

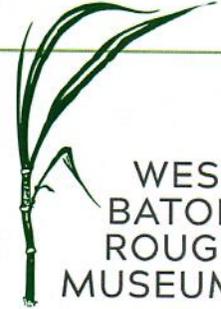


SUMMER
2024

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."

NEWSLETTER ÉCOUTEZ



A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

0000
JULY
22

CARD PARTY

Register NOW for the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's annual Christmas in July Card Party. This year's event will take place on **Monday, July 22, 2024**, at the Port Allen Community Center from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. For an entry fee of \$30, guests are invited to come play games, participate in door prizes and drawings, enjoy lunch, and drink a mimosa! For more information, please call (225)-300-4674.



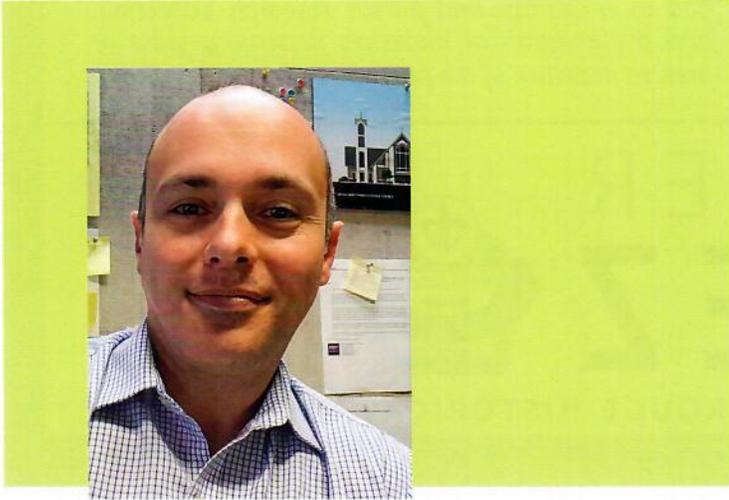
BLUES AFTER SCHOOL

The Blues After School band, a.k.a. the Juke Joint Juniors, performed at the March Historical Happy Hour with Chris Thomas King and at the Baton Rouge Blues Fest! Students who participated were elated to receive an invitation to perform with a living legend and at one of the oldest Blues Festivals in America. A special thank you goes out to Chris Thomas King and to the Baton Rouge Blues Festival and Foundation for the opportunities to perform.

There are a limited number of spaces available for the 2024 - 2025 Blues After School program. *For more information, call Jeannie Lockett at 225-300-4677 or email lockett@wbrmuseum.org.*



LES LETTRES



Dear all,

The Historical Association continues its mission to preserve and promote our heritage. Our board members successfully worked with the LA Department of Transportation and Development in an outreach to local residents about a Federal level proposal to rename select geographic features in the parish. Our response to retain the names was swift and thoroughly impressed our LA DOTD liaison.

Mark your calendar and get your cards ready! The Card Party is July 22nd. Call the museum to register yourself or your party before July 15th. We'll have refreshments, a meal, and door prizes. You bring the competition and camaraderie!

Sugar Fest will be October 6, 2024. Save the date for your dinner tickets and that once-a-year delicious visit to the sweets booth.

SUMMER 2024 ÉCOUTEZ letter

Thank you for following our journey

WEST BATON ROUGE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BRIAN FALCON Board President

The Historical Association sponsors the Teachers' Institute, a three-day summer professional development series open to in-service K-12 teachers across all subject areas. Participants produce a theme-based lesson with the help of Museum staff and special guests for use in their classrooms. Participants also receive classroom resource materials, a certificate of participation, and a \$100 stipend upon completion. Call the museum for more information.

Cheers!

Brian

Brian Falcon
WBRHA President





Dear Friends,

Summer came quickly this year and things are happening at the West Baton Rouge Museum. We've just wrapped two busy weeks of Blast From The Past Summer History Camp. Also in June, we were honored to host the opening reception for the Rural Tourism and Byways Conference put on by the Louisiana Office of Tourism.

In July, we're gearing up for our annual Teachers' Institute, *Be a Part of the Solution: Evolution of the Revolution* (July 9 - 10). There are still a couple of spots available for K-12 teachers. The middle of the month is jam packed with music starting with the Old Time Jam on Sunday, July 14th, followed by the Friday, July 19th Historical Happy Hour featuring Blue Crab Redemption, on Saturday, July 20th the museum will host the West Baton Rouge Music and Heritage Festival, and on Sunday, July 21st our monthly Cajun Jam.

In August, we will debut a new exhibit *West Baton Rouge Parks & Recreation: Building a Community*. All are invited to celebrate the West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation Department at a reception on August 16th with the Historical Happy Hour featuring music by Jemini Venture. In the museum's front gallery, Angela Gregory's Monuments and Commissions will open with a reception on August 23rd. Also in August, the West Baton Rouge Museum is proud to help represent Louisiana and promote all that we have to offer in Nova Scotia at the Congrès Mondial Acadien, a festival of Acadian and Cajun culture and history held every 5 years.

SUMMER 2024 Director's Letter

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

ANGÉLIQUE BERGERON, PH.D. Executive Director

In September, look for a new book club hosted by Dr. Olivia Pass that will meet Wednesdays through October 9th. If you enjoyed the Jazz photography of Bob Willoughby in the *Shutter and Sound* exhibit earlier this year, don't miss *Backstage Hollywood*, by the same photographer. The exhibition opens September 7th and provides the inspiration for this fall's annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series.

Our monthly programs continue through the summer:

1st Fridays – Le Café Français

1st Sundays – Behind the Barn Doors

2nd Saturdays – Explorations in Genealogy

2nd Sundays – Old Time Jam

3rd Fridays – Historical Happy Hour

3rd Sundays – Cajun Jam with the Cajun French Music Asso.

4th Saturdays – Children's Painting and Drawing with Ms. Shaun

Last Tuesdays – Yoga in the gallery

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

Angélique Bergeron, PH.D.
Executive Director



A Farewell to Friends

With heartfelt sorrow, we have had to say goodbye this spring to two long time volunteers and friends of the West Baton Rouge Museum and West Baton Rouge Historical Association. **Mr. Frank Foret** passed away on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at the age of 92. **Mrs. Aundrea Flynn** passed away on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at the age of 57.

Frank actively volunteered for West Baton Rouge Historical Association, West Baton Rouge Museum, Addis Historical Society, the Old Governor's Mansion, and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. Here at the museum, Frank served as a front desk greeter which he did until a few short weeks before he passed away. Over his decades of service, he also guided tours of historic houses on our grounds, volunteered for both the museum and HA boards, edited museum exhibit labels and other written materials, helped with SugarFest, and even dressed in nineteenth century attire to be the narrator for the Christmas tableau at the c. 1830 Aillet House, an historic home from the parish of which he was happy to share was inhabited by his ancestors.

Aundrea gave selflessly to her family and to her community. She was a home school mom who was actively involved in organizations such as the Centre for the Arts in New Roads, West Baton Rouge Museum, Westside Homeschoolers, Boy Scouts of America, 4-H Club, and Pointe Coupee Recreation. Aundrea was also a past member of the Eastern Star. Here at the museum, Aundrea was instrumental in arranging annual field trips to the museum for almost twenty years, sending new faces our way in terms of talent to present at museum programs or students to take part in our enrichment opportunities, and assisting with our Blues After School program since its inception five years ago where she used her photography and editing skills to create the Juke Joint Juniors book, posters, cd covers, and more.

Each left us with lasting memories that will always be cherished and priceless contributions that will live on in the community. We will never forget you, Mr. Frank and Aundie. Your sweet spirits will be with us forever.

Clay Workshops on Demand at the Museum's Big Red Barn

West Baton Rouge Museum is excited to expand its offerings of historic crafts and trades being taught inside the Big Red Barn on campus. Classes in clay are now available on demand with professional artist, C. Aliah. Instructor led classes will include traditional hand-built pottery as seen in West African traditions and hand-built slab formation. Clay meditation classes may also be requested which offer a serene retreat for those seeking quiet and concentration. In this space, participants are invited to engage with clay, allowing their hands to shape and express while their minds enjoy a break from the noise of everyday life. This option is perfect for anyone looking to find relaxation through creation. Clay Meditation provides the perfect blend of tranquility and artistic freedom.

Aliah Allen James (C. Aliah) is a native of Texas with roots that run deep right here in West Baton Rouge Parish. She is a professional ceramicist, sculptor, photographer, and painter with years of studio, museum, and classroom experience. She currently teaches in the Talented Art program at Port Allen High School. She often comments that because of her family connection and childhood summer visits to this community, Port Allen feels like home to her.

Simply call the museum at 225-336-2422 to request a class for yourself, for a parent and child, or a creative exercise with friends. Classes sizes are limited, and children ages 14 and under should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The class fee is \$20 per two-hour session which is payable via cash, credit card, or check made out to West Baton Rouge Museum. Family or group fees are available upon request. Payment is due on or before the class date.



Growing Up in the South Literary Discussion Group LED BY DR. OLIVIA PASS

Save the date and sign up to take part in a six-week literary series conducted by Dr. Olivia Pass who will lead participants through "Growing Up in the South: An Anthology of Modern Southern Literature." Explore this collection of fabulous pieces by southern authors edited by Suzanne W. Jones (New York: Signet, 2003), and enjoy moderated discussions along the way. Words written by William Faulkner, Alice Walker, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, Richard Wright, Ernest Gaines, and other great American storytellers will captivate readers with extraordinary descriptions of beautiful and familiar places intertwined equally with nostalgic memories of adolescence and tragic settings of turbulent times in the south.

Olivia McNeely Pass is retired from Nicholls State University, where she was professor of American literature and composition. She has served as editor of the Louisiana English Journal and as associate director of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Her work has appeared in Louisiana Review, English Journal, Journal of Medical Humanities, and elsewhere.

Classes will be held at the West Baton Rouge Museum on Wednesdays September 4, 11, 18, 25 and October 2, and 9, 2024 from Noon – 2 PM. Space is limited. *For more information or to sign up, call (225)336-2422 for this free program.*

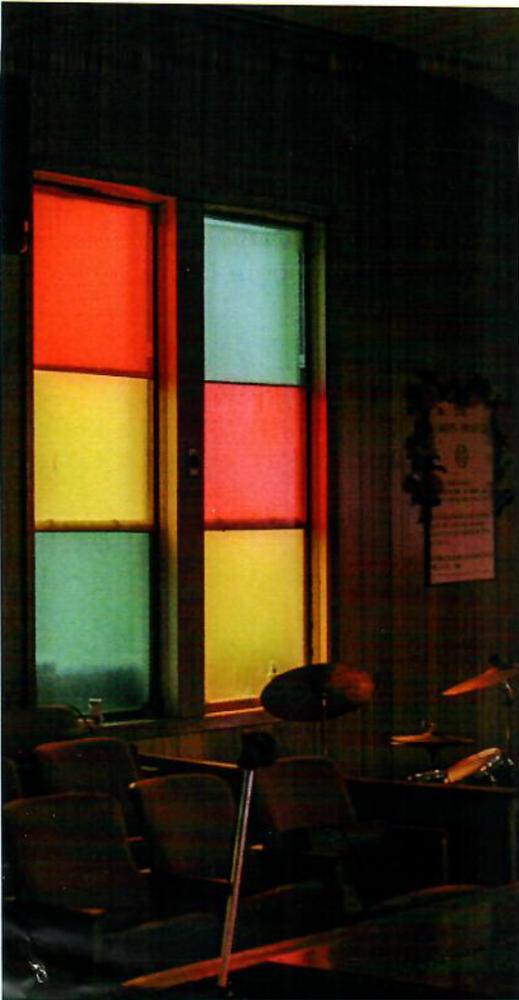
Special Programming to Accompany Spaces and Places: *Historic Black Churches of West Baton Rouge*

Please join the West Baton Rouge Museum for the following events that have been planned to accompany the exhibit, *Spaces and Places: Historic Black Churches of West Baton Rouge* Photographed by Bruce Williams.

On **Sunday, June 30 from 3 PM – 5 PM**, all are invited to *Reflections on Sacred Spaces*, a reception in celebration of the exhibit and the six historic churches represented in the photographs of artist, Bruce Williams. Refreshments will be served, and representatives from these special places in the community will share a few words about their sacred spaces.

On **Thursday, July 11 at Noon**, the museum is honored to welcome Bishop Ivory Payne to present a Luncheon Lecture. He will share the history of St. Mark Baptist Church that was erected in 1877 in Chamberlain, Louisiana where he was born and raised. He will also share memories of his time there including his baptism in 1941 and his elementary school days where he attended class inside the church, a building that served many purposes in the community. Bishop Payne was ordained in 1974 and since then has served several churches in Baton Rouge.

Both of these events are **FREE** and open to the public.



UPCOMING EXHIBITS

EVOLUTION OF THE REVOLUTION
MAY 18 - AUGUST 25

**WEST BATON ROUGE
PARKS AND RECREATION:
BUILDING A COMMUNITY**
AUGUST 3 - OCTOBER 27

**ANGELA GREGORY: DOYENNE OF
LOUISIANA SCULPTURE**
PART III: MONUMENTS & COMMISSIONS
OPENS AUGUST 23

BACKSTAGE HOLLYWOOD
SEPTEMBER 7 – OCTOBER 20

Curators' Corner

Evolution of the Revolution

Experience a surreal photographic journey that explores the African American revolutionary path, from the Trans-Atlantic Middle Passage to the present-day political arena, including pivotal moments such as the Underground Railroad and the Civil Rights Movement. This exhibit is an immersive multi-media installation created by Surreal Box Cinema, an artistic collaboration formed by Lynn Rossi (photographer/set designer) and Nichelle Evans (set designer).

In addition to the photographs, the exhibition displays several of the props used in the photos and a life size bus of retro style that celebrates the bravery of Rosa Parks and features the journey of other courageous African American civil rights leaders as the original riders for justice and freedom.

West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation: Building a Community

The West Baton Rouge Museum presents, *West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation: Building a Community*. Although West Baton Rouge is the smallest parish in Louisiana, it is home to a thriving and impactful Parks and Recreation Department that includes nine parks, five community centers, one multipurpose facility, and one multi-court tennis complex.

This exhibit will be both a celebration and a thank you to all of the past and present hardworking individuals of West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation.

Angela Gregory: Doyenne of Louisiana Sculpture Part III: Monuments & Commissions

The West Baton Rouge Museum is pleased to present the third in a series of exhibitions devoted to the life and legacy of Angela Gregory (1903-1990). A pioneering woman sculptor from New Orleans, Angela gained international recognition as early as 1928.

Organized by guest curator Elizabeth C. Weinstein, this most recent exhibition includes models and maquettes in plaster, cast stone, and bronze, and preparatory drawings borrowed from museums and private collections. The selection provides insight into the development of the artist's original designs and working methods relating to the production of some of her most notable public works of art.

Backstage Hollywood

Venture backstage into the golden age of Hollywood with this exhibition that explores the photography of Bob Willoughby. Widely recognized as a pioneer of photography in the twentieth century, Willoughby was the first outside photographer invited by studios to take photos on film sets. The exhibition features photographs from the sets of 17 iconic Hollywood films, including Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*, Alfred Hitchcock on the set of *Marnie*, Mia Farrow in *Rosemary's Baby*, and Marilyn Monroe in *Let's Make Love*.



AMANDA MOAK



LAUREN HAWTHORNE



WEST BATON ROUGE

MUSIC & JULY

Heritage Festival

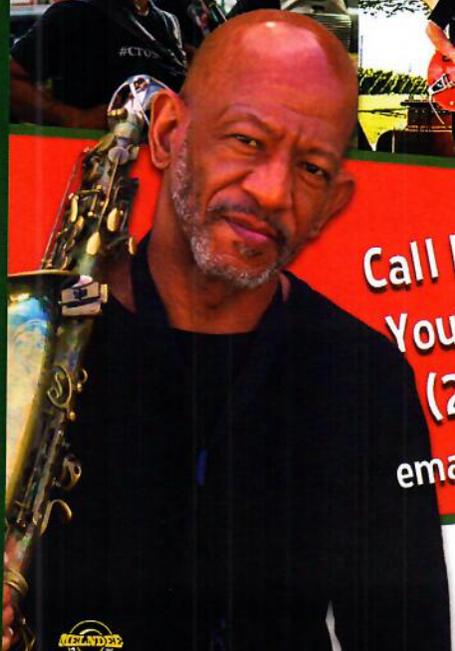
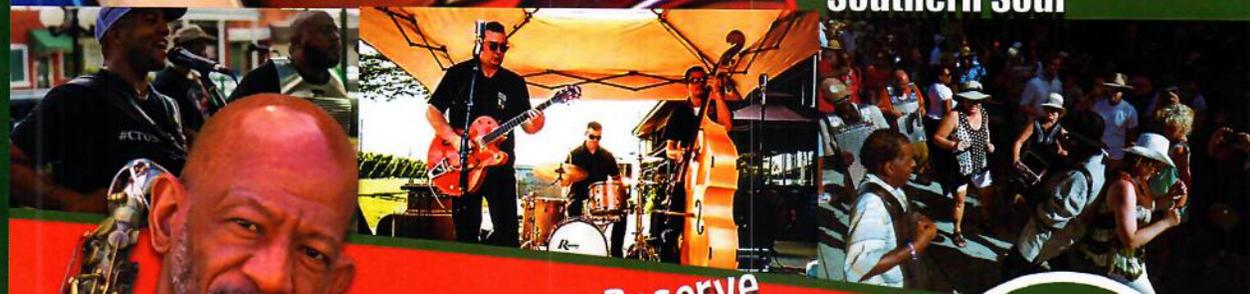
20, 2024

FAMILY FUN IN SUN

12pm-8pm

COME EXPERIENCE MUSIC
DIVERSITY AT IT'S FINEST

Blues - Jazz - Gospel
R&B - Swamp Pop
Southern Soul



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**FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC**

Place: West Baton Rouge Museum
845 N. Jefferson Ave
Port Allen, LA 70767
Hosted By *Lazarro Nettles*
Recording Artist / Saxophonist
Sponsored By 



SAVE THE DATE for the Annual ETHEL CLAIBORNE DAMERON LECTURE SERIES



On Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 2:30 PM, the West Baton Rouge Historical Association will host its annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series (ECD) at the West Baton Rouge Museum with a theme that will take on the ambiance of an afternoon at the Oscar's. This year's ECD program will interpret *Backstage Hollywood: The Photographs of Bob Willoughby*, a traveling exhibit from ExhibitsUSA that brings the viewer backstage into the golden age of Hollywood. We will celebrate red carpet style with a behind the scenes glimpse of the movie making industry complete with a panel of special guest speakers and film excerpts from movies featured in the exhibit.



EXPLORATIONS



IN GENEALOGY

WBR Genealogical Society presents

Saturday, July 13

10:30 AM - 12PM

*Strewn Across the Seas: The Acadian
Deportations, 1755-1763*

with guest speaker,
Martin R. Guidry

Saturday, August 10

10:30 AM - 12PM

Louisiana's Italian Immigrants

with guest speaker,
Andrew Capone

Saturday, September 14

10:30 AM - 12PM

*Louisiana's German Coast: 300 Years of
History*

with guest speaker,
Jay Schexnaydre

Pics from Past Programs Musicians Fête

With 200+ in attendance, the museum hosted its first ever Musicians Fête! On Thursday, April 18th, visitors from all around joined us for this free Blues Fest pre-event, which was created for musicians and music lovers alike. Visitors received a catered lunch by Neal's Soul Food, followed by impromptu jams with local musicians and special guests, Cajun accordionist, Steve Riley and saxophonist, Lazzaro Nettles. In addition, the day included engaging speakers, networking, and music-specific resources. The evening concluded with an interview and performance with Lil Ray Neal and Nick Spitzer. Be sure to join us next year for our 2nd annual Musicians Fête!

Special thanks to Louisiana Office of Economic Development, Louisiana Entertainment, the Baton Rouge Blues Festival and Foundation, WRKF, Louisiana Music Trails, PSS Sound, Sound South, Kean Miller and Sonny Chastain, Manship Theatre, the East Baton Rouge Public Library, the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, the Recording Academy, Lazzaro Nettles, Dee Davis, and all other organizations, venues, and volunteers for helping to present this inaugural event!



Love the Boot

"Love the Boot... don't pollute" was our motto during April's trash pickup day at the West Baton Rouge Museum. Five metal trash cans courtesy of a grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful were placed on the museum campus. Staff pitched in to participate by picking up trash on the museum grounds and surrounding areas. Keep Louisiana Beautiful was supported by the State of Louisiana and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.



Historical Happy Hour

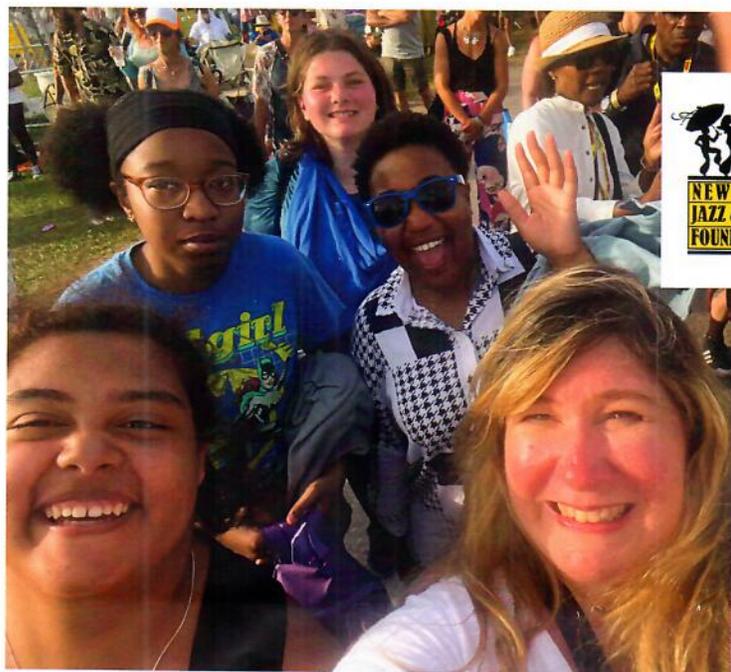
Historical Happy Hour featured jam-packed performances all spring! From authentic Blues with legendary Chris Thomas King who invited our Blues After School students to join him on stage (March), to lively Jazz and Bebop with the SB4 Band (April), and soulful Bluesman Ed Wills with his band, Blues 4 \$ale (May), visitors were thoroughly entertained. Also in April, visitors poured into the museum to enjoy two- and three-dimensional art works from K-12 public school students in the West Baton Rouge Talented Student Art Exhibit. Join us every third Friday of the month because at Historical Happy Hour, the drinks are on you and the history is on us!



Blues After School Visits Jazz Fest 2024

Blues After School had the amazing opportunity of attending Jazz Fest for a second year in a row thanks to being awarded 2024 Community Outreach Tickets from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation. On Sunday, April 28, students, instructors, and chaperones boarded a bus courtesy of the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Department and headed down I-10 to New Orleans for a day filled with visual art, cultural heritage demonstrations, and a whole lot of live music. The kids were truly grateful for the opportunity to be immersed in the arts and enjoyed

taking in the sounds of different genres including Blues, Jazz, Gospel, and Rock. To help with additional travel costs, board member Rose Roche sought out donations to help the kids and their parents raise funds by selling hot dogs with all the fixings at two museum events, Musicians Fête and Historical Happy Hour. A great big thank you goes out to them and to WBR Historical Association members Mark and Connie Hebert, Sheriff Mike Cazes, Hubben's Supermarket, and to all who contributed to help the kids have a safe and successful journey to and from Jazz Fest.

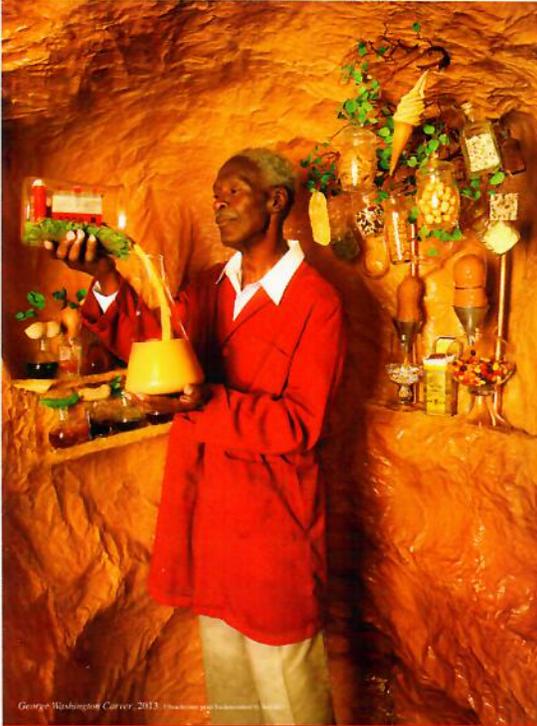


Split Oak Basket Making Workshop WITH GERALDINE ROBERTSON

Thanks to a Pass It On Grant from the Louisiana Folklore Society, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and support from Louisiana Folklife Program Director Maida Owens, West Baton Rouge Museum was afforded the opportunity to work with Louisiana tradition bearer, Geraldine Robertson for a second year in a row. Geraldine is the last known split oak basket maker in the state, and her craft is on the state's endangered list of traditions. During the week of Monday, April 8 through Friday, April 12, 2024, eleven participants ranging in age from

nine years old to senior citizens and ages in between gathered for a week-long workshop offered with the intent to pass along this cultural practice. Several of the students in attendance were repeat participants from last year's class who were eager for the opportunity to further hone their skills under Geraldine Robertson's tutelage. A special thanks also goes to Port Hudson State Historic Site and Louisiana State Arboretum for leading us on a nature walk on the first day of class. The rest of the week was spent at West Baton Rouge Museum's barn harvesting weaving materials from cut trees and fashioning them into handmade baskets.





JULY 9 - 10 2024

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

**BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION:
EVOLUTION OF THE REVOLUTION**

The Teachers' Institute is limited to 20 participants. Participants are accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Applicants should be actively engaged in the teaching profession. For more information, please call André St. Romain at (225) 336-2422.

Historical Happy Hour

July 19th	Blue Crab Redemption
August 16th	Jemini Venture
Sept. 20th	Florida Street Blowhards

2024 SUGAR FEST

OCTOBER 6

SAVE THE DATE



WEST
BATON
ROUGE
MUSEUM
ASSOCIATION



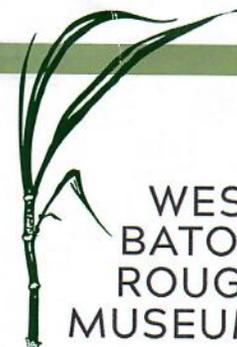
NEWSLETTER
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A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER
ÉCOUTEZ



WEST
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A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Monthly Programs

- 1ST FRIDAYS, 1PM:** *Le Café Français*. GRATUIT
- 1ST SUNDAYS, 3PM:** *Behind the Barn Doors*. FREE
- 2ND SATURDAYS, 3PM:** *Explorations in Genealogy*. FREE
- 2ND SUNDAYS, 3PM:** *Old Time Jam*. FREE
- 3RD FRIDAYS, 6PM:** *Historical Happy Hour*. FREE
- 3RD SUNDAYS, 3PM:** *CFMA Cajun Jam*. FREE
- 4TH SATURDAYS, 3PM:** *Children's Art workshops*. FREE
- LAST TUESDAYS, 6PM:** *Yoga*. FREE

