LOUISIANA ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
2017 ANNUAL REPORT
Humanities Impacting Our Future: Ripple Effects
“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

— Robert F. Kennedy
For the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the power of the humanities comes from every resident engaged in understanding the richness of Louisiana. We partner with communities, institutions, and individuals to explore Louisiana’s past, reflect on our present, and imagine a better future.

On behalf of the Board and staff, we offer to you, our benefactors, our deepest gratitude. Without you, the LEH could not boldly engage all through the humanities – and 2017 was an incredible year thanks to you.

You share in the Library of Congress Award for Best Practices in Literacy Programming received by our PRIME TIME Family Reading program. You are part of the numerous Press Club of New Orleans Awards won by our magazine, *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*. You help to educate and elucidate tens of thousands of people about the rich bounty of Louisiana’s culture, music, art, and food presented on KnowLouisiana.org. You broaden the horizons of hundreds upon hundreds of preschool children through our Head Start initiative.

As the quote by Robert Kennedy states, your support “sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.” We are grateful to you for partnering with us to “build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls.” Simply put, thank you.
Who deserves a humanities-focused education? The short answer is: EVERYONE.

Research is clear that access to learning experiences that promote thought and inquiry is not common among those with limited resources. PRIME TIME Head Start (PTHS) represents a remarkable opportunity to improve access to the humanities for vulnerable Ouachita Parish families.

In alignment with and exceeding the federal Head Start standards, PTHS offers a proven classroom curriculum and comprehensive family support and wellness services. The curriculum emphasizes experiential and inquiry-based learning at a critical stage in a young child’s development.

A true humanities program, PRIME TIME Head Start’s program design involves all stakeholders (parents, faculty/staff, and community members/organizations) in the development of future scholars.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" is a popular song that people usually listen to around Christmas time, but this song also resounds with a question that can be asked in response to PRIME TIME Head Start opening its doors in Ouachita Parish. Since June 2017, preschool children and their families have been given the opportunity to explore a research-based curriculum and participate within family-centered activities. Through meaningful engagement, the sounds of laughter, learning, and love are constantly heard within classrooms, on the playgrounds, and down the hallways.

To date, PRIME TIME Head Start has opened three preschools: Ransom in West Monroe, Louisiana, and Robinson and ML King Junior High in Monroe, Louisiana.

At our Ransom site, we have a student who has cochlear implants. When this student started in the summer of 2017, he entered our program being non-verbal. In the beginning, he would smile but not speak, but, after only three weeks, this student was saying “hi” and “bye.” His mother states that she owes so much of his improvement to PRIME TIME Head Start, and specifically from the guidance and care he receives from his teachers.

Excellence that is heard loud and clear!

“I think PRIME TIME Head Start is a great program. My child has learned a lot from when school has started until now. They are very concerned if a child misses school. They will call to check and see what’s going on. I give them an A+.”

—Brittany Allen, Parent at PTHS at Ransom
“Since becoming a PRIME TIME Head Start parent, I have been impressed with the quality of the educational level and resourcefulness exhibited by the staff in regard to both of my special needs children. I have one child who is totally deaf that must wear bilateral cochlear implants. His teacher, co-teacher, as well as the entire staff have gone out of their way to make sure he gets the help he needs. They also have made me very comfortable with leaving him in their care. He is included in all activities as if he was a hearing child. I’m very proud to say we are PRIME TIME Strong at Ransom. Thank You”

—Laura Gordon

PTHS by the Numbers:

Start-up year: 2017

Sites in operation: Three (Ouachita Parish)

Current slots: 366 (555 full capacity)

Monthly Average Daily Attendance: 86%

* full results of the first year’s impact will be available after June 15, 2018 at www.primetimefamily.org
The Bright Lights Awards in the Humanities Awards brings together people from every corner of our state — culture leaders from nonprofit, corporate, and government sectors, and is an annual melange of entertainment, cultural exchange, and recognition of the people and organizations who embody the best our state’s culture has to offer.

**Humanist of the Year William Joyce** has achieved worldwide recognition as an author, illustrator and pioneer in the digital and animation industry. In 2009, he co-founded Moonbot Studios, a multimedia storytelling company, exploring books, apps, films, and video games. The studio’s projects have won numerous awards and accolades, including an Academy Award for Best Animated Short, Annie Award, multiple Webby and Emmy Awards and inclusion in the iTunes App Store Hall of Fame. Since beginning his career as children’s book author and illustrator, Joyce has nearly 50 books to his credit. Joyce has won five Emmy Awards, three Silver medals and one Gold medal from the Society of Illustrators.

**Lifetime Contribution to the Humanities Susan Tucker** served as Curator of Books and Records at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women from 1988 to 2015. An author, editor, and archivist, Tucker has produced and supported a breadth of scholarship that has broadened the rich history and literature of Louisiana.

**Chair’s Institutional Award** goes to two foundations that have made investments for long-term systemic change in family literacy.

**Carolyn W. and Charles T. Beard Family Foundation** funding ($155,000) has become an integral part of a consortium of partners—private foundations and corporate donors—who are determined to significantly improve school readiness and education results in the Caddo/Bossier area. With their support, PRIME TIME Family Reading has achieved a broad reach throughout the region, enriching families, educators and community service agencies in this proven family literacy program.

**W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s** long-term, multi-million dollar commitment to the Gulf South may be unsung in the public arena, but the LEH and the families who have participated in the PRIME TIME Programs funded by the Foundation are certainly singing the Foundation’s praises. By committing $475,000 to PRIME TIME programs, the Kellogg Foundation has chosen to stand with vulnerable families so that children can improve their reading skills, succeed in school, and their parents can become active participants in their children’s education.

**Champion of Culture Award William “Bro” Adams** has served as the 10th Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities since 2014. Adams is a committed advocate for liberal arts education whose tenure has included strong support for the public humanities, veterans’ programming, and several projects in Louisiana.

The 2017 event, celebrated at Shaw Center for the Arts in Baton Rouge on April 13, 2017, presented by Entergy Louisiana and hosted by Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, also brought forth a call for advocacy for the Humanities. The evening’s honorees were:

**Humanities Books Award** The LEH recognizes two outstanding works of history as 2017 Books of the Year. *Teche: A History of Louisiana’s Most Famous Bayou* (University Press of Mississippi) by **Shane K. Bernard** is an extraordinary engagement with the colorful history of a storied Louisiana inland waterway. *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume 1: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana* (University Press of Mississippi) by **Christopher Everette Cenac with Claire Domangue Joller** presents a landmark record of one of the most important eras in the south central coastal bayou parish of Terrebonne.

**Humanities Documentary Film Award** Directed by **David Hylan and Raydra Hall**, *Small Town Rage: Fighting Back in the Deep South* is a powerful history of the Shreveport chapter of the Act Up activist group during the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and early 1990s. www.smalltownrage.com

**Michael P. Smith Memorial Award for Documentary Photography** A New Orleans native who now lives in Atlanta, **Eric Waters** has been a professional photographer for more than 30 years. His work has been in national and local magazines, newspapers, brochures and show bills, and on CD covers. He was the lead photographer for "Ties That Bind," an exhibition and catalog sponsored by the Casey Foundation, and “Great Day in New Orleans,” a group photo capturing 283 New Orleans African-American artists of all genres. http://www.ericwatersphotography504.com/

**Light Up for Literacy Award Richard Louth** is professor of English at Southeastern Louisiana University and Founding Director of the Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project, an initiative devoted to improving the teaching of writing at all academic levels.

The LEH is deeply appreciative of our sponsors, whose support for the Humanities made the event possible: Event Sponsor Entergy Louisiana; Artistic Production Sponsors Helis Foundation and BHP-Billiton; and Production Sponsor Jones Walker Law Firm. Table Sponsors were Bradford Adams; Adams & Reese Law; Byrnz Restaurant Family; Capital One Bank; Dr. Christopher Cenac, Sr.; Dorian Bennett Sotheby’s International Realty; Rosemary Ewing; Mark Gremillion; Ava Leavell Haymon; The Haynie Family Foundation; Hola Nola Foods; Josef Sternberg Memorial Fund; Postlewaite & Netterville, Mrs. Bertie Deming Smith; and Union Pacific Foundation.
Zack Smith is a Louisiana photographer born and raised in Lafayette. For the past 20 years Smith has captured the passion of musicians, the traditions of street parades, and the intimate lives of families through his dynamic storytelling portraiture. In 2017 he partnered with LEH’s Division of Content on several projects that documented the state’s vivid culture.

For *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* magazine, he collaborated with author Monica Barra on “The New Cartographers,” a feature article on the community members fighting to preserve their way of life in coastal Plaquemines Parish. Smith also took the official portrait Jack Bedell, appointed new Louisiana poet laureate this year in a process overseen by LEH.

In 2017 Smith was one of 22 Louisiana-based photographers employed by the Division of Content to document the state’s culture for *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*. Dedicated to supporting great writing about Louisiana, the magazine also contracted with 23 writers, who contributed new scholarship, reviews, and personal essays. In addition to publishing their work, LEH found other ways to highlight the efforts of Louisiana writers and photographers this year.

With support from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, Smith hosted “The Frame: A Louisiana Photography Podcast,” produced in partnership with LEH, and recorded live at the Louisiana Humanities Center in New Orleans. These conversations with other Louisiana photographers can be heard on KnowLouisiana.org, and on iTunes.

“No matter how separated we are by age, culture, and distance our shared stories enable use to find the connections that bring us together,” says Smith. “Through my photographs, I have a front row seat to the creation of that connectivity, and I am so grateful to work with the LEH to help these stories be heard.” To see more of Smith’s work, visit zacksmith.com or stop by Zack Smith Photography at 4514 Magazine Street.

**LEH Grants in 2017**

- **Purchased Lives Traveling Exhibition**: $30,282, 10 grants, 10 parishes
- **Generations of Struggle reading program**: $10,000, 10 grants, 10 parishes
- **Create Louisiana film grant**: $72,500, 2 grants, 1 parish
- **Rebirth Grants**: $40,300, 15 grants, 7 parishes
- **Poet Laureate grants**: $2,010, 4 grants, 4 parishes
- **Strategic Partnership grants**: $10,000, 2 grants, 2 parishes
- **Folklife Month grants**: $1,500, 3 grants, 3 parishes
- **Water/Ways film grants**: $88,000, 4 grants, 4 parishes

**Total**: $242,582, 50 grants, 20 parishes
As a new mom, Brandye Jackson knew she had a lot to learn about preparing her son, Brandon, for kindergarten—and for life. And as a participant in PRIME TIME Preschool at the Galilee Learning Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, she was able to learn, in the comfort and support of other PRIME TIME families, how reading and talking about books with Brandon could provide the foundation for school she’d been looking for—as well as a sense of closeness with her son. “I’m a new mom,” says Bradye. “I was trying to pick up things from other moms . . . I came to learn from everybody else. I learned that to be at PRIME TIME helped my son to socialize a little better because he was an only child for a long time. And I learned that getting home in the afternoon to sit down and read with him, it really helps him still feel that closeness with his mom.”

On the cusp of kindergarten, Brandon is ready, says Brandye, in large part thanks to PRIME TIME.

PRIME TIME’s family programs interrupt cycles of intergenerational illiteracy through engaging story-sharing and discussion in schools, libraries, Head Starts, and community centers.
PRIME TIME Results

In Louisiana:

- 25 Parishes served by Prime Time Programs
- 135 programs offered
- 1,791 families attended
- 5,349 individuals impacted by our 135 programs offered in 2017
- 6,269 books provided
- 18,442 meals provided
- 31,614 Reading Experiences

Brandon has learned so much in PRIME TIME. When we leave here, we read that book again. He likes to sit down and read and have me read and interact with me. It helps him to be excited to learn.” PRIME TIME’s engaging, whole-family approach to literacy and learning can make all the difference to new moms like Brandye and shy children like Brandon. “Coming to a program like this helps him to open up. He sees other kids raising their hands. The more we came, the more confident he got . . . I am thankful that a program like this exists. Especially for small kids. I had no idea that we could come after school and do something that’s free, where we can interact with the kids, where we can eat. It’s like family time.”

The PRIME TIME Affiliate Network

National Impact

In addition to Louisiana for 2017, there are programs across the United States via the PRIME TIME Affiliate Network. This network has 9 Affiliate Partners in the following 8 states:

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Nebraska
- Washington

113 different PRIME TIME programs were completed in these eight states. 4,520 individuals were impacted through the 113 programs.
Culture Up, the LEH’s Cultural Innovation Business Incubator, provides professionalization support for cultural entrepreneurs and those in the creative industry for a nominal monthly fee. Through the LEH and project partner, the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation (LCEF), members receive access to professional office space and amenities in New Orleans, LEH archives, a network of scholars/researchers, and institutional partners, access to capital, business training, customized mentor to member coaching, and exposure. Project activities are supported by, Louisiana Department of Economic Development, Capital One, Entergy, the New Orleans Downtown Development District, and New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.

Two Girls One Shuck, a Culture Up incubator member and program participant, is a full amenities traveling oyster bar that proudly serves fresh Gulf Coast oysters in a catering-style approach with a team of all-female shuckers. In addition to supporting regional seafood and spreading the love of local oysters, these self-proclaimed “Oyster Ambassadors” also pass on important skills and tradition by providing shucking classes and curated “oyster education” for all ages. Two Girls also supports coastal restoration by recycling oyster shells to replenish oyster reefs and protect marshlands from erosion.

A Culture-Up member from October 2016-June 2017, Two Girls grew rapidly during this time. Rebecca Wadsen, owner, credits the incubator for getting her motivated to create a daily/weekly work pace for the important back-end of her company. Two Girls One Shuck took advantage of the services offered to them through the incubator, actively participating in trainings, opportunities for exposure, and mentor coaching.

Two Girls One Shuck graduated from the incubator when the need and ability to bring on additional staff members emerged. They added one full time employee, three on-site managers and 24 more “lady shuckers” to their team. The business has also increased operational capacity via rental and purchases of critical infrastructure. They are now producing an average of 20 – 25 oyster events per month. Two Girls One Shuck doubled their financial growth in 2017.

“Having a real office to conduct business was the saving grace of my continued growth. I had tried working in other work-share office spaces, coffee shops, home, and nothing fit my needs as a small business owner until I was introduced to the incubator office space.... Booking events, keeping up with accounting, working on creative designs for marketing and media, having meetings with employees, you name it, I was able to accomplish it at my little office in the big, beautiful LEH building.”

–Rebecca Wadsen, Owner, Two Girls One Shuck

**Culture Up 2017 by the Numbers:**

- 2017 Members: 6
- # Free Trainings Hosted: 8
- # Free Training/Mentor Hours Offered: 54
- Training Savings: $4,200 per member
- Office Space Savings: app $18,500 per member

*based on Average Quoted Office Space Rental Rates in the New Orleans CBD ($18.38 psf; Corporate Realty 2016)
As before, our readers can find a description of each division below. Our aim is to provide our stakeholders with current and useful financial data to help assess our full portfolio of projects.

**PRIME TIME Head Start** services in Ouachita Parish promote a humanities based approach to school readiness of children under 5 from low-income families through education, health, social and other services.

**PRIME TIME Programs** includes delivery of PRIME TIME Preschool, PRIME TIME Family Reading Time, PRIME TIME HomeRoom Teacher Professional Development Workshops, and PRIME TIME Plus programs.

**Louisiana Humanities Center** includes the revenue-generating costs associated with owning and leasing use of a historic building in downtown New Orleans.

### 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$6,168,906</strong></td>
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*In FY17 we invested a great deal of money in opening our Head Start facilities in Monroe & West Monroe, LA. Our capitalized repairs and capital expenditures for these facilities totaled $985,469.*

*Our total annual expenses plus the capitalized repairs and expenditures equals a total cash outlay for FY 17 of $7,154,375.*

**Content: Programming** includes publication and events of *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* magazine, Know Louisiana.org, film production and sponsorship, Museums on MainStreet, etc.

**Content: Regrants** includes Strategic Partnership Grants, Institutional Support Grants and CreateLouisiana Filmmakers Grant.

**Fundraising** includes Annual Fund, grant writing, and other solicitation of benefactors for organizational support.

**Management and General** includes Executive Staff, Finance, Human Resources, IT, Office Management and general office expenses.
LEH Donors for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we offer this listing of our benefactors: individuals, corporations, foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities simply could not do the important work that is highlighted within this report without the benefactors listed herein. With our many friends as our partners in mission, we have been able to accomplish so much. The LEH is grateful for the incredible trust in and support of our mission.

N.B.: The donations listed below are for the fiscal year which ran from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017. Any donations received after October 31, 2017 will be credited in our 2018 annual report.

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<th>CORPORATIONS &amp; FOUNDATIONS</th>
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### HUMANIST ($10,000)
- Cara Banasch
- Rosemary and Randy Ewing
- Dorothy Hanna
- Jim Mounger

### ALTRUIST ($5,000 - $9,999)
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- Patrick and Zofia McGunagle
- Carmen Patterson

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- Rosemary Ryan
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- Philip Earhart
- Robert Force
- Joshua Force

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Wendell Dupuy
Edith Eason
Susan Eble
David Erskine
Femi Euba
Woody Falgoust
John Fersel
Susan Ford Fiser
Frances Fuller
Nicholas Gagliano
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Water is life; 60 percent of our bodies are made of water. Water is a natural resource, and water is a threat. Water gives inspiration to artists. Water grows the seafood we eat and provides shipping routes for businesses. Water has shaped the geography and history of our state.

In Louisiana, we have a unique relationship to water. Now the Smithsonian Institution and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities offer local communities a new way to explore the myriad ways water affects our lives.

In June 2018, “Water/Ways,” an exhibition produced by the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street program, will arrive in Louisiana for a yearlong tour that stops in six sites, ending in April 2019. The tour scholar is Dr. Craig E. Colten of LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology. This marks the eighth time that the LEH has partnered with the Smithsonian Institution and Louisiana communities to host a Museum on Main Street tour.

The 2018-19 Water/Ways tour in Louisiana is made possible by a grant from the Walton Family Foundation.

The 2018-19 Water/Ways sites are:

| June 23 – August 4       | Zion Traveler’s Cooperative Center, Braithwaite |
| August 11 – September 22 | Old City Hall Museum, Denham Springs            |
| September 29 – November 10 | Schepis Museum, Columbia                           |
| November 17 – December 29 | Louisiana 4-H Foundation Grant Walker Camp, Pollock |
| January 5 – February 16  | Zigler Art Museum, Jennings                      |
| February 23 – April 6    | Jeanerette Museum, Jeanerette                    |

If you have questions about Water/Ways, please contact LEH Grants Manager Chris Robert at robert@leh.org.
OUR MISSION

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities to all Louisianans.

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities’ mission is to provide all Louisianans with access to and an appreciation of their own rich, shared and diverse historical, literary and cultural heritage 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.

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