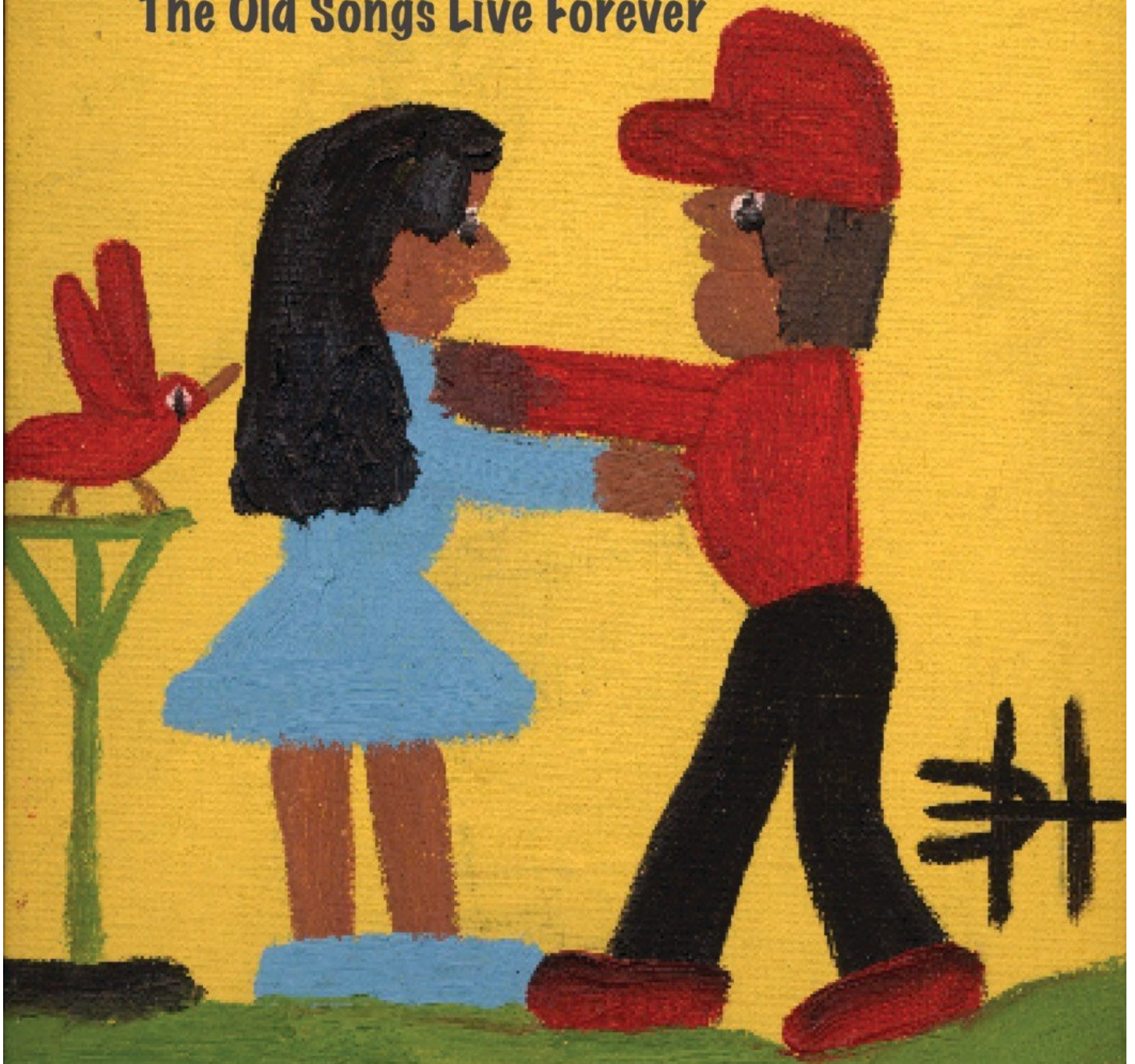


**Natchitoches-NSU 44th Annual**

# **Folk Festival**

**The Old Songs Live Forever**

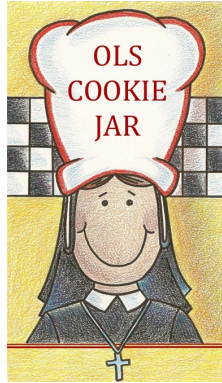


"Dancin'" by Clementine Hunter  
From the collection of Tommy Whitehead

**2024**



# Thanks to Our In-Kind Supporters!



Welcome back!

In honor of this year's theme, The Old Songs Live Forever, we've invited some of the state's finest musicians, crafts people, and cultural authorities to help celebrate Louisiana's rich and living folk legacy. We are pleased to welcome back past favorites Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs, now in their 30<sup>th</sup> year playing together. This year also features Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers, the Forest Huval Cajun Band, Brandon Degeyer and The Mire Playboys, Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe, the Armadillo Jackal Band, Fire of Tierra Caliente, The Rick Adams Band, The Thistle Dancers and Pipers, the Zion Harmonizers, and traditional songs and dances by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe. The Festival will also fiddler Clancey Stewart leading free square dance lessons accompanied by live music from the Willie Stewart Bluegrass Band, a special performance by Grupo de Danza Folklórica Mexicana Ketzaly, and a musical patriotic tribute by the Victory Belles performing World War II-era songs in three-part harmony. Vive la Louisiane! This year we're also excited to host a Jambalaya Cookoff, in which professionals and hobbyists alike will compete. Bon Appetit!



Without the support of our many loyal Festival patrons and Northwestern State University, we would not be able to bring you this event. We want to thank our many donors for their generous support. Having financial support for the Festival has allowed us to focus upon many narrative and folk elements within Louisiana's culture. Additionally, the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., the Louisiana Division of the Arts Decentralized Arts Fund Program, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, and the State of Louisiana have each generously awarded grants to support the Folk Festival. We appreciate the support of these groups more than words can express.

We cannot express enough thanks to those who have supported the Festival through the donation of their time. The Folk Festival Steering Committee and general volunteers participate in the Festival without pay although their efforts are priceless. Without our volunteers, this Festival could not be held.

Please be sure to fill out the Festival survey forms so that we can know the ways in which the Festival can be improved and the ways in which it is succeeding. And don't forget to come back in 2025 when the Festival will feature Cajun music with Amis du Teche, zydeco with Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, Western swing with Kristyn Harris, rockabilly with Brandy Roberts, and blues with the incredible D.K. Harrell. See you next year! - Shane Rasmussen

**City of Natchitoches and  
Natchitoches City Council Proclamation for  
Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Day 2024**

June 8, 2024

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Folklife Center was established at Northwestern State University in 1976 to identify, document, and present Louisiana's cultural and folk traditions and to provide public access to this material by means of the annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival; and

WHEREAS, the Festival has twice been selected as a "Travel Treasure" by AAA Southern Traveler, has been selected three times as a "Top Twenty Event" by the southeast Tourism Society, has received special recognition in 2006 from Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu for promoting Louisiana's culture, and is well attended by Louisianans as well as by many from surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, the Festival will celebrate its 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year on July 20<sup>th</sup> and will feature high caliber Louisiana traditional artists in the visual and performing arts, with three stages of music, the annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship, Kidfest, exhibits, Louisiana foods, narrative sessions, music informances, and traditional material culture demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, the Festival provides opportunities for patrons to experience the rich variety of Louisiana's folkways, validates Louisiana's traditional arts to a new generation, encourages young people to become involved in the arts by taking up tradition, and strengthens community ties by highlighting traditional cultures;

Now, therefore, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, do hereby proclaim July 20, 2024 as Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Day in the City of Natchitoches, and invite all residents to participate in and enjoy all the festivities and culture the Festival has to offer.



# Table of Contents

City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches City Council Proclamation for Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Day 2024 .....	Page 4
In Memoriam.....	Page 6
Dr. Donald W. Hatley	
Bessie Jones	
Gregory Alvin Lloid	
Nelda Lorene “Lori” Tate	
Honorary Festival Chair, Brazella Briscoe.....	Page 11
Hall of Master Folk Artists.....	Page 12
Cynthia Ramirez	
The Zion Harmonizers	
Prather Coliseum Diagram.....	Page 14
Event Schedule.....	Page 15
Narrative Sessions & Exhibits.....	Page 16
Live Music Schedule.....	Page 17
Outdoors Demonstrations.....	Page 18
KidsFest.....	Page 20
Festival Music.....	Page 21
Dance Demonstrations.....	Page 25
Festival Crafts.....	Page 26
Festival Food.....	Page 36
Festival Contributors.....	Page 37
Many Thanks.....	Page 38
Festival Steering Committee	

# In Memoriam

## Dr. Donald W. Hatley



Dr. Donald W. Hatley passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 18, 2023.

The youngest of three brothers, Hatley was born on June 1, 1940, in Dike, Texas to Jasper Lee and Gladys Lucille (McDonald) Hatley. He attended Sulphur Springs High School where he was an all-star football player in the state of Texas. Don received his B.A. and M.A. from Texas A&M University in Commerce, Texas. Before earning his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, he pursued a doctorate in divinity at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

In 1968, Hatley joined the faculty of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana as an Assistant Professor of Languages. His early accomplishments at NSU include serving as president of the Faculty Senate and founding the Distinguished Lecture Series which brought many prominent national figures to speak at Northwestern. Along with publishing numerous academic journal articles, Hatley made countless presentations on folklife at regional, national, and international conferences.

In 1980, Don, along with H.F. Pete Gregory, created one of the most successful and longlisting Louisiana festivals – The Natchitoches- NSU Folk Festival. For two decades, Hatley directed the annual festival which was named as one of the Top 20 Monthly Tourism Events in the region by the Southeastern Tourism Association and features the long running Louisiana State Fiddling Contest.



His passion for folklore led him to create the Louisiana Folklife Center in 1976. Serving as director of the center for 23 years, he worked tirelessly to guarantee its position as a permanent agency of Northwestern State University. The folklife center continues to record and preserve Louisiana's folk culture and has amassed over 5,000 hours of audiotape and a substantial array of resources which continue to be used by researchers around the world.

Hatley developed what is known today as the Master of Arts in English: Folklife/ Southern Culture Concentration. In 2004, Hatley was inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists. He continued to assist with the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival serving as emcee for the main stage during the 2023 festival.

Hatley produced, directed, and consulted on numerous audiovisual projects for several organizations including CBS, Turner Broadcasting, and the Louisiana Division of the Arts. He was executive producer of the "The Great Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941: The Winnfield Story," which aired on Louisiana Public Broadcasting in 2004.

For much of his life, Hatley dedicated himself to historic preservation. He was the first chairman of the Natchitoches Historic Development Commission. He was the approving agent for the National Center for Historic Preservation and Training playing a substantial role in keeping the Center on NSU's campus and in Natchitoches.

Hatley was named Dean of the NSU College of Liberal Arts in 1997. While he served as dean, the College of Liberal Arts added new undergraduate degree programs in criminal justice and heritage resources and added a graduate degree in heritage resources. During his tenure as dean, the departments of Creative and Performing Arts and Social Sciences were renamed as Schools as a reflection of the growth and heightened standing of the programs. The Departments of Social Work and Criminal Justice were created, and the College experienced a 30 percent growth in enrollment.

The College of Liberal Arts also played an active role in public service under Hatley's leadership through the establishment of the Louisiana Creole Heritage Center and the Gulf States Regional Center for Public Safety Innovations. Both programs brought regional and national interest to NSU.

Upon his retirement in 2008, Hatley received the titles of dean emeritus and professor emeritus concluding a 40-year career at NSU. He was honored by then Natchitoches Mayor Wayne McCullen who designated July as "Don Hatley Month" in the City of Natchitoches. Hatley received the Nth Degree in recognition of unselfish devotion to duty and the willingness to go the "extra mile" in meritorious service to mankind. When speaking about his time at NSU, Hatley said, "I am humbled by the honors I have received. It is gratifying to be recognized by those you have known and worked with for many years. I have enjoyed my time at Northwestern and the wonderful people I have worked with."

Hatley served the community as the first Natchitoches Central High School president of the Parent Teacher Student Organization and a Natchitoches Cub Scout troop leader. He was a lifelong supporter of the Natchitoches Humane Society and advisor to the NSU chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity.

After his retirement from NSU, Hatley created a successful online book and baseball business named Don's Bayou Books. At the time of his death, he was writing a book on boyhood experiences in northeast Texas during the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

He is survived by the love of his life and spouse of 62-years, Mikell Sue (Skeen) Hatley of Natchitoches; daughter Dr. Lesa Hatley Major and her husband Allen C. Major of Bloomington, Indiana; son, LTC John C. Hatley, currently stationed at Fort Johnson, Louisiana, and his wife Dr. Sylwia Ruschel Hatley of Heidelberg, Germany; grandson Eric Lewis; and brother Bill W. Hatley of Panama City, Florida. Don was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Jimmy D. Hatley of New Braunfels, Texas.

## **Bessie Jones**

On December 18th, 2023 at 8:18 pm, Bessie Mae Jones transitioned from time to eternity. Bessie was born on October 23rd 1958 to the late Silane fittion Sr, and the late Mary Lee Hamilton. She was the fifth of seven children. Bessie accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized under the leadership of the late Rev. Pompy Gille at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. She was a graduate of the Natchitoches Central High School class of 1976. She received her degree from Northwestern State University.

On February 16, 1985, she entered into a covenant of Holy Matrimony with Stevenson Jones Sr. and to this union two sons were born; Stevenson Jones II and Javon Jones. She was employed by Northwestern State University for thirty-one years and worked in several different departments; the last department was NSU Folk Life. Her official retirement date was scheduled for 12/31/23.



Bessie's hobbies were spending time with her grandchild, nieces and nephews, also cooking and watching Gunsmoke!

She was proceeded in death by a sister, Ella Mae Hamilton.

She leaves to cherish her memories; a loving and devoted husband, Stevenson Jones Sr., two sons, Stevenson Jones the I of Houston TX, Javon Jones of Natchitoches, La, one sister, Rosa Gray-Davis (Johnnie), four brothers, Robert Hamilton Sr. (Catherine), of Natchitoches, La, Rodney Hamilton Sr. of New Orleans, La, Silas Hamilton Sr. (Debra) of Alexandria, La, John L. Hamilton, of Long Beach California. One aunt, Ms. Dollie Shields, one granddaughter, Nyla Jones of Houston, TX and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



## Gregory Alvin Lloid

Gregory Alvin Lloid passed away on Dec. 15, 2023 at his home in Pineville, LA. His death leaves a massive hole in our hearts.

Born Jan. 10, 1958 to Kermit D. and Janie Elizabeth Richardson Lloid in Alexandria, LA, Greg was the definition of the word “GREGARIOUS,” never meeting a stranger and having more friends than one can count.

Employed as a Certified Biomedical Electronics Technician by General Electric, Greg was based out of Rapides Regional Medical Center in Alexandria. As shop supervisor, he traveled all over Louisiana repairing medical equipment.



An Air Force brat, Greg lived in Louisiana, Mississippi and Hawaii, finally landing in Natchitoches. Upon graduation from Natchitoches Central High School in 1976, Greg joined the Coast Guard. Trained in electronics, he worked in communications at small boat stations on the east coast and was stationed on the United States Coast Guard Cutter Jarvis for two years, traveling between Alaska and Hawaii. He told tales of boarding and inspecting the holds of international fishing vessels in the Bering Sea.

Upon completing his military service in 1980, Greg returned to Natchitoches and married his sweetheart, Tammy Gibson. He attended Northwestern State University and graduated in 1984 with an Associate's Degree in Electronic Technology. Greg enjoyed Working at the NSU radio station KNWD (Your Mother Wouldn't Like It) as a DJ, spinning records and hanging out with his buddies.

While in college Greg worked with his dad in audiovisual and electronics installation and repair. Upon graduation from NSU, Greg joined the repair team at Kelly Ward Music in Alexandria repairing electronic instruments and visiting virtually every electronic organ in Rapides and Avoyelles parishes. Greg accepted a position as a biomedical electronics technician at Rapides General Hospital in 1988. He turned down the initial job offer because Tammy didn't want him to shave his beard, since she hadn't seen him without a beard since high school. Clean shaven for a number of years, all was well when the employer's rules were relaxed.

Greg loved life and just about everything. He loved to cook, feeding the guys at his office, and cooking for the family “Critter Dinner.” I was so glad when he got too old to re-enlist in the Coast Guard – he perked up every time he saw those watercraft. Greg was a long-time member of the RRMC Lifesavers rowing team for the Dragonboat Races in Alexandria. He loved his daughter, Alyssa, more than anything in this world. He was so proud of her achievements and especially her earning her master's degree in educational theory in December 2022.

## **Nelda Loreenne “Lori” Tate**

“You want to hear a joke?” or “Have you seen Steel Magnolias? Do you recognize me? I was the mother of the groom, Dylan McDermott,” she’d begin.... Loreenne Frasier Tate was a force to be reckoned with when she got your attention. You always left her presence feeling as if you had been in a production. Many were taken under her wing to be shown the ropes of the restaurant business, the social scene in Natchitoches, NSU, APHN, or as tourists seeing her “33 Historic Blocks” or “Steel Magnolias” Tours. Everything from Demon’s Grill to Melrose, to Hampton Inn, finally, at age “39” (89) were left with her indelible mark.



She began leading music at Rock Corner Baptist Church at age 12, graduated Ruston High and went to Shreveport to business college to launch into her career. She hostessed, worked the movie theater, saw Elvis at the beginning of his career, and met the love of her life, Clovis “Carl” Tate. Many moves and career changes, including Boeing during the first space launches and T.L. James in Ruston, finally found her in Natchitoches, her grandest stage and home. She enjoyed pleasing people: telling jokes, doing tours, was a stand-up comedienne and church hostess who wanted everyone to find their place—and enjoy it! Her family loved being taken along for the ride.

Natchitoches was her largest family. She lived and breathed its promotion and loved imploring others to get involved, too. Civic organizations felt her influence, and she, in turn, was awarded many accolades for going above and beyond, including Professional Business Woman of the Year and “Natchitoches Treasure”. She never retired, she simply moved venues to The Council on Aging exercise class, where she was expected to tell at least one joke per day, and she never disappointed. Mrs. Tate There is not enough space on a page or words in any language to encapsulate the life and love this woman both held and inspired in those she touched. Punk, Loreenne, Mrs. Tate, Ms. Lori, Mama, Mamaw, we will miss you more than we know how to say.

Lori was born on January 20, 1931 in Dubach, LA to Elton Frasier and Pearlle Luncford Frasier. She passed away on June 5, 2024 at her home in Natchitoches, with her family by her side.



## 2024 Honorary Festival Chair

### Brazella Briscoe

Brazella Earl Briscoe, Sr., is a gospel musician extraordinaire. He has traveled extensively, both within the states and abroad, spreading his love of God through the gift of song. In 1966 he joined a gospel quartet, The New Orleans Comforters, which he was blessed to travel and sing with for thirteen years. From 1979-1986 he joined a local group and continued his vocal career. It was in 1986 he was asked to join the world-renowned Zion Harmonizers. With this wonderful group he was honored to perform in castles, amphitheaters, and concert halls worldwide. He has had the privilege of performing in Holland for the President of Heineken Beer, In Brazil for the President of Mercedes Benz, and the distinct honor of having John Belushi accompany him on the harmonica at the New Orleans House of Blues.

The Zion Harmonizers was originally founded by the late Benjamin Maxon, Jr., in 1939. Upon Maxon's answer to the call of the Lord's ministry, control of the group was turned over to Mr. Sherman Washington. It was Washington who decided that the control of the prestigious group should be bestowed upon Mr. Briscoe in 2007. However, Briscoe felt that he could not accept such an honor and left control with Washington until his passing in 2011. Since that time Briscoe has humbly led the Zion Harmonizers.

Briscoe has led a full and adventurous life filled with a blessed career with the City of New Orleans. He has served as a training instructor, tractor trailer operator, land excavator, driving instructor, tire specialist, and heavy equipment operator. In 1982 he retired from the City of New Orleans. This July he will celebrate 55 years of matrimony with his lovely bride Canary Briscoe. This union has been blessed with 4 lovely children: Angela, Brazella, Jr., Brandon, and Andrew. The family has welcomed the arrival of 8 wonderful grandchildren.



## 2024 Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductee

### Cynthia Ramirez



Cynthia Ramirez is a multi-media artist who has exhibited her work in numerous local, national and international exhibitions. She received an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from the University of New Orleans (1990). She is a Professor of Fine Art at Southern University at New Orleans and taught visual art at New Orleans Recreation Department Commission (2015-19). She taught eight years in the Talented in the Visual Arts Program for the Orleans Parish Public Schools. She was Program Coordinator for the Art's Council of New Orleans' Urban Arts Training Program, a summer job program for youths creating public art in the New Orleans community. She has created a Day of the Dead Altar at the Louisiana State Museum: Cabildo, the U.S Mint, The Ogden Museum of Art (2012 -15) and the Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans. She has served as a panelist for the Visual Artist Fellowship for the Louisiana Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts Visual Art Grant panel for art education.



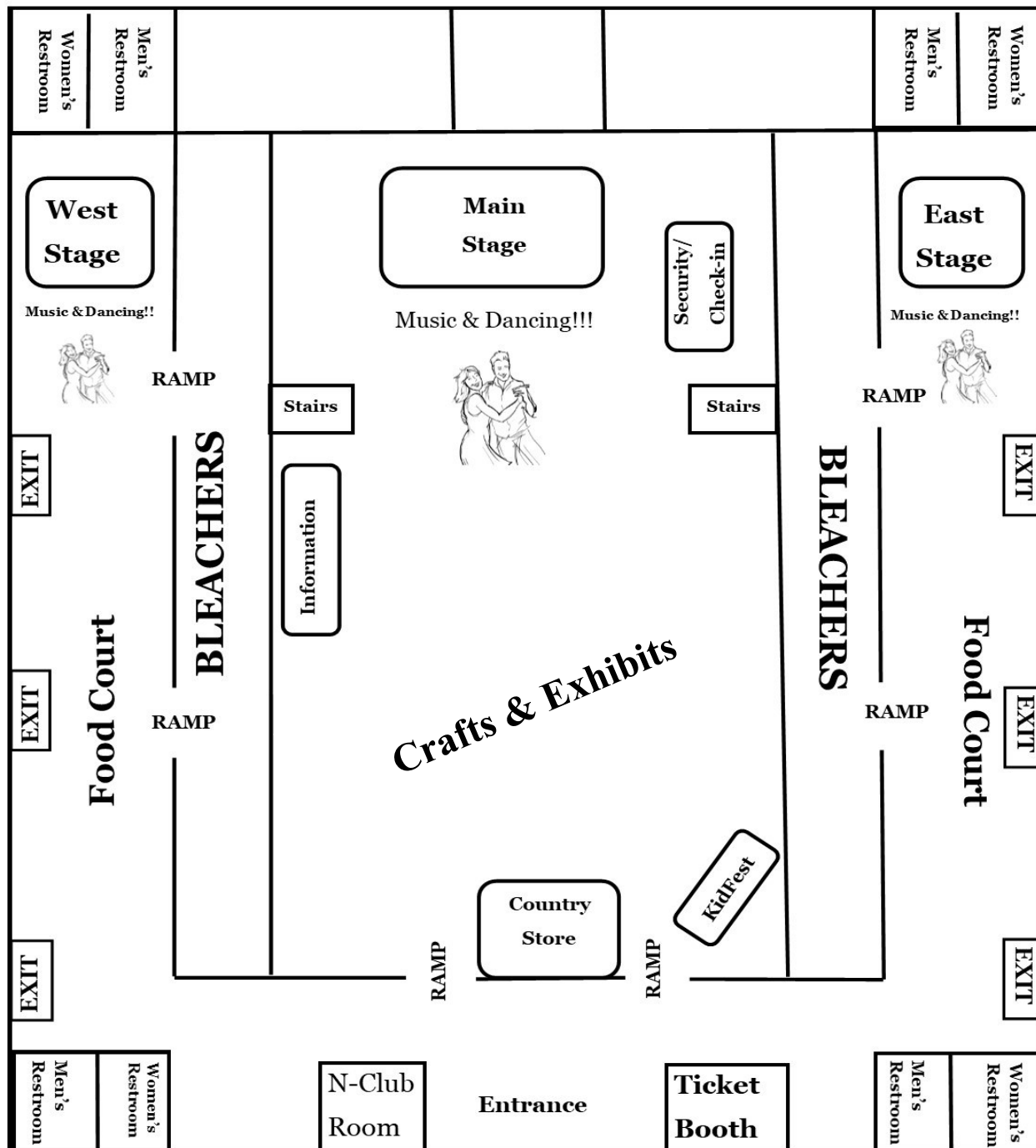
# 2024 Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductee

## The Zion Harmonizers



The New Orleans-based Zion Harmonizers traces the roots of its earliest members performing together as early as 1938. The 10+ member group have performed their music at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival for over 40 years, anchoring and curating the Gospel Tent. The Zion Harmonizers have released multiple award-winning CDs, including “God Promised Me” (1997) and “Gospel Glory” (1999), made with blues and gospel singer Marva Wright. They have toured in Canada and across much of Europe. Both their radio show and their performances at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival have earned them widespread acclaim.

# Prather Coliseum Diagram



Wheelchair  
Accessible

Front of Prather Coliseum

Outside Demonstrations

## Narrative Sessions

### Narrative/ Informance Sessions, Prather Coliseum

Informances combine interviews with informal musical performances by the artists.

#### N-Club Room

10:00-10:45 Musical Nooks & Crannies (Pentecostals to Juke Joints): How Central Delta Music Happened in Ferriday

11:00-11:45 Traditional Louisiana French Narratives

12:00-12:45 Alabama and Coushatta Traditional Cultural Program

1:00-1:45 Music Informance with Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers

2:00-2:45 Music Informance with the Zion Harmonizers

3:00-3:45 Day of the Dead Celebrations

4:00-4:45 Sweet Inspiration: Estelle Brown's Life in Music with the Queen of Soul and King of Rock and Roll

5:00-5:45 Music Informance with Fire of Tierra Caliente

## Exhibits

Cane River National Heritage Center

Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library

Cane River Creole National Historical Park

Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site

NCPTT

Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers

Mr. Danny's Magic

Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Creole Heritage Center

Robert Bennett

Scott DeBose

# Festival Schedule

## Jambalaya Cook-Off

The Jambalaya Cook-Off is here! This year’s Jambalaya Cook-Off will be held outside of Prather Coliseum between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. during the folk festival. Professional and novice chefs are invited to participate in any of our three categories: seafood, poultry plus (chicken, duck, turkey, wild game, sausage, etc.), and people’s choice. Participants may enter any or all of the three categories of the competition.

Jambalaya must be cooked on-site. Only rice, stock, and meat/seafood may be prepared in advance. Entries must be cooked using propane gas or open cookfire outside of Prather Coliseum. Running water and assigned cooking spaces will be available for each participant.

### Jambalaya Cook-Off Schedule

8:00 a.m. registration and Cooks’ meeting, N-Club Room, Prather  
8:45 a.m. cooking officially begins  
12:30 p.m. judging begins by contest judges  
1:00 p.m. sales to public (“Buck-a-Cup”) open  
3:30 p.m. announcement of winners, Main Stage



## Louisiana State Fiddle Championship

The Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will be held in Magale Recital Hall which is housed in the CAPA Annex located at 140 Central Avenue, 1-4 p.m., during the Folk Festival. Fiddlers from around the state will compete for cash prizes and ribbons in two general divisions of play: Non-Championship Division and Championship Division. Participants may play in either the Non-Championship or Championship Division (not both). All Fiddlers may also enter the Twin , Fiddles category. Pre-registration is open now through July 11 at [www.nsula.edu/folklife](http://www.nsula.edu/folklife). Those who enter the Championship Division will compete for the Grand Champion title. The two top fiddlers from each group in the Championship Division—ages 0-21, 22-59, 60 and above—will compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to be recognized as the state’s best fiddler.



2023 Louisiana State Fiddle Grand Champion Curry Perkins.

### Fiddle Championship Schedule

12:00-1:00 pm Magale Recital Hall, 1st floor, CAPA Annex Late Registration  
12:00-1:00 pm Fire of Tierra Caliente  
1:00-4:00 pm LA. State Fiddle Championship, Magale Recital Hall

**For more information visit our website at**  
**<https://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu/>**

**Contact us at: [folklife@nsula.edu](mailto:folklife@nsula.edu) or 318-357-4332**

**Find us on Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/NSULAFOLKLIFECENTER>**



# Live Music Schedule

West Stage	Main Stage	East Stage
	9:30-10:15 <b>The Thistle Dancers and Pipers</b>	
10:00-11:00 <b>Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe</b>	10:30-11:30 <b>Square Dancing Lessons with the Willie Stewart Family and Friends Bluegrass Band!</b>	10:15-11:00 <b>Alabama-Coushatta Traditional Dancers</b>
11:15-12:15 <b>The Forest Huval Band</b>	11:30-12:00 <b>Welcome Ceremony</b>	11:15-12:15 <b>Dancing Blues by Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers</b>
12:30-12:50 <b>Expressions of America with The Victory Belles</b>	12:15-1:00 <b>The Zion Harmonizers</b>	12:30-1:15 <b>Zydeco Dance Lessons</b>
1:00-1:30 <b>Grupo de Danza Folklórica Mexicana Ketzaly</b>	1:15-2:00 <b>Alabama-Coushatta Traditional Dancers</b>	1:30-2:30 <b>Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe</b>
1:45-2:15 <b>The Magic of the Târ with Ali Montazeri</b>	2:15-2:45 <b>The Victory Belles</b>	
2:30-3:30 <b>Armadillo Jackal Band</b>	2:45-3:30 <b>Grupo de Danza Folklórica Mexicana Ketzaly</b>	2:45-3:45 <b>Forest Huval Band</b>
3:45-4:45 <b>The Zion Harmonizers</b>	3:45-4:45 <b>Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers</b>	4:00-5:00 <b>Cajun Dance Lessons</b>
	4:45-5:00 <b>Silent Auction Winners Announcement</b>	
5:00-6:15 <b>The Rick Adams Band</b>	5:00-5:30 <b>Louisiana State Fiddle Champion</b>	5:15-6:15 <b>Brandon Degeyter and The Mire Playboys</b>
	5:45-6:30 <b>Cajun Dance Lessons</b>	
6:30-7:30 <b>Fire of Tierra Caliente</b>	6:45-8:00 <b>Brandon Degeyter and The Mire Playboys</b>	6:30-7:30 <b>The Willie Stewart Family and Friends Bluegrass Band</b>
	8:30-10:00 <b>Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs!</b>	7:45-8:45 <b>Open Jam Session led by The Willie Stewart Family and Friends Bluegrass Band</b>

# Outdoor Demonstrations

## Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers



Photos by: Heather Lockwood

The Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers  
will be demonstrating their traditional Louisiana cooking from  
8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Stop by their demonstration area outside of  
Prather Coliseum to learn how these award-winning Dutch oven  
chefs prepare their signature recipes.

You may even score a tasty treat!

**Interested in Dutch oven cooking?**

Join the Facebook group by searching  
"Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers."

# Outdoor Demonstrations

## West Baton Rouge Museum



**Children will experience "Wash Day" as it was in the 1800s!**

**West Baton Rouge Museum will provide a child friendly "hands-on" demonstration. A museum representative, dressed in period costume, will demonstrate and lead children through the activity which includes using a washboard, portable wringer, and small clothesline to "hang the clothes out to dry."**

**The demonstration will be held outside Prather Coliseum  
Saturday, July 20 from 8 am till 5 pm.**



## KidsFest Activities, 9:00 am till 5:00 pm

KidsFest is an area dedicated to child-friendly activities and is a fun way for children to examine their own cultural and family traditions as well as those from around the state.

KidsFest will be available during the festival, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in the main exhibit area.

Admission to KidsFest is free for children 12 and under attending the festival.

### Mr. Danny's Magic

Mr. Danny Barton got into magic late in life by accident but has been doing it for around 20 years. He received an old book on magic as a gift, glanced through it, and thought, "I think I can do this!" He soon found that he really loved people's reactions to magic, and that is how he got started performing. Now he performs at festivals whenever possible. Barton states it has been a very rewarding experience for him. He only wishes he had found that book a lot sooner.





## Live Music

### The Zion Harmonizers

The New Orleans-based Zion Harmonizers traces the roots of its earliest members performing together as early as 1938. The 10+ member group have performed their music at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival for over 40 years, anchoring and curating the Gospel Tent. The Zion Harmonizers have released multiple award-winning CDs, including “God Promised Me” (1997) and “Gospel Glory” (1999), made with blues and gospel singer Marva Wright. They have toured in Canada and across much of Europe. Both their radio show and their performances at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival have earned them widespread acclaim.



### Dikki Du and the Zydeco

The Carrier family is as synonymous with Zydeco music as beads are with Mardi Gras. Dikki Du Carrier marks the third generation of the Carriers to keep the musical tradition alive. Zydeco is a family thing starting with Dikki’s grandfather, teaching his father, the late great “King” Roy Carrier. If one plays, everyone plays!

Dikki picked up the washboard at nine years old, the drums at 13, and traveled the world professionally at 19. But Dikki's life changed when he decided he wanted a band of his own. “The big dream was to have your own Zydeco band,” he says. “Years ago, I said, ‘Hell, I’m not going to have a band, if I don’t even know how to play accordion.’”



### The Victory Belles

The Victory Belles of The National WWII Museum are a vocal trio who carry forward the musical traditions of the 1940s. Their spirited performances feature dazzling choreography, vintage inspired costumes, audience interaction, and WWII-era musical hits that are sung in three-part harmony. Their repertoire includes classics from the 1940s and a musical salute to each branch of the US Armed forces. They perform weekly at the WWII Museum, and they have performed at the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Ceremony and the USO Galas in Japan and Hawaii, and have sung National Anthems at NFL, MLB, and NBA games, the USO Guam Six Star Salute, and sung alongside the West Point Military Academy.



## Live Music



### The Forest Huval Band

The Forest Huval Band is headed by Forest Huval, the grandson of Cajun musician Pope Huval. Forest is a vocalist and instrumentalist who plays seven instruments. Huval performs alongside fiddler Al Berard, guitarist and vocalist Randy Vidrine, drummer Jimmy Breaux, and others. They draw inspiration for their traditional and original Cajun music from their home in Cecilia, Louisiana.

### Grupo de Danza Folklórica Mexicana Ketzaly

The Mexican folk dance group Ketzaly began on May 5, 2016 in Nacogdoches Texas. This group was formed with the intention of transmitting our roots to new generations, especially to children born in this country and keeping our Mexican celebrations alive through folklore, proud to be a motivation so that every day there are new groups representing our folklore. Lupita Morales, creator of the group Ketzaly and her dance teacher Beatriz Sanchez. Together with her companions Reyna Martínez, Nora Santos, Eva Hernandez. We want to share our folklore in a country that adopted us... There is a variety of traditional music in our Mexico, the mariachi, the soundtrack, wind and marimba. It is music that cheers the soul, with our colorful dresses, we dance to the rhythm of the notes of a son that excites us, the rhythm of the zapateado and so on. Filling the festivals. Where we give our best, proudly wearing our Mexican folklore costumes.



### The Magic of the Târ with Ali Montazeri



Ali Montazeri Ghahjaverestani (aka Ali Montazeri) is an Iranian composer, player, and music teacher. He began his musical training in keyboard and theory in 1990. In 1996, Ali started to learn the târ, a traditional Iranian instrument. Afterward, Ali became interested in composition and began learning harmony and counterpoint. He entered the music school at the University of Art in Tehran and received a master's degree in composition in 2006. He was awarded for best thesis of the year at the University of Art in 2006. During his education in the composition program, he composed many pieces for traditional Iranian ensemble, chamber ensemble, vocal, symphonic orchestra, and musical scores for short movies. He also collaborated with several bands such as the Borderless band as arranger and as a târ and bass târ player. Montazeri began serving as Centenary College of Louisiana's Hurley Music Library Director in the summer of 2023.



## Live Music

### The Willie Stewart Family & Friends Bluegrass Band



The Willie Stewart Family & Friends Bluegrass Band is a group of nine seasoned musicians that feature award-winning multi-instrumentalists playing family harmonies and bluesy renditions of gospel and country classics. Members of the band include Willie Stewart on guitar and harmonica, Debbie Stewart on bass, Bo Stewart on mandolin, banjo, and vocals, Kelly Stewart on percussion and vocals, Clancey Stewart on fiddle, vocals, and fiddle sticks, Mark Birdwell on guitar, banjo, and vocals, Steve Birdwell on guitar, mandolin, and vocals, John Brittain on bass and guitar, and Laurie Gentry on bass, autoharp, spoons, and vocals. Fiddler Clancey Stewart was voted the Ozark Folk Center "Musician of the Year" in 2012 and is the 2013 Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Competition Grand Champion, the 2014 Arkansas State Junior Contemporary Fiddle Champion, and the 2018 Louisiana State Fiddle Champion.

### Armadillo Jackal Band

The roots of the Armadillo Jackal Band grew at the original Press Box on Mill Street in Natchitoches many years ago with Ben Rushing, guitar/vocal, accompanied by Allen Kees, guitar. This duo played for a few years until Keith Shirley, bass guitar/vocal, joined the group. The addition drummer Pop Hymes, a member of the Hall of Master Folk Artists, and Chris Wilson, guitar/harmonica/vocal, completed this five-piece band. The Jackal Band is known for an eclectic mix of Americana Music including tunes by Guy Clark, Townes Van Zant, Robert Keen, Johnny Cash, Rolling Stones, and others. The band brings a collection of some of the best songs many people have never heard with a few home-grown twists and turns along the way.



### Fire of Tierra Caliente



Paul Anastasio started playing classical violin but was soon drawn to popular and folk music. He studied with jazz violin legend Joe Venuti and worked in Merle Haggard's band, Asleep at the Wheel, the Gatlin Brothers, and with Loretta Lynn. Paul first heard the music of Mexican violin genius Juan Reynoso in 1996. Learning that this style was in danger of dying out, he began the project of studying, collecting, transcribing, archiving and sharing the repertoire. He returned with 2700 hours of digital audio and video and transcribed over 700 pieces. Today, the project continues via Zoom lessons to Mexico thanks to the invaluable support of multiple grants. Louisiana musician Tina Pilone, best-known for her work in Cajun music, first heard Juan Reynoso in 2002 and was smitten by his style. She also visited Tierra Caliente to learn the music. There, she and Paul studied together with Juan Reynoso and his accompanists. Tina's focus is on mastering the intricate and diverse guitar styles of the region. Using notebooks of lyrics, Tina has learned to sing many of the gustos, boleros and other sub-styles of the region. Currently, Tina works with Paul indexing vast audio and video archives from his visits to Tierra Caliente.

## Live Music

### Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs



Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs have made quite a name for themselves. The band consists of 10 to 11 members, including a horn section named "The Horny Boys," a powerhouse female vocalist, and the legendary Rodney Harrington as Johnny Earthquake. Their music is very diverse, and between their original music and famous covers, they touch on rock, rhythm and blues, funk, country, and swing. The multi-award winning showband has been recognized by renowned publications and artists. 2024, the band's 30th anniversary, also saw the band being inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame.

### Rick Adams Band

Rick Adams is a singer/songwriter from the Central Louisiana area who performs at venues and festivals throughout the Louisiana/Mississippi region. His music crosses several Americana genres, but includes lots of uptempo, fun tunes. Band history includes Barely Texas, American Tune Factory, Reverend Charley's Patent Medicine Show (previously), and Rick Adams Band. Rick Adams Band is composed of all star acoustic musicians who come together to assist Rick at special events, festivals and recording sessions. Tony Murphy is an in-demand mandolin player from Grant Parish. He played with the iconic Louisiana group Southland and currently performs across the region. John Evers is upright bass player from Dry Prong, Louisiana. He plays in Lonesome Ridge and Lisa K/Timberidge and is sought out to assist anywhere a solid bass rhythm is needed. He also plays acoustic guitar and contributes stellar vocals. Josh Evers is from Dry Prong, Louisiana and is an up and coming multi-instrumentalist. He is rapidly becoming known for his prowess on the dobro.



### Sonny Gullage



Kevin "Sonny" Gullage was born with what you might call "blues wisdom," a mixture of empathy, sensitivity, and keen observational skills. Sonny is now 25 years-old and the blues singer-songwriter and pianist is releasing his debut full-length, *Go Be Free*, on the legendary blues label, Blind Pig. It was inevitable Sonny would be a musician. His father is bassist Tony Gullage who has performed with Henry Butler, Dr. John, and other prominent blues and roots musicians around New Orleans. Sonny explored his innate musical talents as a multi-instrumentalist before focusing on the piano. He studied music at the prestigious New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, The Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp and, later, Loyola University New Orleans. As a teen, Sonny's prodigious piano skills earned him a seat in the Thelonious Monk All-Star Sextet. He has since captivated live audiences in the U.S. Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Slovenia, and Croatia. He's composed music for film and podcasts, and Sonny's voice was also featured in the 2019 release of Disney's *Lady & The Tramp*.



# Dance Demonstrations

## The Thistle Dancers and Pipers



The Thistle Dancers and Pipers is a group of talented young people who perform the traditional Highland dances and music of Scotland. Formed in 1998 in Alexandria, VA, the Thistle Dancers and Pipers moved to Natchitoches, LA in July of 2019 where they debuted at Northwestern State University's Folklife Festival, performing with the culturally dynamic band 50 Man Machine. Since July of 2019, the Thistle Dancers and Pipers have taken the stage at the Red River Revel Music Festival in Shreveport, LA, again joining 50 Man Machine, as well as the Car Show, Farmers Market, and area Nursing Homes in Natchitoches, LA.

## Cajun French Music Association Dance



The Cajun French Music Association (CFMA), Baton Rouge chapter, is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of our Cajun music, Cajun dance, Cajun language and heritage. They take pride in a long history of presenting authentic Cajun dances in Baton Rouge. The Dance Troupe is a group of dedicated volunteers who perform at festivals, assisted living centers, nursing homes and more.

## Festival Crafts

### Cynthia Ramirez– Crafts

Cynthia Ramirez is a multi-media artist who has exhibited her work in numerous local, national and international exhibitions. She received an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from the University of New Orleans (1990). She is a Professor of Fine Art at Southern University at New Orleans and taught visual art at New Orleans Recreation Department Commission (2015-19). She taught eight years in the Talented in the Visual Arts Program for the Orleans Parish Public Schools. She was Program Coordinator for the Art's Council of New Orleans' Urban Arts Training Program, a summer job program for youths creating public art in the New Orleans community. She has created a Day of the Dead Altar at the Louisiana State Museum: Cabildo, the U.S Mint, The Ogden Museum of Art (2012 -15) and the Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans. She has served as a panelist for the Visual Artist Fellowship for the Louisiana Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts Visual Art Grant panel for art education.



### The Campti Historic Museum

The Campti Historic Museum Quilters began meeting in 2000 after the community opened the museum exhibiting items the local residents donated to be displayed in the old City Bank location. To pass their time, the volunteers thought it would interesting to our visitors to demonstration how hand quilts were made, and display examples of quilt patterns. They are still making quilts but also have done demon-strations and lessons to any interested persons in their community. They make custom designs, quilts of any size as well as complete those old treasured quilt tops grandma made for us that's stashed away. The members of this small group of quilters were either taught by their mothers or grandmothers. And they love to pass on the almost lost skill of hand quilting.



Flake Flower  
at Volcanoes  
Indian Pueblo  
Bland 2019 June



### David Morris

He has been making crafts most of his life and it is mostly because he enjoys working with his hands. Over the years he improved his skills from some people of his family and friends but almost all that he knows was learned by himself.

He is also interested and passionate in woodworking, blacksmithing, leatherworking, and braiding



# Festival Crafts

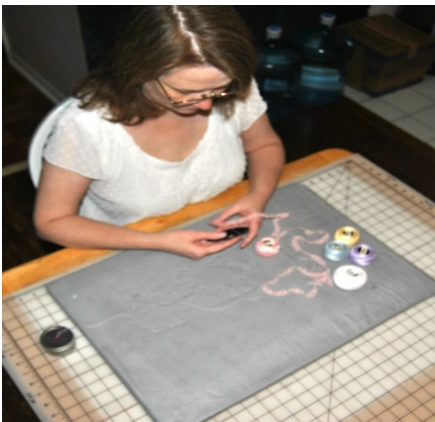
## DWIGHT MAYEAUX

Retired from working, been doing my demo for 11 years now. I'm completely self taught, read everything I can find on writing, pens and pencils. I started my demo by chance, I was studying period mapmaking and one day at an event in Virginia I was at the event on school days and had started assembling materials to make maps, decided to show some folks how to make pens and looked up at one point and had a crowd listening to every word I said. It's not a lost art, just one that most people don't see very often. I find the subject fascinating, as I do most of the skills of everyday life of ordinary people from 200 to 250 years ago, It fits in to my hobby of 18th and 19th century reenacting, which I have participated in for 34 years now. I travel across the south and as far away as Virginia doing my demo each year.



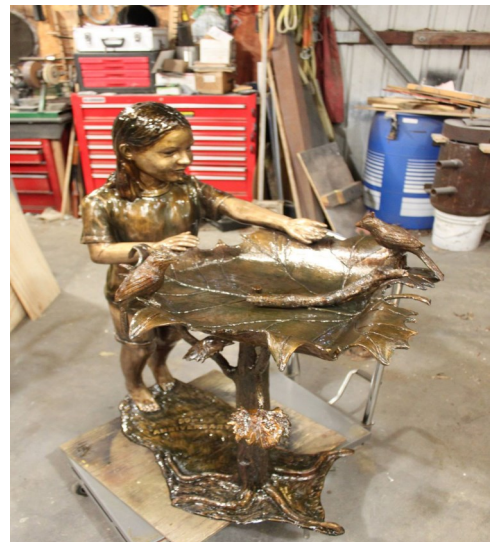
## Christy Benoit Castille

Mrs. Castille is currently a member of Louisiana crafts guild, International Organization of Lace, and Tatters across Time. She has also demonstrated her craft at the LSU Rural Life Museum- Harvest Days 2016 and at the Experience Louisiana Festival. Castille developed an interest in tatting through admiring her great grandmothers tatting shuttle and pieces. This then led to Castille attending a workshop in her early teens which taught the basics of tatting. Christy says, "The beauty, love and history that is shared through each piece is unique and cannot be duplicated." This is why she has such a strong belief in passing on heritage from generation to generation.



## Bre Harris

Bre Harris grew up in the south valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico not far from the isleta Indian Pueblo. The impact of the mixed culture of the area exposed her to art of the southwest in every form. Even the land-scapes and sky came to life for her. As an adult, she moved to the Colo-rado Rockies and spent the next 20 years enjoying the exposure or more of the American west. Residing in the sculpture capital of the west, Loveland Colorado, Over the past 5 years, Bre has expanded her talents to include bronze, aluminum, stainless steel, wood and glass, to her cred-its since the merger, Bre has been re-sculpting Hall of fame baseball players, as well as the trophies for the independence Bowl for Hartland Collectables. Bre hopes to expand again using new untried glass tech-nique. "The fluid smooth flow of glass intrigues me, I am looking for-ward to experimenting with glass". Whatever the medium used you can always be sure the human characteristics will always be in Bre's pieces.





# Festival Crafts

## Laura Glen Carlson

For more than three decades, I have has been immersed in the art of crafting jewelry. My journey began with my mother, who passed down her knowledge of jewelry techniques. The intricate art of creating wire jewelry has a rich history, dating back to ancient civilization. I have been intrigued by the natural world for as long as I can remember, collecting colorful rocks and stones. I find an endless variety of patterns, colors, and forms in nature and seek them out wherever I go. Traveling with my husband to remote locations renew my creative spirit and fresh observations inspire new jewelry designs. I am humbled by the loyalty of my customers, many of whom return, seeking commissioned pieces, quite pleased with the frequent compliments they receive on my jewelry.



## Deborah West

Deborah West is Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas & Dine'. She has been a southern Cloth Dancer for over 30 years, and has been honored as head lady in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama, and has traveled to powwows as far away as New Mexico. Deborah has been a seamstress for over 40 years for the public making pageant wear, wedding attire, regalias, moccasins, beadwork, etc. Deborah worked for 10 years with the Indian education grant for Louisiana, 5 years with pals teaching a native cultural class, then opened a business-Turquoise and treasures, making one of a kind jewelry and doing seamstress work!



## Martin J Benoit

Martin J. Benoit has been capturing the images of his world in pen-and-ink since the early 1980's. He first became interested in art at the impressionable age of eight while watching an artist work at a theme park. That memory stuck with him through the years. His first pen-and-ink work was for his own home in 1983. Over the years since, he has fine-tuned his highly-detailed ink works to produce drawings of intense detail. Martin works with a very fine-tipped technical pen. After composing a scene from his vast collection of photos and clippings, he spends hours in preliminary pencil sketching. Every line is measured and calculated to produce a drawing of exact proportions. It takes an average of an hour per square inch to complete an original ink drawing. The basic outline of the subject matter may require many days to do while the incredible detail of dots and lines that give the drawing life takes weeks and, on occasion, months to complete. It is this attention to care and detail that is very evident in his work.



# Festival Crafts

## Vernon Johnson

Vernon Johnson of Pollock will be attending this year's festival to display and sell hand-crafted jewelry boxes, wooden piggy banks, and more. Mr. Johnson creates many of his works using a bandsaw. These creations, called "bandsaw boxes," are genuinely unique and must be seen to be believed.



## Rick Kom

Lafayette-based artist Rick Kom will be displaying and selling his wildlife paintings and pet portraits at this year's festival. His subjects frequently include birds of Louisiana, as well as bears, chickens, dogs, and other animal life. Check out Rick's work on Facebook by searching for "Rick Kom Fine Art."

## Juanita Leonard

Juanita Leonard's paintings and sculptures often resonate with the joy she finds in her deep Christian faith. A self-taught artist living outside of Montgomery, Louisiana, Leonard constructs hand painted sculptures out of a variety of materials, such as plaster of Paris, clay, wood, and metal, as well as discarded materials. While some of her art shows the influence of Clementine Hunter, one of her inspirations, much of Leonard's art displays her unique stamp, such as her "Chicken Tree of Life" motif. Leonard is also a memory painter, with many of her pieces highlighting incidents from throughout her life.



LFC Staff Photo



Photo by Shella Lindner

## Kenneth Lindner

A self-taught wood turner, Kenneth Lindner has won Blue Ribbons for his wood working and for the past 2 years has taken best in show for wood craft. He loves a challenge which is evident in the details of his wood works. Lindner works with foreign and domestic wood.

# Festival Crafts

## Riverside Pecan Company

Riverside Pecan Company is owned and operated by the Lofton family of Effie, LA. They have been in the natural pecan business going on 60 years. Grandpa Ray planted the first tree, starting their love for everything pecan. At 91 years of age, Grandpa Ray is still farming pecans. The company has been making candies and treats over 10 years. They proudly offer natural pecans and pecan confections made from traditional Southern recipes that were passed down through generations. Whether you're looking for pecan halves or pieces for use in your kitchen, a wholesome, healthy snack, or a sweet, decadent treat, they are sure to have it.



## Millard Mangrum



Millard Mangrum earned a BS and MS at Northwestern State University and is currently an Assistant Professor of Biology at Northwestern State University. His interests are based in biology and expressions of natural flora in clay and ceramic works. Mangrum credits his interests in clay and the ceramics art to professor Matt DeFord at Northwestern State University. In January of 2012, he started the journey into the ceramics arena enrolling in a non-credit ceramics class. From that time on he has been drawn to the allure of mud. Mangrum's spare time centers on creating and fabricating new forms of clay techniques which incorporate material additions to clay bodies such as oatmeal, rice, grits, and various seeds.

## Chris Moore



Chris Moore and his wife began a gift business about 10 years ago. They strive to create and build something different with their bird houses, ironwork, wreaths, and yard decor. They consider it a blessing to be able to create items that give happiness to others. Chris considers his wife the more creative one; he just follows her lead. Mr. Moore's background is in business, so the transition to the gift business endeavor was quite a change for him. They enjoy creating new items and meeting new people when they sell their homemade products.



# Festival Crafts

## Roy Parfait

Roy Parfait is a woodcarver and member of the Houma Indian tribe. He was born & raised in Dulac, LA. along Grand Caillou Bayou, in Terrebonne Parish. Roy grew up around the tradition of carving wood. His grandfather was a carver. Roy began carving in 1976, making small wooden animals and miniature pirogues. He found that he was especially interested in carving animals, and he is well-known today for his long-necked geese, ducks, beavers, rabbits, birds, fish, turtles, panthers, pelicans, owls, rabbits and frogs. He has twice demonstrated wood carving at the Smithsonian's Festival of American Folklife and other venues such as the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival, Silver Dollar City, the Native Crafts Festival in Lafayette, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, and many other festivals throughout Louisiana and the South. He has also been invited to France twice to demonstrate and sell his work. He was inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists in 2002.



## John Perry, Chippalottas Flintknapping



Photo submitted by John Perry

John Perry, the original member/founder of Chippalottas, had an interest in making arrowheads and such since boyhood. In the mid-eighties he found seminars at the Poverty Point archaeology site. As he learned and came up with his own techniques he taught two more locally. Since then by word of mouth the group has expanded, with a semi-permanent core of about 12 people. Anyone with an interest is encouraged to get in touch, they are happy to teach what they know. Their goals are simple, they just want the art of flintknapping to continue to new generations. At the moment they have members from age 12 to late 70s.

## Catherine Rouchon

Catherine Rouchon, of Clinton, will be displaying and selling her polished stones and beautifully designed sterling silver jewelry at the festival. Rouchon, who markets her work under the name Compass Rose Jewelry Designs, is a favorite at the Melrose Plantation Arts and Crafts show as well as other regional craft and makers' fairs. Rouchon's work frequently utilizes natural stones, organic minerals, freshwater pearls, and sterling silver.

Learn more about Compass Rose Jewelry Designs at [www.facebook.com/CompassRosebyCERouchon](https://www.facebook.com/CompassRosebyCERouchon).



# Festival Crafts

## Stan Routh



Photo by LFC Staff

From an architectural background that includes a masters' degree in history and design, a European travel and study fellowship, and his own professional practice since 1962, Stan Routh has devoted his life to visual recordings of the things we all remember. Country stores, little churches, old homesteads, mills, bridges, barns, and other architectural structures, which first catch his eye and then his heart, are faithfully rendered in ink, pencil, or watercolor to capture their essence in a literal "explosion" of pertinent detail. Stan Routh specializes in drawings of historical landmarks, original paintings, sketches, and watercolors of cities and towns throughout Louisiana and surrounding states.

## Barbara Seegraves

Barbara Seegraves became interested in gourding after buying a small basket of gourds. She had no one to guide her on her gourd journey, so she read everything that she could find about gourds. Seegraves found that gourds are the most useful non-edible vegetable there is. She learned that gourds are essential to the way of life for many, used as instruments or even in religious ceremonies. Gourds are also used as vessels, storage, bowls, and utensils in everyday life. Seegraves enjoys taking plain gourds and transforming them into something beautiful. She is a member of the American Gourd Society and the Louisiana Gourd Society.

## Rachel Shaddox

Southern Lane Soaps is a family-owned and operated business run by three generations who not only make the soap, but use it as well. Each bar is made by hand, cut, packaged, and labeled by them, then shipped directly to their customers. Their products are handcrafted from natural ingredients in small batches to ensure the best quality. Due to the handcrafted nature of the soap, each bar may vary slightly in color and size, but not in quality. Southern Lane Soaps are made using high quality ingredients from start to finish, utilizing the time honored cold process method. Southern Lane Soaps are naturally moisturizing and gentle.

Learn more at [www.facebook.com/southernlanesoaps](http://www.facebook.com/southernlanesoaps)



Photo courtesy of Rachel Shaddox

## Ho Minti Society

Ho Minti is a Choctaw phrase meaning "ya'll come." As a non-profit community organization, Ho Minti Society calls for a coming together and return to the traditional Native American ways of both doing and knowing. The purpose of Ho Minti Society is to promote cultural awareness, service, community organizing, and education in ways that respect traditional knowledge and the breadth of history and heritage.

Some Ho Minti have been making items forever, their art and craft passed down through generations of tradition. Some members learned their craft on their own. Either way, they celebrate an everyday way of life.

Crafts include Native American corn husk baskets, pine needle baskets, jewelry, and more.

# Festival Crafts



## Elvin L. Shields

Elvin Shields of Natchitoches will be in attendance at the festival displaying his unique twisted wire plantation toys. Shields was born into a family of sharecroppers in 1949 on Melrose Plantation. He and the other boys on the plantation learned to twist wire into toys, as they could not afford to buy them. Today, Shields is a volunteer at the Cane River National Historical Park, where he gives lectures about his time living on the plantation and the history of the Black sharecroppers who lived in southern Natchitoches parish. He uses his wire plantation toys to preserve the culture and history of Black sharecroppers.

## Gene Tomko

Gene Tomko is an award-winning artist, writer and photographer based in Lafayette, Louisiana. He has been photographing and writing about traditional roots music for more than twenty years and his work has appeared in dozens of international publications such as *Living Blues* and *Down Beat* as well as on numerous releases by artists such as B.B. King, Nappy Brown and Big Jay McNeely. In 2006 he co-authored *Black Hoboes: What's the Use of Walking If There's a Freight Train Going Your Way*. Recently Tomko has combined his music scholarship with his artistic talents to create the Louisiana Music Map, a visual tribute to the music and musicians of Louisiana. The work is both artistic as well as academic, featuring the birthplaces of more than 1500 native musicians who performed in a style of music indigenous to Louisiana such as jazz, blues, Cajun, zydeco, la la, swamp pop and gospel. He also creates his own custom wood frames for the maps.



Photo courtesy of Gene Tomko



Photo by LFC Staff

## Frieda Tuma

Pysanky is a Czech tradition of “egg writing” developed centuries ago in Eastern Europe as a method of decorating non-boiled eggs. Tuma painstakingly draws designs on the eggs in pencil before using wax and dyes to color eggs. The eggs are then drained through a tiny hole before a coat of varnish is applied to protect the dyes. The eggs are usually decorated in Christian symbols and often make excellent Christmas and Easter gifts.



# Festival Crafts

## Brent Walden

Brent Walden is a self-taught origami artist and the creative force behind his business, Earigami. He has taught several classes on the art of origami and works to spread his knowledge and appreciation of the art. With 12 years of experience in the art of paperfolding, he specializes in crafting exquisite jewelry from fine Japanese papers, including earrings, necklaces, and rings. Additionally, he creates stunning art installations ranging from captivating crane bonsai sculptures to intricate miniature crane formation frames.

## Marilyn and Cliff Hernandez



Image courtesy of the Hernandezes.

Cliff has been making woodcarvings for approximately twelve years. He attended art school before becoming a draftsman. After retiring from the USDA, he began carving items that honored Native Americans, their country, and the south. Marilyn is Native American and a portion of the sales go towards supporting her native family.

## And These Incredible Artists!

Neal Ainsworth, handmade wooden toys, swings, bird feeders; Christopher Billiot, carvings and dream catchers; Jeff & Gloria Causey, garfish scale designs, alligator buttons; Stephanie Escude, Native American Dolls; James Eubanks, woodturning; Olivia Gates, handmade hunting horns; Sharon Dickerson Jackson, handmade brooms; Gail Jones, quilts; Kenneth Kerry; Jerry Masters, woodworking products; Janet Miller, hand spinning; Paul Morgan; Timothy & Felicia O'Bryan, stones, minerals, crystals, wire-wrapped jewelry; Danny Petrella, cowhide chairs; Katherine Prejean, handmade jewelry; Sharon Rouchon, basket weaving; Steve Seneca, portraits; Christopher Shane; Rhonda Stevenson, paper mache and paper clay items; Ruth Stevenson, knitting, crochet; Alice Tyler, Clifton Choctaw beadwork; John Vidrine, honey products, goat milk soap

# Festival Crafts

## Look For These Incredible Artists!

### **Neal Ainsworth**

handmade wooden toys, swings, bird feeders

### **Jeff & Gloria Causey**

garfish scale designs,  
alligator buttons

### **Olivia Gates**

handmade hunting horns

### **Sharon Dickerson Jackson**

handmade brooms

### **Kenneth Kerry**

### **Janet Miller**

hand spinning

### **Timothy & Felicia O'Bryan**

stones, minerals, crystals, wire-wrapped jewelry

### **Danny Petrella**

cowhide chairs

### **Sharon Rouchon**

basket weaving

### **Christopher Shane**

### **Alice Tyler**

Clifton Choctaw beadwork

### **Brent Walden**

hand-folded wearable art

### **Sharon Womack**

birdhouses

### **Christopher Billiot**

carvings, dream catchers

### **Stephanie Escude**

Native American Dolls

### **Gail Jones**

quilts

### **Jerry Masters**

woodworking products

### **Paul Morgan**

### **Katherine Prejean**

handmade jewelry

### **Steve Seneca**

portraits

### **Rhonda Stevenson**

paper mâché and paper clay items

### **Ruth Stevenson**

knitting, crochet

### **John Vidrine**

honey products, goat milk soap

### **Myrna Wilson**

Koasati (Coushatta) pine straw baskets

## Book Signing by Robert Bennett

Robert D. Bennett was born in Louisiana and spent his childhood here and in Texas. While doing research on a book about Louisiana, Robert was surprised to find out that not only has his family lived in the Natchitoches area for years, but literally from the beginning, since he is a descendant of Louis Antoine Juchereau de St. Dennis, the founder of Natchitoches. Bennett's diverse work history has taken him across the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, as well as England. His books are shaped by the people he has known and the places he has visited. When asked about the inspirations for his books, Bennett said, "If I write about a place, it's because I've visited there and either the place or the people left an impression." He currently resides in Texas with his wife, Karren, his Jack Russel Terrier, "Sup," and occasionally his children as they visit. Bennett will be signing his books at this year's Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival!

## Festival Food

### Cane River Pizza Co.

Pizza—Cheese, Pepperoni, Specialty

Can Drinks

Water

### Girline’s Food Truck

Red Beans

Etouffee

Gumbo

Homemade Meat Pies

Hamburgers

Po-Boys

### Marjorie Battise

Indian Tacos

Frybread & Sausage

Frybread

### Derrick Monette

Gumbo

Jambalaya

Fish Tacos

Nachos

Hot Dogs and Chips

Red Beans

### Tracy Montgomery

Fresh Squeezed Lemonade

Kettle Corn

### Roosevelt Sykes

Washpot Cracklins

Turkey Legs

BBQ Plates

Frito Pie

Nachos

Hot Dogs/Chili Dogs

### David Hoover

Alligator Sausage

Boudin

Red Beans & Rice

Boiled Peanuts

Tamales

Nachos

### Debbie’s Meat Pies

Savory Homemade Meat Pies

Homemade Fruit Pies

### Ricky Beshea

Cinnamon Roasted Pecans

Praline Pecans

Salted Caramel Cashews

Chocolate Nuts

Cajun Nuts

Fudge



# Festival Contributors

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See your name here for \$25!

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Butch & Dayna Lee  
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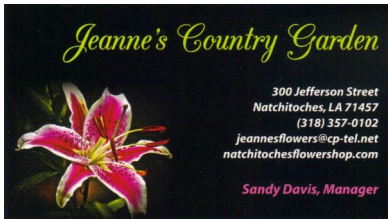
Brazella Briscoe, Honorary Festival Chair  
Northwestern State University  
Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches  
2024 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Steering Committee  
Folk Festival Volunteers

## Festival Steering Committee

Helen Dalme	Hank Staples	Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Chair
Matt DeFord	Jovan Jones	Dr. Thomas W. Reynolds, Jr.
Arlene Gould	Jason Church	David West
Dr. Hiram "Pete" Gregory	Jon Lentz	Dale Wohletz
Captain Wesley Harrell	Dustin Fuqua	Martin Iddon

Louisiana Folklife Center Director: Dr. Shane Rasmussen  
Louisiana Folklife Center Administrative Coordinator: Shondrika Johnson  
Louisiana Folklife Center Staff: Amir Mon and Jesus Calderon Pena  
Louisiana Folklife Center Intern: Kristen Townsend  
Festival Cashier: Charlotte Thomas  
Prather Coliseum Ticket Booth Manager: Emily Windham  
Magale Recital Hall Ticket Booth Manager: Debbie Adair  
Security: Captain Wesley Harrell  
Crew: Matthew DeFord, Jovan Jones  
Sound: WHS Productions/Hank Staples  
Crafts: Dr. Pete Gregory  
Prather Coliseum Facility Manager: Martin Iddon  
Publicity: David West and the Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Rack Card, Poster, Program Cover, and T-Shirt Design: Matthew DeFord  
Kidfest: Breanna Melancon  
Volunteer Coordinator: Shondrika Johnson  
Website, Social Media, and Program Layout: Jesus Calderon Pena  
Fiddle Championship Coordinator and Emcee: Dr. Susan Roach  
Fiddle Championship Judges: Paul Anastasio, Brandon Degeyter, and Curry Perkins  
N-Club Room Manager: Dr. Khirsten Doolan  
ASL Interpretation: Trena Smith  
Festival Videographer: David Antilley  
Country Store Manager: Bethany Staub  
Plants Provided By: Jeanne's Country Garden

# Thanks To Our In-Kind Supporters!





# 44th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

## July 20, 2024

“The Old Songs Live Forever”

Supported in part by grants and donations from:

