

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."



FALL
2024

NEWSLETTER ÉCOUTEZ



A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



OCTOBER 6 • 11AM - 4PM

Sweet Treats • Live Music • Folk Art Demonstrations

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM'S SUGARFEST OCTOBER 6, 2024 | 11 AM - 4 PM

**WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM
WOULD LIKE TO THANK
THE SPONSORS AND ALL OF OUR
VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR
SUPPORT WHICH HELP MAKE
SUGARFEST POSSIBLE.**



On Sunday, October 6 from 11 AM - 4 PM, come have a sweet ole time at the WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM'S SUGARFEST! This 29th annual sweet celebration of the sugar cane harvest has been growing strong since 1995. SugarFest provides visitors of all ages with a free opportunity to learn about local culture, music and history. There will be traditional folk art and occupational craft demonstrations, a peek inside museum exhibits and historic buildings, cane cutting and grinding demonstrations, cane syrup boiling, and live music. New this year will be a live auction at 1 PM in the Big Red Barn presided by Brian Fourroux featuring hand crafted items from an anonymous donor to raise funds for the museum. Food and drink will be available for purchase (including a chicken stew fundraiser for the WBRHA), and artists will be selling their wares. Of course, there will be lots of sugary treats, fresh chewing cane samples, and a sweets contest. For more information on the Sweets Contest, visit www.westbatonrougemuseum.org. For those age 21 and over, there will be a rum tasting and discussion on how this spirit is made from Louisiana's sweetest cash crop. SUGARFEST IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE, SUGAR!



SWEET TREATS • LIVE MUSIC • FOLK ART DEMONSTRATIONS

LES LETTRES



Dear all,

Dare I say autumn is in the air as I write to you all on this early September, rainy day? My childhood autumns were tinged with a smokey sweet smell wafting over Brusly from the smokestack at Cinclare Sugar Mill and for me, autumn will forever conjure pleasant memories of burning cane fields, the bustling trucks and workers all around as they harvest and process cane and Cinclare's 6am and 6pm whistle.

And, of course, autumn also means **SugarFest!** The Museum and Historical Association have been busy behind the scenes planning to make this year's event a success.

The Historical Association will once again be sponsoring a fundraising dinner. This year it is chicken stew by the Jambalaya Shoppe. Thank you to Ashley Coco for taking on the dinner logistics this year. The ever-popular sweets booth will be stocked with homemade goodies you can't get anywhere else. If you would like to contribute something sweet and delicious, get in touch with booth chair, Mary Bennett.

FALL 2024 ÉCOUTEZ letter

Thank you for following our journey

WEST BATON ROUGE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BRIAN FALCON Board President



Last year at the festival, I discovered Alma Plantation's sugar cane juice stand, and I was instantly hooked. A shot of Alma's Oxbow Rum Distillery product from their neighboring booth was a little twist of cocktail magic. Be warned. The rum is just a sample and only for the adults.

The Historical Association's card party was a resounding success this past July. Thank you to all of our board members, their families and the museum staff who volunteered to pull it off. We are happy to see its continued popularity with attendees from within and outside of our parish.

Come spend part of your autumn with us at the museum and SugarFest!

Brian Falcon
WBRHA President





Dear Friends,

We had a busy summer at the museum with our annual Blast from the Past Summer History Camp and Teachers' Institute centered on the *Evolution of the Revolution* exhibit. We celebrated local musicians in July at the West Baton Rouge Music and Heritage Festival. We focused on local history in the exhibits *Spaces and Places: Historic Black Churches of West Baton Rouge* and *West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation: Building A Community*. The community turned out with a record-breaking attendance for the lunchtime lecture with LeeDell Woods, a tribute to his legacy with the Parks and Rec Department.

In August, we opened the 3rd annual exhibition on New Orleans sculptor Angela Gregory; this one focused on her monuments and architectural commissions. And in September we hosted the annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron lecture with Hollywood actor John Mese, a Baton Rouge native, who spoke on his own experiences backstage in Hollywood to compliment the traveling exhibit, *Backstage Hollywood*.

We're now gearing up for a fall full of programs starting with SugarFest on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Our Explorations in Genealogy series co-hosted with the WBR Genealogical Society will welcome Dr. Christophe Landry on October 12th to discuss Creole language and genealogy. Explorations in Genealogy will take a break in November and December due to the busy holiday season. We look forward to the series return in 2025. The Library will once again co-host the Merry-Not-Scary-Halloween program on Friday, October 18th. On November 10th we welcome the return of the Veterans on Parade for a patriotic ceremony on the museum grounds following the parade.

FALL 2024

Director's Letter



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

ANGÉLIQUE BERGERON, PH.D. Executive Director

The museum will open an exhibit of Haitian Art from the Jacques Bartoli Collection on November 2nd with a new monthly program Kafé Kréyol-la (Creole Coffee). Like the monthly Café Français, the Kafé Kréyol-la is a gathering of Creole speakers or folks who are interested in the Creole language and culture. Held from 10:30-noon the 1st Saturday of the month, the inaugural program will highlight similarities and differences in Haitian and Louisiana Creole. We will celebrate the exhibit at our Historical Happy Hour on November 15th with music provided by multifaceted Louisiana zydeco accordionist, Bruce Sunpie Barnes.

We will host the My French Book Fest with le Consul General de la Nouvelle Orléans and L'Alliance Française de la Nouvelle Orléans November 14 – 16th. Be sure to stop by to purchase children's books written in French or sign up for special French themed tours designed for school groups and the public.

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities will hold another Institute of Louisiana Culture and History workshop on December 7th at the West Baton Rouge Museum. The workshop will focus on Louisiana's Reconstruction era history. Interested educators should apply for this training opportunity.

This year, the museum will welcome in the holiday season by returning Holiday Open House to an evening event. Join us on Friday, December 13th for this annual program.

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

Angélique Bergeron, PH.D.
Executive Director

Institute for Louisiana Culture and History (ILCH) Regional Workshop for Social Studies K–12 Educators at the West Baton Rouge Museum

This winter, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) will host an Institute for Louisiana Culture and History (ILCH) regional workshop for social studies K–12 educators at the West Baton Rouge Museum on Saturday, December 7th. The workshop will focus on Louisiana's Reconstruction-era history in alignment with the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) latest 7th grade social studies standards.

The workshop will provide Louisiana public school social studies educators the opportunity to build their content knowledge. They will engage with historians and participate in social studies working sessions exploring the expanded standards-aligned content found on LEH's 64 Parishes online encyclopedia, 64parishes.org.

The institute will provide a \$150 stipend to all regional workshop participants on completion of the one-day workshop. Applications for each workshop will open one month before the workshop date and will be evaluated on a rolling basis. Social studies educators and specialists employed by public schools in Louisiana, with a preference for those working with 7th grade social studies content, are encouraged to apply.



INSTITUTE FOR **LOUISIANA**
CULTURE & HISTORY

FREE SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES AND PAID WORKSHOPS for Louisiana social studies K–12 educators

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities' Institute for Louisiana Culture and History provides reliable, accessible Louisiana social studies resources to K–12 students and their teachers through workshops and free content at 64parishes.org.

REGIONAL ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

- Saturdays throughout the school year
- Take place at cultural sites across Louisiana
- Build content knowledge and participate in social studies working sessions

The institute will provide a \$150 stipend to all regional workshop participants on completion of the one-day workshop.

TOPIC AND GRADE LEVEL



2024-25
7th Grade Focus

Reconstruction Louisiana history in alignment with the LDOE's new 7th-grade social studies standards



SUMMER INTENSIVE WORKSHOP

The institute's three-day summer intensive workshop takes place in New Orleans at The Helis Foundation John Scott Center.

The institute will provide a \$250 stipend to all summer intensive workshop participants. Applications will open in early 2025.



(504) 356-0509

shelburne@leh.org

leh.org



FIRST SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

Kafé Kréyol-la

Louisiana Creole speakers
of all levels are invited to the

West Baton Rouge Museum Classroom
from 10:30am-Noon

to shoot the breeze with a snack

Curators' Corner

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

BACKSTAGE HOLLYWOOD
NOW- THROUGH OCTOBER 20

**HAITIAN ART:
THE JACQUES BARTOLI COLLECTION**
NOVEMBER 2, 2024- JANUARY 26, 2025



AMANDA MOAK



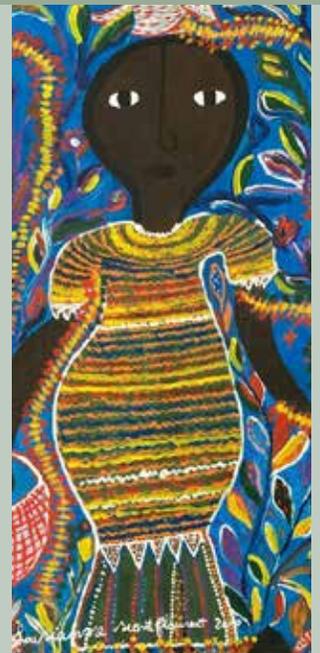
LAUREN HAWTHORNE

Backstage Hollywood

There is still time to view the exhibition, Backstage Hollywood: The Photographs of Bob Willoughby at the West Baton Rouge Museum. Willoughby, widely recognized as a pioneer of photography in the twentieth century, was the first outside photographer invited by studios to take photos on film sets. Come experience movies from the other side of the camera, see stars at their most candid, and learn about Willoughby's process through the years. The exhibition features photographs from the sets of 17 iconic Hollywood films, and will captivate the community as they witness the impact this photographer had in developing the genre of celebrity portraiture.

Haitian Art: The Jacques Bartoli Collection

Passionate about the culture of his home country, Haiti, Jacques Bartoli prides himself on the long-term relationship he has built with local artists, curating a collection that includes paintings, sculptures, and sacred art flags. His art collection has been on view at the Grand Palais in Paris, the University of Los Angeles in California, the city de Suresnes in France, the Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, the American Natural History Museum in New York, the Lloyd Museum in Chicago, and now the West Baton Rouge Museum in Port Allen. Take a deep dive into Haitian culture through the vibrant colors and impactful depictions of the people and places that make up this one-of-a-kind collection.



Portrait d'enfants
Louisiane Saint Fleurant

Join us for a

2024

**Merry Not
Scary**

HALLOWEEN

Friday, October 18th
6:00-8:00 p.m.



The West Baton Rouge Museum and West Baton Rouge Library invite the whole family to an event that brings tricks, treats, vintage games, crafts, and entertainment to the museum grounds. Halloween costumes are welcome. And, don't forget your treat bag. In front of the Juke Joint at 6:15 we will have a Halloween dance performance by the "friendly witches" of Ogden Park neighborhood. This year's featured entertainment is professional storyteller Oneal Isaac, at 6:45 PM and 7:15 PM on the Juke Joint stage.

Free lemonade will be available while supplies last thanks to a generous donation from Raising Cane's. Food will be available for purchase from the Bean Dip Factory and Sweet Abundance food trucks.



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



Pics from Past Programs

Blast from the Past Summer History Camp

West Baton Rouge Museum's 29th annual "Blast from the Past" summer history camp series featured a theme of "Lights, Camera, Action!" Campers ages 6-12 took an adventure through time to learn about film, photography, motion pictures, and action taken by individuals in history to make a difference. The theme was inspired by the exhibition

Evolution of the Revolution, a multi-media installation created by Surreal Box Cinema. Eighty campers partook in activities focused on optical toys and early forms of entertainment that led to the art of making movies. After this awesome summer, we may have some future movie industry professionals in the making!



Pics from Past Programs

Angela Gregory's Monuments and Architectural Commissions



Angela Gregory's Monuments and Architectural Commissions opened on August 23, 2024 with presentations by former student Deborah Luke and curator Elizabeth Weinstein, sculpture demonstrations with Aliah James, and music by harpist Becca Babin.



Sights and sounds of the museum

Historical Happy Hours

Historical Happy Hours featured Kenny Acosta in June and Blue Crab Redemption in July. In August, Jemini Venture performed for a Historical Happy Hour reception for the West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation: Building a Community exhibit.



Explorations in Genealogy:

Brian Costello shared his research into Louisiana's rural Jewish community in April. Stella Carline Tanoos discussed Isleños history in May. Gaynell Brady presented on African American genealogy in June, R. Martin Guidry presented on Acadian history in July, while Andrew Capone presented on Italian Immigrants in August.



Pics from Past Programs



History Lesson Bishop Ivory Payne, pictured with his wife, gave a history of St. Mark's Church on July 11, 2024.



Guest lecturer LeeDell Woods On August 22, guest lecturer LeeDell Woods presented on his career and accomplishments at West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation and beyond. His daughter, Apostle Stacey Woods, serenaded him with a blessing.



Lazarro Nettles performed at the West Baton Rouge Music and Heritage Festival on July 20, 2024. If you look closely, you'll find him depicted in the Malaika Favorite mural in the background.

HAITIAN ART: THE JACQUES BARTOLI COLLECTION



NOVEMBER 2, 2024 - JANUARY 26, 2025

Portrait d'enfants
Louise Saint Fleurant



IN GENEALOGY

WBR Genealogical Society presents

Saturday, October 12

10:30 AM - 12PM

Creole Language and Genealogy

with guest speaker,

Christophe Landry, Ph.D.



Thank You!

FOR YOUR SERVICE, FOR YOUR SACRIFICE, FOR OUR FREEDOM

VETERANS ON PARADE

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 DOWNTOWN PORT ALLEN, 1:30 P.M.

CALL THE WEST BATON ROUGE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU 225-344-2920



WWW.WESTBATONROUGE.NET



BEHIND THE BARN DOORS

FIRST SUNDAYS AT 2PM



Join us on the first Sunday of the month in the big red barn for featured demonstrations and instructional workshops including Blacksmithing, Spinning and Weaving, and Woodworking.

For more information call 225.336.2422 or check our website www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org.



WEST
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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 2024

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Lennette Lasseigne
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Brilliant Clayton
David Couvillon, Chair
Joycelyn Green
William Kleinpeter, Treasurer
Drew Maciasz
Rose Roché, Vice Chair
Lorry Trotter
Sadie Payne Woods
Katherine Andre, ex-officio



Monthly Programs

- 1ST FRIDAYS, 1PM:** *Le Café Français*. GRATUIT
- 1ST SATURDAYS, 10:30AM:** *Kafé Kréyol-la*. GRATUIT
- 1ST SUNDAYS, 2PM:** *Behind the Barn Doors*. FREE
- 2ND SATURDAYS, 10:30AM:** *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, 10:30AM:** *Children's Art workshops*. FREE
- LAST TUESDAYS, 6PM:** *Yoga*. FREE