

CULTURE COMMUNIQUÉ

MAY 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



DEVELOPING OUR CULTURAL ASSETS

LOUISIANA
Pick your Passion

A message from Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne



I am honored to serve as the lieutenant governor of Louisiana, in large part because I enjoy promoting the state's incredible culture.

One of my favorite examples is the Music Ambassadors program that will continue through 2014. Learn more about what we are doing to promote Louisiana music and keep our musicians working by visiting our music website Louisiana-Soundtrack.com.

This year my office is highlighting Louisiana's culture through the initiative **Only in Louisiana**. I hope you will join me by using the hashtag #OnlyLouisiana on social media to promote the one-of-a-kind experiences this great state has to offer.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at Culture Connection and thank you for your continued service to our state.

A message from Assistant Secretary Pam Breaux



The Office of Cultural Development just wrapped up a very successful Culture Connection. It was a wonderful time to learn, make connections and support the arts, historic preservation, archaeology, French language and more.

I hope those of you who came to Culture Connection enjoyed the event and found the workshops and meetings valuable. I would like to congratulate the 2014 Louisiana Culture Award winners, who each received a beautiful sculpture by Baton Rouge-based artist Brad Bourgoyne. I also want to thank our stakeholders for the great work you have done and continue to do to advance our state's culture sector.

We look forward to a number of important proceedings as the summer draws near, and I encourage you to stay connected with us through [Facebook](#), our [website](#) and our [staff](#). Have a wonderful May!

STAFF UPDATES

*From Alison Saunders,
tax incentives director*

High marks for La. in National Park Service tax credit report



The National Park Service has released its [annual report](#) concerning tax credits for Fiscal Year 2013.

During the fiscal year, Louisiana's historic tax credit programs brought in more than \$367.7 million in direct private investment.

Louisiana is specifically recognized in the report—along with Virginia, Ohio and Missouri—as a leader in stacking state and federal tax credits.

The separate [Statistical Report and Analysis](#) contains more high points for the state. Louisiana is ranked ninth in the nation for the amount of dollars invested in Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects. The state ranks fourth in the nation for the number of buildings that have been determined historic for the purposes of the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program. Louisiana also ranks second in the number of rehabilitation projects planned, as well as third in the nation for the number of rehabilitation projects that were completed and received Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

*From Pam Breaux,
assistant secretary*

Lt. Governor's Music Ambassadors program to continue in 2014

Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne has announced that the Music Ambassador project will continue in 2014. The inaugural year was an enormous success, with the program sponsoring scores of Louisiana artists who represented the state at 60 festivals in more than 20 states and ten countries.

Artists from all musical genres are eligible to apply, but the events they attend must:

- be outside Louisiana
- be in at least their fourth years
- have had attendance of 10,000 or more in 2013.

Louisiana artists will receive at least \$1,000 per performance and may be sponsored multiple times until reaching a combined \$20,000 for the calendar year.

The one-page 2014 application is available at www.LouisianaSoundtrack.com.

As Lt. Governor Dardenne said at the 2013 Ambassador Awards ceremony, "I deeply appreciate each and every one of these artists for representing Louisiana with energy, class and the greatest music in the world."

*From Cathy Hernandez,
Division of the Arts director*

McKissick Museum requests entries for 2015 exhibition

McKissick Museum in Columbia, S.C., which has one of the largest collections of slave-made structures on any campus in the U.S., will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War on April 9, 2015 with a major exhibition. The exhibition symbolically re-enacts the Civil War's end as a scene of reconciliation, not between the North and the South but between former slaves and former slave owners.

The museum is seeking entries from artists working in what historically have been regarded as craft-based media, such as clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood. These artists will imagine and give visual and sculptural form to this scene.

Purchase awards totaling \$25,000 will be given to prize-winning artists and/or artist collaboratives. The deadline to submit images is Oct. 31. Artists may submit up to five high-resolution digital images of artwork for consideration. Visit McKissickMuseum.slideroom.com to learn more and submit entries.



NEWS CLIPS

Louisiana launches geotourism website with neighboring states

Louisiana has partnered with Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and *National Geographic* to launch a website and mobile app dedicated to its unique tourist destinations.

The site features a map with more than 1,600 essential destinations for a true, authen-

tic Gulf Coast experience.

Spearheading Louisiana's commitment to the project was Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, who said the website is "an opportunity to showcase to the world the unique places and experiences offered in the Gulf Coast states. Alabama, Florida,

Louisiana and Mississippi share a coast but have diverse cultures not found anywhere else on Earth."

The website took more than a year to develop.

Click [here](#) to visit the Gulf Coast's new geotourism website.

Award-winning UL filmmaker promotes Cajun culture in China

Conni Castille, a documentary filmmaker and assistant director of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Moving Image Arts program, went to China in early April for a week-long tour promoting Cajun culture.

The trip was organized by *American Routes*, a public radio show hosted by Nick Spitzer, a professor of anthropology at Tulane University. Stops included American Cultural Centers, U.S. consulates and clubs in Guangzhou, Harbin, Nanjing and Shanghai.

Castille showed and discussed two of her documentaries, *I Always Do My Collars First*, a film about ironing, and *T-Galop: A Louisiana Horse Story*.

Collars uncovers family life and domestic rituals in Castille's hometown of Breaux Bridge,

while *T-Galop* reveals the role of the horse in southwest Louisiana and includes an interview with famed jockey and Acadiana native Calvin Borel. The film was named Documentary Film of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment of the Arts in 2013.

Cajun band Jesse Lége, Joel Savoy and the Cajun Country Revival was also part of the tour. In addition to the films and musical performances, Spitzer conducted oral history workshops and gave lectures on French Louisiana culture.

The tour, which concluded April 12, received support from the U.S. State Department, the National Endowment for the Arts, New York Institute of Technology, Tulane University and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

To learn more about Castille and her films, visit www.connicastille.com.

Lafayette-based filmmaker Conni Castille (Courtesy of KATC.COM)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design has issued a request for proposals to rural communities facing design challenges, such as Main Street revitalization, how to manage and direct growth and how to provide adequate and affordable housing. Successful applicants will receive a \$7,000 stipend, in-kind professional design expertise and technical assistance valued at \$35,000. The submission deadline is May 6. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- National Arts Strategies has announced a new nine-month fellowship program for emerging leaders who are committed to using arts and culture as tools for community transformation. Applicants should be interested in using culture to respond to local needs and contribute to healthy neighborhoods. The program will be led by experts and world-renowned thought leaders in social innovation, design thinking and creative place-making. Fellows will gain the tools, skills and networks to implement the ideas that will transform their communities. The deadline to apply for the fellowship is May 7. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The deadline to submit applications for fiscal year 2015 grants through the Arts Council of New Orleans Online Granting System for arts activities in Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne parishes is May 15. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The Gibbes Museum of Art is accepting applications for the 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art. The prize is awarded annually to acknowledge an artist whose work demonstrates the highest level of artistic achievement in any medium while contributing to a new understanding of art in the South. Entries for the annual award and \$10,000 cash prize will be accepted through May 28 at www.1858prize.org.
- The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation is accepting applications for the 2014 – 2015 French-American Jazz Exchange, which is designed to foster the creative and professional development of jazz artists from France and the U.S. through collaborative practice. The deadline to apply is May 30. Click [here](#) for more information.
- 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 Native American 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, which are awarded to individuals for projects in the early stages of development that 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 channeled back into 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.

Dána La Fonta, director of artist services and the Percent for Art Program, reminds artists to stay current on arts opportunities throughout the state and beyond by clicking [here](#).

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Click [here](#) to view a comprehensive staff list including program areas.

Stay connected to our office via our [website](#) and [Facebook](#). Use the hashtag #OnlyLouisiana on social media. To make a comment about *Culture Communiqué*, contact us at culture@crt.la.gov.