoin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Lewis. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:**Dates and locations TBD**

July 2026 – New Roads

September 2026 – Bogalusa



LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL MEETING 04/15/2026

louisianaarts.org

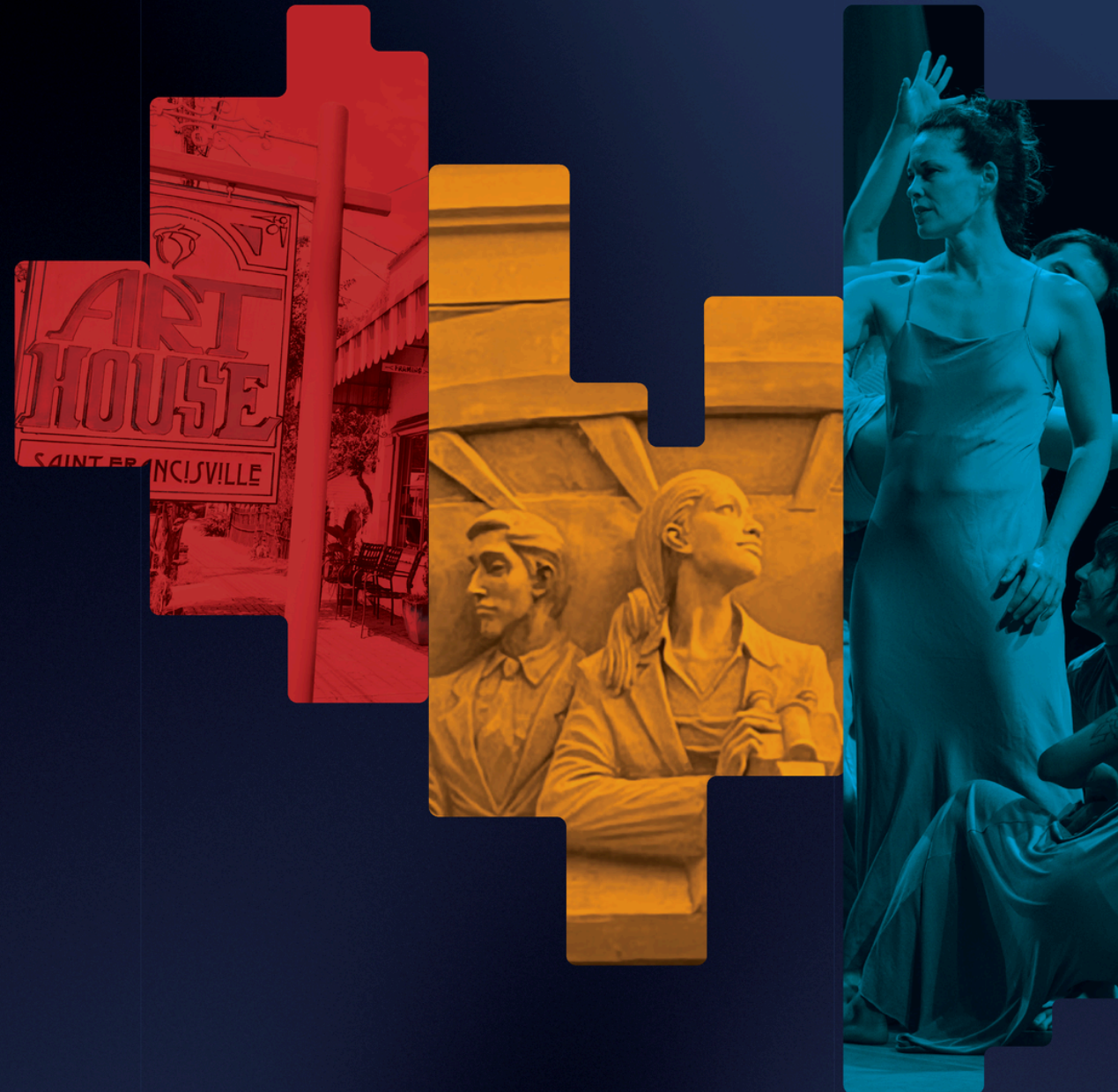


LEE A REESE RUSSELL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



2025 Annual Report

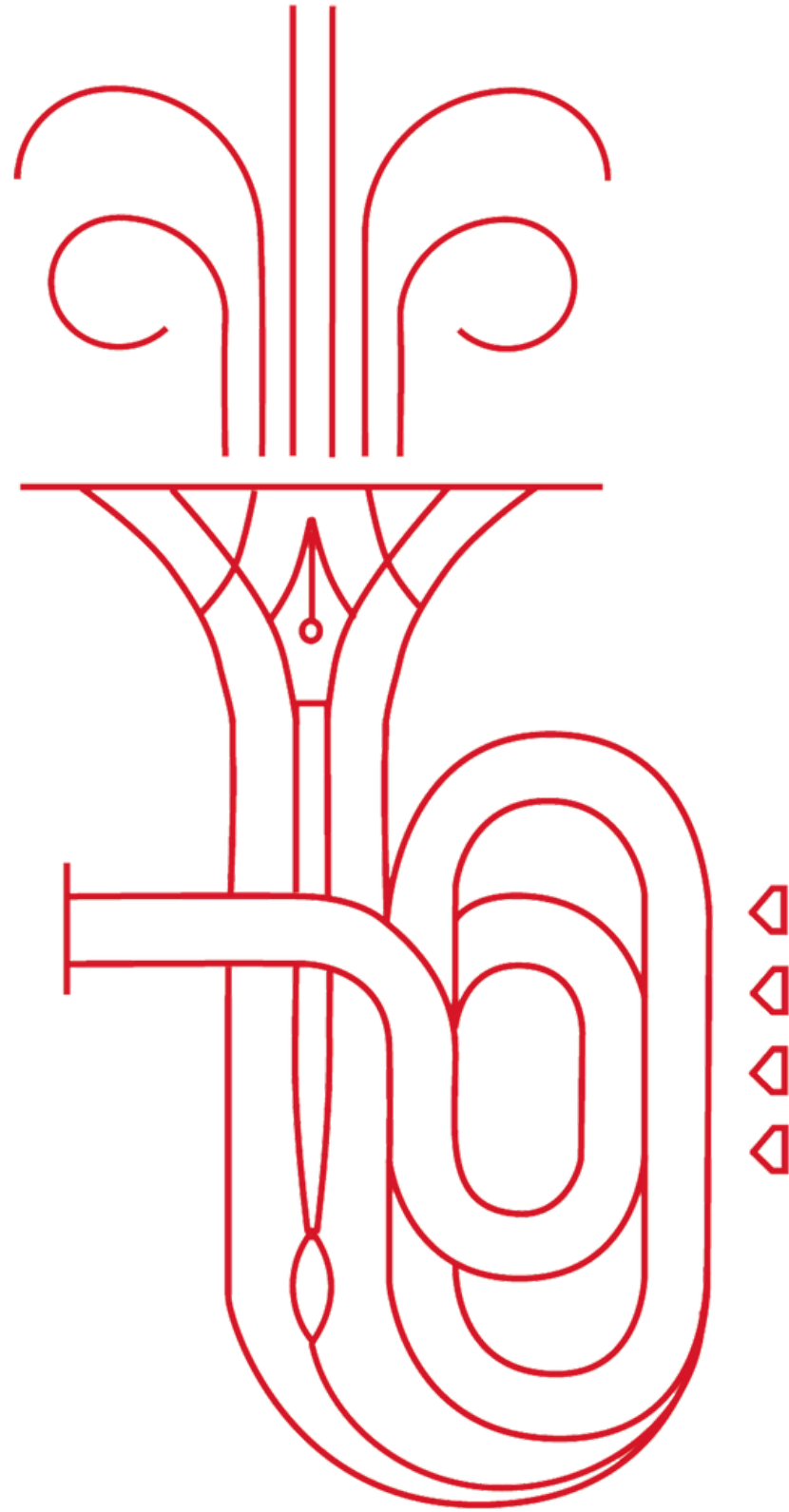
- Sent to all state legislators, leadership of NEA, NASAA, South Arts, and LPA
- Minimum number of copies available upon request.

LDOA Staffing

- Alora Thompson staying on!
- Arts Ed/Access. application closes 4/15- anticipated hire date of July 1

Summer LSAC Meeting

- July ____ - Julien Poydras Center (New Roads)
- Ratifying slate of GOS grants - Quorum required



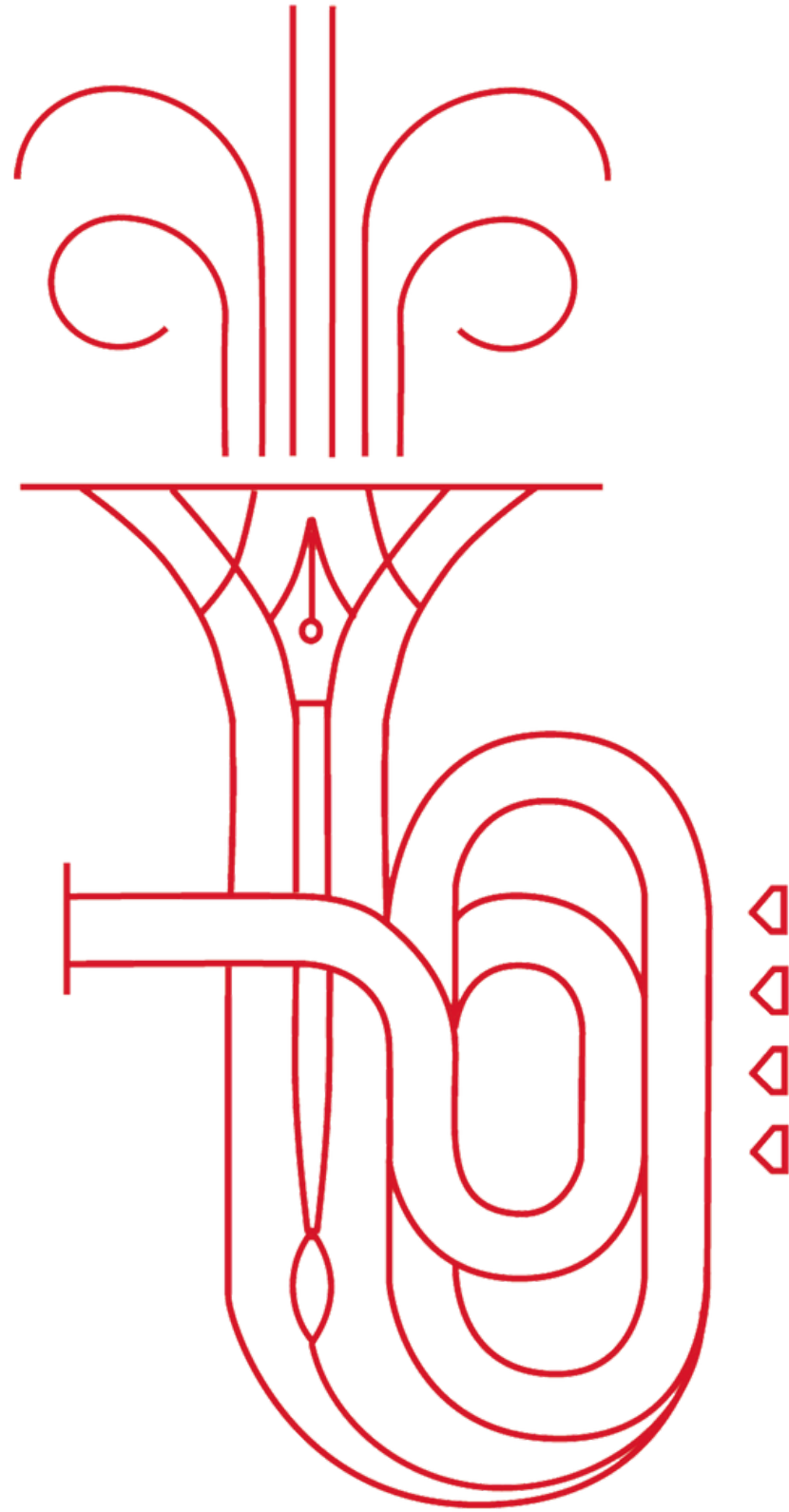
Financial Disclosures

- Due on or before May 15, 2026 for calendar year 2025
- Submit to Louisiana Ethics Board via fax, mail, or electronically on their website.

Trainings for LSAC - Calendar 2026

- Louisiana Code of Ethics - required annually
- Preventing Sexual Harrassment (CPTP) - required annually
- Bloodborne Pathogens (ORM) - required every five years
- Email Certificates of Completion to Leea

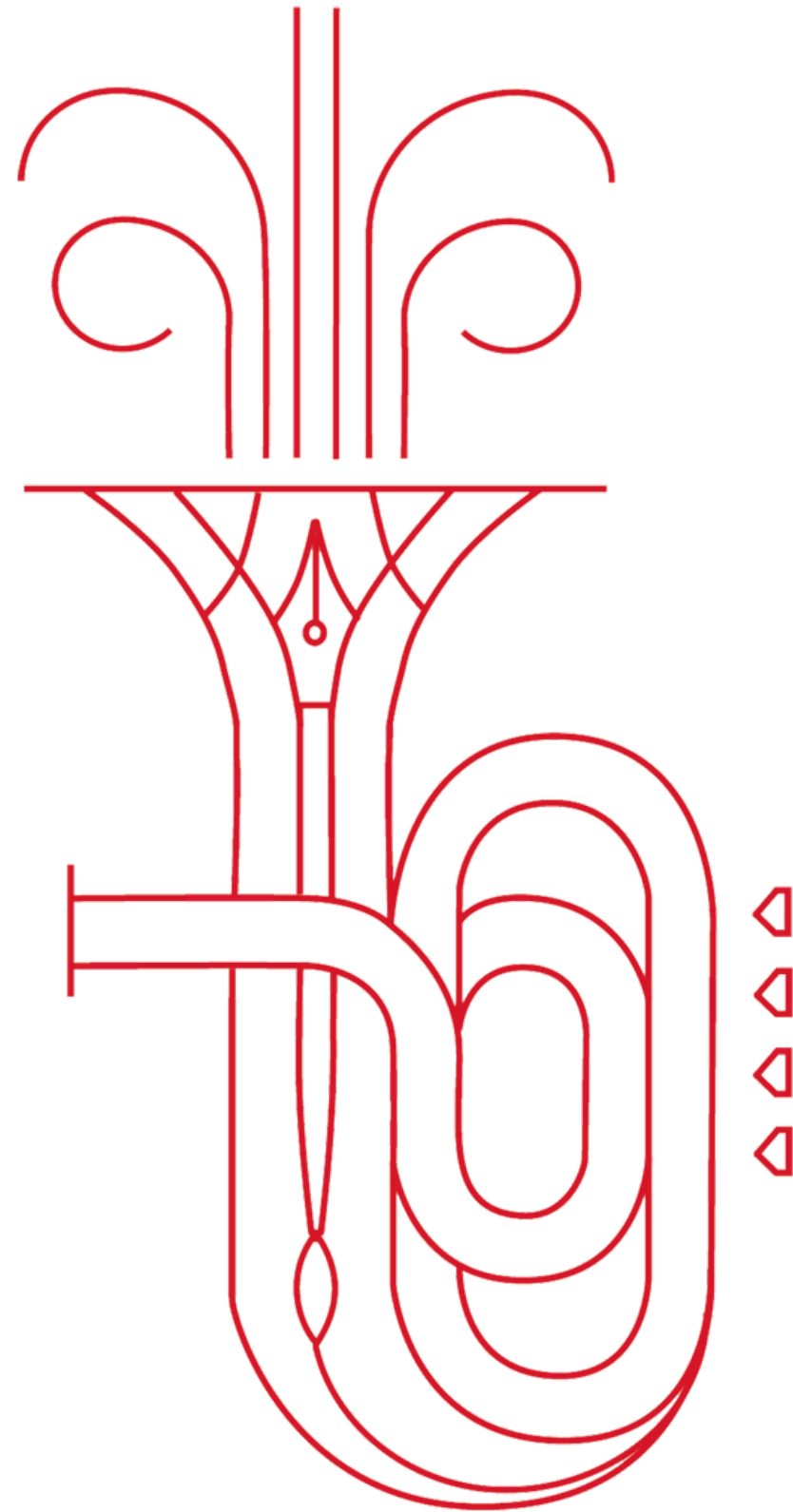
Instructions for trainings and financial disclosures in the LSAC Google Folder.



Budget Adjustments

- Reducing dollars going out the door through traditional granting methods
- Increase spending flexibility
- Focus on high-impact priorities Arts Summit, Music Program (workforce development),

Adjustments will yield \$113,953-\$193,358 and will be reallocated to support the Arts sector.



Louisiana Project Grants - what's included?

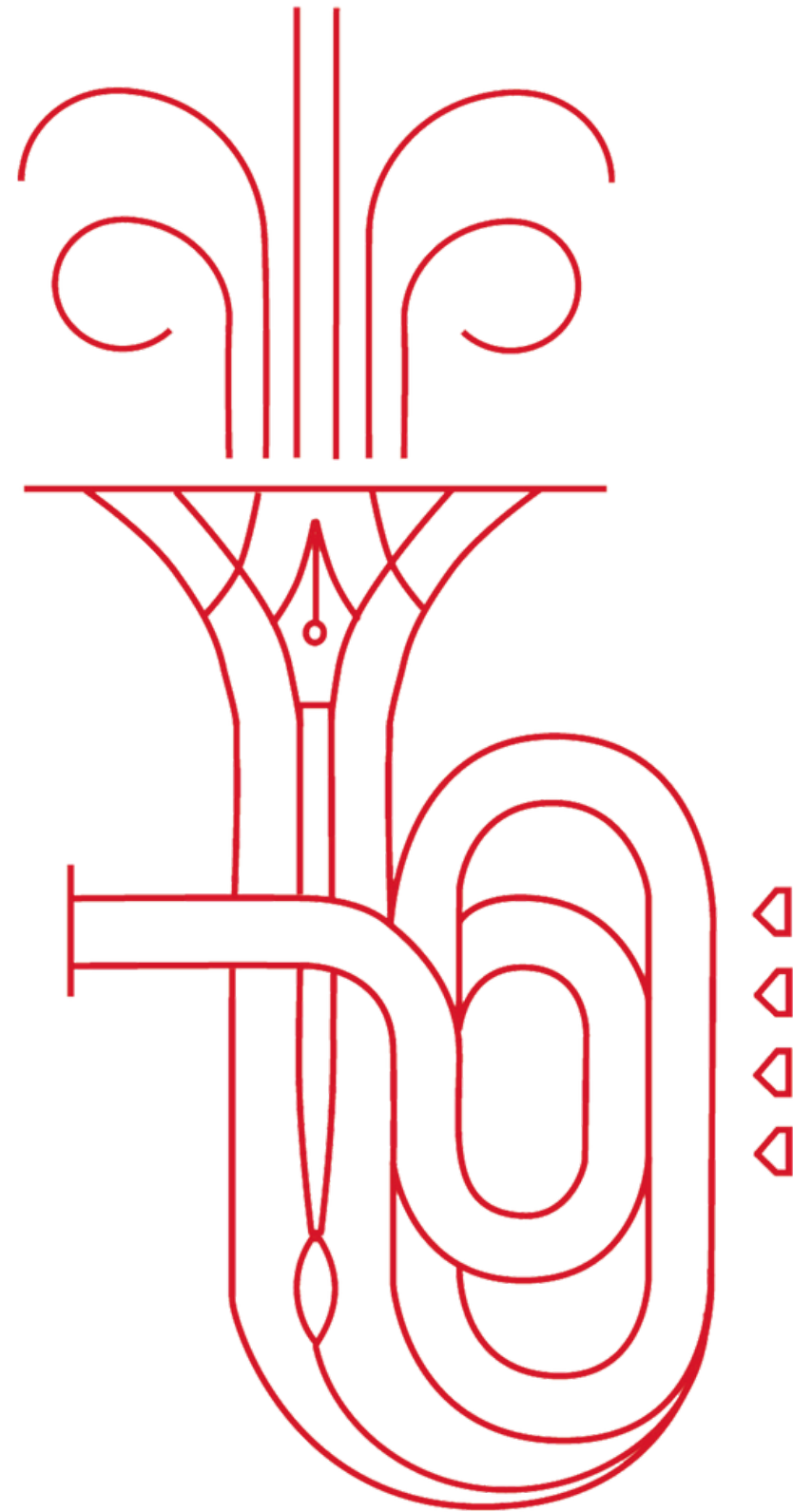
- Regrant dollars based on 2020 census data
- 10% administrative fee
- \$25,000.00 - CDC salary support

Proposed changes

- Regrant dollars reduced by 10%
- 10% administrative fee still in place
- \$25,000.00 - CDC salary support will remain

Impact

- Regions will award 1-3 fewer grants



Discretionary General Operating Support - what's included?

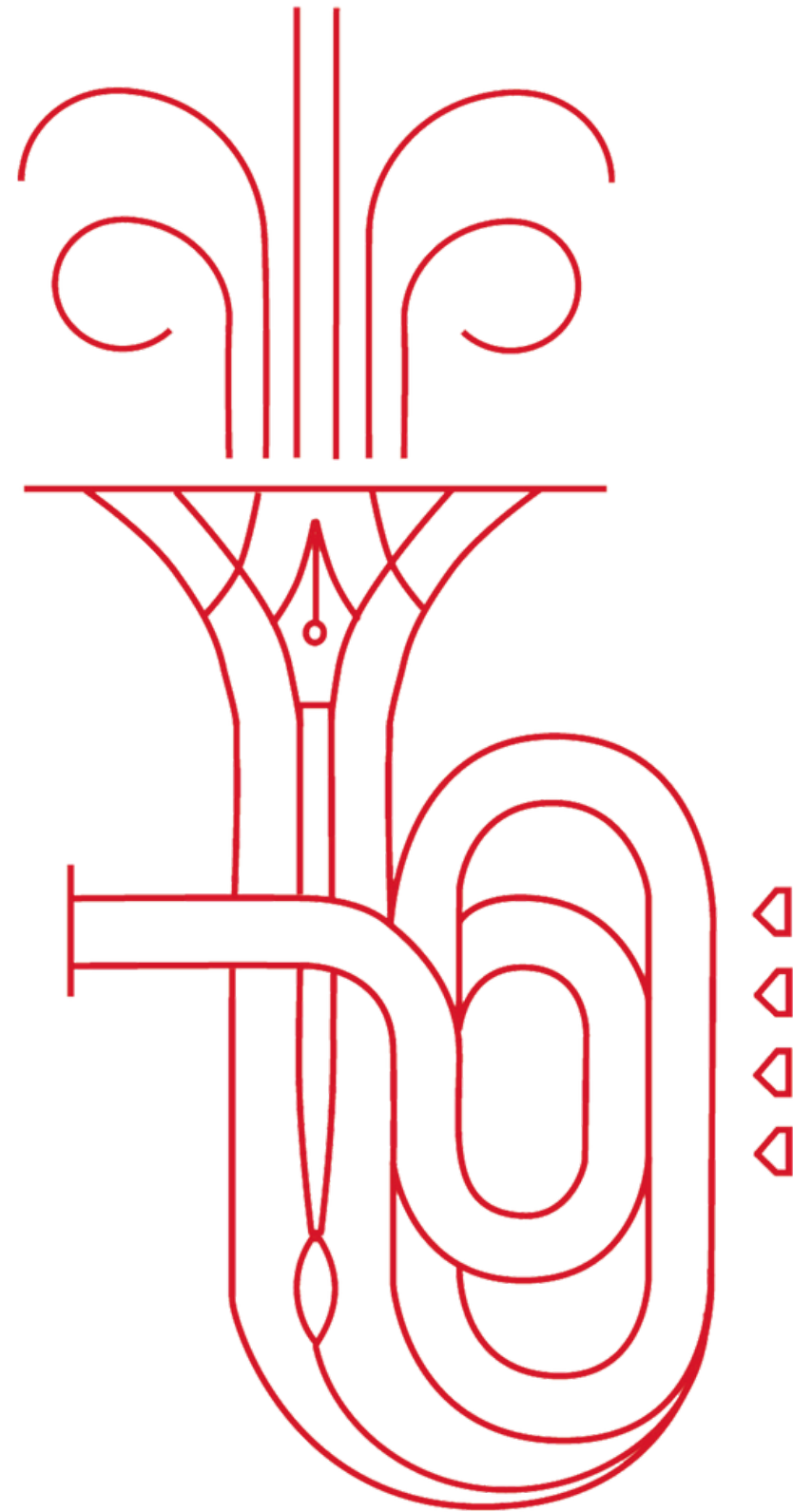
- GOS rate based on organization's operating budget
- \$2,000.00 - \$15,000.00 for special initiatives (Poetry Out Loud, Arts Summit)

Proposed changes

- GOS rate stays the same
- Poetry Out Loud reallocation

Impact

- Poetry Out Loud managed in-house
- Arts Summit management contracted out to private sector organization
- LPA asked to apply with organizational GOS pool



Organizational General Operating Support - what's included?

- Development Tier - \$5,000.00
- Entry Tier - \$5,000.00
- Advancement Tier - \$10,000.00
- Institutional Tier - \$15,000.00
- Total regranted in FY25/26 **\$528,404.60**

Proposed changes

- One year grants instead of two
- Total grant dollars not to exceed \$500,000.00

Impact to regions

- 1-4 fewer GOS grants for FY27



LOUISIANA
PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE ARTS

Louisiana Arts Day

May 11, 2026

Memorial Hall (Rotunda)

Sponsored in part by:



Americans
for the Arts

S O U
A R T S
H



artforlouisiana.com



LOUISIANA
PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE ARTS

Lite Breakfast Provided

Louisiana Arts Day Advocacy Workshop

with
Americans
for the Arts™



Tooshar Swain
Director, Public Policy &
Government Affairs
Americans for the Arts

**Monday, May 11
9:30a.m.**

**Capitol Park
Museum**
660 N 4th St,
Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana Arts Day Advocacy Workshop, presented by Americans for the Arts in partnership with Louisiana Partnership for the Arts, equips artists and cultural leaders with the foundational tools, strategies, and confidence to effectively advocate for the value and impact of the arts in their communities and at all levels of government.

Join the Louisiana Arts Educators Association for its Youth Arts Awards Ceremony immediately after at 11:00a.m.





FRANCESCA VEGA

CULTURAL DISTRICTS

Program Updates



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Sent to all state legislators & Cultural District Liaisons/Local Governing Authorities

Highlights

- 1,000+ new business
- Over 2,800 events with 4,000,000+ attendees
- 512 public art projects

University of Louisiana Lafayette Findings

- 2.6 increase in employment in arts & culture industries
- 11% increase in short-term rental revenues
- 7% increase in property values
- Indicates a measurable “cultural premium,” meaning residents and visitors are willing to pay more to be in Louisiana Cultural Districts.

FEB/MARCH ISSUE

PRESERVATION IN PRINT

Interview - Page 9

Featuring Holy Rosary
Redevelopment Board Chair,
Dustin Cravins. Focused on
historic preservation of a
National Register of Historic
Places Listing in the McComb
Veazey Cultural District,
Lafayette, LA.



Left: Dustin Cravins. Photo courtesy of Mr. Cravins. Right: Postcard image from the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Holy Rosary Institute (Ref No. 80001734), National Park Services. Photo courtesy of the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

JEANERETTE, LA

CALL FOR ARTISTS

*Railroad Avenue Historic
Cultural District*

Project Budget

\$10,000

Theme

“Tracks of Time.” Focused on the passage of time, strength, dignity, and cultural richness of the district. Should include natural and cultural context.

40ft x 8ft



LOUISIANA
CULTURAL
DISTRICTS

Atchafalaya

RAILROAD AVENUE HISTORIC CULTURAL DISTRICT
JEANERETTE, LA

deadline to apply

May 1, 2026

ARTIST MURAL CALL

RAILROAD AVENUE HISTORIC CULTURAL DISTRICT

LOCATION: 1400 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR. (MARJORIE'S CORNER) JEANERETTE, LA



2026

APPLICATION CYCLE

Opens May 4

Phase 1: Letter of Interest

Phase 2: Invitation to submit a full application



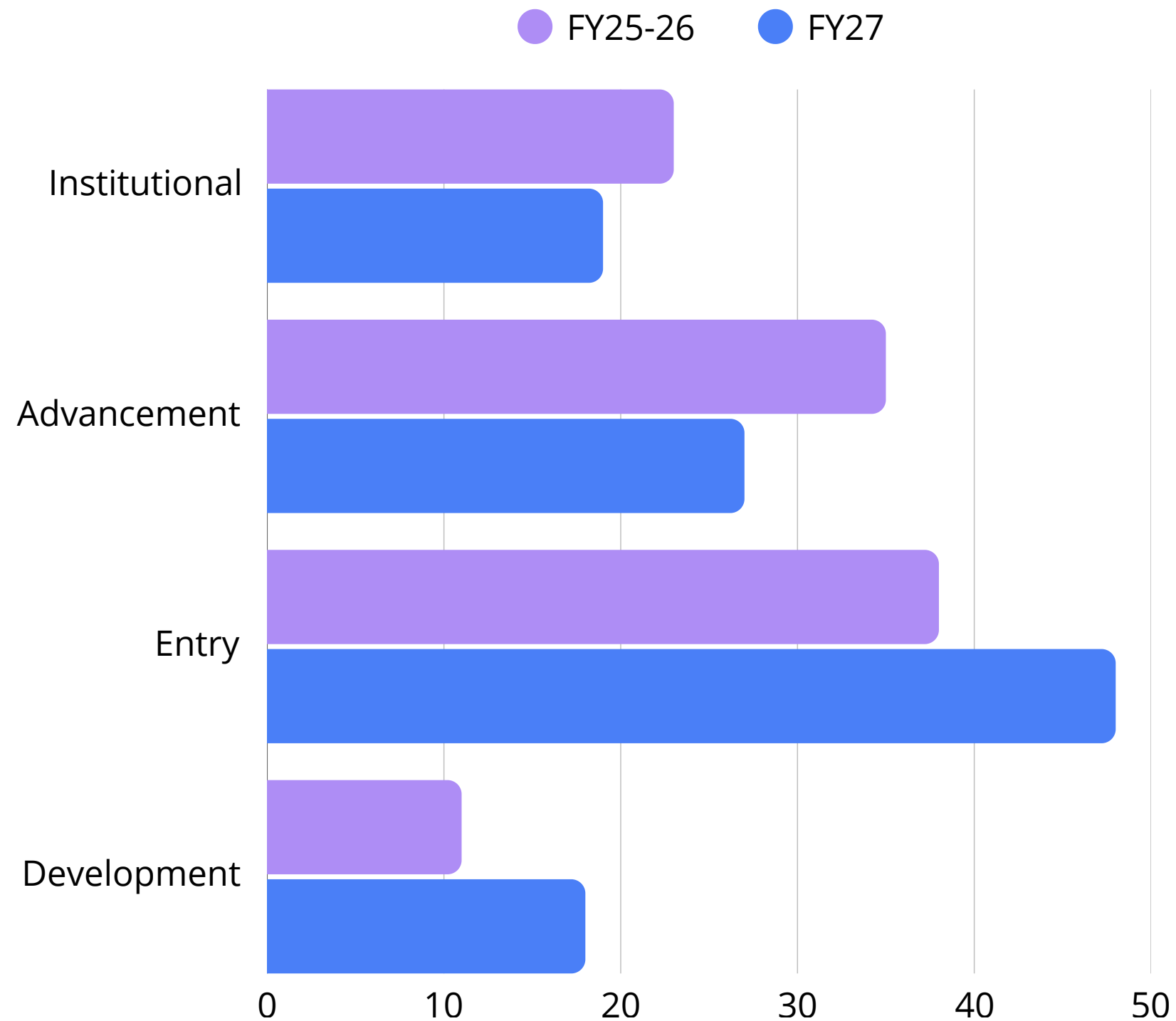
Making It Home: From Vietnam to New Orleans exhibition at the Historic New Orleans Collection, French Quarter Cultural District, 2025.



ERICA BERGERON

GRANTS

Program Updates



FY27

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

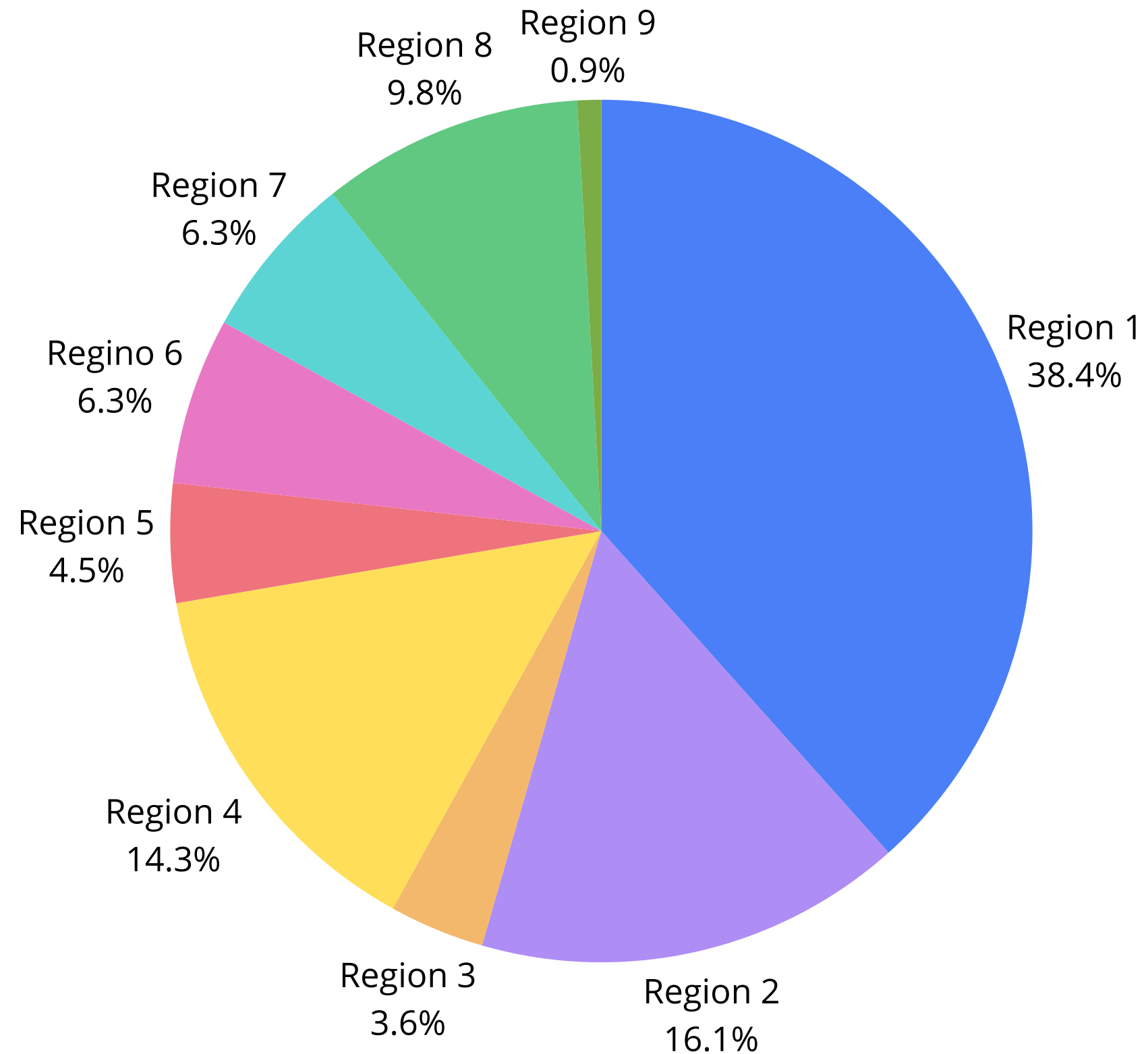
- 18 Development Tier applicants
- 12 new Entry Tier applicants
- 1 new Advancement Tier applicant
- 2 previous Development Tier applicants
→ to Entry Tier



FY27

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

REGIONAL SPREAD

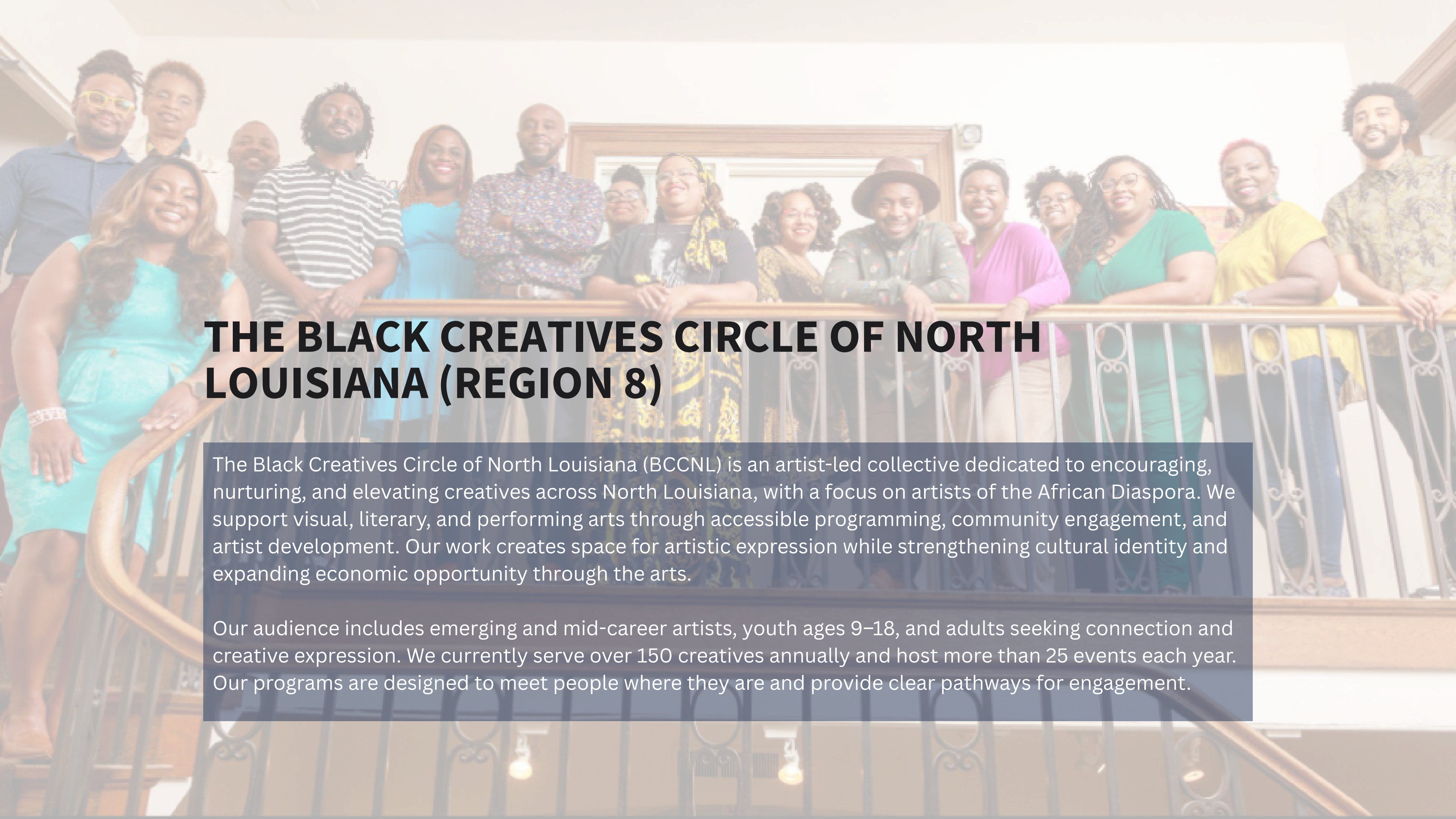


THE WHIRLYBIRD PROJECT (REGION 4)

The Whirlybird Project is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to supporting artists, preserving regional culture, and creating meaningful connections through live music, storytelling, and shared creative experiences. We provide a space where artists can perform, create, and collaborate, while ensuring fair pay, accessibility, and community engagement in Southwest Louisiana.

We host regular shows, dances, and events like the Blown Away on the Bayou Blues & Harmonica Summit, and we provide space for artists to stay and work. The room itself has become known as one of the finest listening rooms in Acadiana, where audiences come ready to listen and artists are given the space to be fully heard. Everything is designed to create a direct connection between the people making the music and the people experiencing it.





THE BLACK CREATIVES CIRCLE OF NORTH LOUISIANA (REGION 8)

The Black Creatives Circle of North Louisiana (BCCNL) is an artist-led collective dedicated to encouraging, nurturing, and elevating creatives across North Louisiana, with a focus on artists of the African Diaspora. We support visual, literary, and performing arts through accessible programming, community engagement, and artist development. Our work creates space for artistic expression while strengthening cultural identity and expanding economic opportunity through the arts.

Our audience includes emerging and mid-career artists, youth ages 9–18, and adults seeking connection and creative expression. We currently serve over 150 creatives annually and host more than 25 events each year. Our programs are designed to meet people where they are and provide clear pathways for engagement.

A HOUSE UNBUILT (REGION 5)

A House Unbuilt is dedicated to advancing social choreography through research, performance, and advocacy, fostering empathy and civil discourse within communities. Through the creation of accessible and impactful objects, images, performances, and stories, we strive to reach audiences beyond the confines of traditional art spaces.

A House Unbuilt serves communities across Southwest Louisiana, with a primary focus on Lake Charles and surrounding coastal regions. Our programming is designed for both artists and community members who may not traditionally see themselves reflected in formal arts spaces, including residents directly impacted by environmental change, industrial development, and climate-related disruption.



FY27

LOUISIANA PROJECT GRANTS

Applications open May 4, 2026

Deadline to Apply: June 12, 2026

Grant period: Oct 1, 2026 - Sept 30, 2027

Merci!