

# 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."*



Volume LIV No.4

FALL

2022

# NEWSLETTER ÉCOUTEZ



WEST  
BATON  
ROUGE  
MUSEUM

A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

“

*Get your tickets for  
WBR Historical  
Association's  
Chicken Dinner  
Fundraiser*



SAVE THE DATE

*Get your tickets for the WBR Historical Association's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser before supplies run out! Pre-order tickets for \$10.00 and pick up your dinners on October 2, 2022, at the 27th annual Sugar Festival at the West Baton Rouge Museum. We will be located under the big tent across from the Arbroth Stage. While you're picking up dinner, you will also have the chance to visit our Sweets Booth. Local restaurants and community members are donating a multitude of desserts in support of the Historical Association.*

*Go ahead and purchase a yummy treat to finish off this delicious meal.*



**2022**  
**SUGAR**  
**FEST**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 · 11 AM - 4 PM**



***We'll see ya there, Sugar!***

Please join the West Baton Rouge Museum for our 27th annual SugarFest! It's a time for everyone to get together for a sweet celebration of the harvest season. SugarFest will take place on Sunday, October 2nd, from 11AM- 4PM, on the grounds of the West Baton Rouge Museum. Get ready to listen to great music, peruse beautiful art, and learn all about the traditions of South Louisiana. Bring the family out for this sweet treat. SugarFest is sponsored in part by a Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Rebirth Festival Grant as well as a grant from the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

**SUGARFEST IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

# LES LETTRES



As summer comes to a close, we look forward to cooler temperatures, crisp Fall mornings, and of course, SugarFest! The 27th annual SugarFest will take place on the West Baton Rouge Museum's campus on October 2, 2022 from 11AM to 4PM. During the festival, please visit the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's tent and support our two fundraisers; the Chicken Dinner fundraiser and the Sweets Booth.

As always, the West Baton Rouge Historical Association will have traditional chicken dinners for pickup and purchase at SugarFest from 11AM- 1:30 PM, or while supplies lasts. Tickets are \$10.00, and meals include ½ a smoked chicken, rice dressing, beans, and a dinner roll. PLEASE PICK UP PLATES PURCHASED PRIOR TO SUGARFEST BY 1:00 PM. Any dinners not picked up by 1:30 PM will be resold to festival goers. To complete your meal, please be sure to check out the West Baton Rouge Historical Association Sweets Booth. Sweets have been donated from local businesses and whipped up in the homes of generous community members alike.

We can't forget about the sweetest part of SugarFest! Help the West Baton Rouge Museum celebrate 27 Sweet Years by making a treat for the Sweets Contest. Make your favorite cookies, cakes, candies, or pies, and show off your baking chops to all of your friends.

FALL 2022 ÉCOUTEZ letter

## Welcome Fall Bienvenue, l'automne

WEST BATON ROUGE  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

TOM ACOSTA Board President

In return, you will be entered to win a very special prize. Drop off desserts between 10AM and 10:30 AM on Sunday morning! Entry forms are available at the West Baton Rouge Museum and online at [www.westbatonrougemuseum.org](http://www.westbatonrougemuseum.org).

Also this Fall, mark your calendars for a special Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series at 2PM on Sunday November 13th, as Elizabeth Chubbuck Weinstein, guest curator of the exhibit Angela Gregory: Doyenne of Louisiana Sculpture, explains the significance of Angela's work as a woman artist in the early part of the twentieth century. She will also discuss the relationship forged between the artist and Ethel Claiborne Dameron (affectionately known as "Puffy"), who was instrumental in Angela's selection for the Henry Watkins Allen Monument.

We hope to see you this Fall at the West Baton Rouge Museum. In the meantime, please keep up the good work, stay safe, join us at Association and Museum events, tell friends about us, and help celebrate West Baton Rouge at OUR Museum!

Bonne Santé!!

Tom Acosta  
WBRHA President



## FALL 2022 Director's Letter

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

ANGÉLIQUE BERGERON, PH.D. Executive Director

It's been a busy summer at the West Baton Rouge Museum with the joyful bustle of Summer Camp and our annual Teachers' Institute, not to mention construction and the opening of our new Angela Gregory exhibition at our July Historical Happy Hour. We also kept busy with group tours of the Courting Style: Women's Tennis Fashion exhibit. From the Smithsonian, Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs by Jerry Dantzic opened with rave reviews and a breathtaking performance of "An Evening with Billie and Ella" from the National WWII Museum's BB's Stage Door Canteen.

We are pleased to have been selected for the Louisiana Office Of Cultural Development Division Of The Arts Percent For Art Program's "Make it Public Workshop" which will provide \$10,000 for public art within the Port Allen Cultural District in 2023. We are seeking input from community members on what Port Allen and West Baton Rouge mean to you. Stop by the information booth near the museum entrance at SugarFest on Sunday, October 2nd and leave us a drawing or a thought.

Speaking of SugarFest!... We are excited to welcome international visitors through the much anticipated Grand Reveil Acadien (GRA). GRA 2022 is a multi-parish experience celebrating the lasting cultural impact of the Acadian people with 9 days of events taking place across Acadiana. For the occasion, we will debut a new outdoor exhibition, Louisianais.e, from the Nous Foundation. We will also welcome Elista Istre of Belle Heritage to teach Cajun dance lessons, as well as the WBR Genealogical Society to help make family connections. As usual,

SugarFest will offer music, food, sweet treats, folk life demonstrations, and fun for the whole family.

Our regular programs continue, as our Sunday Jams begin to anticipate the coming of cooler weather when they can move back outside. Our Halloween event falls on our regularly scheduled Historical Happy Hour date for October. We are proud to continue the tradition of this long running program with our community partner, the West Baton Rouge Parish Library. Bring the whole family for old fashioned trick-or-treating, games, and entertainment provided by Chris Miller Magic.

We welcome the return of the Veterans on Parade on November 6th with a patriotic ceremony following the parade on the museum grounds. Inside the museum's main building, all are welcome to a reception and to view an exhibit honoring the parade grand marshals.

Our November Historical Happy Hour features a special Billie Holiday & Lester Young tribute concert with Makaila "Jazz Muffin" Iverson backed by a band of talented musicians.

We'll wrap up the year with Holiday Open House on December 4th. Be sure to stop by for holiday music and all of the festivities our community looks forward each year. Dressed for the season, the museum grounds, out buildings, and the Christmas tree inside make for great photo ops.

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

Angélique Bergeron, PH.D.  
Executive Director

# For Immediate Release MORE DATES TO SAVE



## Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series

The West Baton Rouge Historical Association is pleased to host its annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series on Sunday, November 13 at 2pm. This year's event will feature guest speaker, Elizabeth Chubbuck Weinstein on "Angela Gregory: Doyenne of Louisiana Sculpture." This talk will take place at the West Baton Rouge Museum and will accompany a current exhibition bearing the same title. A reception hosted by the WBR HA's Hospitality Committee will follow the presentation.

Few women ventured outside the home to have professional careers before gaining the right to vote – and even fewer chose to become artists. Yet, a young woman from New Orleans named Angela Gregory was determined "to learn to cut stone" – and eventually became the first woman sculptor to achieve international acclaim in 1928. Angela Gregory's legacy includes major architectural commissions throughout Louisiana and three monuments, one of them in Port Allen. Elizabeth Weinstein is currently researching the artist's life and work. She will present Angela's story and explain the significance of her work as a woman artist in the early part of the twentieth century. She will share images of the artist's work across her career with particular emphasis on those located in and around Baton Rouge and will touch upon the relationship forged between the artist and "Puffy" Dameron, who was instrumental in Angela's selection for the Henry Watkins Allen Monument.

Elizabeth Chubbuck Weinstein curated the WBRM's long-running exhibition on the work of Angela Gregory, which will be presented in three phases over the next few years. She is an independent curator, writer, and museum consultant. From 2002-2020, she was Chief Curator and Director of Interpretation at the Louisiana Art & Science Museum in Baton Rouge. She has served in senior management roles at the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Alexandria Museum of Art, and Galerie Simonne Stern, a commercial contemporary art gallery. She formerly oversaw the grant program of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Elizabeth is a past president of the Louisiana Association of Museums and the Louisiana Art Conservation Alliance and a past member of the Louisiana State Arts Council. In 2017, she was honored by the Louisiana Association of Museums with the Career Professional Award for her statewide contributions to the museum field over her past years of service.

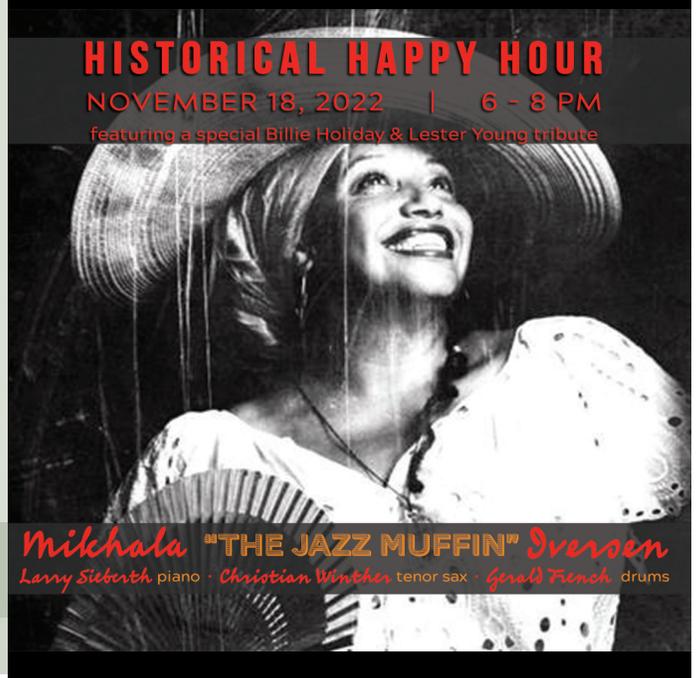
The Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series is free and open to the public. This event is offered annually in memory of West Baton Rouge Historical Association and West Baton Rouge Museum founder, Ethel Claiborne Dameron affectionately known as "Puffy."



## HISTORICAL HAPPY HOUR

NOVEMBER 18, 2022 | 6 - 8 PM

featuring a special Billie Holiday & Lester Young tribute



*Michala* "THE JAZZ MUFFIN" *Iversen*  
*Larry Sieberth* piano · *Christian Winther* tenor sax · *Gerald French* drums

FREE EVENT

# MERRY NOT SCARY HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER 21 | 6 - 8 PM

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

WBRPL

TRICK, TREATS AND FUN!

WWW.WESTBATONROUGEMUSEUM.ORG

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**BILLIE HOLIDAY AT SUGAR HILL:  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JERRY DANTZIG  
SEPT 10TH - JAN 8TH**

**BURNING CANE:  
SEPT 24TH - JAN 15TH**

**LOUISIANAIS.E:  
OPENS OCT 1ST - DEC 4TH**

**VETERANS FROM WBR:  
OCT 1ST - NOV 20TH**

## Curators' Corner

### **Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs by Jerry Dantzig**

The West Baton Rouge Museum is pleased to host Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs by Jerry Dantzig, an intimate and compelling photographic portrait of Holiday, the consummate jazz and blues singer and one of 20th century music's most iconic figures. The photographs were taken in April 1957, at a significant moment in her life and just two years before her death at the age of 44. Beautifully captured through the lens of photographer Jerry Dantzig, the exhibition provides a rare glimpse into Billie Holiday's public and private life through pigment prints with labels, curated panels, ephemera, projected video, and vinyl excerpts from the work of renowned writer and author,

Zadie Smith. Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs by Jerry Dantzig is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the Jerry Dantzig Archives. This exhibit closes on January 8th, 2023.

### **Burning Sugarcane Fields - Bueche, LA-**

While exploring in Bueche, Louisiana, Baton Rouge photographer Bruce Q. Williams captured the burning of a sugarcane field during the harvest season. The museum is featuring six photographs from this series. This exhibit runs through January 15th, 2023.

### **Louisianais.e-**

Louisianais.e is a traveling outdoor exhibition featuring the covers of a fictional magazine. Designed in the style of The New Yorker, these eight covers feature original artworks created by talented and diverse artists from all around Louisiana. Each cover is set in the year 2050 so that each artist can creatively interpret the future of French and Creole cultures in Louisiana. This exhibit will highlight how culture pervades every element of our daily lives (past, present, and future) and to build awareness of a culture that is slowly becoming less visible due to language loss and other challenges. This exhibit runs through December 4th.



FERIN JONES



LAUREN HAWTHORNE

“ The Louisianais.e Exhibit will highlight how culture pervades every element of our daily lives (past, present, and future) and to build awareness of a culture that is slowly becoming less visible due to language loss and other challenges. ”

# PICS FROM THE PARISH

## Summer Camp

Blast from the Past Summer History Camp at the West Baton Rouge Museum was filled with fun and games from long ago! Campers played tennis, tried their hand at archery, and learned about ancient Olympic traditions. Activities took up the entire museum campus and neighboring tennis courts for two weeks, and we were lucky enough to have several guest teachers lead special lessons every day!

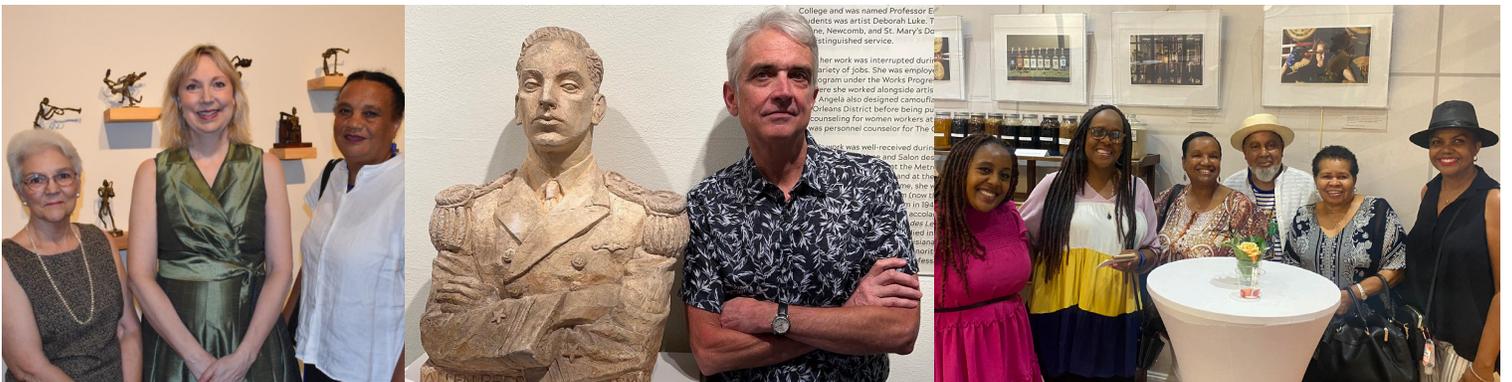
We are especially grateful for our fearless leaders, teachers, and volunteers. They showed up bright and early, eager to create an amazing camp experience. We are counting down the days to next year and to our next great Blast from the Past Summer History Camp! 2023 registration opens March 1st.



## July Historical Happy Hour Angela Gregory Opening

Our newest exhibit, Angela Gregory: Doyenne of Louisiana Sculpture, opened this summer after much anticipation. The exhibit, curated by Elizabeth Weinstein, includes both original sketches and sculptures from famed Louisianan artist, Angela Gregory. Our July Historical Happy Hour served as the perfect backdrop for an opening gala reception for this semi-permanent exhibit.

About 250 guests toured the space and, Bo Bres, WBRHA Friend, posed for a picture next to the sculpture of his great uncle- the resemblance was uncanny! Music from the Michael Foster Project drifted out of the Brick Gallery into other parts of the main museum building, while everyone enjoyed appetizers from the Poboy House and champagne punch provided by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. It was an evening to remember, and one we likely will never forget.



# HA Card Party

On July 25th, 2022, the West Baton Rouge Historical Association held its annual Christmas in July Card Party fundraiser at the Port Allen Community Center. Participants played bridge, po-ke-no, rummy, and more. They even had the chance to win door prizes wrapped in Christmas paper, and enter multiple drawings that support the Historical Association. In addition to games, everyone enjoyed a mimosa to start the day and creamy seafood pasta for lunch.

The West Baton Rouge Historical Association would like to send a big thanks to everyone that participated this year. Everyone brought their "game faces", and a fun time was had by all. Your generous support always means so much to us.



## TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

This summer, West Baton Rouge Museum welcomed educators for Teachers Institute, an annual professional development series sponsored in part by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. This year's theme was The Art of Angela Gregory: Girl Sculptor Making History and Breaking Barriers. Participating K - 12 teachers enjoyed lectures presented by guest presenters, hands-on art projects, research using primary sources including letters and newspaper articles, a field trip, and time in the West Baton Rouge Parish School Computer Lab to create classroom lesson plans.

Guest presenters included partner and historian for the Angela Gregory Legacy, LLC, Susan Hymel, guest curator for the exhibition, Angela Gregory: Doyenne of Louisiana Sculpture, Elizabeth Chubbuck Weinstein, museum director, Dr. Angeliqne Bergeron, founder of River Road African American Museum, Kathe Hambrick, historian, Shelton Berry, cultural advocate, Bennet Rhodes, West Baton Rouge Parish Schools Supervisor of Information Systems and Educational Technology, Dr. Tammy Seneca, and museum staff. Professional artists, Sally Williams and Ronald Trahan led teachers through working with plaster, clay, and wire to understand sculpture making and art restoration processes. In addition to viewing Angela Gregory art on display at the museum, teachers were taken on a field trip to see additional works at Louisiana's Old and New State Capitol buildings, LSU Museum of Art, and the Gregory located inside the old Louisiana National Bank now the Watermark Hotel in downtown Baton Rouge. Upon completion of the program, teachers earned certificates and a stipend provided by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association.



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

# Holiday Open House

arts & crafts · gingerbread · papa noël · hot cider  
elf scavenger hunt · holiday musical performances

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022**

**2:00 - 5:00 PM**



WEST  
BATON  
ROUGE  
MUSEUM  
ASSOCIATION



# NEWSLETTER ÉCOUTEZ

A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 31  
Port Allen, LA

# NEWSLETTER ÉCOUTEZ



A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## WBR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS 2022

Tom Acosta  
Donna Badon  
Kim Callegan  
Ashley Coco  
David Couvillion  
Glen Daigle  
Brian Falcon  
Ellis Gauthier  
Luis Interiano  
Stacy Krebs  
Drew Maciasz  
Debbie Martin  
Andrea Normand

## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM BOARD MEMBERS

Sue Blanchard  
JoAnn Busse  
David Couvillon  
Lauren Jung  
William Kleinpeter  
Scot Rhodes  
Lorry Trotter  
Sadie Payne Woods  
Chris "Fish" Kershaw  
*ex-officio*

## 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