

# 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."*



SPRING  
2025

# NEWSLETTER ÉCOUTEZ



A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



## SAVE THE DATE

The West Baton Rouge Historical Association's annual Christmas in July Card Party fundraiser is right around the corner!

*Mark your calendars for Monday, July 28, 2025, from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.*

The fundraiser will take place at the West Baton Rouge Community Center. In addition to cards, participants can look forward to door prizes, lunch, and even a cocktail. There will also be two separate drawings for those interested in trying their luck.

*For questions, you can call the West Baton Rouge Museum at (225)-336-2422. We look forward to seeing you.*

As always, thanks for supporting the West Baton Rouge Historical Association!



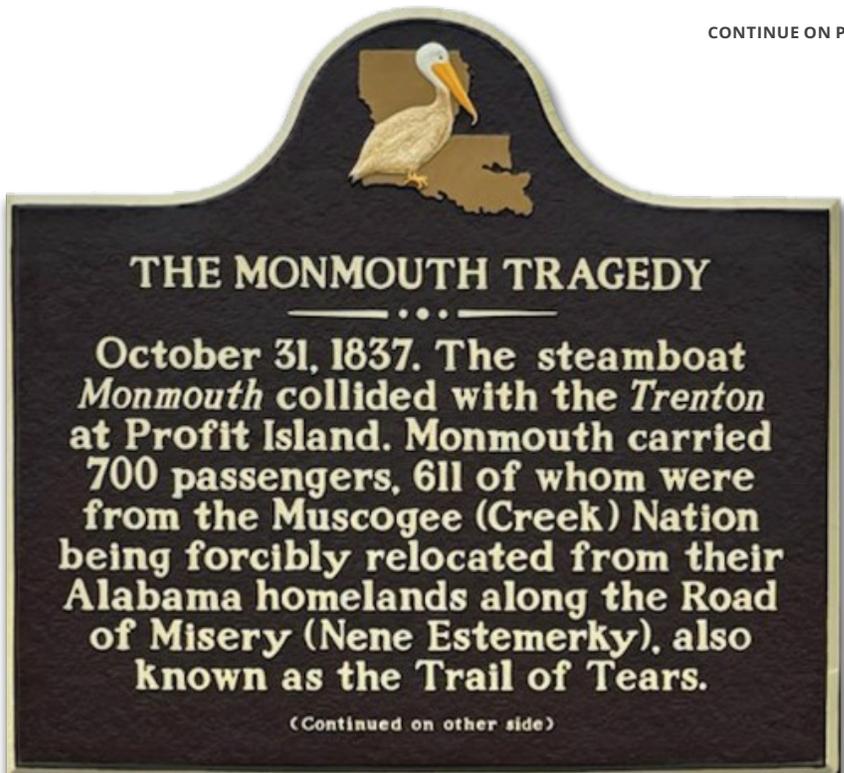
## WHO WILL SING MY NAME? *"The Story of the Monmouth Steamboat Tragedy"* and the Months Leading Up to the 1837 Shipwreck on the Mississippi ANNUAL ETHEL CLAIBORNE DAMERON LECTURE SERIES

The West Baton Rouge Historical Association in partnership with West Baton Rouge Museum will dedicate a historical marker on **April 12, 2025** to memorialize the loss of up to 400 lives in a steamboat wreck on the Mississippi near Profit Island on October 31, 1837.

The steamboat Monmouth, headed upriver, was transporting 693 Muscogee-Creek Indians who were being forcibly removed under military escort to Oklahoma Indian Territory.

The day's events will begin at the **West Baton Rouge Museum on April 12 at 10AM**, with a light breakfast, followed at 10:30 by two presentations comprising the 2025 Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series. The speakers will be J.D. Colbert of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who is of Muscogee-Creek/Chickasaw lineage, and Yvonne Lewis Day, an award-winning Baton Rouge researcher who has spent two decades studying the Monmouth tragedy.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 4



# LES LETTRES



Bonjour, mes amis!

A new year is underway, trees and gardens are sprouting, and the world around us is coming alive again after its winter slumber. So, too, is the Historical Association “coming alive” as we prepare our annual programming – complete with adaptations, additions, and timeless favorites. Our annual meeting saw the appointment of a new board, along with new officers. I cannot begin to explain the excitement and honor I have at the thought of leading this wonderful group over the next couple of years.

Our committees are off to a wonderful start in their respective endeavors. Historical Preservation has set the date for dedication of the Monmouth marker for **Saturday, April 12**. In keeping with the significance of this event, the ECD Lecture committee will host the annual ECD Lecture on the same day, immediately before the dedication. As always, our illustrious Hospitality Committee will host a reception in conjunction with the lecture. Our Fundraising Committee has already begun plans for the annual Card Party, which will be held on **July 28**. Additionally, this year will bring a new endeavor – official Sugar Fest T-Shirts! – complete with an art/design competition.

SPRING 2025 ÉCOUTEZ letter

## Bonjour, mes amis!

WEST BATON ROUGE  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

ASHLEY COCO Board President

The significance of our Historical Association’s role in historic preservation and education is immeasurable. Please continue to remain active, participate, and make the most of your membership. Remember – EVERYONE can be a committee member. Accessions, ECD Program, Finance, Fundraising, Historical Preservation, Hospitality, Long Range Planning, Membership, Volunteer Leadership, and Public Relations are just some of the many areas of opportunity to get involved in the Historical Association. If any of these (or other) topics pique your interest, we would love to have you join our committees.

*All the Best!*

Ashley Coco  
WBRHA President





## SPRING 2025 Director's Letter



Dear Friends,

Who's got the Blues?! The year got off to a groovy start when the Baton Rouge Blues Festival and Foundation unveiled their 2025 BR Blues Fest poster (inspired by Malaika Favorite's mural on our Juke Joint) at the WBRM's January Historical Happy Hour with Lil Ray Neal. And West Baton Rouge will be well-represented at the Baton Rouge Blues Festival this spring! Not only will our mural be on festival merch and the Neal family will be headlining main stages, but for the second year in a row the WBRM's Blues After School students, aka the Juke Joint Juniors, have been asked to perform (on **Saturday, April 5th** at 12:45 PM). This year, the WBRM's Old Time Jam leaders will also play on **Sunday, April 6th** at 2:45 PM. Both groups will be on the LA 1 Stage on Lafayette Street in front of the Shaw Center.

Originating in 1981, the Baton Rouge Blues Festival is one of the oldest blues festivals in America. This weekend-long, family-friendly, free celebration of the swamp blues is held annually in downtown Baton Rouge. The festival's mission is to promote, preserve, and advance the blues music and culture native to Baton Rouge. The Baton Rouge Blues Festival and Foundation works to support emerging artists, international blues legends, and everyone in between. Special thanks to the Baton Rouge Blues Festival and Foundation for including us.

On **April 10th**, WBRM is working once again with our community partners to host the second annual Musicians Fête, a celebration of and resources for local musicians. The program will kick off at noon with lunch and a lecture entitled "The Clarence Williams Blues Origin Festival" presented by the one and only Chris Thomas King speaking on the blues legend from Plaquemine, Louisiana. The afternoon will be filled with jams, engaging speakers, and a resource fair. The event will close with a Mix Tape Mixer from 6 - 7 PM where all in attendance can network.

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

ANGÉLIQUE BERGERON, PH.D. Executive Director

The Blues continue into our April Historical Happy Hour with Hanna PK and the reception for two exhibits *Master Strokes* and the *Talented Student Art Exhibition*. Our May Historical Happy Hour will feature Shaun Ward and a closing reception for the *Edward Searcy* exhibit.

The WBRM is gearing up for a Creole summer with three exciting exhibits opening in May and June on the Louisiana Creole language, culture, and people. Read more about them in the Curator's Corner. These exhibits serve as the inspiration for our annual Blast From The Past Summer History Camp and our Teachers' Institute. This year we are pleased to also offer a 5-day Creole Immersion Camp (Kamp Kréyol) with Chinbo, Inc. the first week of June. Sign up now through our website for all of these enriching opportunities.

Of course, our monthly programs continue. Sign up for our monthly **NewsNotes** email reminders on our website and follow us on social media... and don't forget to renew your WBRHA membership, too!

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

Angélique Bergeron, PH.D.  
Executive Director



## COVER STORY CONTINUED

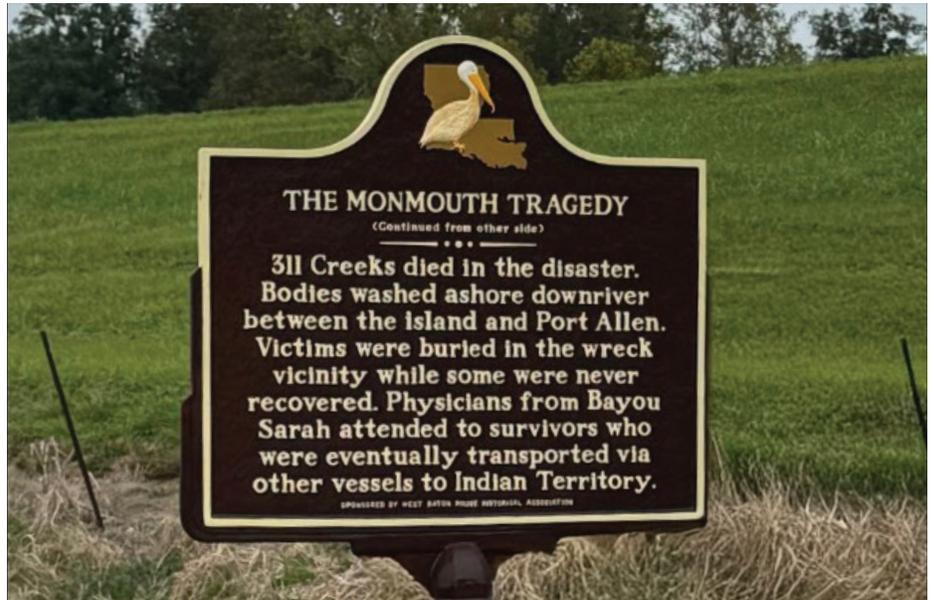
Following the speakers, dedication ceremonies including a blessing in Muscogee Creek language will be held at 12 noon at the historic marker site 10 miles from the Museum, at the intersection of North River Road and Section Road. A reception will be held immediately afterward at nearby historic St. Mark Baptist Church, 6025 Section Road. Parking for the marker dedication and the reception will be available at the church. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held indoors at the church.

The first speaker, Colbert, will present a talk entitled “Nene Estemerketv (The Trail of Suffering)” focusing on events leading up to the Trail of Tears, which is the historical context in which the Monmouth disaster occurred. He is a member of the Mvskoke clan, Windclan, and a native of the Coweta tribal town. He is the author of a historic fiction thriller, *Between Two Fires – The Creek Murders and the Birth of the Oil Capital of the World*. He has been a columnist for several indigenous publications, has written many op-eds, and contributed numerous articles to a variety of publications. He has a long and successful career in the banking and finance industry, specializing in providing services to Native American tribes.

Day’s presentation, “Who Will Sing My Name?”, continues the storyline beginning a few months in advance of the wreck and includes a vivid account of the events and principal characters involved in the Monmouth wreck and its aftermath. Day, who is a nationally recognized expert in business communication, is a noted genealogist, historical researcher, and past president and program chair of both the Baton Rouge and Louisiana genealogical and historical societies. She has been a keynote speaker at several hundred state, national, and international conferences and has been a state and chapter officer in several lineage organizations, serving for a decade as chair of the American Indians committee.

The program is free and open to the public. It is part of the Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series, held annually in memory of the founder of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association and West Baton Rouge Museum.

**For more information, call (225) 336-2422, or visit [www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org](http://www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org)**



## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM TEACHERS INSTITUTE 2025

*Connecting the Curriculum to Creole Culture,  
Language, History, and Community*

*Open to K-12 Teachers  
Stipend and Lunches provided  
Space is Limited*

*Registration Forms available at  
[www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org](http://www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org)  
For more information, call 225-336-2422*

**July 15, 16, and 17, 2025**



# WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM ANNOUNCES Lauren Davis as Curator of Collections and Exhibits

The West Baton Rouge Museum is thrilled to announce the return of Lauren Davis as Curator of Collections and Exhibits. Lauren brings with her more than twenty years of curatorial expertise and a special love for West Baton Rouge. For the last ten years she was the Museum Division Curator for the Louisiana Secretary of State, where she oversaw nine museums within the Louisiana Secretary of State Museum Division, including the Old State Capitol. Prior to that, she served nine years as Curator for the West Baton Rouge Museum under past directors Caroline Kennedy and Dr. Julie Rose.

Lauren holds a Bachelor of Arts in history and anthropology with a minor in French from Louisiana State University where she graduated summa cum laude and a Master's of Arts with a focus in anthropology and a specialization in historical archaeology from the University of South Carolina. Lauren served as a member of the America 250 Louisiana State Commission and Chair of the Commission's Education Committee. She is a past president of the Louisiana Association of Museums for whom she organized conferences. In 2015, the Louisiana Association of Museums selected Lauren as Museum Professional of the Year.

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS

**TALENTED STUDENT ART**  
THROUGH MAY 11

**MASTER STROKES**  
THROUGH MAY 25

**EDWARD SEARCY**  
THROUGH MAY 25

**RADBWA Ê TIRE TIK-LAYÉ :**  
**ART BY JONATHAN MAYERS**  
MAY 17 - OCT 26

**CREOLE FOLKTALES**  
MAY 31 - OCTOBER 26

**CREOLE: REFRAMED**  
JUNE 7 - NOVEMBER 2

## Curators' Corner

**MASTER STROKES:**  
**The Art of Educators**  
*April 19 - May 25, 2025*

This spring, West Baton Rouge Museum will spotlight the creativity and talent of its own art teachers in the upcoming exhibit, Master Strokes: The Art of Educators. The exhibit will open on April 19th and run through May 25th.

The show will feature the work of five talented art teachers from the WBR Talented Art Program. The featured artists are Carmen Guy, Aliah James, Kim Kennedy, Christie Markins, and Amanda Vince. The teachers, who inspire and nurture the artistic potential of their students, will share their personal journeys and unique perspectives.

**Talented Student Art Exhibit**  
*April 19 - May 11, 2025*

The West Baton Rouge Museum is proud to present the Talented Student Art Exhibition, running from April 19 to May 11, 2025. This exhibit will showcase the exceptional work of K-12 Talented Art Students from West Baton Rouge Parish public schools.

The exhibit will feature a variety of artistic expressions, including both 2-dimensional works on paper and canvas as well as 3-dimensional sculptures crafted from ceramic and paper mâché.

**RADBWA Ê TIRE TIK-LAYÉ :**  
**The Art of Jonathan Mayers**  
*May 17 - October 26, 2025*

The work of Louisiana Creole artist Jonathan "radbwa faroush" Mayers explores the rich intersection of cultural heritage, language, and visual storytelling. Born and raised in Baton Rouge, Mayers has dedicated himself to reconnecting with his Creole roots, particularly focusing on the endangered Kouri-Vini (Louisiana Creole) and Louisiana French languages.

Mayers is represented by Arthur Rodgers Gallery in New Orleans. He is currently a Doctoral Fellow of Francophone Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he investigates the impact of literature, visual art, and social media on the Kouri-Vini language revitalization movement.

**KONT KRÉYOL-YÉ**  
**(Creole Folktales)**  
*May 31 - October 26, 2025*

This exhibit brings to life the rich tradition of storytelling through the folklore collected by Lafayette Jarreau, a Pointe Coupee native who's 1931 thesis preserves the Creole language and humor. Featuring artwork created by Louisiana Creoles who have visually interpreted these tales, the exhibit highlights the creative legacy of the Creole community.

**CREOLE:**  
**Reframed**  
*June 7 - November 2, 2025*

A year ago, photographer Cécile Smetana and linguist Oliver Mayeux embarked on a long-term project to create a contemporary portrait of Creole-speaking communities in South Louisiana. The project combines documentary photography and linguistic fieldwork to show the diversity of Louisiana in a new light. This teaser exhibit will showcase some of the first photographs, many of them from around West Baton Rouge Parish.

**CALL FOR ARTIFACTS**  
*June 7 - November 2, 2025*

2025 marks the 50th anniversary to the end of the Vietnam War. The West Baton Rouge Museum would like to take this moment to make a call for photographs and artifacts from veterans and families of veterans that served during this conflict.



LAUREN DAVIS



LAUREN HAWTHORNE

# Events to look forward to . . .



## Creative Writing and Collage Workshop at the West Baton Rouge Museum

On **Sunday, March 30 from 2:30 – 4 PM**, the West Baton Rouge Museum will host **Chit, Chat, and Create** with professional artist, author, and retired pastor, Darlene Anita Moore. Join us for an afternoon of healthy, healing conversation, creative writing, and mixed media collage making.

This workshop is centered around *Sorting Out Race*, an award-winning traveling exhibit from Kauffman Museum at Bethel College created out of a desire to divert artifacts with racial content from thrift stores to an exhibition that would generate a healthy community conversation about racial stereotypes past and present in order to heighten awareness of our continuing struggles with race. The afternoon will begin with a tour of this exhibit that was recognized by the American Association of State and Local History with a Leadership in History Award. Next, participants will discuss race, how racial identity is shaped, and how stereotypes are formed. They will also ponder the question whether novelty trinkets with racial imagery

such as antique advertising cards, salt and pepper shakers, vintage children's books, and mugs with sports team mascots are harmless reminders of past attitudes or a perpetuation of stereotypes about many different races. The class will culminate with two projects that will provide a creative outlet where individuals will be able to sort out their own feelings and consider different perspectives through writing and visual art projects.

Darlene Anita Moore is known as a self-taught Louisiana artist, art educator, published author, entrepreneur, and retired United Methodist pastor. She holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Urban Studies and Public Policy from Dillard University and a Masters of Divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary. In 2005, she was the recipient of the New and Emerging Artist Award from the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge. In recent years, thanks to Arts Council grant funding, she taught as a guest artist at Louisiana School for the Deaf, Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired, and Baker Middle

School. Her publications include *Prayers for Married Couples Volumes I, II, and III*. Currently, she works full-time with her businesses, Sista Pearl™ and Moore Art and Books Plus LLC. She discovered a passion for painting through her love of visiting people in nursing homes and hospitals and giving them one of her original artworks to keep. She has since gone on to study other greats like Clementine Hunter and African artists. She enjoys working with all people and has presented workshops to all age groups from America to Africa. Her artist statement is, "Art is without limits and full of possibilities."

This event is FREE and open to the public and suitable for adults as well as middle and high school aged students. However, advanced registration is encouraged.

To register, call the museum at (225)-336-2422.

For more information, visit [www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org](http://www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org) or [www.facebook.com/TheWBRM](https://www.facebook.com/TheWBRM).

## Kamp Kréyol / Kouri-Vini Immersion Camp with Chinbo

The Kamp Kréyol / Kouri-Vini Immersion Camp is a free 5-day workshop conducted in Louisiana Creole (also referred to as Kouri-Vini). Held from 9AM – 4PM each day, the camp will focus on Louisiana Creole Folktales, modern myths, art, and storytelling which are highlighted in the West Baton Rouge Museum's summer exhibits. Each morning, immersion lessons will be led by Louisiana Creole language activist, educator, professional entertainer, Chinbo president, and former American Idol contestant, Clif St. Laurent. Afternoon presentations will feature Louisiana Creole cultural bearers, artists, writers, and researchers.

Chinbo is a 501c3 devoted to the reclamation of the Louisiana Creole language. The organization provides educational and learning resources to the Louisiana community and its diaspora, and is pleased to cohost this immersion camp for a second year, this time with the West Baton Rouge Museum. In 2024, Chinbo hosted the first ever Creole Immersion Camp at Capitol Park Museum to accompany the exhibition Mitoloji Latannèr.

Kamp Kreyol is intended for learners of all ages. It is free and open to the public, but space is limited and advanced registration is required. Registration forms may be downloaded from [www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org](http://www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org) or picked up at the museum. Completed forms may be emailed to [mary@wbrmuseum.org](mailto:mary@wbrmuseum.org), or mailed to the West Baton Rouge Museum, 845 North Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767.



**FREE**

# MUSICIANS FÊTE

THURS. APRIL 10 NOON-7PM  
WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

**FOR MUSICIANS & MUSIC LOVERS**

**WORKSHOPS & RESOURCES**

- FREE LUNCH
- NETWORKING
- SINGER/SONGWRITER WORKSHOP with Barry Hebert
- OPEN JAM SESSIONS featuring special guests

**12 PM LUNCH & LECTURE IN THE BRICK GALLERY**  
with Chris Thomas King on "Clarence Williams Blues Origin Festival"

Lazarro Nettles  
Kent Louque  
Dee Davis

845 N. Jefferson Ave.  
Port Allen, LA 70767  
225-336-2422

www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org

KEAN MILLER...  
WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM LIBRARY  
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Carondelet  
BATON ROUGE BLUES FESTIVAL AND FOUNDATION  
BCBG Bayou Cigar Box Guitars  
LOUISIANA MUSIC MUSEUM  
M CULTURALYST

Join us for the West Baton Rouge Parish

# EGG-STRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH  
2:00-3:30 PM 2025

at the West Baton Rouge Museum

## Egg Hunt Age Groups & Times

Don't forget to bring your basket.

- 2:45 pm - Baby to 2 years old
- 2:53 pm - 3-5 years old
- 3:00 pm - 6-8 years old
- 3:08 pm - 9-10 years old

Egg Hunt  
Easter Bunny  
Petting Zoo  
Fun Activities  
Music

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM LIBRARY WEST BATON ROUGE

Cane's CHICKEN FINGERES  
GRAMMY'S KETTLE CORN  
Davasio's Italian Ice

This event is free and sponsored by the WBR Museum and WBR Library. Refreshments will be available for purchase from Blessed Sweets and Treats, Grammy's Kettle Corn, and Ravasio's Italian Ice. In the event of rain, activities will move to the Port Allen Community Center Pavilion. 845 N. Jefferson Ave. Port Allen, LA 70767 | (225) 336-2422

## Guest Lecturer on Haitian and Louisiana Cuisine and Culture at West Baton Rouge Museum's Kafé Kréyol-la

West Baton Rouge Museum will host a lecture on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 10:30 AM at our monthly Kafé Kréyol-la featuring Food Network's Chopped award-winning Chef Charly Pierre, owner of New Orleans restaurant, Fritai. Chef Pierre will speak on Haitian culture, south Louisiana culture, and how they intertwine, especially through his food!

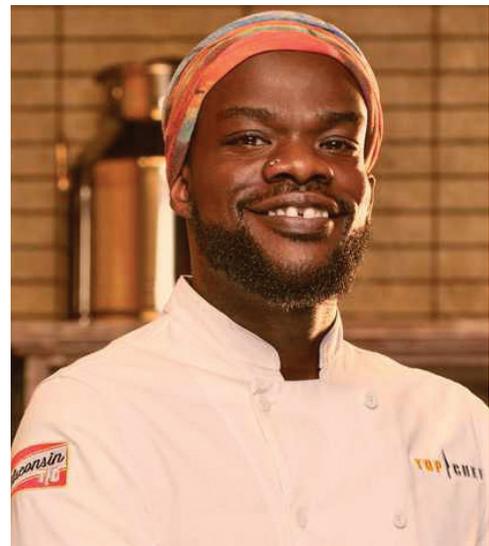
Charly Pierre has aspired to be a chef and a leader ever since he could remember. Growing up in his Haitian household naturally educated him on dishes deeply rooted in the family's past. By the time Charly graduated high school in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he was already running the line at his restaurant and received a scholarship to Southern New Hampshire University. After graduating and working five years in Boston managing, cooking, and serving, it was time for a change. In the fall of 2015, Charly moved to New Orleans where he and business partner, Eva Chereches saw the need for Haitian food in the city. Thus began the Fritai stall at the St. Roch Market. While at the

market, Charly created a name for himself. He held numerous fundraisers for Haiti, received Zagat's 30 Under 30 Award and Eater's National Young Guns, and made several TV appearances including winning Food Network's Chopped. Since that time, Fritai has now moved into its own brick and mortar space on Basin Street and has been serving award winning food and drink. The current restaurant has received Louisiana Cookin's Chefs to Watch, Vogue's Restaurant of the Year, EaterNOLA: Best New Restaurant, and James Beard: Best New Restaurant Nomination and Best Chef South Nomination. The restaurant was also featured on Bravo's Top Chef.

This program, originally scheduled as part of exhibit programming last winter and postponed due to snow, is accompanying our monthly Kafé Kréyol-la celebrating our love for both the French and Creole cultures of our community. This program provides a space for anyone to speak, learn, or simply support the Louisiana Creole language and culture. Of

course, refreshments will be provided since you can't have a true South Louisiana gathering without some coffee and something to snack on while you chat.

This event is FREE and open to the public. For more information, call (225)-336-2422, visit [www.westbatonrougemuseum.org](http://www.westbatonrougemuseum.org) or [www.facebook.com/TheWBRM](https://www.facebook.com/TheWBRM).



# Events to look forward to . . .

## April's Historical Happy Hour featuring Hanna PK and Artists from the Talented Student Art and Master Strokes: The Art of Educators Exhibits

Join the West Baton Rouge Museum on Friday, April 25, 2025 from 6-8 PM for Historical Happy Hour for an evening of live music and incredible art. This month's featured musical guest performer will be Hanna PK. This evening event will also include an after-hours opportunity to celebrate and view the works of local teachers and students featured in current exhibits, *Talented Student Art* and *Master Strokes: The Art of Educators*.

Hanna PK is a solid pianist, soulful vocalist, and vibrant performer, born and raised in South Korea. She honed her skills and delved into her love for Blues and Jazz in Rochester NY, and now is living in Louisiana further digging in the groove. She plays a wide variety of the blues & swing, old school folk, and boogie-woogie. She has a dynamic songwriting style - ranging from a funky tune with socially conscious lyrics to a mournful slow blues, from a pop-edged ballad to an uplifting swinging number, and from barrelhouse boogie to jazz. Her seemingly sweet and soft-spoken appearance often leads

to surprise when hearing her rich, resonating voice that goes from a whisper to belting with intensity. Her piano style is much more lyrical and imaginative than simply repeating so-called "licks", though she knows when to toss them in the mix for a thrill, and is always in the groove. And what draws the audience closer to her heartfelt, honest music are her genuine passion, and the originality that comes from within.

*Talented Student Art* is a colorful display that features the works of elementary, middle, and high school students in the Talented Art Program in the West Baton Rouge Parish public school system, and *Master Strokes: The Art of Educators* showcases the talents and personal artistic vision of the educators who teach students in the program. Be sure to step inside the museum to meet the artists and see their shows.

This FREE event is open to the public. This performance will take place outdoors at the Juke Joint stage on the grounds of the West Baton Rouge Museum near 6th Street. At Historical Happy Hour, the drinks are on you, and the history is on us. All are invited to bring blankets, folding chairs, and refreshments to enjoy on the museum grounds. In the event of inclement weather, the event will move indoors.

For more information, call (225)-336-2422, visit [www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org](http://www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org), or [www.facebook.com/TheWBRM](https://www.facebook.com/TheWBRM).



# Pics from Past Programs

## January's Triple Threat Historical Happy Hour

The Juke Joint came to life on Friday, January 17, 2025 when the Baton Rouge Blues Festival Foundation, West Baton Rouge Blues musician Lil Ray Neal, and Louisiana native artist, Malaika Favorite joined forces on Friday, January 17, 2025 to reveal the 2025 Festival Art during the January Historical Happy Hour. Festival VIP pass discounts were distributed compliments of Festival & Foundation Executive Director, Lauren Lambert-Tompkins. Visitors lined up to purchase autographed copies of the 2025 Blues Festival posters, and all enjoyed live entertainment from the gentle giant of the Blues, Lil Ray Neal!

## February Historical Happy Hour featuring Kasey Ball

On Friday, February 21, 2025, friend to the museum, Kasey Ball performed for Historical Happy Hour accompanied by his acoustic trio band. Ball rocked the house performing Mardi Gras tunes and more while receiving roaring applause from the audience!



# Pics from Past Programs

## Lunchtime Lecture featuring Warren LeJeune, Jr. on Beloved Leader, Edward Searcy

The West Baton Rouge Museum celebrated the life and legacy of beloved Port Allen teacher and Civil Rights leader during a Lunchtime Lecture on Friday, February 28, 2025 at 12 Noon with esteemed speaker and former student of Mr. Searcy, Warren LeJeune, Jr. With standing room only, the community came from far and wide to share touching, personal stories about their beloved teacher and mentor. After the lecture, guests took the opportunity to visit as former classmates and community members, meet family members of Mr. Searcy, and view the current exhibit: *West Baton Rouge's Educator, Edward Searcy*, on view through May 25, 2025.



# Pics from Past Programs

## National History Day

On Saturday February 22, 2025, middle and high school students from around the region descended on the WBR Museum to present their projects for National History Day. Students, using the year's theme of Rights & Responsibilities in History, created projects in one of five categories. Students showed their projects in person, and were judged by local qualified volunteers. In addition to the competition, students also enjoyed other activities like a pop-up art and a history bee with prizes. Special guest James Linden Hogg, former winner of the Baton Rouge Regional History Day, entertained students with a few songs and described how his win inspired him to pursue a graduate degree in history from LSU, and informed his writing and musical career. Winners from each category advanced to the Louisiana State History Day Competition at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, and those winners will move on the national competition in Washington DC.



## Dow Tour

On Thursday February 27, 2025, the WBR Museum hosted a private Black History Month tour for Dow Chemical, sponsored by their Global African Affinity Network. The reception, which featured live music by local multi-instrumentalist Terrel Griffin, featured both the permanent exhibits and the current traveling exhibit, *Sorting Out Race*. On the museum grounds, guests toured the museum's three historical cabins which highlight the struggle of African Americans from slavery to Jim Crow to Civil Rights and the Juke Joint, which details the importance of the local music scene. Inside the museum, guests enjoyed a signature cocktail, light refreshments, and thought-provoking discussions of the exhibits.





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



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# NEWSLETTER ÉCOUTEZ



A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## WBR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS 2025

- Thomas Acosta, *Treasurer*
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- Bo Bres
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- Kristy Hammack
- Ken Kahao, *Vice President*
- Lennette Lasseigne
- Alice LeBlanc
- Jesse LeBlanc
- Debbie Martin
- Andrea Normand
- Clyde Robertson
- Rose Roché
- Janet Simoneaux
- LeeDell Woods

## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM BOARD MEMBERS 2025

- Brilliant Clayton
- Melanie Clouatre
- Joycelyn Green, *Secretary*
- William Kleinpeter, *Treasurer*
- Drew Maciasz, *Vice Chair*
- Rose Roché, *Chair*
- David Toups
- 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

## It's Time to Renew Your HA Membership!!

The Historical Association Membership cycle is January 1 through December 31 - renew yours today! Our membership committee is hard at work continually updating our membership roster to be reflective of active members. Don't miss out on the wonderful benefits of membership, including receipt of the *Ecoute'*, by allowing your membership to lapse.