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# PRESS RELEASE

## Local Arts Organizations Join Forces to Host Culture Collision

Arts lovers are invited to attend a celebration to kick off the 2009-2010 cultural season

**New Orleans, August 24, 2009:** For one night only and under one roof, this unique event brings together New Orleans' cultural organizations for a one of a kind happy hour designed to encourage participation and involvement in the New Orleans art scene. Culture Collision will be held on Wednesday, September 2, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Admission to the event is free to Louisiana residents, and attendees will have the opportunity to scope out upcoming events, take advantage of exclusive ticket promotions, and meet like-minded arts lovers. There will be performances by vocal trio **Bon Operatit!**, interspersed with the musical stylings of **DJ Matty**. Light appetizers will be provided by Café Degas, and guests will enjoy a complimentary mojito bar sponsored by Old New Orleans Rum. A cash bar will also be available. Giveaways courtesy of participating organizations will be ongoing throughout the evening.

### ***Participants***

- Arts Council of New Orleans
- Contemporary Arts Center
- Friends of the Cabildo
- Jefferson Performing Arts Society
- Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré
- Louisiana ArtWorks
- Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra
- Louisiana State Museum
- National World War II Museum

- New Orleans Ballet Association
- New Orleans Film Society
- New Orleans Museum of Art
- New Orleans Opera Association
- Ogden Museum of Southern Art
- Southern Food and Beverage Museum
- Southern Rep
- The Historic New Orleans Collection

The event is sponsored by WWNO and organized by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, New Orleans Ballet Association, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans Opera Association and Southern Rep.

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS

### Arts Council of New Orleans

The Arts Council of New Orleans is a private, non-profit organization designated by the City of New Orleans as its official arts agency. Now in its 33rd year, the Arts Council works in partnership with the City of New Orleans, community groups, local, state, and national governmental agencies, and other nonprofit arts organizations to meet the arts and cultural needs of the New Orleans community through a diversity of initiatives and services. The Arts Council serves as one of nine regional distributing agencies for Louisiana Division of the Arts funds and administers the Community Arts Grants and the Percent For Art program for the City of New Orleans.

### Contemporary Arts Center

Since 1976 the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) has been home to artists' bold experiments in painting, theatre, music, performance art, video, dance, photography, sculpture, and more – all celebrating the art of now. More at: [www.cacno.org](http://www.cacno.org).

### Friends of the Cabildo

Since its incorporation in 1956, Friends of the Cabildo has grown into a large statewide membership organization that serves as a dynamic and motivating force in broadening and supporting the aims of the Louisiana State Museum. We provide daily, year-round walking tours of the French Quarter with well-trained, qualified volunteer guides for tourists and special groups. We host educational and cultural events such as the Spring Home Tour, Ghostly Galavant and Creole Christmas, which raise monies for the Museum and various projects of the Friends. We have also published a series of distinguished award-winning architectural books on the historic districts of the city of New Orleans.

## Jefferson Performing Arts Society

Founded in 1978, JPAS is a 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to arts education and cultural enrichment, growing from a choral group to an award-winning agency with three main divisions: educating, presenting and producing. Our mission is to support, sponsor and promote the performing arts in Jefferson Parish and the Gulf South. JPAS provides artistic outlets for local performers and a venue for national and international artists. Our programming is always diverse and most seasons include a selection of grand opera, musical theater, dance (ethnic, ballet and contemporary) and music (choral, symphonic, chamber, jazz and rock).

## Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, the oldest operating community theatre in America, announces its 94<sup>th</sup> season, complete with five major productions plus a special holiday add-on to the season. Resurrected by dedicated board members and new management in March, the reborn historic community theater will offer a new variety of subscription benefits – including guaranteed reserved seating, flexible subscription options, opening night champagne receptions with the cast and a slate of classic and contemporary productions. The season opens on September 3<sup>rd</sup> with Elton John & Tim Rice's "Aida" and continues through July 2010 with "Damn Yankees", Irving Berlin's beloved "White Christmas", "13", Tony Award winning "Grey Gardens" and The Wedding Singer." Discount parking available and a hotel package at the Omni Royal Orleans. Patrons seeking tickets, student pricing and subscription information, please visit Le Petit's Box Office online at [www.lepetittheatre.com](http://www.lepetittheatre.com), or call 504-522-2081.

## Louisiana ArtWorks

The mission of Louisiana ArtWorks is to inspire artistic growth, enhance technical skills, and provide marketing and economic development for Louisiana artists in a unique arts environment, while offering the public opportunities to see, enjoy, and explore the processes involved in the creation of the visual and applied arts. Louisiana ArtWorks creates an infrastructure for the growth of the creative industry by providing needed workspace and equipment for artists while attracting the public as a premier cultural destination.

## Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, founded in 1991 by musicians from the former New Orleans Symphony, is the only musician-owned and collaboratively managed professional symphony in the United States. The members of the LPO are dedicated to creating live symphonic music and maintaining a resident full-time orchestra that serves as an integral part of the cultural and educational life of New Orleans and the Gulf South region. The LPO, led by Music Director, Carlos Miguel Prieto, performs a full 36 week concert season featuring an array of Classics, Casual Classics, Spotlight, Family, Education, and Outreach concerts. The members of the LPO are honored to be home-based in New Orleans and serving the Gulf South region.

## Louisiana State Museum

Founded in 1906, The Louisiana State Museum collects, preserves and interprets Louisiana's rich cultural heritage from pre-historic times to the present through more than 450,000 objects and works of art. The Museum is part of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, which is overseen by Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu. For more information, please call 800.568.6968 or visit <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us>.

## National WWII Museum

The National World War II Museum in New Orleans tells the story of the American Experience in the war that changed the world – why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today. Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as America's National World War II Museum, it celebrates the American Spirit, the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who fought on the battlefield and the Home Front. For more information, call 877-813-3329 or 504-528-1944 or visit [www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org).

## New Orleans Ballet Association

NOBA is the Central Gulf region's premiere presenting and service organization dedicated solely to the art of dance. NOBA's dynamic Main Stage season annually features a diverse array of world-class companies and artists. Each year NOBA provides concerts, classes, workshops and lectures to more than 25,000 area dance enthusiasts of all ages. In addition, NOBA's nationally recognized award-winning education programs provide the youth of our community access to quality arts programs with 2,500 free dance classes and workshops annually at ten sites throughout the Greater New Orleans area. Season subscriptions are currently on sale, and single tickets for NOBA events go on sale September 8. For more information on the upcoming season or to subscribe, call NOBA at 504-522-0996, Ext. 201 or visit [www.nobadance.com](http://www.nobadance.com).

## New Orleans Film Society

The New Orleans Film Society (NOFS) is dedicated to providing all audiences access to a diversity of local, national, and international film and video. The mission of the New Orleans Film Society is to engage, educate and inspire through the art of film. A non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1989, the NOFS presents year-round film programming including the annual New Orleans Film Festival, French Film Festival, New Orleans International Children's Film Festival and screenings and special events designed to benefit local film and video audiences, artists and professionals.

## New Orleans Museum of Art

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 30,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum's 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 58 artists, including several of the 20th century's great master sculptors, is always free during public hours.

## New Orleans Opera Association

The City of New Orleans is *America's First City of Opera*. The first documented production on the North American continent is André Ernest Grétry's *Sylvain* which was performed on May 22, 1796. The "modern" New Orleans Opera Association (NOOA) was founded in 1943. This, NOOA's 67<sup>th</sup> season, is the first full season with performances in the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The season is as follows: Puccini's *Tosca* - October 9 & 11, 2009; Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet* – November 20 & 22, 2009; The Verdi *Requiem* – January 22 & 24, 2010; Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* – March 19 & 21, 2010. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.neworleansopera.org](http://www.neworleansopera.org) or by calling the box office at (504) 529-3000 and range in price from \$43 - \$136.

## Ogden Museum of Southern Art

The Ogden Museum of Southern Art is home to the largest and most comprehensive collection of Southern art in the world, and includes the Center for Southern Craft and Design. Artists in the collection include Benny Andrews, William Eggleston, Hunt Slonem, Ida Kohmeyer, George Ohr, Linda Benglis, among others. Every Thursday night, the Ogden hosts "Ogden After Hours," which presents Southern music in a variety of genres. The museum also has special art, literary, film and educational programs throughout the year.

## Southern Food and Beverage Museum

The Southern Food and Beverage Museum is a living history museum dedicated to the discovery, understanding and celebration of the food, drink and culture of the American South. Programs and educational events pay tribute to all the cultures that have come together through the centuries to create a unique culinary heritage. A collaboration of many, the museum allows food lovers of all stripes – Southerners and non-Southerners, locals and tourists, academics and food industry insiders – to explore the food and drink history of the South.

## Southern Rep

As New Orleans' premiere professional theatre, Southern Rep features world-premiere productions and the best of Broadway and off-Broadway. With Academy SRT, the Annual Backstage Bash, PlayLab, the Crosstown Reading

Series, the New Play Bacchanal and Schmiggle Parties, Southern Rep is your ticket to dramatic fun. Now entering its 23rd season, Southern Rep's intimate 144-seat theatre is located on the third floor of The Shops at Canal Place.

## The Historic New Orleans Collection

Founded in 1966, The Historic New Orleans Collection is a museum, research center and publisher dedicated to the preservation of the history and culture of New Orleans, Louisiana, and the surrounding Gulf Coast region. For more information about The Historic New Orleans Collection, visit [www.hnoc.org](http://www.hnoc.org) or call (504) 523-4662.

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