

OUR PURPOSE

"The purpose of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association shall be to foster interest in history, particularly that of West Baton Rouge Parish, and to encourage and pursue research, collection, and preservation of materials illustrating past or present activities of the parish."

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SPRING

2022

NEWSLETTER ÉCOUTEZ



A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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We encourage everyone to come out to support OUR museum!



BRING OUT THE VOTE

Historical Association volunteers will be spearheading the tax election campaign to successfully renew our Museum ad valorem property tax millage for the 3rd time since it was originally approved by WBR voters in 1994 – this election is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2022. Early voting will take place from Saturday, April 16th thru Saturday, April 23rd. Please ask your family and friends to support the museum in this vital tax renewal election!

Pelican State Goes to War

The West Baton Rouge Museum hosted a 1940's style USO show on Sunday, January 23rd in celebration of the opening of the exhibit, *Pelican State Goes to War* on loan from the National World War II Museum. Festivities included visitors and staff in period attire, special tours of the exhibit, and two show stopping musical performances by the Victory Belles, a vocal trio singing the music of the 1940's. There was standing room only to see this group that has wowed audiences across the globe. Over two hundred visitors came to be entertained with songs like "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." Cheers rang out as each branch of the military was saluted at the end of the afternoon event.

Save the Date: Christmas in July Card Party

The annual Christmas in July Card Party is set for Monday, July 25, 2022. This fundraiser runs from 10AM to 3PM at the WBR Community Center. Registration of \$25 is due by July 15th and includes lunch. Come join us for a day of fun, fellowship, good food, door prizes and more! Bring your entire group or register individually to play cards and other parlor games and celebrate Christmas in July with us!



LES LETTRES



Spring is here, the Omicron variant of the COVID virus seems to be waning, and things are getting back to much more of a pre-COVID normality for everyone, including at our West Baton Rouge Museum. Please get vaccinated and stay safe!

We began the year with our Annual Meeting on January 10th. To our departing and term-limited Board members, Babs Babin, Ida Pierre, Janet Simmoneaux, and Lorry Trotter – don't get too comfortable, you may well be invited back in a few years! To our second 3-year term Board members Kim Callegan and Beth Kleinpeter, welcome back! Finally, to our newest Board members Luis Interiano, Stacy Krebs, Debbie Martin, and Corey Young, WELCOME!

Looking to the future, we have reserved the WBR Community Center on Monday, July 25th for our "Christmas in July" Card Party fundraiser. Please let your family and friends know to make plans in advance to attend this event.

OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT

On April 30, 2022, West Baton Rouge residents will decide whether to renew a 2-mil property tax which will allow for continued support for the West Baton Rouge Museum. If passed, the renewal will extend our museum's mission and impact in our community.

Founded by the WBR Historical Association in 1968, the Museum has served the Parish continuously for 54 years. Our museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and holds several distinguished

SPRING 2022 ÉCOUTEZ letter

Welcome Spring Bienvenue, Printemps

WEST BATON ROUGE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

TOM ACOSTA Board President

awards including the Louisiana Association of Museum's Museum of the Year, a Bricks and Mortar Award from the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, and the Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History - to name a few.

West Baton Rouge Museum ranks as the #1 tourist attraction in West Baton Rouge Parish and offers free admission for West Baton Rouge residents and WBRHA members. In 2020, visitors to West Baton Rouge Parish generated over \$33 million in spending, which promoted \$3.8 million in state and local taxes. If it were not for the taxes paid by tourists visiting our parish, each household would pay \$394 MORE in taxes each year.

Most importantly, your continued support for our museum renews a commitment to celebrate our cultural heritage through the various exhibits and programs held each year. The West Baton Rouge Museum is committed to strengthening ties within the community. We encourage everyone to come out to support our museum. On behalf of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association and the West Baton Rouge Museum, we thank you for your support!

Bonne Sante!

Tom Acosta
WBRHA President



Spring 2022 Director's Letter

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM CULTURE CULTIVATED • LA CULTURE CULTIVÉE • LA KILTIR KILTIVÉ

ANGÉLIQUE BERGERON, PH.D. Executive Director

We got off to a patriotic start in 2022! First, West Baton Rouge Museum hosted the Victory Belles for a USO themed show for the opening of the *Pelican State Goes to War: Louisianans in WWII*, a traveling exhibit from the National WWII Museum. As part of the exhibit programming, we were also fortunate to have Mr. Ellis Gauthier share his memories of life in West Baton Rouge during WWII in an exhibit highlighting items from the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's permanent collection, *Life in WBR in the 1940s*.

In February, thanks to a grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, we unveiled a new sculpture installation, *Rooting Metal: The Trahan Gallery*, highlighting the rhythmic sculptures of Ronald Trahan. If you missed the fabulous opening reception, we encourage you to visit the exhibit and view filmmaker, Bennet Rhodes' documentary shorts with Mr. Trahan on the West Baton Rouge Museum's YouTube channel.

We have some great things planned for this spring including the much-anticipated return of the *Talented Student Art Show* opening **April 8th** and showcasing the works of K-12 students enrolled in West Baton Rouge Parish Schools' Talented Art program and a Barn Demonstration Day on **April 23rd** that will end in an old-fashioned Barn Dance.

In April and May, we will host a national travelling exhibit, *Aliento a Tequila (The Spirit of Tequila)* that celebrates the landscape, culture, and traditions that gave birth to Mexico's national drink; and in June and July, we will host *Courting Style: Women's Tennis Fashion* from the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Registration is now open for our annual Blast from the Past Summer History Camp – held the last 2 weeks in June. This week long series, supported in part by the Frank Carruth III Children's Fund, has been in existence since 1995 and is now serving a second generation of campers.

We have lots of music planned for the spring and summer. Be sure to visit our monthly Old Time Jam, Cajun French Music Association Jam, and Historical Happy Hour for enriching live entertainment.

We have been reworking our website and revamping our monthly NewsNotes that can once again be delivered straight to you. To subscribe to receive monthly emails on our exhibits and upcoming events, visit our website at www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org and click the Subscribe button.

With all that we have going on, we hope to see you at the Museum!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angélique".

Angélique Bergeron, PH.D.
Executive Director

Blast from the Past
ages 6-12
SUMMER HISTORY CAMP
Two one-week sessions to choose from
June 20 - 24 & June 27 - July 1

\$125 for WBR Parish residents and/or members of the WBR Historical Association and \$150 for all other participants. To register or for more information, call 225.336.2422 or visit www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org



OUR TOWN.
OUR MUSEUM.

The West Baton Rouge Museum and the West Baton Rouge Parish Library are partnering to host the annual



Easter Eggstravaganza
Sunday, April 10, 2022
2:00 - 3:30PM

crafts & games
Easter egg hunts for all ages
Barnyard Belle's & Beau's petting zoo



For Immediate Release

Old Fashioned Barn Demonstration Day and Dance

On the afternoon of Saturday, **April 23, 2022 from 12 - 7 PM**, the West Baton Rouge Museum will showcase the big red barn that anchors its six-acre campus. The spotlight will be on the importance of keeping historic crafts and trades alive as well as the workshops and hands-on activities the museum offers year-round. The day will begin with a lecture at Noon followed by demonstrations and family-friendly activities and end with an old fashioned barn dance complete with live music. This event is **FREE** and open to the public. However, a food vendor will be on hand with refreshments available for purchase.

From 12 - 1 PM, enjoy a lecture presented by John Hankins, Executive Director New Orleans Master Crafts Guild. His presentation will focus on reviving the traditional building trades highlighting families who have been working the trades since 1794.

From 1 - 5 PM, enjoy demonstrations and discussions centered on historic tools and machinery displayed in the barn such as farming implements, spinning wheels and

weaving looms, blacksmithing tools, and woodworking tools. There are also displays featuring an antique wagon, carriage, and Model A car. The public will be able to browse through the open air space to interact with experts who will bring the barn to life. Some of the demonstrators on hand will include a blacksmith, woodworker, brick mason, fiber artists, an antique car enthusiast, and more. Additional activities will include old fashioned farm chores and games. Architectural Historian and Restoration Specialist, Sid Gray will also be giving historic house tours. Visitors will also have the opportunity to sign up for future workshops or group tours that further delve into these areas of interest.

From 5 - 7 PM, kick up your heels at an old fashioned Barn Dance! Stick around for a festive finalé where family and friends can dance the day away to lively tunes performed by *The Cane Grinders*, an energetic and entertaining folk band.

-FOR MORE INFORMATION-
(225)-336-2422

westbatonrougemuseum.org
[facebook/TheWBRM](https://www.facebook.com/TheWBRM)





July 11, 12, and 13, 2022

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

The Art of Angela Gregory:

Girl Sculptor Making History and Breaking Barriers

Take part in a three-day summer professional development series, open to in-service K-12 teachers across all subject areas. Participants will receive classroom resource materials, a certificate of participation, and a \$100 stipend upon completion of all institute activities and assignments. Daily lunches are provided.

The Teachers' Institute is limited to 20 participants.

Registration forms may be downloaded from www.westbatonrougemuseum.org or picked up at the museum. Completed forms may be emailed to André St. Romain, at andre@wbrmuseum.org, or mailed to the West Baton Rouge Museum, 845 North Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767. Teachers' Institute is sponsored in part by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association and the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ALIENTO A TEQUILA
April 2nd- May 29th

WOMEN OF THE BLUES
Opens April 14th

TALENTED ART OF WBR
April 8th- May 1st

THREE ROLL ESTATE & ALMA
Opens May 7th

COURTING STYLE
June 18th- August 14th

Curators' Corner



Aliento a Tequila- **April 2nd- May 29th**

*When life gives you lemons,
grab salt & tequila!*

The Aliento a Tequila exhibition, which opens April 2nd, explores and celebrates the landscape, culture, and traditions that gave birth to tequila, Mexico's national drink. Aliento a Tequila celebrates a craft that is rooted deep in the culture of Mexico and connects viewers with the labor and place that produces this popular spirit.

Women of The Blues- **Opens April 14th**

Need some Blues in your life?

Enjoy portraits of the *Women of the Blues* during Baton Rouge's Annual Blues Fest. These women command the stage and spread joy and tunes with crowds all over the world.

Talented Art of WBR- **April 8th- May 1st**

The West Baton Rouge Museum will host the *Talented Art Student Exhibition* opening April 8 and running through May 1. The exhibit features the works of Talented Art Students in grades K-12 from West Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools.

Three Roll Estate & Alma- **Opens May 7th**

Hey, Sugar!

Get a close up look at Alma Plantation historical artifacts and learn about the process of making sugar in a new exhibit set to open May 7th. Visitors will also learn about making rum from sugar cane by taking an in depth look at Three Roll Estate, Louisiana's single estate distillery.

Courting Style- **June 18th- August 14th**

Running Shoes or Tennis Shoes?

Tennis has been a popular activity for men and women alike since the 1870s and developed initially as a casual leisure activity that men and women could partake in together at social gatherings. Drawn from the collections at the Museum of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, *Courting Style: Women's Tennis Fashion* explores this intersection of tennis and fashion.



FERIN JONES



LAUREN HAWTHORNE

PICS FROM THE PARISH

National History Day

The National History Day Competition was back in person at the West Baton Rouge Museum on February 24th after a brief hiatus in 2021 due to the COVID19 pandemic. Junior high and high school students from the Baton Rouge region presented original projects in 5 different categories: exhibit, website, documentary, performance, and research paper.

Students were varying levels of nervous and excited; all did an awesome job for our volunteer judges. When they weren't presenting projects, students had the option to tour our historic buildings and enjoy snow balls and other concessions from a local vendor. It was great to see our campus buzzing with people. HA President, Tom Acosta, emceed the annual History Bee. Participants and spectators alike felt the excitement when there was a 3-way tie... twice! We had such a wonderful day, and we can't wait to see how our students do at the state and national competitions.

It was great to see our campus buzzing with people.



West Baton Rouge Museum Opens New Semi Permanent Exhibit Rooting Metal: The Trahan Gallery

The Grand Opening Reception for the Trahan Gallery was held at the West Baton Rouge Museum for internationally recognized sculptor, Ronald Trahan on Friday, February 18, 2022. Known for capturing the spirit of Jazz, Blues, and Rock musicians in his three-dimensional copper forms, Trahan who is a resident of Port Allen, is also a skilled painter and wood sculptor linked to Frank Hayden, Angela Gregory, Bourdelle, and Rodin. With over 200 in attendance, a few of the highlights included

live Jazz & Blues entertainment from Westwind featuring Sonybird, informative gallery tours with museum curator Ferin Jones, and guest curator, Bennet Rhodes, a Trahan family reunion, and to the many guests' delight, a live outdoor demonstration by Trahan. This exhibit was funded by a Rebirth grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.



2021 Youth Volunteer of the Year



SOPHIA GUILLORY

West Baton Rouge Museum is pleased to award the 2021 Youth Volunteer of the Year designation to a lovely young lady who has been taking part in museum programs since she was a little girl. Attending annually as a program participant, she couldn't wait to be old enough to volunteer at events like *Blast from the Past Summer History Camp* and *SugarFest*. Now a bright eyed high school senior, Sophia Guillory has spent her last few years giving back joyfully. Not only has she become a favorite counselor to many at camp, she set up her own booth at SugarFest sharing her phenomenal photographs capturing the beauty of local sugar cane fields. Sophia is a creative spirit who is always happy to help. Last summer, she donned delicate wings and a flower crown to assist little ones at Little Bayou Fairy Fest. Over the years, she has helped at many annual events. To name just a couple, she has used her theatrical skills to act in tableau performances (in 19th century attire, of course!) depicting Christmas customs inside the c.1830 Aillet House at Holiday Open House and has attended Halloween events in costume giving out candy, playing games and helping with crafts. Sophia is an honor student at Saint Joseph's Academy. She's a community volunteer and is engaged in many extracurricular activities. Soon, she will be off to college, and we can't wait to see what she does next. Thank you, Sophia Guillory for all that you do!

2021 Volunteers of the Year

WBR MUSEUM Adult Volunteers of the Year

The West Baton Rouge Museum is pleased to announce that the adult Volunteers of the Year for 2021 are Al and Brenda Parker. They are such a lovely and gracious couple that we couldn't settle on choosing just one stellar half to represent our volunteer base. Al and Brenda live in Port Allen, and they have been patrons of the museum and members of the Historical Association for many years. Whenever we are in need, the Parkers are always a phone call away. Whether it be manning the front desk or guiding tourists from one attraction to the next at SugarFest, we can always rely on the Parkers.

They also went above and beyond the call of duty when the A. Hayes Town exhibit opened in the Whitehead Gallery last year. They helped us arrange a lecture with the famed architect's granddaughter, and were instrumental in getting us a behind the scenes tour at the local Presbyterian Church addition- designed by Mr. Town himself. All of our volunteers hold a special place in our hearts, and we are so pleased that Al and Brenda are a part of that group. Please join us in celebrating them this year and for years to come!



AL & BRENDA PARKER



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845 N. Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767 | 225.336.2422 | www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org

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WBR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBERS 2022

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WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

BOARD MEMBERS

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Mark Graffeo
Lauren Jung
William Kleinpeter
Scott Rhodes
Sadie Woods

Monthly Programs

1ST FRIDAYS, 1PM: *Le Café Français.* GRATUIT

2ND SUNDAYS, 3PM: *Old Time Country Music Jam.* FREE

3RD FRIDAYS, 6PM: *Historical Happy Hour.* FREE

3RD SUNDAYS, 3PM: *CFMA Cajun Jam.* FREE

LAST TUESDAYS, 6PM: *Yoga.* FREE