2009 ANNUAL REPORT
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About the cover:
Lady Buck Jumpers Parade, photograph by Syndey Byrd. Throughout 2009 the LEH hosted a series of popular programs at its Louisiana Humanities Center on the history and music of New Orleans' brass bands titled "As Told By Themselves."
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Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities
INTRODUCTION

The year 2009 was an impressive year at the LEH, despite state funding cuts. We continued to expand PRIME TIME nationally and developed a prototype of the LEH's forthcoming Encyclopedia of Louisiana History and Culture, known as KnowLA. Our Capital Campaign to build our state-of-the-art education center in Turners’ Hall was extremely successful, thanks in great part to many of our effective and dedicated board members and the support of state government, foundations, corporations and individuals throughout the state.

In 2009, the LEH — through its national award-winning programs, such as PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME®, KnowLA, American Routes, the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and other grants awarded to communities across the state — remained the nation's leading state humanities council. It continued to create greater public access to our shared heritage.

Since its inception, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities has invested almost $55 million to bring Louisiana's people, history, cultures, and stories to local, national, and international audiences. More than 20,500 Louisiana residents have participated in PRIME TIME programs, approximately 96,000 have attended RELIC programs, and more than 4,180 educators have enrolled in LEH’s Teacher Institutes for Advanced Study. Millions more have attended LEH-funded programs throughout the state or have watched LEH-funded documentaries. The bulk of that investment was possible through state and federal appropriations and grants the LEH received through competitive applications.

ON-LINE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LOUISIANA HISTORY AND CULTURE

In the second year of full-time development, KnowLA staff commissioned more than 350 of the encyclopedia's top entries, researched and located more than 1,200 digital images to accompany entries, acquired master files necessary for producing high-quality images, and developed master databases for text and media files. By the end of 2009, staff had received some 220 entries — 59 percent of the total identified for launch. We will shortly begin migrating data to the encyclopedia’s content management system to build a beta website for testing.

This past year KnowLA staff worked closely with the Louisiana State Museum to identify images for encyclopedia entries. With the LSM embarking on a huge project to digitize all French colonial records, both here and in France and Canada, the LSM and KnowLA/LEH are investigating ways to support each other’s projects. Andrea Ferguson, KnowLA digital media editor, also acquired master files for images from the Louisiana State Library and from The Historic New Orleans Collection.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The year 2009 was a year of transition for the LEH's development effort. Donations listed herein display three distinct trends: (1) a precedent-setting new philanthropic partnership with BP America; (2) an increase in Annual Fund participation; and (3) a reduced number of capital donations, representing the fulfillment of multiyear pledges on our very successful capital campaign, which concluded in 2008. The BP America partnership — an $188,000 pledge donation ($225,000 including additional media efforts) to support PRIME TIME Family Reading Time across Louisiana — is detailed in the donations section of this report. Just how pivotal our increased institutional development efforts were to the LEH’s lifeblood was made all the more evident this past year with the reduction of state funds to LEH programs.

Finally, the year was also one of transition in development staffing, with the hiring in mid-February of Dr. Jeff A. Hale as Director of Institutional Advancement. Most recently associate vice chancellor for corporate, foundation and research relations at Louisiana State University, Dr. Hale worked with our Board to initiate an aggressive outreach program with the private sector, while also collaborating internally with LEH staff to better integrate development operations with LEH programs. The BP America partnership is an early success that exemplifies the LEH's enhanced private sector focus of its post-campaign strategic planning process.

LOUISIANA HUMANITIES CENTER AT TURNERS’ HALL

The Louisiana Humanities Center (LHC) at Turners’ Hall was a phenomenal success during the year. It provided innovative, respected learning spaces for humanities and non-profit organizations in the state, and developed public programming that employed the expertise, partnerships and projects of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities to further the study of Louisiana.

In 2009, the LHC’s Patrick F. Taylor Auditorium was home to three original series: the Professors piano nights, the As Told by Themselves: The New Orleans Brass Bands oral history project, and The New Orleans Mayors: A History of the Mayoralty Since 1946.
These ongoing events brought new scholarly focus to the cultural, musical, and political traditions of the city, while documenting performances and testimonies for future studies. Throughout the year, rental clients enjoyed the sophisticated design and state-of-the-art facilities for successful meetings and events.

**LEH Programs**

LEH programs, whether through the dramatic expansion of PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME®, receipt of a major Teaching American History grant, our Teacher Institutes for Advanced Study, RELIC, our grants programs or Louisiana Cultural Vistas magazine, reached deep into communities throughout the state. We continued to excel in developing and supporting programs that are now national models.

Louisiana rarely has been the source of a solution to the problems of illiteracy. Too often, our state has been cited among its dismal examples. Yet, in 2009, PRIME TIME completed 35 programs across 20 Louisiana parishes, reaching 1,300 at-risk children and their parents or guardians. In addition, the LEH, thanks to non-state funding, conducted 61 programs in 11 other states, graduating more than 2,300 participants, with funding from the Library Services and Technology Act grants and other funds raised by out-of-state partners. Participating states included California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Since PRIME TIME began in 1991, it has reached all 64 parishes as well as communities in 37 other states, plus the Virgin Islands, graduating 36,500 children and their parents. This is truly a Louisiana success story.

Now in its 29th year, RELIC is a blueprint for successful adult reading programs. In 2009 the LEH, working with local libraries, conducted programs in 29 parishes with 4,194 Louisiana residents signing up for the programs. Since its inception in 1983, RELIC programs have reached over 96,000 Louisiana residents in 63 of the state's 64 parishes.

Our highly popular Teacher Institutes for Advanced Studies were successful again last year. In December 2009, the LEH provided grant funds for two institutes that will be held in the summer of 2010 — a significant reduction in programming due to reduced state support. Since 1985, the LEH has sponsored 217 summer seminars for about 4,180 Louisiana elementary, middle and high school teachers, who in turn teach approximately 500,000 students annually.

Louisiana Cultural Vistas continued to gain greater attention and acclaim and win professional awards. With a readership exceeding 50,000, including through a new digital web version, Louisiana Cultural Vistas is a lasting way for the LEH to promote and explore Louisiana’s rich cultural heritage.

Two other major LEH-supported projects also are featured in this report. American Routes is a nationally acclaimed two-hour weekly radio program, featuring Louisiana roots music. In 2009, the show reached 447 stations in 236 radio markets, including XM Satellite Radio, and a weekly audience of over 500,000 listeners. The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, completing its 23rd year in 2009, continued to gain national recognition as one of the nation’s premier literary events.

**Teaching American History Grants**

In June 2009 the LEH organized and managed two U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History programs, including four summer institutes for 61 Calcasieu Parish public school American history teachers. This was the second year for this $1 million, three-year grant period. In addition, the LEH secured a new $1.6 million five-year TAH grant for public school teachers in Ouachita, Morehouse, East Carroll, Richland parishes and Monroe City Schools. This is the fourth Teaching American History grant — totaling $4.6 million — that the LEH has secured for public school districts in Louisiana. Earlier $1 million grants took place in Orleans and Caddo parishes. The LEH also continued to act as the fiscal agent for Algiers Charter Schools Association’s TAH grant.

**Grants**

This year’s Annual Report also describes grants projects funded in 2009 to community organizations, institutions, museums, scholars, writers and film producers. In 2009, the LEH awarded 45 grants totaling $372,067. Since 1971, the LEH has invested more than $25 million in grants.

As you will see in the pages that follow, 2009 was a challenging but successful year, thanks to continued support from the State of Louisiana, the National Endowment for the Humanities, corporations and hundreds of private donors.

Michael Sartisky, PhD
President/Executive Director

M. Cleland Powell III
LEH Chair
PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME®, a unique intergenerational six- or eight-week literacy program composed of readings, discussions and story telling, reached approximately 1,300 participants in 2009 at Louisiana’s public libraries, schools, community centers and other public venues. This national family literacy and discussion program promotes the humanities among low-income, low-literacy and/or English language learning parents or guardians and their 6-to-10-year-old children while helping them learn to enjoy reading together. Using beautifully illustrated, humanities rich children’s literature in conjunction with recognizable humanities themes, PRIME TIME makes the connection between literature and the real-world relevant for participating families. The family literacy model also provides pre-literacy programming for 3- to 5-year olds.

Since the program began in 1991, PRIME TIME has completed 981 programs in Louisiana and 37 other states graduating over 36,500 participants. In 2009 alone, PRIME TIME completed 35 programs across 20 Louisiana parishes. Since inception, 501 programs have been implemented in all of Louisiana’s 64 parishes; reaching about 20,500 participants. Nationally in 2009, 61 self-funded PRIME TIME programs were implemented by affiliate partners across 11 states; reaching 2,300 participants. Since national expansion began in 1998, 480 programs have been completed across 37 other states; reaching 16,000 participants. No state funds are used for out-of-state programs.

In recognition of PRIME TIME’s successes and potential for further replication, the American Library Association’s office of Public Programs and the Louisiana Library Association continue to be strong institutional partners. In 2009, PRIME TIME also earned the endorsements of the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy, the United Way for the Greater New Orleans, and the Urban League of Greater New Orleans.

2009 Special Projects

To date 4 graduate institutes on PRIME TIME methodology have been conducted throughout Louisiana; graduating approximately 85 public school teachers. A fifth institute is being planned for implementation in Shreveport in the summer 2010. The institutes introduce teachers to the maieutic methodology, which is the basis for the PRIME TIME model. The institutes are conducted in partnership with local universities and are led by university professors experienced in PRIME TIME methodology. Participating teachers receive 3 graduate level credits, 45 Continuing Learning Units (CLU’s) and stipends for successfully completing the institutes.

Through a partnership with the Consulate General of France in New Orleans, 3 bilingual French/English PRIME TIME pilot programs were implemented in 2009. Approximately 150 parents/guardians and children participated in these highly anticipated programs that took place in Lafayette, Lafourche and Orleans parishes. Average attendance at these programs was 30 individuals per session.

PRIME TIME also partnered with the Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services to implement a single program that brought delinquent youth together with their parents to engage in reading and discussion sessions. Jefferson Parish youth facing adjudication enrolled in the PRIME TIME program along with their parents based on referrals from Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court as an alternative to further adjudication. Thirty-two delinquent youth and family members participated in this project. Average attendance per session was 22 individuals.

1991-2009 NATIONAL EXPANSION

981 total sites nationally
37 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Note: In addition to the State of Louisiana, PRIME TIME programs in Louisiana were also supported by the City of Thibodaux Recreation Department, the Community Foundation of Shreveport-Bossier, the Consulate General of France in New Orleans, the German Protestant Orphan Asylum (GPOA) Foundation, the Target Corporation, and the Zemurray Foundation.
2009 Achievements

- Completed 35 programs across 20 Louisiana parishes, reaching 1,300 participants.
- Completed 61 self-funded programs in 11 other states, reaching 2,300 participants.
- 3 English/French pilot programs were implemented in southeast Louisiana, enrolling 150 participants.
- 1 program for delinquent youth implemented in Jefferson Parish, enrolling 32 participants.
- Continued expansion as a national model for family reading programs at 61 sites in 11 other states, graduating more than 2,300 participants with funding from the Library Services and Technology Act grants and other funds raised by out-of-state partner agencies.
- Affiliate states, illustrating their commitment to sustain and expand the program, were California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

LOUISIANA CULTURAL VISTAS celebrated its 20th year of publication in 2009, maintaining its mission to document and interpret the state’s culture, literature, arts and history. The Press Club of New Orleans honored the magazine with six awards in 2009, adding to a total of 100 awards received in the past 17 years. The quarterly magazine ensures that grant projects that may have reached a select regional audience gain greater visibility on the printed page, circulated to more than 50,000 readers.

An on-line version of the magazine was launched with the Spring 2007 edition, allowing Internet access to each page of subsequent issues as well as select back issues. By logging on to www.leh.org, readers can now find Louisiana Cultural Vistas in its entirety in digital format. Using innovative new technology, readers can view two-page spreads and then “flip” through the publication, similar to a printed version. Every listing for a website in the print version is linked online to that site, be it for a cultural partner or an advertiser.

Highlights of 2009 included:

- Surrealistic photos by Kevin Levine, a licensed Mississippi River pilot, of vessels plying the river.
- Archaeological discoveries at the site of Galveztown, an 18th-century Spanish-colonial outpost along Bayou Manchac.
- A biography of Nellie Lutcher, an African-American singer from Lake Charles who performed with the likes of Nat King Cole and Lena Horne in the 1940s.
- A history of bread and its use in New Orleans food culture — including the ubiquitous po-boy sandwich.
- Selections from a retrospective exhibit of New Orleans’ impressionist William Woodward.
- The Shreveport years of country musician Hank Williams, Sr.

“This is a very good program because kids learn to discuss problems as they relate the stories to their lives. My children like to listen to and read books more than before. Thank you for the time given to the kids.”

—participating PRIME TIME parent

“Family literacy programs such as PRIME TIME change the way a family operates as a unit. This program demonstrates to parents that they CAN be their child’s first teacher and instill a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.”

—Paula Godfrey, PRIME TIME Program Coordinator

“One parent said that PRIME TIME helped change his feeling and understanding of stories, while another said that she ‘learned the importance of spending quality time reading with her child at home’.”

—Carolyn Freeman, PRIME TIME Program Coordinator

2009 Press Club Awards

Louisiana Cultural Vistas amassed six awards in 2009 from the Press Club of New Orleans in the following categories:

**MULTI-FEATURE PHOTO**
- 1st Place — Robert Polidori for “After the Flood,” which also won the Hal Ledet Print Photography Award for best photography in all categories.
- 2nd Place — tie, posthumously for Michael P. Smith for “The Enduring Performance of Michael P. Smith,” and Sandra Burshell for “Eye of the Storm.”
- 3rd Place — Donn Young for “40 Days and 40 Nights.”

**COLUMN**
- 2nd Place — Jessica Harris for “Louisiana Foodways.”

**CRITICAL REVIEW**
- 3rd Place — Ben Sandmel for “The roots and radicalism of rap music”

**ENTERTAINMENT NEWS**
- Honorable Mention — Jason Berry for “The Enduring Performance of Michael P. Smith.”
During 2009, the LEH continued the implementation of the $1 million U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History (TAH) grant for Calcasieu Parish public school teachers. In addition, the LEH secured a new $1.6 million five-year TAH grant for public school teachers in Ouachita, Morehouse, East Carroll, Richland parishes and Monroe City schools. In both cases, the LEH wrote and managed the grants for the partnering school districts. This is the fourth Teaching American History grant — totaling $4.6 million — that the LEH has secured for public school districts in Louisiana. Earlier $1 million grants took place in Orleans and Caddo parishes.

**CALCASIEU**

**Summer Institutes:** From June 1 to June 25, 2009, the LEH offered four graduate-level institutes in American history at McNeese State University in Lake Charles for 61 Calcasieu Parish public elementary, middle and high school teachers. The courses included *From Colonials to Americans: Those Who Made a Nation* for elementary school teachers; *Westward Expansion and Immigration, 1800-1900* for middle school teachers; *Constitutional History of the United States* for middle and high school teachers; and *20th Century Social Movements and the Emergence of Modern America* for high school teachers. In all four institutes teachers engaged in group discussions, wrote lesson plans and worked with master teachers to discuss how to translate academic content to their classroom needs. They also participated in field trips and learned how to use historical documents and Internet resources to get students excited about American history.

**In-service Workshops:** During the school year, the LEH organized the following two in-service workshops for Calcasieu public school teachers.

- On April 29 the LEH and the National Archives and Records Administration conducted a one-day workshop for 38 elementary, middle and high school teachers. The workshop’s title was *Cool Educator Tools from the National Archives.* National Archives Education Specialist David Rosenbaum traveled to Lake Charles to present the day-long workshop on the use of primary resources found on-line at the National Archives in classroom teaching.
- The October 9th TAH workshop explored the *Role of the Federal Government in the Great Depression of the 1930s and the Great Recession of 2009.* Conducting the workshop, attended by 37 Calcasieu public middle and high school teachers, was Dr. Gary Gerstle, the James G. Stahlman Professor of American History and Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University.

**Annual American history workshops in Washington, D.C.**

On September 24, LEH staff accompanied 12 Calcasieu Parish teachers to Washington, D.C., for American history workshops at the Library of Congress, National Archives, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery and American Art Museum.

**OUACHITA**

**New TAH Grant:** As mentioned earlier, in the spring 2009 the LEH secured a $1.6 million U.S. Department of Education “Teaching American History” grant to help American history teachers in five Northeast Louisiana regional public school districts meet new state standards in American history education.

While the Ouachita school system is the actual recipient of the five-year grant, the program is a partnership with public school systems in Ouachita, Morehouse, Richland and East Carroll parishes; Monroe City schools; the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM); and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. The LEH wrote and will administer the grant for the five-district partnership.

Grant funds will enable the LEH and ULM to conduct three graduate-level Teacher Institutes in American History each summer for five years for 69 teachers each year. The institutes will be taught primarily by history professors from ULM and Louisiana Tech. The first summer institutes are scheduled for June 7 to July 1, 2010.

In addition to summer institutes, the LEH will organize each year two in-service professional development workshops in American history for teachers in the five school districts. These workshops will be taught by nationally-known American history scholars and expert master teachers selected by the New York-based Gilder Lehrman Institute in American History, one of the nation’s leading resources and American history think tanks. In addition, other in-service workshops will be conducted by education curators from the National Archives, Library of Congress, the Smithsonian’s Museum of American History and The National Portrait Gallery.

**In-service Workshop:**

- The Oct. 7th Gilder-Lehrman workshop explored the *American Revolution and Its Origins.* Attending the workshop were 48 public elementary and middle school teachers from Ouachita, Morehouse, Richland, East Carroll parishes and Monroe City schools.

**Algiers Charter Schools Association**

The LEH also assisted the Algiers Charter Schools Association in securing a new $1 million Teaching American History grant for a new round of American history institutes for New Orleans-area teachers. The LEH is the fiscal agent partner in this grant.
Since 1985, approximately 4,180 Louisiana teachers have attended 217 LEH-sponsored graduate-level institutes in the humanities. In turn, these educators teach approximately 500,000 students annually. The purpose of this program is to provide teachers with intellectual stimulation and advanced knowledge of the subjects they teach. Originally supported entirely by the LEH with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the series has expanded with support from the State of Louisiana and foundation gifts.

At its November 2009 meeting, the LEH board approved two Teacher Institutes that will take place during the summer 2010. These seminars offer graduate credit, feature guest lecturers, and provide information on Internet resources available for classroom use. These institutes do not include the four Teaching American History summer institutes scheduled for 2010.

### Forthcoming 2010 Teacher Institutes for Advanced Study

#### PRIME TIME in the K-8 Classroom

**09-910-112 / $31,921**

Louisiana State University at Shreveport

Dr. Helen Clare Taylor

A graduate-level seminar, focusing on the incorporation of the award-winning PRIME TIME methodology in elementary and middle school classrooms, and reinforcing family reading at home.

#### The Beat Generation

**09-910-114 / $28,900**

Louisiana State University at Eunice

Dr. Michael Alleman

A graduate-level seminar tied to Louisiana education performance benchmarks focusing on the literary works of authors such as Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs and more.
Since 1983, the LEH’s adult reading and discussion series, Readings in Literature and Culture (RELIC), has enrolled more than 96,000 readers in 63 parishes across Louisiana. These six-week thematic series are led by university scholars, who introduce the books and lead group discussions.

Readings in Literature and Culture (RELIC) offers adult readers the opportunity to engage in diverse and intellectually challenging reading and discussion of literary and historical texts in the humanities in local libraries across the state. RELIC is the longest running program provided by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

RELIC topics speak to the experiences of Louisianians as residents of the state and as American citizens interested in topics in the humanities. In 2009 RELIC launched a new program titled “Where Is North Louisiana?” to strong public response. It also updated with new literature the perennially popular “Encounter in Louisiana” program, stimulating lively discussion about our state’s diversity.

RELIC, administered in partnership with the Louisiana Library Association, serves as a gateway for individuals to engage the worlds of ideas and expression about the human experience, and as a vehicle for libraries to diversify their role in their communities. Small towns and rural areas particularly benefit from these programs, as well as newcomers to Louisiana and others with specific interests.

Reaching 63 of Louisiana’s 64 parishes since 1983, the scholar-led reading sessions have been held in different libraries across the state. RELIC has attracted a total attendance of over 96,000 — from all accounts the most widespread and well-attended series of reading projects in the South.

Acknowledging extensive reductions in funding from the State of Louisiana, RELIC has begun to cultivate local partnerships with the goal of securing community-based funding for programs. In the fall 2009, two programs with local funding were successfully conducted at the St. Tammany Parish Library in Slidell and the University of First Presbyterian in Shreveport.

“Were an area that is still creating our story,”
—Bastrop, Where Is North Louisiana?

“Our interest in this subject has increased because of this program,”
—Gonzales, Elizabeth I of England and Her Times

“It has promoted a better view of the Creoles and mixed races in the community.”
—Winnfield, The Creole Identity and Experience in Louisiana Literature and Experience

“It has already influenced my junior high school teaching with facts learned about immigration.”
—Abbeville, Becoming American: The Literature of Immigration and Acculturation

“I spent the first 50 years of my life in Wisconsin, and this taught me a lot about the other side of the story.”
—Stonewall, Battleground Louisiana: Civil War Events and Experiences

2009 Achievements

- Engaged 36 humanities scholars from 15 educational institutions and 3 from the public sector.
- Delivered 12 different subjects, including Louisiana history and literature, World War II, Creoles in Louisiana, Louisiana in the Civil War, the era of Elizabeth I of England, and introduced a new program on the culture and literature of North Louisiana.
- Drew into discussions 4,194 participants in 31 programs for an evening session average of 23 persons.
- Delivered programs in 31 locations in 29 parishes throughout the state, with 17 of them in rural communities and small towns.
KnowLA Online Encyclopedia

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities is developing an online encyclopedia of Louisiana history and culture. KnowLA will be a comprehensive, dynamic online reference on the peoples, places, cultures, events, and institutions of Louisiana. The site will eventually include entries with images, streaming audio and video files, as well as interactive timelines integrated into the texts. KnowLA will also offer resources and activities for teachers and students. The encyclopedia will be available free to users and will be accessible from any computer.

In the second year of full-time development, KnowLA staff commissioned more than 350 of the encyclopedia’s top entries, researched and located more than 1,200 digital images to accompany entries, acquired master files necessary for producing high-quality images, and developed master databases for text and media files. By the end of 2009, staff had received some 220 entries — 59 percent of the total identified for launch. In 2010 the staff will begin migrating data to the encyclopedia’s content management system to build a beta website for testing.

This past year KnowLA staff worked closely with the Louisiana State Museum (LSM) to identify images for encyclopedia entries. With the LSM embarking on a huge project to digitize all French colonial records, both here and in France and Canada, the LSM and KnowLA/LEH are investigating ways to support each other’s projects. Andrea Ferguson, KnowLA digital media editor, also acquired master files for images from the Louisiana State Library and from The Historic New Orleans Collection.

KnowLA staff, working with Jeff Hale, LEH director of institutional advancement, made initial contacts with individuals at both Tulane University and Louisiana State University for preliminary conversations on the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI), a high-speed fiber optics network that runs through the state and that connects Louisiana and Mississippi research universities to one another. The digital encyclopedia’s staff are investigating how KnowLA might be able to access this resource to facilitate collaboration with scholars.

Given scarce resources and staffing challenges, KnowLA staff also focused on funding opportunities to support future encyclopedia development. In the summer of 2009, Joyce Miller, KnowLA associate editor, successfully submitted an application for the “Humanities Collections and Reference Resources” grant under the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Promotion of the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access program. If funded, this three-year, $1,038,315 grant would allow the LEH to commission 300 additional entries in the history category over the three-year period.

In the fall of 2009, Cathy Corder, KnowLA editor, worked with Dr. Molly Rothenberg, chair of the Tulane University English Department; Dr. Joseph Letter, senior English department postdoctorate at Tulane; and Greg Lambousy, Director of Collections at the Louisiana State Museum to submit a grant application to the NEH for a fellowship at the Digital Humanities Center. The LEH/Tulane proposal, “The War of 1812 Digital Media Project,” aims to bridge a gap between traditional archival research and present practices in digital humanities.

KnowLA continues to partner with the Center for Public Service at Tulane University. In the spring of 2010 the staff will work with Dr. Fayçal Falaky, assistant professor of French, who is teaching the course “French Louisiana/La Louisiane Française.” Students in that class will read and discuss local, travel and fictional French literature that represents Louisiana; develop a topic of interest, using Francophone archive centers; and write an entry for KnowLA. One feature of KnowLA will highlight work on Louisiana history and culture in which university students are currently involved.
The exhibition “JOURNEY STORIES,” made possible by a partnership between the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street program, will tour six rural communities May 28, 2011–March 11, 2012. Through a competitive process, in 2009 the LEH selected the six cultural institutions that will host the exhibition.

“Journey Stories” examines the intersection between modes of travel and Americans’ desire to feel free to move. The story is diverse and focused on immigration, migration, innovation, and freedom. It is accounts of immigrants coming in search of promise in a new country; stories of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, their own homestead, or employment; the harrowing journeys of Africans and Native Americans forced to move; and, of course, fun and frolic on the open road.

Besides covering all exhibition rental costs ($9,000 over the three-year cycle) and dedicating up to $39,000 in grants (contingent on the availability of funds) for planning, ancillary exhibitions and public programs to the six host sites, the LEH will provide continuous technical assistance to the sponsoring organizations on exhibition and program development, fundraising, publicity and promotion, collaboration and budget planning — all of which will benefit these organizations long after “Journey Stories” leaves town.
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS/NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL

The TENNESSEE WILLIAMS/NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL enters its 24th season in 2010. One of the nation’s Top 10 Literary Events, the festival presents theatrical, literary and musical programs — as well as master classes and a scholars’ conference — showcasing regional and nationally known authors, playwrights and performers. The largest and oldest established literary festival in the area, it reaches tens of thousands of local residents and tourists alike and represents a local economic impact of more than $1 million each year. In 2009, festival participants included John Guare, John Berendt, Rick Bragg, David Simon, Chris Hedges, Tom Piazza, Nevada Barr, Mark Doty, and Jill Conner Browne.

American Routes is a weekly radio program, originating from New Orleans, featuring Louisiana and nationally known musicians broadcast to a national audience. These artists represent a wide range of popular music: jazz, blues, Cajun, Latin, soul, Zydeco, western swing, pop and gospel. The program format includes conversational interviews with the hottest artists on the contemporary and traditional music scene, as well as samples of their recordings. Founded in 1999 and now reaching hundreds of radio stations across the country whose primary formats range from classical music to news, American Routes has an estimated weekly national audience of more than 500,000 listeners.

American Routes
09-910-107 / $50,000
Dr. Nick Spitzer

The 2009 Humanist of the Year is Dr. Barry Jean Ancelet of Scott, La., a long-time professor of French and Acadian cultures and language at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Humanist of the Year
OG 09-809-076 / $1,000
Barry Jean Ancelet, PhD
The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities awarded 45 grants totaling $372,067 in 2009. These grants ranged from an Outreach Grant of $500 to a Teacher Institute for Advanced Study grant for $31,921. The average grant was $8,269. These grants included funding for 18 public, scholar-led lecture and discussion projects averaging $2,833; one living history project totaling $2,474; five documentary film and radio projects averaging $24,241; nine museum and exhibition projects averaging $6,537; four festival projects averaging $13,936; six publication projects averaging $3,667; and two teacher institutes and workshops averaging $30,411. Since 1971, the LEH has invested in excess of $25 million in more than 2,305 locally initiated public humanities grant projects that respond to local needs and infrastructure. Together, these programs have reached a total audience of 69 million people in each of Louisiana’s 64 parishes and nationwide.
ANALYSIS OF GRANTS AWARDED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach Grants</th>
<th>Public Humanities Grants</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications Received</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications Funded</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>% of Applications Funded</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEH Awards</td>
<td>$355,663</td>
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<td>Project Cost Sharing</td>
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<td>$1,630,054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$198,072</td>
<td>$1,946,458</td>
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RELIC: READINGS IN LITERATURE & CULTURE
2009 Library Reading Discussion Project
A cooperative project of the LEH and the Louisiana Library Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
<th>Southwest</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Programs</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outright Funds</td>
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<td>$21,400.00</td>
<td>$25,680.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Total Funds</td>
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<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Library Cost Share</td>
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<td>$42,900.00</td>
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</table>

PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME
2009 Library Reading Discussion Project for Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
<th>Southwest</th>
<th>National*</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Programs</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outright Funds</td>
<td>$76,419.00</td>
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<td>$127,365.00</td>
<td>$50,946.00</td>
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<td>% of Total Funds (LA)</td>
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<td>14%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>$65,196.00</td>
<td>$609,268.00</td>
<td>$989,578.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* National sites were funded by federal programs requiring sites in multiple states, or by local funds.
PUBLIC HUMANITIES GRANTS

The LEH supports cultural efforts throughout the state by awarding grants to local cultural organizations and institutions. These awards support large- and small-scale humanities public programs from university-sponsored events to those sponsored by museums, libraries, cultural centers and historical societies. Public Humanities grants bridge the gap between academia and the community, giving Louisiana residents access to top university faculty and resources. Specific formats for these projects include, but are not limited to, public forums such as conferences and workshops, interpretive exhibits, and film and music lecture series.

Public Humanities grants awarded in 2009 included Documentary Film and Radio and Teacher Institutes for Advanced Study projects.

Carrying on Louisiana’s Indian Culture: Music, Crafts and Collaboration
09-910-073 / $10,801
City of Kenner
Tracy Bruno
A public program series interpreting various aspects of Native American cultures from Louisiana and the greater Southeast.

A New Start on the Land: Thomastown and the Louisiana Delta Project
09-910-075 / $5,200
Madison Historical Society
Codie Ray
A traveling exhibition, with interpretive text, of documentary images taken by federal photographers of New Deal-era agricultural projects in the Louisiana Delta.

Uniquely Louisiana: Collectors, Curators, Artists
09-910-076 / $16,134
Centenary College of Louisiana
Diane Dufilho
A series of exhibitions and public programs showcasing the collaboration between private collectors and public museums.

Ancestors & Descendants: Ancient Southwestern America at the Dawn of the 20th Century - Selections from The George Pepper Native American Archive
09-910-078 / $10,000
New Orleans Museum of Art
Paul Tarver
An exhibition, interpretive catalogue, and public programs showcasing the cultures of America’s Pueblo and Navajo communities at the turn of the 20th century.

McNeese Banners Lecture Series
09-910-120 / $5,000
McNeese Foundation
Mary Richardson
Public lectures offered at McNeese State University’s annual arts and humanities series.

DOCUMENTARY FILM AND RADIO GRANTS

Documentary Film and Radio projects are the most cost-effective of the LEH grants. These projects have the potential to reach all Louisiana residents simultaneously through broadcast on public radio or television. Actual audience numbers show that a documentary film can be provided to a Louisiana audience for as little as 10 cents per viewer. In addition, our efforts have made the LEH the largest state supporter of documentary film and radio projects for more than 20 years. Films funded by the LEH are made available after broadcast through the Louisiana State Library Audiovisual Resource Center. All films published in the LEH Media Catalog available to any Louisiana resident with a library card.

A Summer of Birds:
John James Audubon at Oakley
09-910-089 / $26,863
Louisiana Public Broadcasting
Christina Melton
A film exploring the acclaimed naturalist’s formative summer in West Feliciana Parish.

Seafood and Smoke: Cajun Culinary Traditions
09-910-091 / $25,000
Southern Food and Beverage Museum
Kevin McCaffrey
A documentary examining the meaning and cultural influence of Acadian culinary traditions.

Folk artist Lorraine Gendron painted this illustration for the 2009 Louisiana Book Festival poster.
A film exploring the acclaimed naturalist John James Audubon’s summer in West Feliciana Parish was inspired by the book *Summer of Birds* by Danny Heitman.

A published resource interpreting the history and folkways of LaSalle Parish.

**Still Singing the Blues**  
09-910-105 / $18,341  
Filmmakers Collaborative Richard Ziglar  
Radio documentary explaining the importance and challenges of preserving folk blues and R&B in south Louisiana.

**Louisiana Cultural Vistas and “All Things New Orleans”**  
OG 09-251-110 / $1,000  
WWNO Paul Maassen  
Quarterly features on the New Orleans area’s public radio station exploring articles of local interest from *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* magazine, the LEH’s journal of Louisiana history, culture and art.

**The Real American Dream**  
OG 09-910-081 / $2,433  
Ascension Parish Library Dr. John May  
The tenth in a series of annual humanities-based summer film festivals.

**New Populations in Louisiana: Narrative Sessions at the 2009 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival**  
OG 09-910-080 / $2,000  
Northwestern State University Dr. Shane Rasmussen  
Public programs exploring the cultural influence of emerging ethnic communities in Louisiana.

**Talking History: A Historical Re-enactment Tour**  
OG 09-910-085 / $2,474  
City of Opelousas Melanie Lee  
A living history presentation highlighting diverse personalities from Opelousas’ colorful past.

**Highway 80 in Print**  
OG 09-910-079 / $2,500  
University of Louisiana at Monroe Cyndy Robertson  
An exhibition and public programs showcasing the works of documentary photographer Lee Estes.

**Louisiana Frontiers, Margins and Psychological Boundaries**  
OG 09-809-069 / $2,500  
Louisiana Folklore Society Dr. C. Keagan LeJeune  
Public programs exploring the distinctive heritage and folkways of Louisiana’s “Neutral Strip.”

**From Acadia to Acadiana**  
OG 09-809-070 / $2,326  
Louisiana State University at Alexandria Dr. Virginia “Ginger” Jones  
A series of lectures comparing the shared literary heritages of Francophone Canada and Louisiana.

**7th Annual Saints and Sinners Literary Festival**  
OG 09-809-077 / $1,000  
NO/AIDS Task Force Paul Willis  
Panel discussions and lectures on contemporary GLBT literature.

**An Occasion with Louisiana Poet Laureate Darrell Bourque**  
OG 09-809-067 / $2,000  
Ouachita Parish Public Library Holly Priestley  
Readings and discussions with the Poet Laureate.

**OUTREACH GRANTS**

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities’ Outreach Grants encourage community groups throughout the state to develop humanities projects that celebrate and preserve local culture and heritage, as well as introduce people to new ones. Designed to fund programs of three months or less in duration, these grants of up to $2,500 provide for a wide range of interests and needs in a state of such great diversity. In 2009, Outreach Grants made a significant impact on the cultural life of Louisiana’s residents in both urban and rural areas.

Monroe photographer Lee Estes documented the span of U.S. Highway 80 — The Dixie Overland Highway — across North Louisiana. Here it crosses the Ouachita River via the Lea Joyner Bridge.
The UpStage Theatre Company in Baton Rouge received a grant to host a panel discussion on gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.

Celebrating Women Making History
OG 09-910-096 / $2,135
Louisiana Tech University
Dr. Laurie Stoff
National Organization for Women President and Louisiana Tech alumna, Kate Gandy, gives a keynote address in honor of Women’s History Month at Lincoln Parish Library.

Matzo 70726 Ball Gumbo: A Symposium on Jewish Life in the Lower Mississippi River Valley
OG 09-251-097 / $2,500
Julius Freyhan Foundation, Inc.
Noelle LeBlanc
Public lectures showcasing this impact of the Jewish community on Louisiana culture, from the colonial period through today.

LEH grant funds assisted the Louisiana Philharmonic print interpretive pamphlets for a concert at St. Louis Cathedral.

The Great River Road Corridor: Cuisines, Cultures, and Communities from the Atlantic World to the Plantation Belt
OG 09-910-098 / $2,000
Louisiana Folklife Society
Dr. Joyce Marie Jackson
A series of public programs on the influence of the African Diaspora on Louisiana foodways.

Farming the Wetlands of Old Acadie: A Permanent Museum Exhibit Exploring the Ecology and Cultural Traditions of the Early Acadians
OG 09-251-099 / $2,500
University of Louisiana at Lafayette Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism
Jennifer Ritter
A permanent exhibition installed in the Acadian Museum in Erath.

Poems: Where They Come From and Where They Go
OG 09-910-100 / $2,500
Lafayette Consolidated Government
Amy Wander
Readings and discussions with Louisiana Poet Laureate Darrell Bourque.

5th Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival
OG 09-910-101 / $2,500
Cinema on the Bayou Film Society
Rebecca L. Hudsmith
A series of panel discussions accompanying humanities-based documentary films on topics in Louisiana history and culture.

People of Iberville Series: Anglo-Scotch-Irish of Iberville
OG 09-251-102 / $2,500
Iberville Museum Association, Inc.
Rita Lynn Jackson
Part of a series of temporary exhibitions showcasing the impact and legacy of the ethnic groups that settled Iberville Parish in the colonial and territorial periods.

Brochures for Free Concert in Saint

LEH Grants
LEH Grants

Louis Cathedral
OG 09-251-103 / $2,000
Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra
Jenna Cronin
A publication interpreting the historical significance of musical selections at the Orchestra’s annual free concert on Jackson Square.

Southern Rep New Play Bacchanal – Lecture by Playwright Doug Wright
OG 09-910-104 / $1,850
Southern Rep Theatre
Aimée Hayes
A lecture from the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright and composer.

How Cajun Spirit Withstood Hurricanes Rita and Ike
09-251-043 / $4,000
Ron Thibodeaux
An insightful look at how a hardy, distinct group of Louisianans met the challenge of two major hurricanes – a story that was all but overlooked in the shadow of Hurricane Katrina.

Dictionary of Louisiana French: As Spoken in Cajun, Creole and American Indian Communities
09-251-045 / $4,000
University Press of Mississippi
Dr. Albert Valdman
A rich inventory of French vocabulary in Louisiana that describes the current usage of French-speaking peoples in the state’s five southern regions.

Smoke on the Water: Shifting Landscapes in the Louisiana Wetlands
09-251-046 / $4,000
Michel Varisco
A collection of photographs with interpretive text exploring the impact of land loss on Gulf South cultures.

Dogs of My Life: The Photographs of John Tibule Mendes
09-251-048 / $4,000
University of New Orleans
Bill Lavender
A collection of works by the photographer and memoirist, with a scholarly introduction by John Lawrence.

The Making, Unmaking, and Memory of White and Black Beaches in New Orleans
09-251-051 / $4,000
Dr. Andrew W. Kahrl
A history of race and leisure during the Jim Crow era, including the stories of segregated Pontchartrain and Lincoln beaches in southeastern Louisiana.

The landmark Dictionary of Louisiana French was published in 2009 thanks to support from the LEH.

Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities
Each year, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities honors Louisianians who have made outstanding contributions to the study and understanding of the humanities. **Barry Jean Ancelet, Ph.D.** an internationally acclaimed folklorist, historian and preservationist of Louisiana Cajun culture and music, was named 2009 Humanist of the Year. Ancelet, a resident of Scott, La., and a long-time professor of French and Acadian culture and language at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has been a major figure for over 30 years in the preservation and spread of Louisiana's Acadian culture and language. In addition to his many books, articles and public lectures, Ancelet has emceed more than 1,000 live radio broadcasts of Cajun and Créole music from the Liberty Theater in Eunice, La. He also was one of the driving forces in the creation of the Hommage à la Musique Acadienne in 1974, which became the Festivals Acadiens et Créoles in 2008.

Ancelet, an acclaimed scholar and teacher, has received wide recognition in Louisiana, Canada and France. The French government named him to both the Palmes Académiques and the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and the Quebec government named him to the Ordre des Francophones d’Amériques. Recently, he was made an Honorary Lifetime Member of the American Association of Teachers of French.

The 2009 recipient of the Lifetime Contribution to the Humanities Award was **Priscilla Lawrence**, executive director of The Historic New Orleans Collection. Lawrence has been a member of the HNOC staff since 1980 and executive director since 2000. During that time, she has led her staff tirelessly in their efforts to preserve the art and heritage of New Orleans. She has overseen major expansion efforts in the Collection’s staff, caring for historic acquisitions and developing community-based programs.

The Chair’s Award for Institutional Support went to the **Friends of the Humanities of Lafayette**. For nearly 20 years, this organization has had a deep and profound impact on humanities studies and activities in Louisiana. Made up of a cross section of the community, the Friends of the Humanities have hugely impacted education and educators in the Lafayette area.

The Humanities Documentary Film of the Year Award is given to the documentary film that best exemplifies scholarship on Louisiana topics or by Louisiana documentary filmmakers. The 2009 award went to **Louisiana Story: The Reverse Angle** by **Tika Laudun** and **Charles E. Richard**, a production of Louisiana Public Broadcasting.

The inaugural Michael P. Smith Memorial Award for Documentary Photography, new for 2009, was presented to Lafayette photographer **Philip Gould**. Not unlike the late New Orleans photographer Michael P. Smith, Gould has built a rapport and respect among the subjects captured in his lenses. Louisiana's essence shines in a Gould photograph. No other living photographer can match Gould's extensive portfolio of capturing the heart and soul of Louisiana.

The LEH Board of Directors presented two government officials special Legislative Awards to recognize their many contributions to the LEH: **Senator Cheryl Gray** of New Orleans, and **State Rep. Joe Harrison** of Gray, La. The Individual Achievement in the Humanities Awards acknowledges the extraordinary qualities of people in their participation in public humanities events. The 2009 recipients were:

- **John W. Hall, Ph.D.**, professor emeritus in geography at LSU Shreveport, who has demonstrated the highest standards of professional dedication to the preparation and implementation of the LEH's Readings in Literature and Culture (RELIC) programs.
- **Thomas Fick, Ph.D.**, a resident of Covington and English professor at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, has long been involved with the LEH and had done a tremendous amount of work in St. Tammany Parish to promote education, art and the humanities for people of all ages.

The 2009 Public Humanities Programming Award went to:

- **Karen McPheeters**, director of the Farmington Public Library in New Mexico which has conducted more than two dozen Prime Time programs, is a major player in the national expansion of the LEH's PRIME TIME Family Reading Time literacy program.
- **Gail Garcia**, the community relations manager for the Iberia Parish Library, has been a major contributor to humanities programming in the Acadian parishes for many years.

The 2009 Humanities Book of the Year Award was presented to **Ned Sublette, Ph.D.**, for his book **The World That Made New Orleans: From Spanish Silver to Congo Square**. Sublette succeeds in fusing the economic, cultural, and political histories of the European empires and their colonies at the time of New Orleans’ founding into a vigorous narrative with clear implications for the present.

The 2009 Humanities Teacher of the Year award went to:

- **Cathy Mills**, a middle school art and Louisiana history teacher at Episcopal School of Acadiana in Lafayette.
- **Jennifer Williams**, an elementary school teacher at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans.

From left are: Ned Sublette, Thomas Fick, Cathy Mills, Barry Jean Ancelet, Priscilla Lawrence, Karen McPheeters, Philip Gould and Tika Laudun.
Since its opening to the public in March 2007, the Louisiana Humanities Center (LHC) has grown into a nexus for non-profit organizations and other groups in New Orleans. With its state-of-the-art meeting technology and the graceful architecture of Turners’ Hall, the LHC provides innovative, respected learning spaces for humanities and non-profit and plays host to public programming that employs the expertise, partnerships and projects of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities to further the study of Louisiana.

In 2009, the LHC’s Patrick F. Taylor Auditorium was home to three original series: the “Professors” piano nights, the “As Told by Themselves: the New Orleans Brass Bands” oral history project, and “The New Orleans Mayors: A History of the Mayoralty Since 1946.” These ongoing events brought new scholarly focus to the cultural, musical, and political traditions of the city, while documenting performances and testimonies for future studies. Gathering participants from across the spectrum, from former politicians and teachers to trumpet players, the Humanities Center in 2009 became a presence in the community and an embodiment of the LEH’s mission and ongoing support of Louisiana culture.

Throughout the year, rental clients enjoyed the sophisticated design and state-of-the-art facilities for successful meetings and events. Among our guests in 2009: the Urban Institute, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the RAND Corporation, New Leaders for New Schools, Tennessee Williams Festival, the Orleans Parish Legislative Delegation, New Orleans Public Schools, the New Orleans Video Access Center, the New Orleans Film Festival, New Orleans Community Cinema, and the Greater New Orleans Data Center. Seminars, film screenings, public forums, staff retreats, and board meetings held in the LHC made the building an incomparable forum for non-profits throughout the area.

The Center offers a variety of event settings, including the 120-person auditorium, two large board rooms and several smaller meeting spaces. Video-conferencing, wireless internet, and an array of presentation technologies allow visitors to teach and learn in dynamic new ways.
MAJOR GIFTS, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, AND OTHER PROJECT-SPECIFIC DONORS

$84,000 Helis Foundation
$75,000 Zemurray Foundation
$50,000 BP America
$25,000 Gustaf Westfledt McIlhenny Family Foundation
$20,000 Capital One, NA
$18,646 Greater New Orleans Foundation
$15,000 Booth-Bricker Foundation
$10,000 Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
$10,000 Whitney National Bank
$7,500 GPOA Foundation
$7,500 R. Lewis McHenry
$6,000 La Fondation Louisiane

$5,000 Randy & Rosemary Ewing*
$5,000 Jones Walker Law Firm
$5,000 Margaret Maxwell
$2,750 Lyndon & Janine Barrois
$2,500 Hilton St. Charles
$2,500 Roger Ogden
$2,000 Mark Heller
$1,200 Catherine Kuhlman
$1,000 Thomas David
$1,000 Fondation Codofil
$1,000 M. Cleland Powell
$500 John Cleveland*
$500 Scott Howard
$400 Robert Allen
$400 David Cohen
$400 Margaret Maxwell
$300 Nia Terezakis
$200 Patricia Aura
$200 Alfred Lyons
$200 Arlene Wang
$100 Charles Mccarthy
$100 Suzanne Wilkins Kearney
$50 Francis & Jelena James
$50 F. Henri Lapeyre
$50 Peter Wolf

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Laurie Ricchiuti

BP America Supports PRIME TIME Family Reading Time

LEH Director of Institutional Advancement, Dr. Jeff A. Hale, is pleased to announce a recently signed agreement with BP America, to support 15 PRIME TIME Family Reading Time programs across Louisiana in 2010. The $188,000 donation is the largest individual corporate donation in the LEH’s 39-year history. BP’s total project support will exceed $225,000. “The importance of BP America’s gift cannot be overstated,” commented Dr. Hale. “BP America’s visionary philanthropy will supplement core State of Louisiana funding and ensure that, despite the current atmosphere of economic malaise, the LEH’s marquee family literacy program will continue unabated – improving and changing the lives of Louisiana families throughout 2010.”

“BP America is proud to partner with the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and to extend the reach and longevity of the PRIME TIME program,” said Marti Powers, BP senior external affairs manager. “PRIME TIME goes back to basics, and addresses the fundamentals. With this financial contribution, BP will play an active role in impacting the lives of students who have typically struggled with reading, which is the foundation for all classroom learning, including math and science. PRIME TIME provides an interactive, fun and exciting experience for families, and we are excited to make a statewide commitment in support of our employees, and the Louisiana educational system.”

A joint LEH-BP America press conference was held in the Louisiana Humanities Center at Turners’ Hall, Patrick F. Taylor Auditorium on February 4, 2010. Speaking at the event were: Dr. Michael Sartisky, LEH President and Executive Director; Patrick L. King, BP Vice President, Global Operations Remediation Management; and Irvin Mayfield, nationally-renowned musician and Chairman, New Orleans Public Library. In attendance were numerous LEH Board members, as well as community, political, and private sector leaders from across the state. The announcement coincided with the initiation of a statewide visibility campaign for the PRIME TIME program.

Please Note: Donors with asterisks [*] made gifts to both the 2008-2009 Annual Fund and other program areas.
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A. David Barry, PhD
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