About the cover —

Historic balconies with intricate wrought iron like these on the corner of Royal and Ursulines streets make the French Quarter one of the most distinct places in the world. This scene captured by New Orleans photographer Syndey Byrd opened the second of a two-part series in Louisiana Cultural Vistas on French Quarter architecture excerpted from the posthumous Historic Buildings of the French Quarter by Lloyd Vogt.
For 35 years, from 1971-2005, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities — the Louisiana affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities — fulfilled its mission to bring the humanities to all Louisianians throughout the state.

This report is a summary of 35 years of investment and the impact of that investment. We especially want to acknowledge our two principal investors and partners: The National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Louisiana.

After all these years the question remains . . . What are the humanities and why are they important?

The humanities define us. The humanities tell us who we are as a people, where we have been, where we are, and where we might be going. The humanities teach us about the past, help us understand the present and enrich the future.

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities’ mission has been and continues to be about providing all Louisianians with access to and an appreciation of their own rich, shared and diverse historical, literary, and cultural heritage. We reach people of every educational level through grant-supported outreach programs, family literacy and adult reading initiatives, teacher professional development institutes, publications, film and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, cultural tourism, public lectures, library projects, and other public humanities programming.

This report is a culmination of 35 years of investment and impact on our state, our communities, and our people.

Michael Sartisky, Ph.D.
LEH President, Executive Director
The LEH has invested $38.5 million in humanities programs and projects that, together with funds invested by our collaborative partners, represent a total humanities investment of more than $90 million. To insure that life-long learning for all Louisianans is a reality, the LEH developed programs to reach out into small towns, to help families break the cycle of intergenerational illiteracy, and to help Louisiana’s teachers become better educators.

**LEH Investments include:**

- $23.3 million in grants to collaborative partners throughout the state for humanities programming;
- $6.9 million in developing, implementing, and updating Prime Time Family Reading Time across the state and nation;
- $3.4 million invested in producing Readings in Literature and Culture (RELIC) programs throughout Louisiana;
- $4.4 million invested in publishing an award winning magazine, Louisiana Cultural Vistas, that brings Louisiana’s people, stories, history, and culture to a state, national, and international audience;
- $1.835 million in the Louisiana Humanities Center at Turners’ Hall, the first step in creating a state-of-the-art learning center that will serve the entire state.

Above, far left and second from left: Mural of Captain Henry Shreve Clearing the Great Raft from the Red River, by Lloyd Hawthorne, housed at the R.W. Norton Art Gallery in Shreveport; Cajun Mardi Gras masker by Lee Celano.
An audience of more than **70 million** people has benefited from all LEH-supported programs. **10 million** Louisianians have directly attended Prime Time and RELIC programs, Teacher Institutes, festivals, and events. The total

**LEH Impact includes:**

- **Grants** projects including documentary films and radio programs have reached a total audience of **69 million** people.
- **Prime Time** family reading and literacy programs have reached **14,000** Louisianians.
- **RELIC** adult reading and discussion programs have reached almost **80,000** people.
- **Louisiana Cultural Vistas**, the LEH’s quarterly publication, is read by **50,000** people annually.
- **Teacher Institutes** programs have enrolled more than **3,400** teachers.

Above, from center to right, Houmas House plantation by Kerri McCaffety; author Tim Gautreaux by Philip Gould; Louisiana State Capitol by Jim Blanchard; Fats Domino by Philip Gould.
During the 1970s, the LEH essentially acted as a re-grantor of funds, supporting humanities programs and projects throughout Louisiana much like other state humanities councils. During this time, the LEH’s budget and staffing stayed relatively flat. Determined that life-long learning opportunities should be available to ALL Louisianans, the LEH became a more active force in community and state education and cultural initiatives in the mid 1980s.

Beginning in the early 1980s, the LEH developed programs that dramatically expanded its reach by breaking down barriers caused by illiteracy and poverty and bringing the humanities to a wider audience in all corners of the state.

These tables depict the time frames of budget growth impact as the LEH identified problems, developed solutions, field-tested them, and finally brought the programs on line.
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Fall 2005 Louisiana Cultural Vistas featuring cover photo of Hurricane Katrina by David Rae Morris. RELIC brochure. “Blessing of the Fleet.”

O. Wesson & Co.

Capitol Campaign

Museum on Main Street

Teaching American History

2001 2003 2005
The LEH developed Prime Time Family Reading Time in response to Louisiana’s illiteracy crisis and to reach people traditionally not served by humanities programs. Prime Time Family Reading Time is an intergenerational, humanities-based literacy program that enables parents with low literacy skills, working with scholars and storytellers, to help their children, ages 6 to 10, read and comprehend. Led by a scholar and a storyteller, this family based literacy program features award-winning children’s books that stimulate discussion around the themes of problems faced in everyday life. Prime Time Family Reading Time bonds families around the act of reading. It changes behaviors and expectations with parents taking a more active role in their children’s education.
The LEH has invested almost $4.7 million to develop, implement, and upgrade Prime Time Family Reading Time in Louisiana alone.

Nationally, LEH's Prime Time investment includes $1 million in competitive NEH grant funding, in addition to almost $500,000 additional funds raised by the local sites, to bring Prime Time to a national audience.

Since 1995, more than 14,000 Louisiana residents have participated in 347 Prime Time programs in 60 of Louisiana’s 64 parishes. The winner of major national awards, the LEH’s Prime Time Family Reading Time is a featured literacy program in 36 other states, with 175 programs and more than 5,000 participants across the country. Ninety-five percent of participants have successfully completed the program. More than 1,000 scholars, storytellers, and program directors have received training in Prime Time’s methodology.
Prime Time programs have been modeled and adopted in 36 states and the Virgin Islands and has been named winner of the Presidential Coming Up Taller Award.

"Of all of these wonderful engagements through the years, I can honestly say that none of these activities touches my soul, my heart, and my intellect in more profound ways than the Prime Time program did."

Darrell Bourque, Board of Regents Endowed Professor in Interdisciplinary Humanities, University of Southwestern Louisiana
Families bond through sharing books at Prime Time sessions.
Since 1985, the LEH has sponsored Teacher Institutes for Advanced Study, intensive summer seminars for Louisiana’s elementary, middle, and high school teachers. Led by Louisiana university professors, these graduate-credit institutes provide educators with intellectual stimulation, advanced knowledge, and practical access to improved teaching methods and technology.

The LEH’s Teacher Institutes for Advanced Study is the largest program of its kind in the country. That sustained success led in 2003 and 2005 to the LEH winning two $1 million Teaching American History grants from the U.S. Department of Education.
LEH Teacher Institutes for Advanced Study represent an investment of $6.4 million in teacher professional development. The LEH's collaborative university partners have invested or contributed an additional $5 million in tuition and fee waivers.

Since 1985, more than 3,400 teachers attended 176 graduate-level Teacher Institutes. Teacher participants have come from 61 of Louisiana's 64 parishes. These educators teach nearly 500,000 students annually.
The LEH developed RELIC in 1983 after a review of grant making in the early 1980s showed that rural areas of the state were not applying for grants and that libraries were not conducting adult reading and discussion programs as integral parts of their mission. RELIC has helped Louisiana libraries create public forums on topics of literature and history throughout the state.

RELIC has become one of the most important programs available to public libraries, especially among the many that serve rural parts of Louisiana. Typically, these libraries lack sufficient staff and financial resources to develop comprehensive, engaging adult reading and discussion programs. Instead, RELIC offers a “turn-key” alternative, staffed with university scholars and featuring a wide variety of topics.
More than $3.4 million has been invested in RELIC, including more than $1 million in competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

RELIC is the most widespread and well-attended adult library reading program in the nation with total attendance of almost 80,000 and programs in 62 of Louisiana’s 64 parishes. RELIC has conducted 684 six-week programs, with an average attendance of 118 persons. ■ In partnership with the Louisiana Library Association and the State Library, more than 100 libraries across the state have hosted RELIC programs. RELIC has offered 24 different subjects, from Louisiana history and literature to the history of Russia and the literature of Canada and Latin America, from women’s literature to the history of World War II, from the American West to southeastern Native Americans. ■ RELIC programs have been led by 240 scholars from 28 educational institutions, 22 of which are four-year universities.
Louisiana Cultural Vistas magazine exists because not everyone in Louisiana is Cajun, because Louisiana is more than New Orleans, college football, and great food. Louisiana Cultural Vistas exists because Louisiana is far greater than the sum of its parts. For 15 years, Louisiana Cultural Vistas has focused on the state’s culture, arts, and history. This rich and substantive magazine brings to the printed page the best in visuals and text from Louisiana scholars, artists, photographers, fiction writers, poets, essayists, and critics.

Families pay homage to the deceased on All Saints’ Day in Lacombe, Louisiana.
Through an investment of $4.4 million and 15 years of publication, Louisiana Cultural Vistas has published 4,600 pages of articles on Louisiana, forming the basis for the future Louisiana online Encyclopedia.

Louisiana Cultural Vistas has taken the state to a national and international audience of 50,000 readers annually. Since 1994, Louisiana Cultural Vistas has won 65 Press Club of New Orleans awards for excellence, including best publication five times since 1996.
"The humanities are] the force of memories in our lives and how we learn, preserve our family identities, the identities of our communities, our backgrounds, our shared heritage. . . . The humanities are important because they teach us about ourselves. They hold up a mirror, not only to our communities, our history but in a very real way, our souls."

Jason Berry, LEH Humanist of the Year, May 2002
Among Louisiana Cultural Vistas’ topics have been a photo essay on River Road by photographer Richard Sexton (far left), the art of North Louisiana artist Clementine Hunter (left), Caddo Parish oil fields (above left), a Cajun Mardi Gras pictorial by Lee Celano (above), the art of New Orleans native son Walter Anderson (right), and South Louisiana landscapes by Nell Campbell (below).
LEH grants support a wide range of needs and interests in a state of such great diversity. LEH’s collaborative partners include Louisiana universities, libraries, museums, cultural centers, historical societies, community groups, and grassroots organizations in both urban and rural areas. Grantees have included local librarians and museum directors, as well as Emmy and Academy Award nominated filmmakers, and Pulitzer Prize winning authors.

The LEH has long supported the popular annual Louisiana Folklife Festival in Monroe.
The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities has invested $22.3 million in public humanities and outreach grants that together with funds invested by our collaborative partners represent a total humanities investment of almost $45 million.

During the past 35 years, the LEH funded more than 1,000 Public Humanities Grant projects and more than 1,000 Outreach Grant projects in all 64 Louisiana parishes. The total audience was 69 million people, including 60 million for media projects and 9 million for all others: exhibits, festivals, conferences, etc.
Documentary Film & Radio Grants are the LEH’s most cost-effective grants. They have the potential to reach the state’s and nation’s entire population through public television or radio. For more than 20 years, LEH has supported documentary film and radio projects about Louisiana. Among the films which received LEH support are:

- Huey Long
- Shalom Y’all
- Louisiana Boys: Raised on Politics
- Uncle Earl
- All on a Mardi Gras Day
- Journey for Justice: The A.P. Tureaud Story
- Haunted Waters, Fragile Land
- Up From the Cradle of Jazz
- Something Nobody Else Has: The Story of Turtle Trapping in Louisiana
- Hidden Nation
- The Baroness and Her Buildings
- Swapping Stories: Folktales from Louisiana
The LEH has invested $3.2 million in
157 documentary film and radio projects.

Based upon television and radio ratings,
LEH-funded documentary films and radio programs have been seen or heard by an estimated 60 million Americans.

The LEH established the Louisiana Humanities Resource Center at the State Library of Louisiana in order to archive and circulate the 157 documentary films produced through this program, making them available to any Louisiana resident with a library card.

These films let Louisiana tell its own story to the world.
The Louisiana Publishing Initiative (LPI) has increased the quantity and the quality of books published on Louisiana topics in the humanities that are of interest to general audiences. Through the LPI, more than 100 books have been published on Louisiana’s history and culture. Books that otherwise may have never been published have brought Louisiana, its people, and their stories, to the nation.

- Unveiling Kate Chopin
  by Emily Toth
- Elysium-A Gathering of Souls
  by Sandra Russell Clark
- The Kingdom of Zydeco
  by Michael Tisserand
- War Stories:
  Remembering World War II
  by Elizabeth Mullener
- On My Way:
  The Art of Sarah Albritton
  by Susan Roach
- Troubled Memory:
  Anne Levy, the Holocaust & David Duke’s Louisiana
  by Lawrence Powell
- The Cajuns: Americanization of a People
  by Shane Bernard
- Buildings of Louisiana
  by Karen Kingsley
- The Civil War Diary of Sarah Morgan
  by Charles East
The LEH has invested $732,000 to assist in the publishing of more than 100 books.

No other organization has done more to bring Louisiana’s history, people, and culture before national and international audiences. The LEH is responsible for funding more documentary films and books about Louisiana than any other single organization.
The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, funded by the LEH for 18 years from 1988 to 2005, is one of the top 10 literary festivals in the country. Today, the Festival’s offices are housed at the Louisiana Humanities Center at Turners’ Hall.

Participants have included Pulitzer Prize winners, National Book Award Finalists, and best-selling writers such as Douglas Brinkley, Ernest Gaines, John Barry and the late Stephen Ambrose and George Plimpton.
Since 1988, the LEH has invested $281,365 in the festival.

Annual festival attendance exceeds 10,000. The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival’s total economic impact in New Orleans is nearly $1 million annually.

The Tennessee Williams / New Orleans Literary Festival celebrates the noted playwright and his works, such as “A Streetcar Named Desire” depicted in the still shot at the right from the 1951 movie starring Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh.
American Routes is a two-hour, national weekly public radio program produced in New Orleans. It presents a broad range of music and interviews that includes blues and jazz, gospel and soul, old-time country and rockabilly, Cajun and Zydeco, Tejano and Latin, roots rock and pop, avant-garde and classical. American Routes explores the shared musical, historical and cultural threads in these American styles and genres. Among the Louisiana musicians featured on the program are:

- Lucinda Williams
- Dr. John
- Preservation Hall Jazz Band
- Mahalia Jackson
- Hackberry Ramblers
- Ernie K-Doe
- Michael White
- Fats Domino
- Buckwheat Zydeco
- Henry Butler
- Professor Longhair
- Aaron Neville
- Allen Toussaint
- Harold Batiste
- Deacon John
- Mamou Playboys
- Lazy Lester
- Queen Ida
- Henry Gray
- Buddy Guy
- Jerry Lee Lewis
- Clarence “Frogman” Henry
- Rebirth Brass Band
- Wild Magnolias
- Dave Bartholomew
- Irma Thomas
- Kermit Ruffins
- Harold Dejan
- Wynton Marsalis
- Dale Hawkins
- Nellie Lutcher
- Nathan Williams
- Nicholas Payton
- Ellis Marsalis
- Marcia Ball
- Beau Jacque
- Bruce Daigrepont
The LEH has invested $739,000 in American Routes to help bring Louisiana’s music and culture to a national and international audience.

More than 500,000 listeners tune in to American Routes every week. The nationally syndicated program is aired in more than 200 media markets in 41 states.

Photograph by Bob Coke
In 2000, the LEH formed an exclusive partnership with the Smithsonian Institution to bring its Museum on Main Street program to rural Louisiana. One-third of Louisianians live in rural communities and those that have museums can seldom afford to develop or attract major exhibitions. The Museum on Main Street program provides small towns with the opportunity to host high-quality traveling exhibitions that they would never be able to obtain independently.

MOMS exhibits included a poster of Rosie the Riveter encouraging Americans during World War II and artwork of “Past Visions of the American Future.”
The LEH has invested $90,000 in two Museum on Main Street programs — **Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front** and **Yesterday’s Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future** — paying for exhibit rental and providing funding for local humanities programming at the host sites. **Key Ingredients: America by Food**, the third Museum on Main Street exhibit, will focus on food and culture.

**Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945**

- Herbert S. Ford Memorial Museum / Homer (Claiborne Parish)
- Hermione Museum / Tallulah (Madison Parish)
- Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame / Winnfield (Winn Parish)
- West Baton Rouge Museum / Port Allen (West Baton Rouge Parish)
- Zigler Museum / Jennings (Jefferson Davis Parish)
- Varnado Store Museum / Franklinton (Washington Parish)

**Yesterday’s Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future**

- Webster Parish Library / Minden (Webster Parish)
- Princess Theatre / Winnsboro (Franklin Parish)
- Jeanerette Museum / Jeanerette (Iberia Parish)
- Brimstone Museum / Sulphur (Calcasieu Parish)
- Iberville Museum / Plaquemine (Iberville Parish)
- Old Town Hall Museum / Pineville (Rapides Parish)

**Impact >** The six rural Louisiana museums that hosted **Produce for Victory**, reported:

- A 100-percent increase in attendance during the exhibit’s run.
- An ongoing 50-percent increase in average yearly attendance after the exhibit closed.
- A total economic impact for their communities in excess of $500,000 representing a return of more than 600 percent on the LEH’s investment.
In December 2000, the LEH purchased Turners’ Hall, a historically and architecturally significant building in the New Orleans Central Business District. LEH acquired the 30,000-square-foot building and 27-space adjacent parking lot for $1.835 million. Today, the building is fully paid for and because of the building’s architectural and historical significance and quality of construction, replacement value for the building is estimated $8 million with the land valued at an additional $2 million.

The LEH moved into the Louisiana Humanities Center at Turners’ Hall in New Orleans in 2000.
The Louisiana Humanities Center Capital Campaign will enable the LEH to develop a fully functional distance learning humanities center that will serve ALL Louisianians. Efficient space design and state-of-the-art learning technology—whether in the auditorium or in the seminar rooms—will enable presenters and participants opportunities to access a world of information and to share knowledge with each other and with colleagues.

Among the highlights will be:

- The PrimeTime Family Reading Time Literacy Center on the first floor with offices for PrimeTime, RELIC, and other LEH staff, and a multi-use auditorium that can be converted to a conference room or meeting space.
- A totally wireless environment will connect video conferencing equipment to give program participants seamless communication on-site, throughout the state, and nation.
PRIME TIME:
Prime Time Family Reading Time, between 1995 and 2005, received seven competitive national NEH grants as well as 14 grants from private foundations, community organizations, and other federal agencies.

■ Coming Up Taller (2000): Bestowed by the U.S. President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities

RELIC:
■ NEH’s Exemplary Project Award
■ American Association for State and Local History’s Award of Merit
(2003): In recognition of Prime Time’s contribution to the advancement of adult literacy projects.

Louisiana Cultural Vistas:
Louisiana Cultural Vistas has been recognized by the Press Club of New Orleans 65 times for excellence. Included in those awards, Cultural Vistas has been awarded First Place for Best Publication five times between 1996 and 2005. Additionally, since 1993 the magazine has been recognized twice for best editorial writing and 10 times for the Best Photo Story.

Grants Program:
In 1995, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities received an Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) in recognition of the LEH’s high level of achievement in local, state, and regional history. Additionally, the AASLH has recognized 55 other LEH-funded projects for their excellence. Included in those awards are 24 Documentary Film and Radio projects funded by the LEH, 18 Program Grants funded in collaboration with our partnering organizations around Louisiana, and seven publications.

In national competition, the LEH has won 15 competitively awarded federal grants totaling more than $4.5 million.
Beginning in 1985, the LEH began celebrating the humanities with a series of awards that recognize contributions to the humanities in Louisiana. The awards honor individuals for Lifetime Contribution to the Humanities, The Chair’s Institutional Award, Louisiana Book of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Humanist of the Year. The Louisiana Humanist of the Year award honors individuals who have encouraged public consideration of issues central to the humanities; participated in public programs in libraries, museums, or other cultural institutions; or published important works in the humanities.

1985: Stephen Ambrose, historian, University of New Orleans
1986: Joe Gray Taylor, historian, McNeese State University
1987: Lewis R. Simpson, literary scholar, Louisiana State University
1988: Huel D. Perkins, educator, Louisiana State University
1989: Ernest Gaines, author, University of Southwestern Louisiana
1990: Patricia and Milton Rickels, educators, Southeastern Louisiana University
1991: Earle Labor, literary scholar/editor, Centenary College
1992: Jessie Jean Poesch, art historian, Newcomb College of Tulane University
1993: Donald E. Stanford, literary scholar
1994: Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, historian, University of New Orleans
1996: Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr., historian
1997: Richard Ford, author and literary scholar
1998: Peggy Whitman Prenshaw, literary scholar, Louisiana State University
1999: Lawrence Powell, historian, Tulane University
2000: Joseph G. Tregle, Jr., historian, University of New Orleans
2001: Glenn Conrad, historian, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2002: Jason Berry, independent scholar and writer
2003: Beth Willinger, director, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women
2004: Douglas Brinkley, historian, author, director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies
2005: Carl Brasseaux, historian, author, director University of Louisiana Lafayette Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism