

CULTURE COMMUNIQUÉ

JUNE 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



May was a great month, as I saw many of you traveled throughout the state during National Tourism Week. Meeting so many great people and seeing so many of our cultural treasures really reminded me how important it is to preserve and enhance Louisiana's culture.

I will continue to do my very best to develop and promote our culture. One of the ways we have done that and will continue to do that in June is through our efforts to have Poverty Point designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. While the Poverty Point nomination has faced obstacles, I am confident that its global significance will lead to its eventual inscription.

Stay connected by using the hashtag #OnlyLouisiana on social media to promote the one-of-a-kind experiences this great state has to offer.

A message from Assistant Secretary Pam Breaux



It is hard to believe that summer is already upon us, but here we are! Summer can be a great time to recharge and evaluate our work. The Office of Cultural Development will do just that in June as we prepare for the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

Lt. Governor Dardenne has given me the honor of representing Louisiana in Doha, Qatar, in mid-June as the World Heritage Committee meets to hear this year's World Heritage List nominations. Poverty Point is important to the cultural history of the world, and I have faith that it will be listed as a World Heritage Site in good time.

Please continue to stay connected to the Office of Cultural Development through [Facebook](#), our [website](#) and our [staff](#). The more connected we are, the better our work will be.

CULTURE CONNECTION 2014 IN PHOTOS



STAFF UPDATES

From *Nancy Hawkins, Division of Archaeology*

Taking stock of Poverty Point

The site of an ancient civilization in Louisiana may be on the verge of becoming one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites. The world will know next month if the mounds at Poverty Point get that special designation.

Poverty Point's great mound's height competes with the treetops in this flat northeast Louisiana farmland, and was the centerpiece of a large prehistoric community that was likely Louisiana's first major city.

"It is incredible," archaeologist Diana Greenlee, who is stationed at the site, said. "It is really a significant site for all humanity.

"It is this monumental earth-works site that was built about 3,400 years ago by people who were hunters and gatherers. It has this complex of mounds and ridges that is just not seen anywhere else."

It was not until the early 1950s that archaeologists realized the significance of the site. Aerial photographs revealed something that was not noticeable on the ground. In front of the large mound were six semicircular ridges measuring three-quarters of a mile across. After a rain, water puddled in the low areas between the man-made ridges that held the dwellings.

"We know that that is where they lived because that is where we find most of the artifacts and most of the hearths and earth ovens that they used for cooking," Greenlee said.

The mounds were built one basketful of dirt at a time. The largest mound, 72-feet tall, contains eight million cubic feet of dirt.

"That is 15-and-a-half million 50-

pound basket loads of dirt. That is a lot of dirt," Greenlee said.

Poverty Point was part of a massive trade network. These ancient people imported 78 tons of stone, brought in from other parts of America, up to 1,000 miles away. They left behind hundreds of thousands of artifacts—the points of arrows and spears, pottery, tools and figurines.

"We do get some sort of sense of hairstyle," Greenlee said. "They definitely have different physical characteristics. Some of them were very slender, some of them were very plump."

The U.S. nominated Poverty Point to become a UNESCO World Heritage site, a listing that includes the world's greatest natural wonders and cultural sites. If it is selected, it would be listed alongside the Great Wall of China, the Great Pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge as a place of outstanding world importance.

A decision will come from the U.N. committee next month.

"There is this whole world of different cultures who did different things, and I think understanding that is important," Greenlee said.

The purpose of the mounds—and why the site was abandoned—are still mysteries. But Poverty Point provides a fascinating window into our ancient past, with the construction of a great city that thrived here for 600 years.

From *Pam Breaux, OCD assistant secretary*

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

Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne has announced that the Music Ambassador program 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 10 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 year
- have a 2013 attendance of 10,000 or more.

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

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

Lt. Governor Dardenne thanked 2013 participants at the 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."

LAGNIAPPE

Lt. Governor Dardenne announces 2014 King of Louisiana Seafood



Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne (center) with Chef Aaron Burgau (left) and his assistant, Johnathan Lomonaco

Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne has named Chef Aaron Burgau of Patois in New Orleans the 2014 King of Louisiana Seafood. Burgau was crowned May 24 at the seventh annual Louisiana Seafood Cook-Off presented by the Louisiana Sea-

food Promotion and Marketing Board. His dish, Crawfish and Pappardelle Pasta with Ramp Greens Purée and Uni Butter, captivated the judges and won him the title.

“Thanks to all 10 of the chefs and their assistants for participating in the Cook-Off and proving that great dishes start with great ingredients and there is none better than Louisiana Seafood,” Lt. Governor Dardenne said. “The judges had a tough job choosing from such a talented field of competitors. We are proud to welcome Chef Burgau as the new King of Louisiana Seafood and look forward to his serving as an ambassador for our brand, representing us

at events throughout the year.”

Looking ahead to his next stop at the Great American Seafood Cook-Off to be held Aug. 2, Chef Burgau said, “It was a pleasure to compete against the talented field at today’s event, and I look forward to moving to the next competition. It is an honor to represent our state and demonstrate to the country that Louisiana offers the best seafood.”

Visit LouisianaSeafoodCook-Off.com for more information on participants in the Louisiana Seafood Cook-Off.

Folklife Village at Jazz Fest draws crowds

Maida Owens, Louisiana Folklife program director, visited the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival’s Louisiana Folklife Village in May. The program is one of the state’s premier showcases of vernacular expressions and includes many diverse tradition bearers, such as quilter Cecelia Pedescleaux (pictured below), who has also been featured in the SouthArts touring exhibit. Learn more [here](#).



Lin Emery’s *Lyrice* installed at LSU as newest Percent for Art project

Lin Emery, an internationally recognized sculptor from New Orleans, created abstracted art forms from nature that give visible form to the energies moving through nature. She installed *Lyrice*, a site-specific, 20-foot suspended sculpture at the LSU Business Education Complex rotunda in Baton Rouge on April 14. *Lyrice*, pictured at different angles at right, was commissioned by the Percent for Art program. Learn more about the Percent for Art program [here](#).



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- MusiCares, Smile Programs, the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge and the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation are partnering to provide a free dental clinic—including dental screenings, teeth cleaning and x-rays—to uninsured music professionals **June 3** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. These treatments are provided free to pre-screened, pre-approved applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. Those wishing to participate will need to provide documentation of their work in the music industry. Call MusiCares at 877.626.2748 to schedule a dental appointment.
- The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation has established a grant program called the Catapult Fund, which provides business training opportunities and access to funding for entrepreneurs in the arts. Arts- and culture-based businesses in Louisiana are encouraged to apply for the program. The deadline to apply is **July 15**. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The 2015 Artist in Business Leadership Program is an independent business arts fellowship program featuring a \$5,000 working capital grant to be used to support a one-year marketing plan or business goal. Selected artists will receive technical assistance, a professional network of peers and additional travel funds to participate in individualized professional development workshops. The deadline to apply is **Sept. 1**. For more information, [email](#) Miranne Walker or call 605.348.0324.
- 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 returned to 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.

Artists can stay updated on arts opportunities throughout the state and beyond by clicking [here](#).

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