

# The Levy Building Legacy

Between 1979 and 1981, representatives from five organizations--the Hammond Art Guild, Columbia Theatre Players, Hammond Arts Council, Central Business District Association, and Hammond Heritage Foundation--came together to create the Hammond Cultural Foundation, an umbrella organization unifying the existing cultural and educational organizations. One of their first tasks was to secure a space for art shows, plays and musical performances, and classroom and workshop space. Fortunately, they found a space that would meet their needs.

Built circa 1916, the Levy Building initially served as a meeting place for the Woodmen of the World fraternal organization and later as Levy's Department Store. The donation of the building to the City of Hammond by the Levy Family in 1980 ensured a permanent home for what would eventually become the Hammond Regional Arts Center.

Page 14C, Hammond (La.) Sunday Shopping Guide, April 18, 1982

Levy building opens new era

By PAUL GATES  
Star Staff Writer

In 1978, Alyce Levy closed Levy's Store, one of Thomas Street's oldest businesses, but this year the Levy Building begins a new career.

Donated to the city, the building is the new home of the recently-formed Hammond Cultural Foundation and will present art exhibits, dance performances, plays, workshops, music recitals, flower shows, art classes and competitions, theater workshops, poetry readings, photography exhibits and costume displays.

The building also will house an art library.

Overseen by a 13-member board, the Levy Building officially opens as the Hammond Cultural Foundation's headquarters next Wednesday with a ribbon cutting and open house from 5 to 7 p.m.

The open house will feature displays of antique quilts, needlework, flower arrangements, an art exhibit and refreshments.

At 8:30 p.m. there will be a reception for members.

Next Thursday, there will be an evening of music beginning at 8 p.m. featuring a clarinet ensemble, a woodwind ensemble and a student brass ensemble.

A comic opera, "Sweet Betsy From Pike," also will be presented.

Friday, April 23 brings an evening of dance to the Levy Building beginning at 8 p.m. It will include square dancing by the Tangi Taws and Paws, modern dance by the Joan Grosch Dance Troupe and singing by the Hammond High School Vocal Ensemble.

On Saturday, April 24, activities begin at 2 p.m. with poetry readings by Hammond High School students and a poetry reading and presentation competition.

At 8 p.m. there will be two.

(Continued on Page 16C)

LEVY BUILDING — The Levy Building opens its doors Wednesday with a renovated interior and a new purpose. It will be the home of the Hammond Cultural Foundation and the scene of a number of Heritage Day activities. (Daily Star Photo by Frank Williams)

CULTURAL CENTER SHAPING UP — Workers begin cleaning up the new cultural center on the 200 block of East Thomas Street. The center could be opened for public view by May 3, Heritage Day. Any one interested in becoming a member may write to: The Hammond Cultural Foundation, P.O. Box 2974, Hammond, La. 70401. Pictured, from left, are Denise Touliver-Holl, Sharon Sledge, Marsha Kesner, Pat Macaluso, and Elizabeth Lewis. (Daily Star Photo by John Travis)

Page 4, Hammond (La.) Daily Star, Monday, August 5, 1985

Lifestyle

LINK AWARD—This month's Link Award for business beautification is given to the Hammond Cultural Foundation, in the person of President Marjorie Morrison, second from right, by John Davis, left, and Paula Hill, right, of the Chamber of Commerce, and Charbi Jenkins of the Hammond Garden Club. The foundation renovated the former Levy's store building on East Street starting in 1981. It now serves as a headquarters for the foundation and related local groups. (Staff Photo by Levett)



The Main Gallery in the late 1990s.

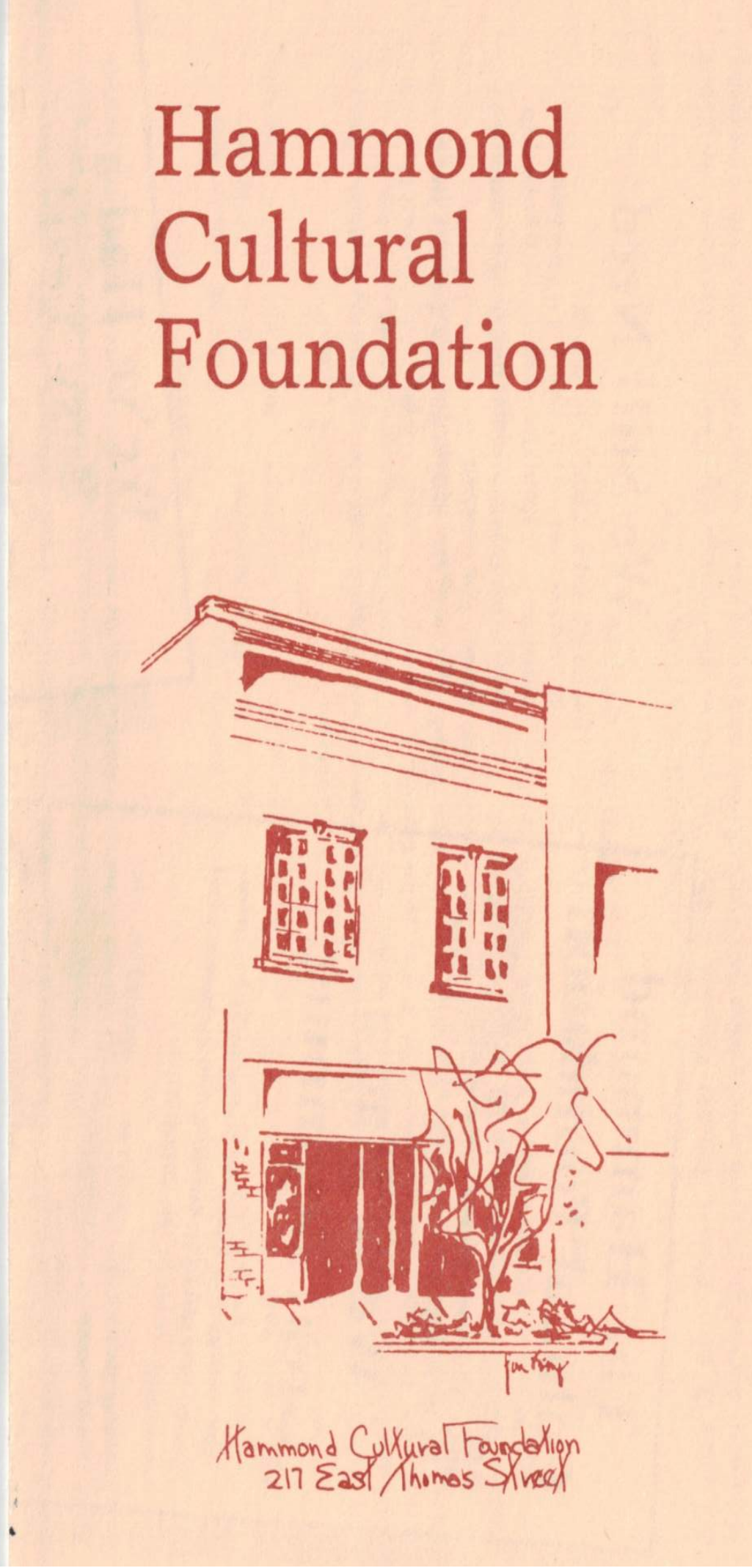


The Main Gallery in today.





The 1980s



1982

Fundraising commenced immediately to support programs and exhibits.



1982

A Beaux Arts Ball in the fall featured a play, music, and fabulous costumes.



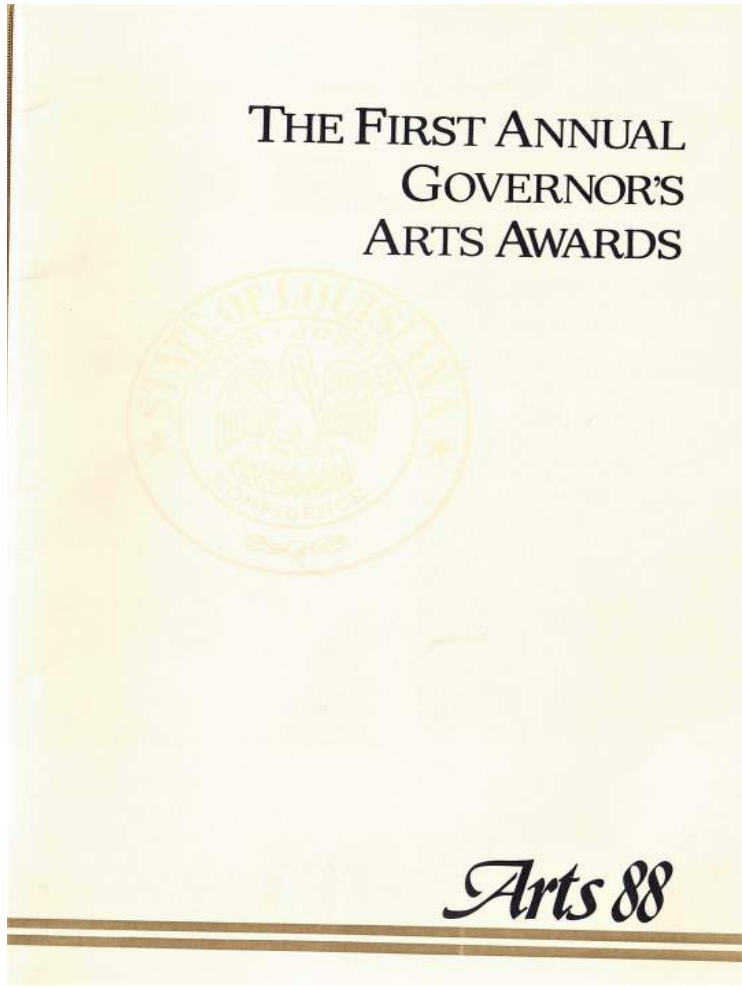
1984

Board members in the early days included Maya Levy, Marjorie Morrison, Katie Wainwright, Pat Macaluso, and Gloria Ross.



1988

The Hammond Cultural Foundation was named Organization of the Year by the Governor of Louisiana.



THE FIRST ANNUAL GOVERNORS AWARDS FOR THE ARTS			
Arts Education	Arts and Humanities Council	Arts Education	Arts and Humanities Council
Professional Artist	Clyde Correll	Professional Artist	Clyde Correll
Business/Corporate	Edith Corporation	Business/Corporate	Edith Corporation
Patron	Shirley Charles Ford	Patron	Shirley Charles Ford
Community/Club	City of Lake Charles, Mayor Ed Watson	Community/Club	City of Lake Charles, Mayor Ed Watson
Arts Organization	Festival International de Louisiane, Hammond Cultural Foundation	Arts Organization	Festival International de Louisiane, Hammond Cultural Foundation
Chairman's Award	City of Eunice, Liberty Cultural Association, Mayor Curtis Jackson	Chairman's Award	City of Eunice, Liberty Cultural Association, Mayor Curtis Jackson
Lifetime Achievement Award	Annuaire "First" Design	Lifetime Achievement Award	Annuaire "First" Design

1982

A ribbon cutting in April marked the opening of the Levy Building at the Hammond Cultural Foundation's new arts center, eventually to become the Hammond Regional Arts Center.



1982

Twenty Louisiana artists, including Gloria Ross and Roy Blackwood, were featured in the first exhibition, *Elevated Gesture*.



1983

The Center hosted a play for Hammond's Heritage Day, the first of many theatrical offerings to follow.



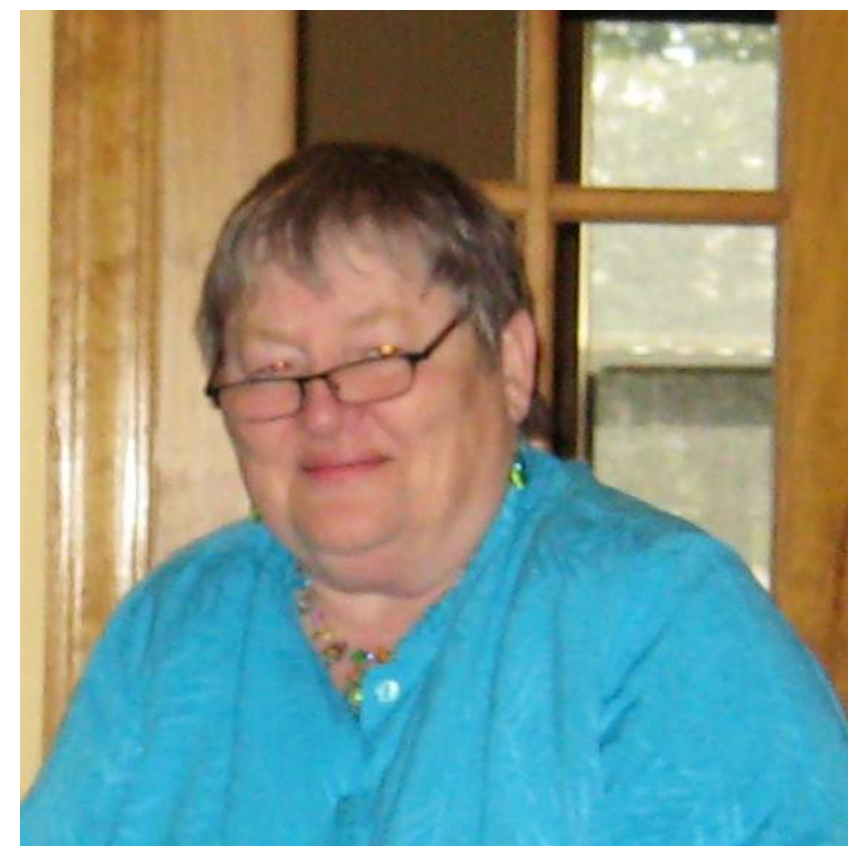
1988

The Hammond Cultural Foundation co-sponsored the erection of the *Women in Motion* sculpture by Helen Loomis Entrikin, still standing next to the City Court, to celebrate Women's History Month.





# Board Presidents



Maya Levy



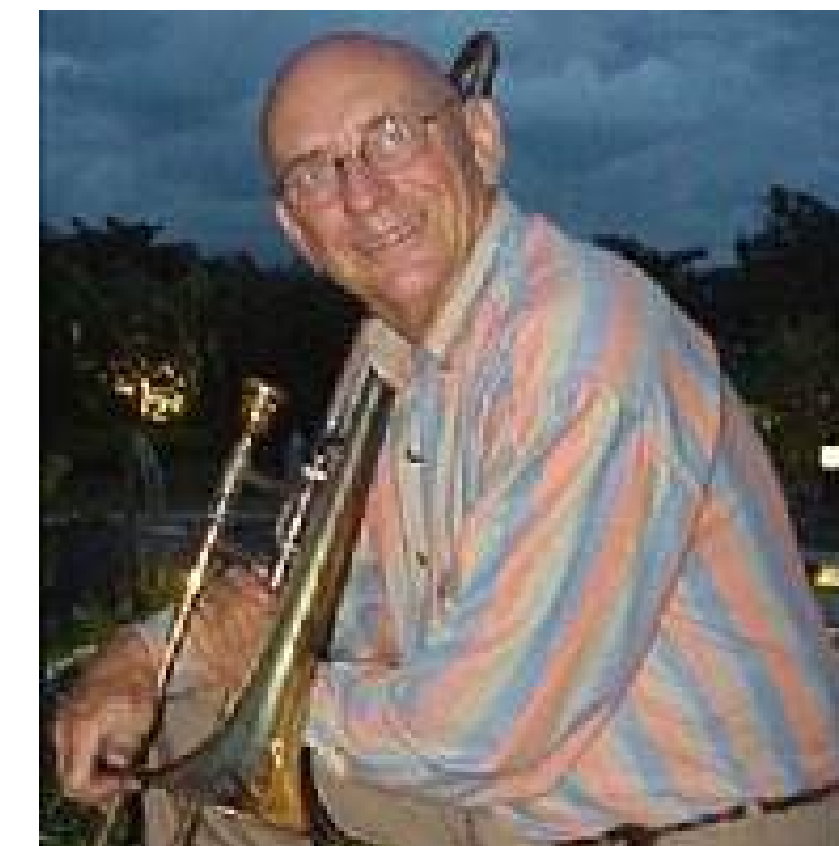
Marjorie Morrison



Teri Bickham



Nina Ross



Ron Nethercutt



The 1990s

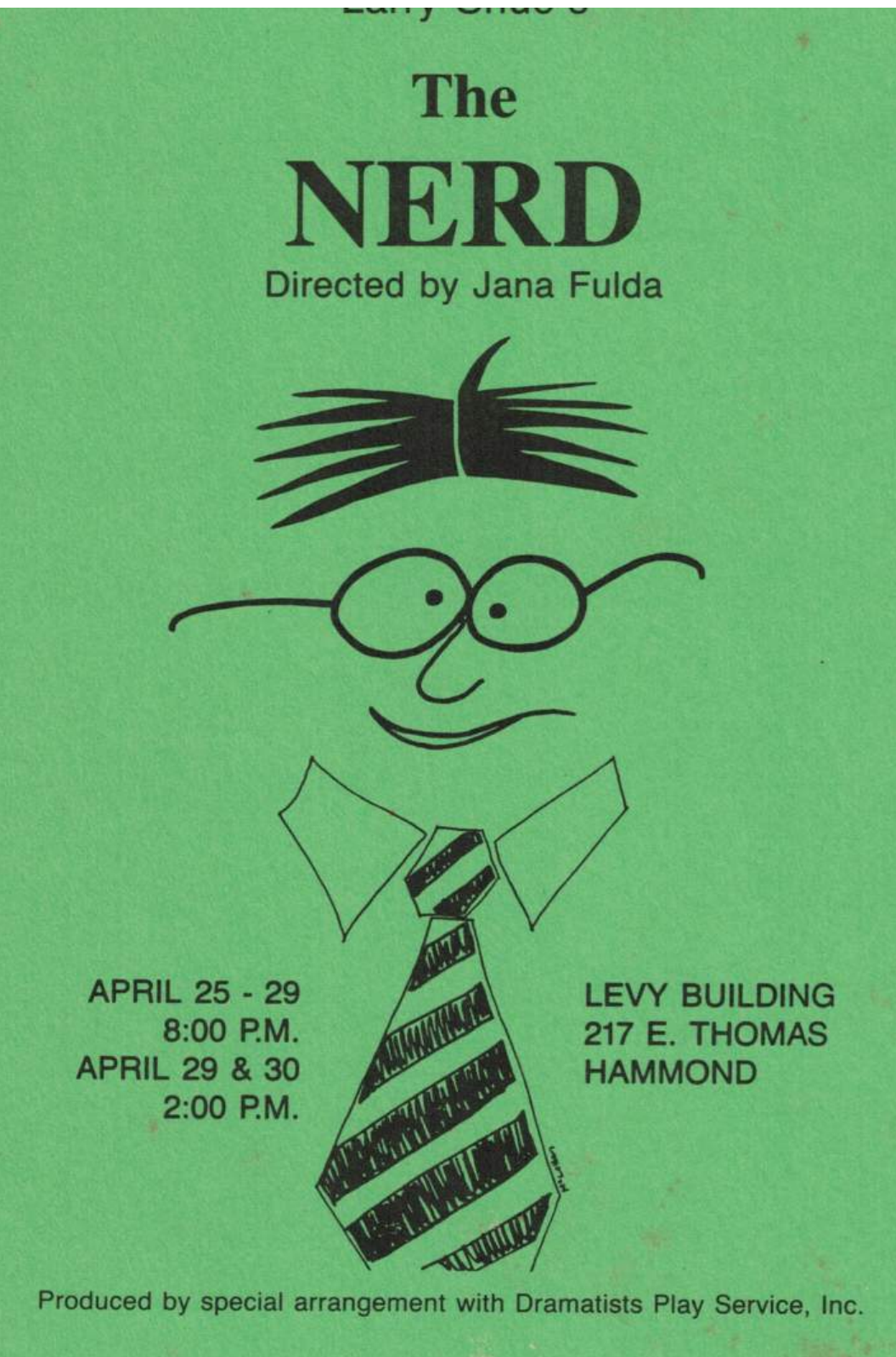
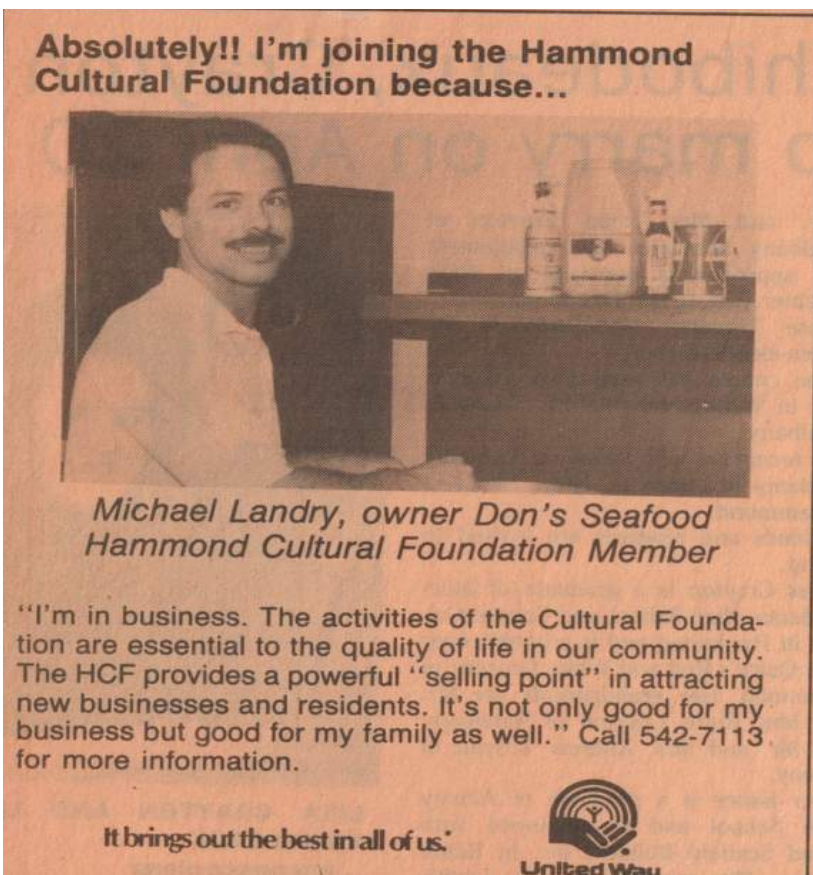


1990

The state’s Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism awarded a certificate of appreciation for outstanding work to the Hammond Cultural Foundation.

1995

Testimonials from new and existing members were featured in a publicity campaign.



1998

The Columbia Theatre Players presented many comedies and dramas in the Levy Building, continuing the Center’s offerings beyond the visual arts.



1990

A production of Ntozake Shange’s *For Colored Girls...* and an art exhibition reflecting the Black experience drew a healthy attendance to the Center.

1991

The Arts Center board drew from many talented individuals willing to give of their time to support the arts.



1997

The ‘90s saw the creation of the still popular “Culinary Arts” series, featuring a cooking demonstration by a local chef paired with a delicious dinner.

On February 1, 1998, the 15-year-old Hammond Cultural Foundation changed its name to the **Hammond Regional Arts Center** to better reflect its status as the official arts agency for Tangipahoa Parish, serving artists, arts organizations, and art enthusiasts.



Board Presidents



Gloria Ross



Anne Wilbourne



Anita Walker



John Braud



Deek DeBlieux

Executive Directors



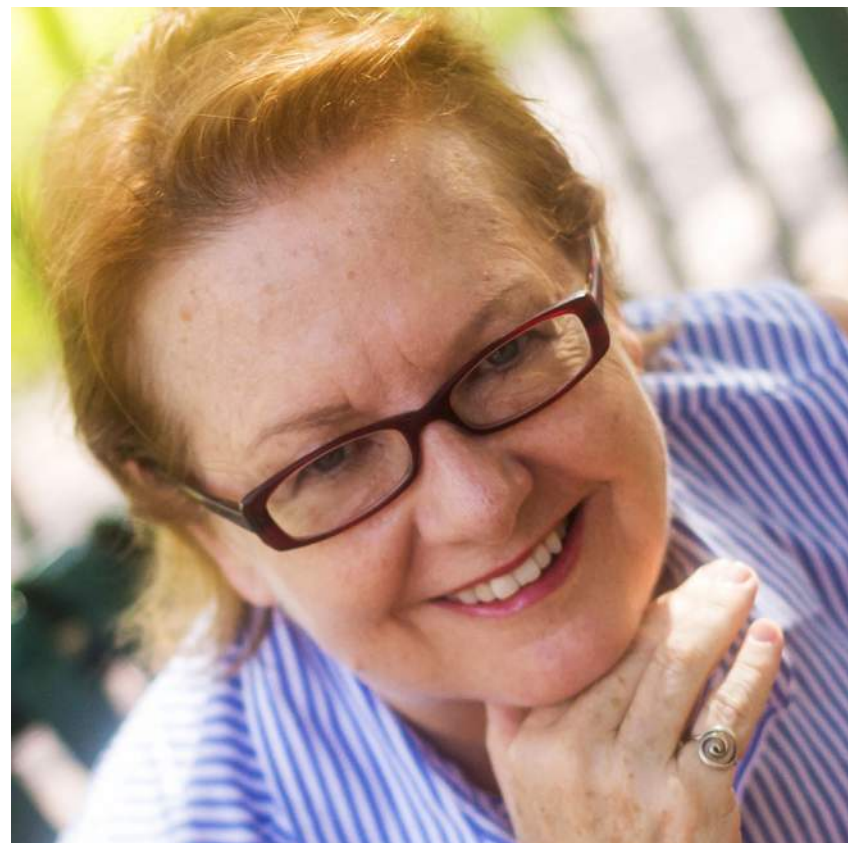
Kish Schmitz Pisani



David Lush



Lisa Hale



Karen Wallsten



Alicia Breaux



Ann Stohl





# Hammond Regional Arts Center



2006

Programs such as art camps and Fun Fridays increased art opportunities for children at the time of a decline in school art programs while enticing a younger audience to the Center.

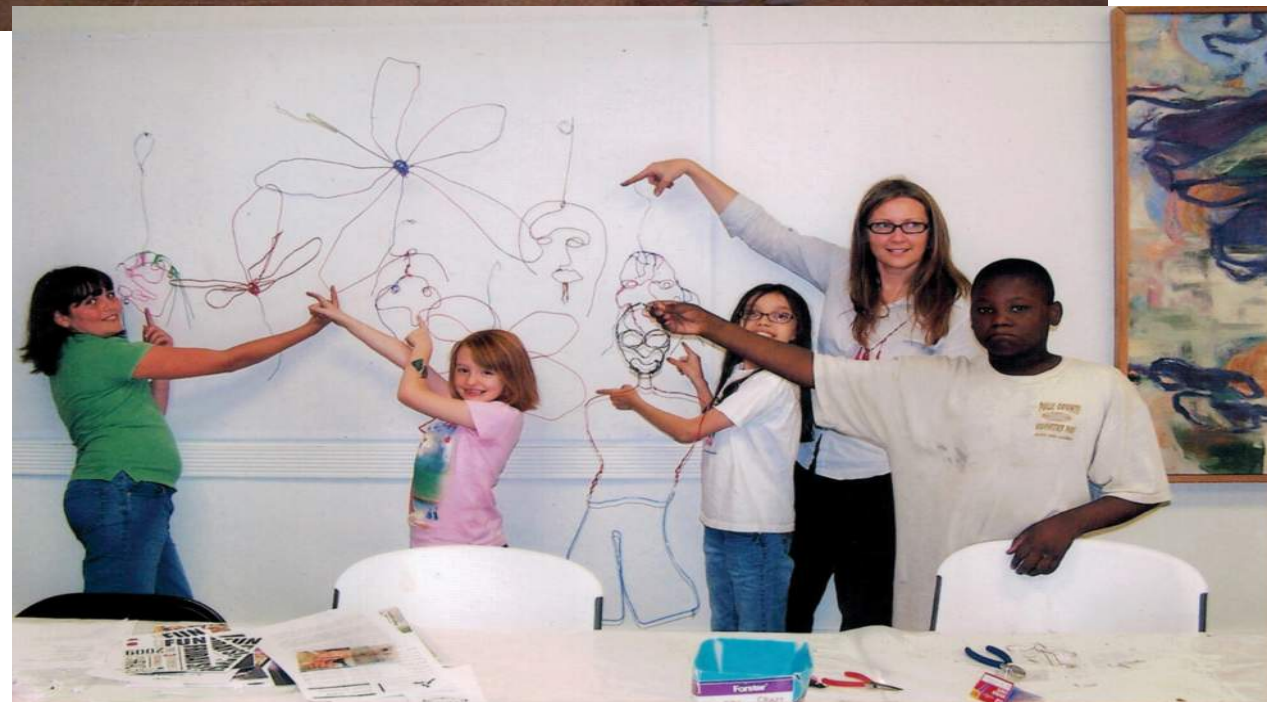


2009

The Hammond Art Guild continued a longstanding relationship with the Arts Center via exhibits, art camps, and other art offerings.

2010

“Arts without Borders” Kids Summer Arts camps proved popular with the younger crowd.



2003

In 2003 the (B.R.O.A.D.S.) (Bayou Regional Order of Art Dames), a social circle of female artists, held their first exhibit of several in the ensuing years.



2007

An enjoyable interactive exhibition entitled *The Games We Play* encouraged a hands-on approach to art.



2009

The First Marjorie Morrison Sculpture Biennial Exhibition honored a longtime arts advocate and founding member of HRAC.



2009

The ever-popular “Brews Arts Festival” burst on the scene in 2009, and still draws a large crowd every fall.





## Board Presidents



Marjorie Morrison



Amy Guilbeau



Michael Rickenbaker



Margaret Adelman



Joe Brown



Colleen Scarle

## Executive Directors



Joey France



Trish Ramsey



Kevin Salzman



The 2010s

HAMMOND  
REGIONAL  
ARTS  
CENTER

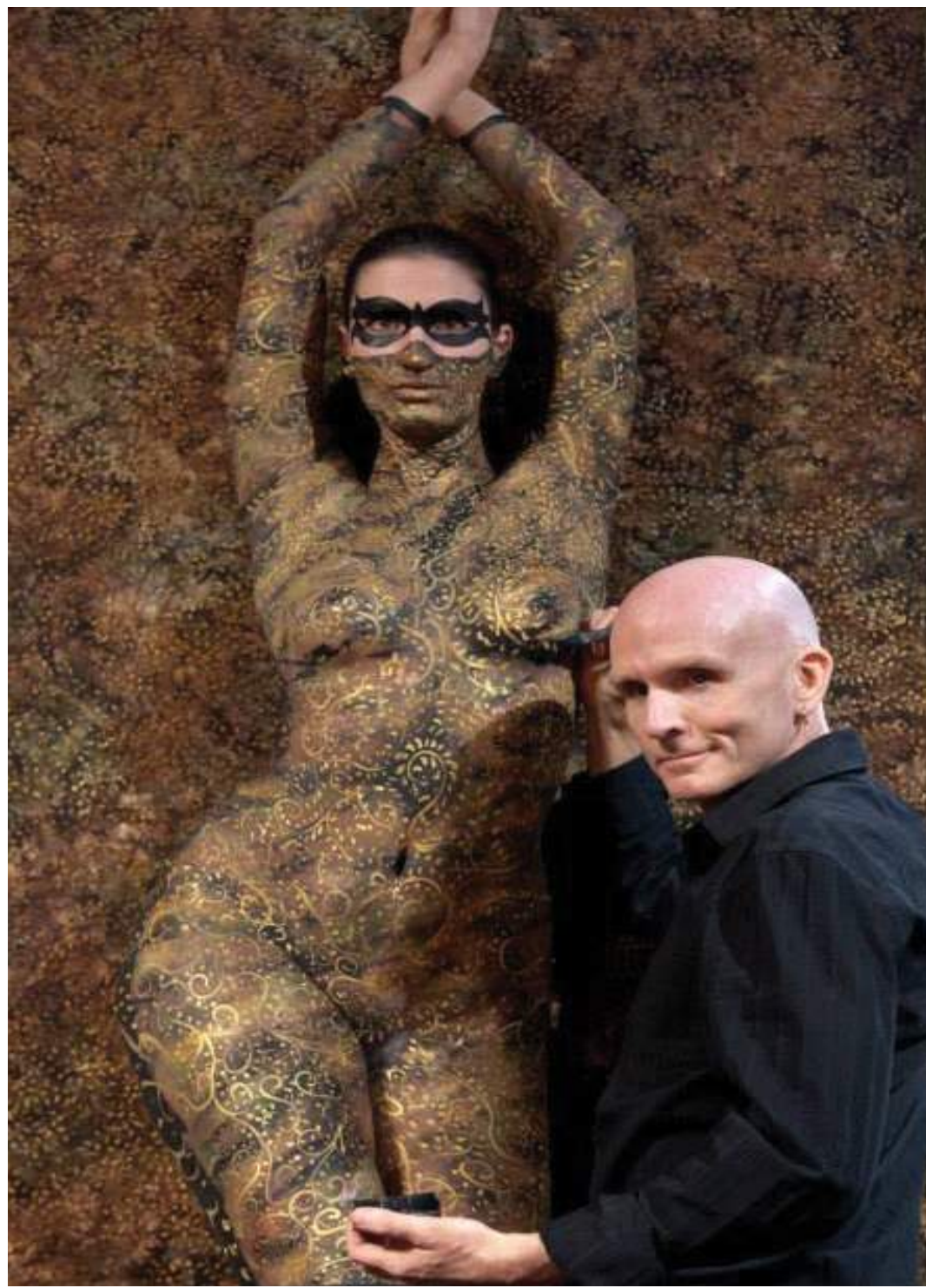
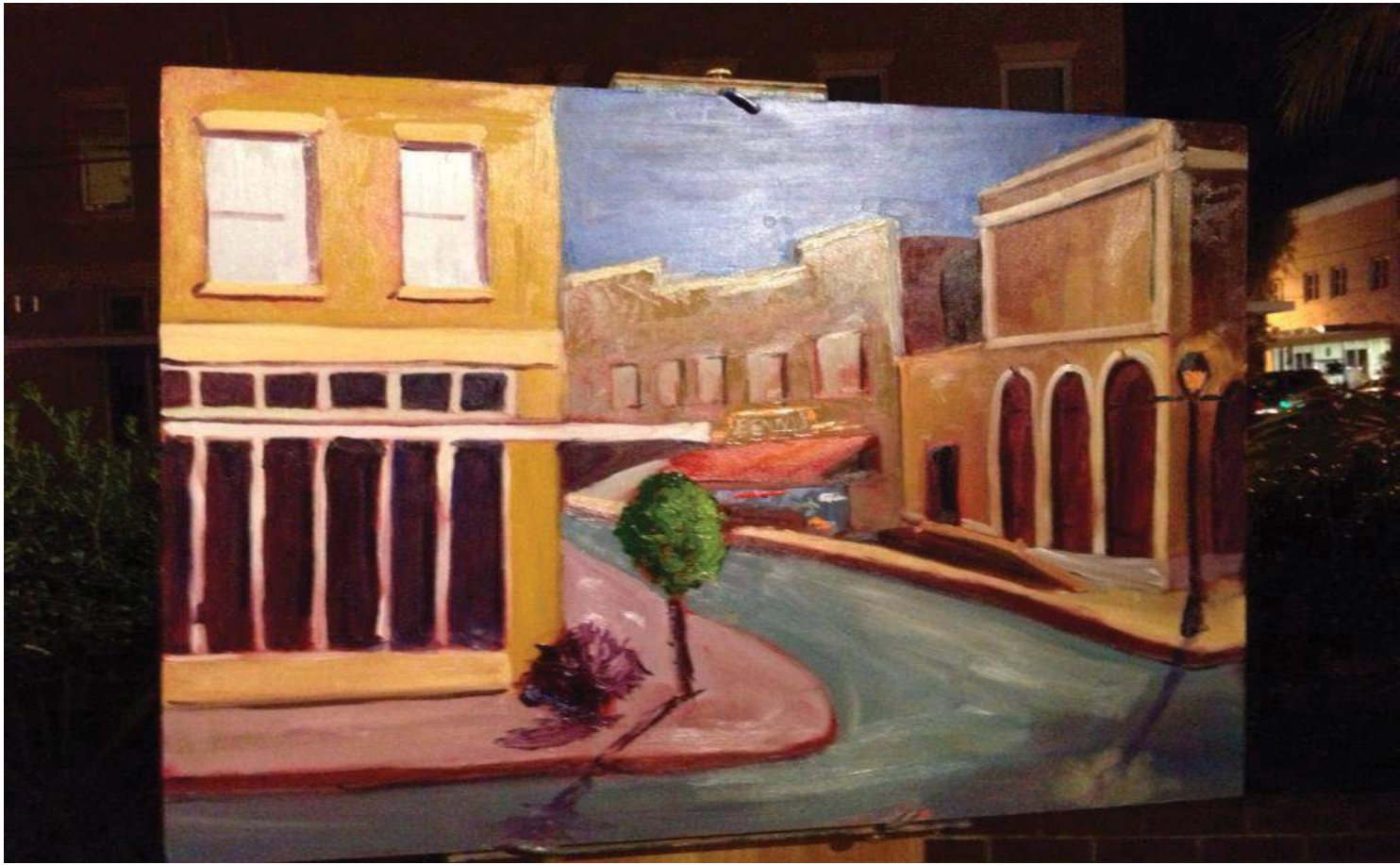


2012

The Arts Center celebrated its 30th anniversary with exhibitions by noted Louisiana artists George Rodrigue and James Michalopoulos.

2013

Amateur artists from the community contributed to a collaborative work in progress at a Pop-Up Art events that helped raise community awareness of the center.



2013

Craig Tracy painted a model during the multi-event *Human Canvas*. Barbara Smith curated the extravaganza, which also included body piercing, tattooing, on-site painting, an exotic dancer on a large wheel, and high fashion models serving cocktails to a capacity crowd.

2018

Lacy Landrum, Maureen Joyce, and Jordan Kenning showed off the newly installed Art-o-Mat, which offers small artworks at a very reasonable price.



2012

A Kids Drama Camp joined the roster of art camps, concluding with the production of a play.



2012

The new decade saw a focus on HRAC support for art education in the parish with the Maya Levy Art Education Grant and the distribution of art supplies to local schools.

2013

Lieutenant Governor Jay Darden presented HRAC with the Office of Cultural Development's Outstanding Arts Organization Award.



2014

Mayor Mayson Foster signed a proclamation honoring the 2015 “Celebrating the Written Word” literary festival, the first of three. Creator/coordinator/author Katie Wainwright is at far right.

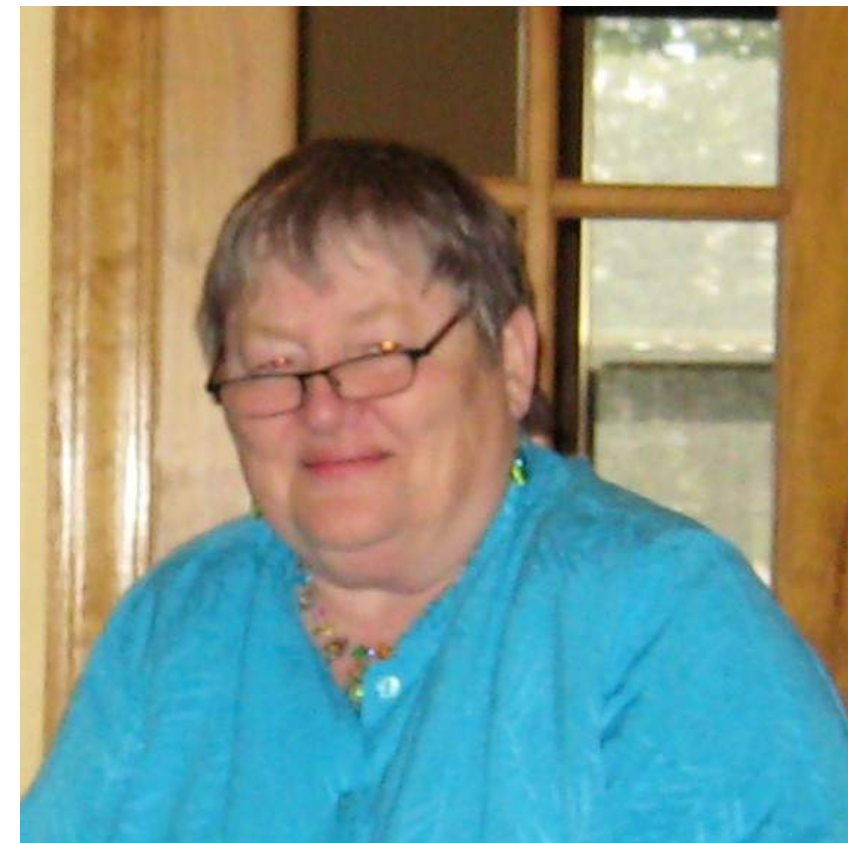
2018

“Playing the Staircase” featured a series of concerts performed by local musicians.





# Board Presidents



Maya Levy



Barbara Smith



Al Bentley



Phillip Colwart



Lacy Landrum

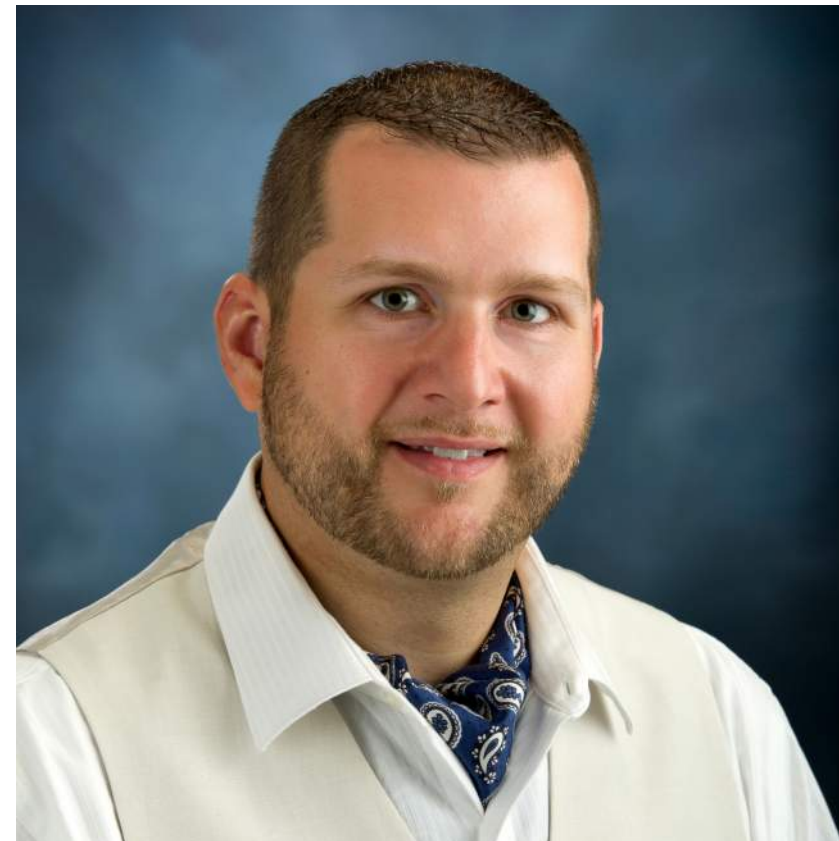
# Executive Directors



Kevin Salzman



Melissa Griffin



Mike Kilgore



Katherine Marquette

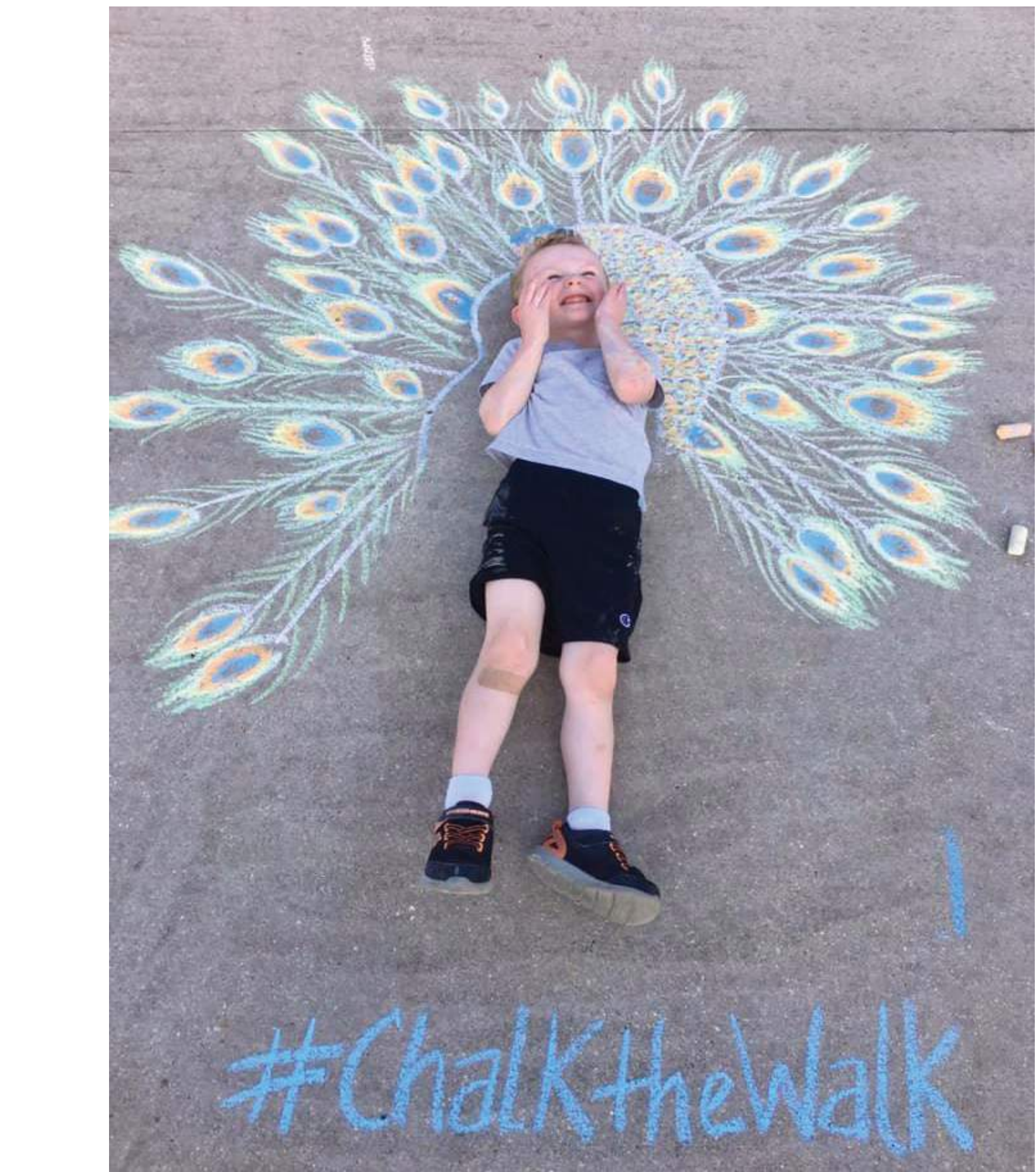
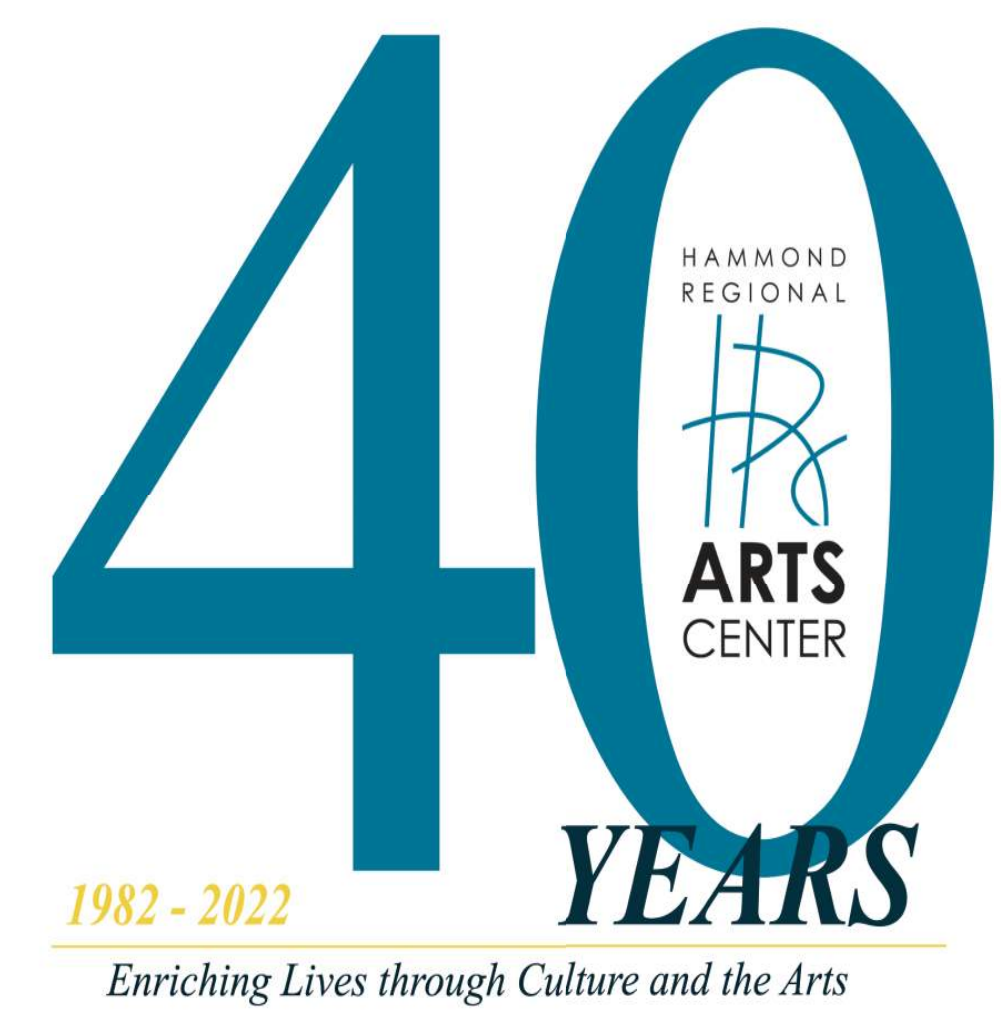


Maureen Joyce



Melissa Griffin





2020

In response to the COVID epidemic, HRAC brought art activities such as “Chalk the Walk” and “Art in the Park” to outdoor venues.

2021

Lafayette artist Dirk Guidry exhibited his artwork in the very popular “Circulate” show.



2022

The number of art camps and artistry classes continued to increase due to their overwhelming popularity with artists of all ages.

“More to come”...

*There’s much to celebrate but so much more to create.*

*Become a member of the Hammond Regional Arts Center today and be a part of the Levy Building Legacy.*

2020

The Arts Center has long partnered with Options, Inc. to provide art instruction and crafts classes for people with disabilities.



2020

Director Melissa Griffin inaugurated a new series of podcasts featuring interviews with artists and discussions of art-related topics.

2021

“Brews Arts” and “Art of the Cocktail” were suspended for a time during the COVID pandemic but returned with great success in the fall and spring. Pictured are the “Brews Arts” volunteers and bar-tenders from Streetside Market with their prize-winning cocktail from “Art of the Cocktail”.



2022

During the 40th anniversary year, HRAC hosted the expansive exhibition ‘The Pelican State Goes to War: Louisiana in WWII’, created by the National WWII Museum, along with a large display of loaned war artifacts and photographs.



*Thank You*  
**2022**  
**Board of  
Directors**



Jordan Kenning,  
Board President



Brandon Mulina,  
Board Vice President



Jeffrey Talbot,  
Board Secretary



Carolyn Howard,  
Board Treasurer



Denise Tullier-Holly,  
Lifetime Board Member



Lacy Landrum,  
Board Member



Pat Macaluso,  
Board Member



Dana Goblowsky,  
Board Member



Shayla Kelly-Gathige,  
Board Member



Pam Bankston,  
Board Member



Eric Johnson,  
Board Member



Gabrielle Landry,  
Board Member



Bryan Ehricht,  
Board Member

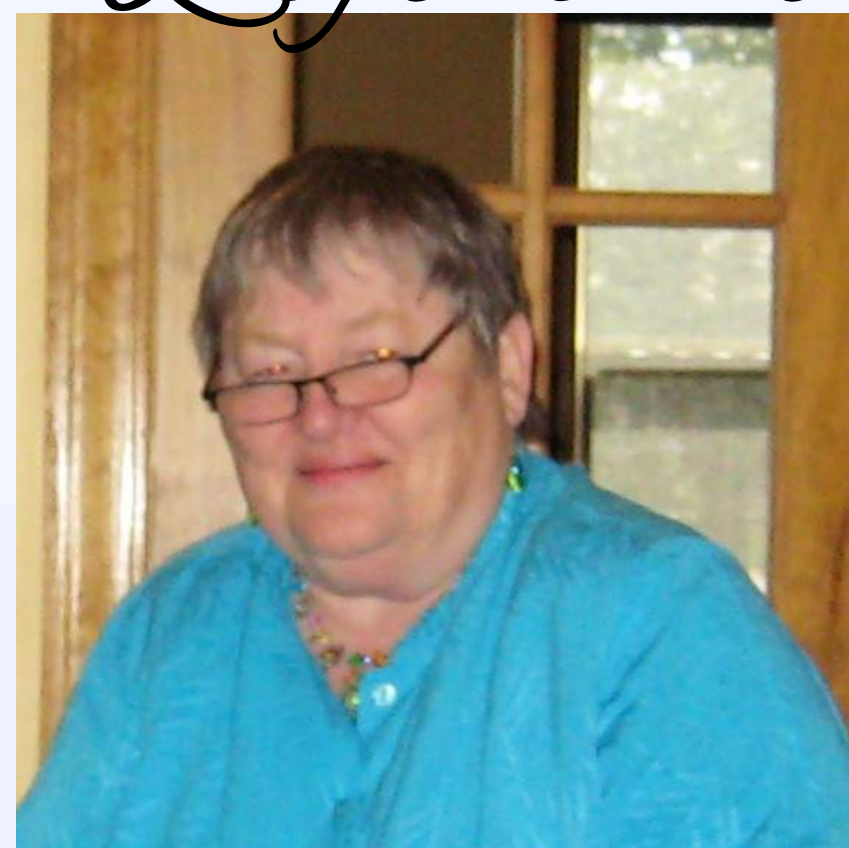


Beverly Covington,  
Board Member





## Lifetime Board Members



Maya Levy



Marjorie Morrison



Denise Tullier-Holly

Just a few of the smiling faces that supported the Hammond Regional Arts Center over the years. We are so grateful to our members and contributors.

We wish we had more room to recognize everyone who made an impact on our community by supporting culture and the arts locally.

Thank you, Phillip Colwart Photography, for so many wonderful captured memories.