

GOVERNOR'S *Arts*
AWARDS



MAY 18, 2005

SHAW CENTER FOR THE ARTS

MANSHIP THEATRE

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Program

OPENING RECEPTION 5:30 PM
CEREMONY 6:30 PM

WELCOME

The Honorable Mitchell J. Landrieu
Lt. Governor, State of Louisiana

REMARKS

The Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor, State of Louisiana

PRESENTATION OF 2005 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

Mistress of Ceremonies, Angèle Davis
Secretary, Department of Culture, Recreation
and Tourism



Awards

OUTSTANDING LARGE ARTS ORGANIZATION

New Orleans Ballet Association

OUTSTANDING SMALL ARTS ORGANIZATION

Chorale Acadienne

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO ARTS EDUCATION

Alvin Batiste

CREATIVE TICKET NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

Baton Rouge Magnet High School

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Olympia Vernon

FOLK ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Po'Henry and Tookie, Delta Blues Duo
Henry Dorsey and Wayne "Tookie" Collum

OUTSTANDING PROMOTION OF THE ARTS

Christine Broussard

ARTS PATRON OF THE YEAR

Myrtis L. Nims

CULTURAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Acadiana Arts Council and Lafayette
Economic Development Authority
Louisiana Crossroads

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown

ARTS ORGANIZATION, LARGE

New Orleans Ballet Association New Orleans

Established in 1969, the New Orleans Ballet (NOBA) is the lead dance presenting and service organization in Louisiana and the central Gulf region. NOBA presents the highest-caliber and the most internationally-recognized dance companies from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Les Ballet de Monte-Carlo, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago to name a few. But presenting high-caliber dance companies is not their only mission. NOBA's Education Programs are recognized nationally for their work within the community. Through a partnership with the New Orleans Recreation Department, NOBA provides tuition-free after-school dance activities. Last year, they offered more than 2500 free dance classes and workshops to the community and more than 450 artists benefited from the NOBA Dance Network, offering opportunities for emerging and established careers in dance and arts management. This past spring, NOBA/New Orleans Public Schools Arts in Education partnership was selected as one of 12 national sites for the Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program. Another program, Creative Communities, targets youth and families living in Orleans Parish public housing communities. This program is one of 20 national pilot sites funded through the National Endowment for the Arts. Through their cutting-edge and high caliber performances and nationally recognized dance education programs, NOBA reaches more than 50,000 dance enthusiasts annually.

ARTS ORGANIZATION, SMALL

Chorale Acadienne Lafayette

Chorale Acadienne in Lafayette presents, in both a capella and accompanied form, the finest choral works from over fifty composers and spanning five centuries. The Chorale consists of seventy volunteer singers. In 1979, the organization's initial subscription season sold fewer than one hundred tickets. Since then, the Chorale has built a solid audience on a budget of less than \$80,000. Although a small organization, they have had huge successes, including performing with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Baton Rouge Symphony and Acadiana Symphony; guest narration by Vincent Price; a performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; a world-tour to perform in Prague, Czech Republic with the Czech National Symphony; and an upcoming performance in Carnegie Hall in New York in June 2005. The Carnegie performance will feature a newly commissioned work by tenor section leader, Dr. Paul Baker. Grammy Award winner Vance George, conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, has served as guest conductor on three occasions. The Chorale is under the direction of Dr. James Haygood, who is also the director of Choral Activities at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

ARTS EDUCATION

Alvin Batiste New Orleans/Baton Rouge

Alvin Batiste's work as a music educator spans five decades. He is the founder/director of Southern University's Jazz and Louisiana Music Institute which started in 1965. Mr. Batiste is also the author of *The Root Progression Process: The Fundamentals of African American Music*, a jazz textbook for all instruments and voice. As a young musician, he became one of the nation's first three jazz educators to work as an artist in residence in public schools. He has taught some of the country's most celebrated jazz musicians, composers, recording artists and educators, including Branford Marsalis, Herman Jackson, Henry Butler, Donald Harrison, Kent Jordan, Randy Jackson, among others. His work has won him Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Louisiana Division of the Arts, the National Association of Jazz Educators' National Humanitarian Award, the International Association of Jazz Educator's Lifetime Achievement Award, Offbeat Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award for Arts Education, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society's Education Award and Southern University's Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Batiste is currently the lead teacher in jazz instrumental music at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts. He holds a Master's degree of Music in clarinet performance and composition from Louisiana State University and a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Southern University.

CREATIVE TICKET NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

Baton Rouge Magnet High School

The Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education, Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network and the National School Boards Association present the Creative Ticket National School of Distinction award. Five schools nationally are being recognized as *Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction* for the 2003-2004 school year. The award recognizes schools that have done an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of the education of their students.

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Olympia Vernon Hammond

Olympia Vernon completed her MFA in Creative Writing from Louisiana State University in 2002 and already her first two works, "Eden" and "Logic" were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. She is also nominated for the Robert O. Butler Award for Fiction and the Rolex Mentor and Protégé for the Arts Initiative in Switzerland. In 2004, she received the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. As a writer, only her own words could best describe who she is, "A child born unto earth, I was raised in Mt. Hermon, Louisiana and migrated to Osyka, Mississippi. It is no wonder the earth and dust I had been born into, the earth and dust of Louisiana, stained upon me the profound, migratory birthmark of literature." "A Killing in This Town," her third body of literature, will be published in January 2006 by Grove Atlantic. At an age when more writers are just beginning their professional careers, Olympia Vernon is already a name to reckon with in American Literature. Ms. Vernon is currently writer-in-residence at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

FOLK ARTIST

Po'Henry & Tookie, Delta Blues Duo

(Henry Dorsey and Wayne "Tookie" Collom) Rayville

Representing the best of northeast Louisiana traditional old-style Delta blues, Po' Henry and Tookie have been playing together since 1986. Designated as leading figures of the blues revival in the region, they play the older acoustic blues originating in the Louisiana and Mississippi Delta region, in a style reminiscent of the great old blues legends Muddy Waters, Lightning Hopkins, John B. Hooker, and Jimmy Reed. Henry Dorsey, Po' Henry on guitar and vocals, was born in Oak Ridge, Louisiana. Around the age of eight, he made his first traditional instrument – a one-string guitar with broom wire strung up on the side of the house with bottles for pegs. Known as Tookie since childhood, Wayne Collom, born in Vivian, Louisiana, learned to play the guitar from his grandfather. During the 1960s, Tookie was lead singer and harp (harmonica) player and later bass player in the band, the Roller Coasters, which performed throughout the South and had releases on the Holiday Inn record label. Since joining forces in the 80s, the two have become regulars in the festival circuit, performing regularly at the Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Louisiana Folklife Festival, and at other regional festivals including the Greenville, Mississippi Delta Blues and Heritage Festival and the Rayville Southern Pickin' and Grinnin' festival. In 1997, they participated in the Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife, a two-week festival in Washington, DC. They performed on both the main music stage and in more intimate work stages where they displayed to national audiences their traditional authentic style of music and frank discussions of life on the cotton farm.

PROMOTION OF THE ARTS

Christine Broussard Minden

Since 1985, Chris Broussard has been dedicated to providing cultural enrichment and promoting the arts in Minden and Webster parish. Nearly one million dollars has come to Minden for economic development by utilizing the arts and culture. Through the efforts of Ms. Broussard, Cultural Crossroads of Minden – the official arts organization of Webster Parish – has received nearly \$100,000 in grant money for the arts, a capital outlay grant for \$360,000 to renovate the Shadows Farm (one of only two commemorative areas in Northwest

Louisiana), and the organization accepted a gift of four acres from the city to create the Moess Center for Arts & City Farm, which in future development will include a cultural arts center with an acoustical theatre for musical and theatrical productions. Ms. Broussard was also instrumental in developing a partnership with the Dorcheat Historical Association that resulted in the opening of the Neighborhood Art Gallery & Museum. Cultural Crossroads renovated the once vacant building in Minden's downtown. She also pioneers the promotion of the arts regionally through a monthly publication called "The Minute Magazine" where she regularly writes articles about the arts and artists in the area. Chris Broussard an art teacher and volunteer for the arts.

PATRON

Myrtis L. Nims River Ridge

Mrs. Myrtis "Jeri" Nims, along with her late husband Robert E. Nims, built a financial success story with the Lucky Coin Machine Company and AMA distributors. In 1999, Mrs. Nims and her husband endowed \$1.2 million to the University of New Orleans to create the Robert E. Nims Center for Entertainment Arts and Technology. The Nims Center will have a significant and permanent impact on the education of future artists in Louisiana and has proven instrumental in making UNO the leader in the burgeoning film and video industry in Louisiana. Mrs. Nims subsequent \$10 million gift to the University of New Orleans created the Jeri Nims School of the Arts and will coordinate the university's programs in fine arts, theatre, film, communications, and music programs, including a celebrated program for jazz performers. This monetary gift is the largest in the school's 44-year history. Other major arts institutions benefiting from Mrs. Nims contributions include Louisiana ArtWorks, New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts and a fine arts center at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. In 2002, Ms. Nims was recognized nationally by the Chronicle of Philanthropy as one of the 50 largest American charitable contributors in the United States.

CULTURAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Acadiana Arts Council and Lafayette Economic Development Authority

Louisiana Crossroads Lafayette

In five short years the Acadiana Arts Council and Lafayette Economic Development Authority's Louisiana Crossroads has emerged as an essential model for partnerships and innovator in the state's cultural and economic development efforts. Louisiana Crossroads began as a concert series in a self created, smoke free venue known as the Art House. The concerts follow a simple formula: invite artists to try new things and make the audience part of the artistic and cultural experience. Enjoying phenomenal success, Louisiana Crossroads' 51 concerts have enthralled audiences and been regionally broadcast on KRVS and worldwide through its web site. Crossroads has become a cultural economy development initiative, record label and more by mining the creativity and power found at the nexus where arts, industry, tourism, culture, folklore, education, government and economic development intersect.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown Slidell

The 80-year old, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, born in Vinton, Louisiana now residing in Slidell, is a singer and multi-instrumentalist embracing jazz, blues, jump blues, country, swing, Cajun and rhythm and blues. He is an unparalleled roots-music master and pioneer. His work is revered across Europe and elsewhere inside and outside the United States. His music is recorded almost entirely in Louisiana at various studios: Studio in the Country in Bogalusa, Dockside in Maurice, Ultrasonic in New Orleans. Brown burst onto the music scene in 1947 as an important innovator on the electric guitar. He won the first Grammy award presented in the Traditional Blues category in 1982 with his release titled "Alright Again!" He is in the Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame, a multiple recipient of the W.C. Handy Awards and past winner of the Entertainer of the Year Award from the Blues Foundation. He has received the prestigious Rhythm and Blues Foundation's Pioneer Award. The Country Music Association included him in their 25th Anniversary Celebration televised on CBS, and their museum in Nashville has his memorabilia on display. He continues to tour extensively spreading the music of Louisiana with over one hundred performing dates each year.

Acknowledgements

LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Christine A. Weeks, *Chair*
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Anna Brakenridge
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Jose S. Canseco
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STATE OF LOUISIANA

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, *Governor*
Mitchell J. Landrieu, *Lieutenant Governor*
Angèle Davis, *Secretary, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism*
Pam Breaux, *Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development*
Veronique LeMelle, *Louisiana Division of the Arts*

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COVER ART: "The New South" by Terrance Osborne

Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism commissioned Terrance Osborne to create the piece of art found on the cover of this program. Osborne has captured the special feel of Louisiana's cultural economy with this colorful and festive portrayal of our architecture, our music, our people and our great outdoors. The artwork communicates the true nature of our people enjoying Louisiana's culture throughout the piece. The original artwork is acrylic on wood, pieced together to form a three-dimensional 9-foot collage relief.



Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM