



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  
INTERIM ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**Louisiana State Arts Council Meeting**  
**Friday, July 25, 2025**

**The Palace**  
**220 Desiard Street**  
**Monroe, LA 71201**

**Members Present:** Sean Ardoin, Silas Cooper, Brook Hanemann, Gene Meneray, Claire Amy, Kelsea McCrary, Emily Mott

**Members Absent:** Judith Vitanza-Kattan, Margie Camardelle, Nydia Freedman, Dirk Guidry, Brandon Lewis, Joyce Linde, Tiger Verdin, Ron Rona, Richard Williams

**OCD/LDOA Staff Present:** Erica Bergeron, Scott Finch, Maria Zeringue, Leea Russell, Justin Lemoine, Alora Thompson, Carrie Broussard, Francesca Vega, Quaja Bell

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Gene Meneray at 1:10 pm. Welcome remarks were given by Mayor Friday Ellis of the City of Monroe and Barry Stevens, president and CEO of Arts Council of Northeast Louisiana.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was called by Leea Russell. 7 council members, 11 OCD/LDOA staff, and 25 members of the public attended.

**III. Approval of April 2025 Minutes**

Minutes were not approved because quorum was not met

**VI. Reports**

**A. Assistant Secretary Report**

Mrs. Broussard reported that the LDOA remains stable, with an expected \$1 million from the NEA, inner agency transfer from tourism, and minimal state general fund contributions are minimal. She noted additional legislative appropriations for other agencies within OCD, specifically for the Main Street Program and CODOFIL.

**B. Executive Director Report – See attachment**

**C. National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Mr. Meneray shared an update on the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), highlighting the organizations work to track cancelled NEA grants and advocate for the federal government to provide level funding to the NEA for federal FY26.

#### **D. Louisiana Partnership for the Arts**

Mrs. McCrary provided updates for the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts in place of Tiger Verdin, who was absent from this meeting. She shared information about the LPA Specialty License Plate Program and encouraged those in attendance buy a Louisiana Arts license plate. She emphasized the importance of license plate purchases providing steady income source for the organization's operations. Mrs. Hanemann commented on information about the aesthetic, cost, and availability of the license plate at DMVs outside of Baton Rouge. Mrs. McCrary also spoke about "Art Alley", an area of Monroe featuring several murals. She introduced the artist team that painted a new street mural and invited everyone to a walking tour to view it after the meeting.

#### **E. Staff Programming Updates – see attached**

#### **VII. Call for Public Comment**

Members of the public in attendance introduced themselves, their related organization, and their interest in attending. Many asked questions about how to be more involved with the arts and arts organizations in their communities. They also asked questions about the best approach to speaking with their representatives about support for the arts. The artists who painted the Art Alley Street mural spoke about the process of their project, shared information about the artistic choices made during the mural process, and explained the meaning behind the art.

#### **VIII. Call for Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.**

After the meeting was adjourned, several members of the council, staff, and general public walked to Art Alley to view the street mural.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

**October, 2025 (Baton Rouge) – Louisiana Arts Summit**



LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL MEETING 07/25/2025

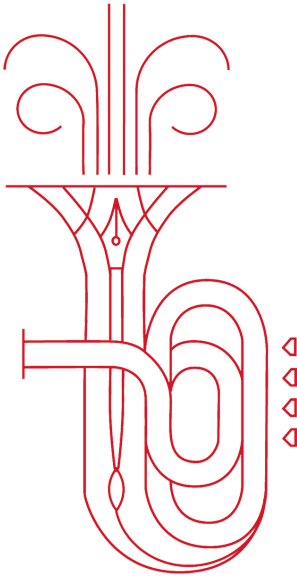
[louisianaarts.org](http://louisianaarts.org)



LEE A REESE RUSSELL

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**





## **Federal Funding**

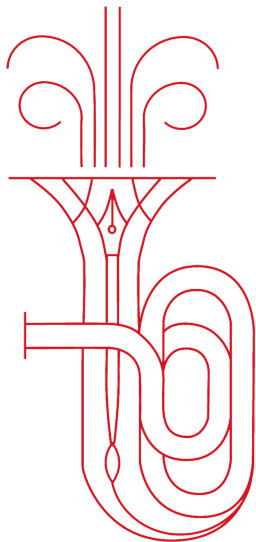
- \$1,027,538.00 from NEA for state FY26 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)
- House Interior Appropriations Committee approved level funding for NEA for next year's budget

## **State Funding**

- No change to appropriation from the State General Fund
- Anticipated \$1.9 million in IAT funds (Tourism and PFA Admin)

## **What We're Doing**

- Preparing one-year GOS agreements instead of two-year
- Budgeting strategically across all programs
- Leveraging partnerships (e.g., LEH) to expand statewide impact
- Communicating policy updates and advocacy opportunities



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Partners in the Arts/ LDOA and South Arts Webinar

- July 29, 2025 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm central - Registration Required



## Southern Advocacy Organization Convening

- August 18-19, 2025 - Atlanta, GA

## ◀ Culturalyst

- ◀ • Launching updates this fall, including a dashboard for data extraction, event calendar, and more!

## Louisiana Arts Summit - October 8-10, 2025

- Accepting proposals thru July 31st
- Multiple Venues (River Center Library, Manship Theatre, Cary Saurage Community Arts Center)
- LSAC Meeting will be held at 1pm on October 8, 2025 at the Cary Saurage Community Arts Center



QUAJA BELL

## **ARTS EDUCATION & ACCESSIBILITY**

*Program Updates*

# RAISING AWARENESS, RAISING VOICES

## ArtBeat

The second session of ArtBeat: Advocacy was held on Sunday, July 20 at the Baton Rouge Gallery. Tiger was a guest panelist.



## Poetry Out Loud

Our state finalist Alana Bailey placed in the top 12 in the ***nation***!! She is from Covington, La.

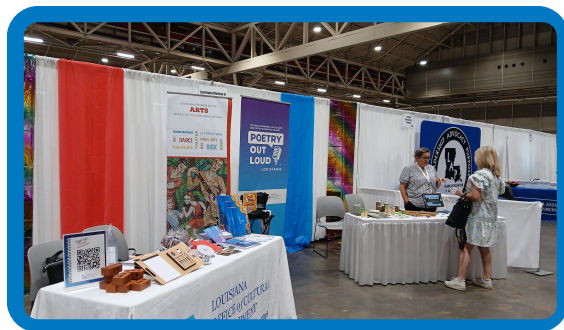


# IN THE COMMUNITY

## LDOA Teacher Leader Summit 2025

We attended the event to engage with educators, principals and leaders across the state. We conducted a survey that obtained 63 responses.

- **Respondents:**
  - **36 were core teachers, 13 were arts teachers.**  
**The remaining respondents were administration/leadership.**
- **Half of the core teachers responded that they also taught a creative class.**
- **Data showed that the majority of respondents viewed arts as extremely important.**
- **The district support of the arts was divided evenly between moderate and minimal. 25% expressed strong district support.**
- **Funding was the top barrier to arts access.**
- **Rural areas struggled with creative organizations' collaboration.**



- **Notable comments:**
  - **Lack of curriculum leaves us struggling to fully incorporate the arts.**
  - **My kids really enjoyed art in my classroom, related to social studies.**



FRANCESCA VEGA

# CULTURAL DISTRICTS

*Program Updates*



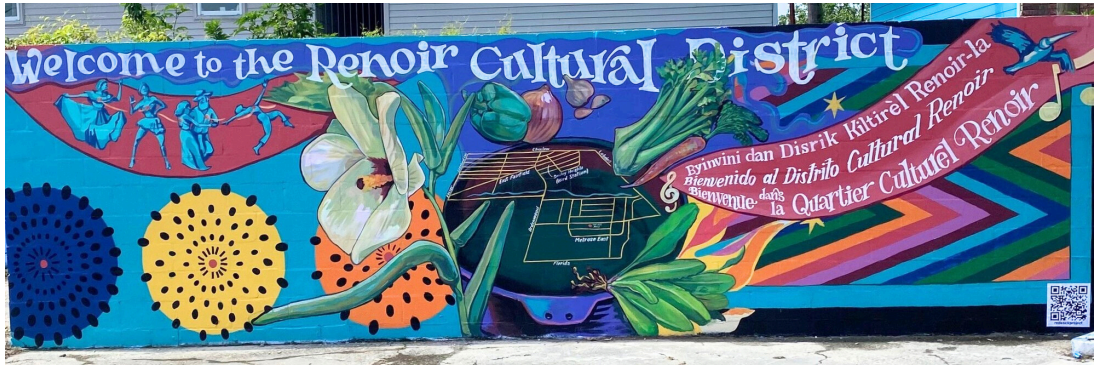
PILOT PROGRAM

## SELECTIONS



NEW MURAL

# RENOIR CULTURAL DISTRICT, BATON ROUGE



Ellen Ogden & Quon Smith, 2025; French & Kouri Vini translations by Jonathan Mayers



UPCOMING

## PRESENTATIONS

### Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference

Date: September 24, 2025  
Location: Baton Rouge, LA  
Co-presenter: Caroline, Cassagne, ANHA

### Imagine. Create. Activate! Conference

Date: September 22, 2025  
Location: Chicago, IL  
Co-presenter: Mashaera Alexander,  
Office of Cultural Economy (New  
Orleans)  
Produced by: Creative Placemaking  
Communities



## 2025 STATE CONFERENCE

Sept. 22-24 | Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge

## How to Launch a Mural Project



**Caroline Cassagne**  
Executive Director  
Atchafalaya National  
Heritage Area



**Francesca Vega**  
Director of Civic Design &  
Cultural Districts  
Louisiana Division  
of the Arts



MARIA ZERINGUE

# FOLKLIFE

*Program Updates*

## **Monthly Online Gatherings**

### **June 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Madeline DeHart: “Lâche Pas - Louisiana Heritage Connections” in Vermillion Parish Schools

### **July 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Dr. Katy Rost: “The Absence & Presence of Aesthetic Learning & Environmental Science in a 1st Grade Classroom”

### **Attending 5 Working Groups**

Culture and Coastal Policy  
Preparing Receiving Communities  
French Language Preservation  
Protecting Collections  
Artists and Tradition Bearers



**Sign up at [LouisianaFolklore.org](https://LouisianaFolklore.org)**

## PASSING IT ON WORKSHOPS: JUNE 2025

### June 22-24: Corn Culture Workshop (pictured)

- Participants learned how to make cornshuck dolls, cordage and baskets and how to shell and grind corn.
- **Collaborator:** Ho Minti Society/Rhonda Gauthier
- **Location:** Ho Minti Society Cultural Camp at Toledo Bend State Park in Zwolle, LA

### June 22-24: Apache-Choctaw Sewing and Quilting Workshop

- Participants learned how to read and cut out a pattern; thread a sewing machine; how to use quilting racks; and quilt by hand.
- **Collaborator:** Ho Minti Society/Pam Cartinez
- **Location:** Ho Minti Society Cultural Camp at Toledo Bend State Park in Zwolle, LA



# PASSING IT ON WORKSHOPS: JUNE 2025

## Apache-Choctaw Sewing and Quilting Workshop





ERICA BERGERON

## GRANTS

*Program Updates*



FY26 LPG

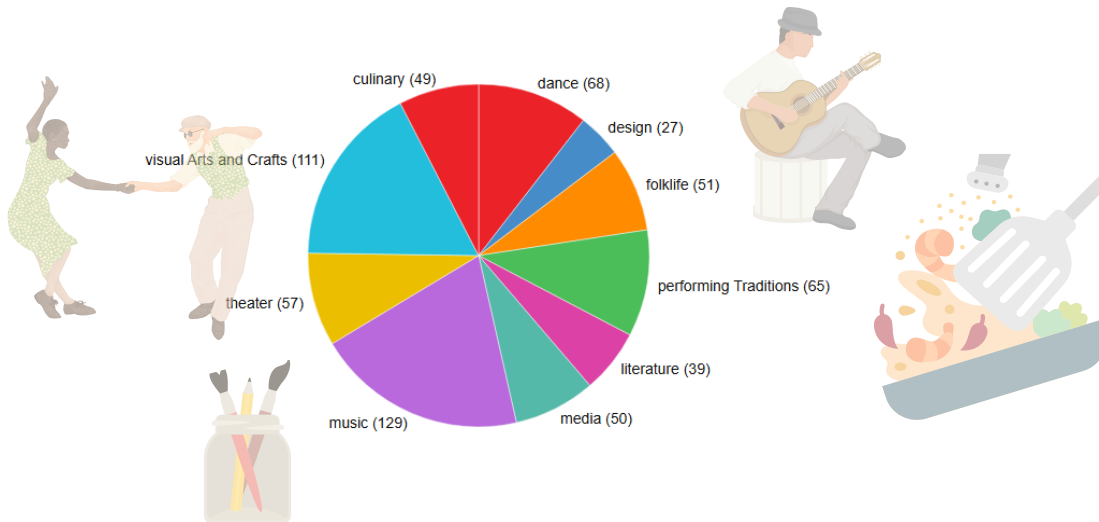
TOTAL OF 288 APPLICATIONS RECIEVED

|           | <u>FY26 VS FY25</u> |    |
|-----------|---------------------|----|
| REGION 1: | 105                 | 83 |
| REGION 2: | 40                  | 36 |
| REGION 3: | 17                  | 19 |
| REGION 4: | 34                  | 50 |
| REGION 5: | 15                  | 14 |
| REGION 6: | 20                  | 12 |
| REGION 7: | 20                  | 18 |
| REGION 8: | 21                  | 8  |
| REGION 9: | 12                  | 19 |



FY26 LPG

## APPLICANT DATA - ARTISTIC DISCIPLINE







APRIL BAHAM



SCOTT FINCH

## PERCENT FOR ART

*Program Updates*

COMPLETED  
INSTALLATIONS

**Grambling State University**  
Digital Library

“Loblolly Grove,” by Miki Iwasaki, 2025

Now installed on the western façade of Grambling State University's Digital Library and Learning Commons, “Loblolly Grove” features a series of precision-cut aluminum panels inspired by the region's iconic loblolly pines.

Designed by San Diego artist Miki Iwasaki, the work reflects the natural environment and the university's commitment to learning, creating a dynamic play of light and shadow throughout the day.



COMPLETED  
INSTALLATIONS

**Louisiana State University**  
Animal and Food Science  
Building

"Foundations," by Brent Barnidge, 2025

Two large relief sculptures and a series of medallions by Louisiana artist Brent Barnidge are now installed at LSU's Animal and Food Sciences Facility.

The artwork celebrates the journey from farm to lab in support of human and animal health.



## APPROVED PROPOSALS



**Louisiana State University  
Chemistry and Materials Building**  
Mark Aeling



**Northwestern State University  
Health Performance Center**  
KadDaven Baylor



# OPEN CALL

## **Baton Rouge Community College Nursing and Allied Health Building**

The Louisiana Percent for Art Program invites professional artists and artist teams to submit qualifications for a site-specific interior artwork at the new BRCC Nursing and Allied Health Facility in Baton Rouge.

The selected artwork will be prominently installed in a public corridor outside simulation labs and classrooms, where it will be viewed daily by students, faculty, and visitors. Proposals should reflect themes of healing, learning, and the essential role of healthcare in our communities.

Artists may apply via CaFE through **August 26, 2025**.

**STAY TUNED** for more open calls!

Merci!