



Facts about Louisiana Cultural Districts

The Cultural Districts program is an initiative of the Office of the Lt. Governor and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism passed during the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana legislature.

Any municipal or parish government in Louisiana may designate a specific geographic area and apply for that area to become a Cultural District.

The primary goal of the Cultural Districts program is to revitalize communities and contribute to the lives and livelihoods of the citizens by creating locally driven hubs of cultural activity. The program provides two primary incentives for communities to create or rebuild cultural destinations:

- Renovations to historic structures within the district may be eligible for state historic tax credits
- Sales of original, one-of-a-kind works of art are exempt from local and state sales tax

A Cultural District should:

- Have cultural resources that play a vital role in the life, economic and cultural development of a community
- Focus on a cultural compound, such as a major art institution, art and entertainment businesses, an area with arts and cultural activities or cultural or artisan production
- Be engaged in the promotion, preservation, and educational aspects of the arts and culture of the locale
- Contribute to the public through interpretive and educational uses

Other benefits communities with Cultural Districts can expect might be increased occupancy, property renovations, an improved sense of community, and increases in social and cultural activity and related jobs.

There are two annual review cycles to become a Cultural District, with application deadlines on July 1 and December 1 of each year.

The first round of applications resulted in 29 certified Cultural Districts in 6 parishes. The second round includes 11 applications in 9 parishes representing all corners of the state.

Program Guidelines, Application, other forms, Frequently Asked Questions, and other information about the Cultural Districts Program are available online at—

www.crt.state.la.us/culturaldistricts

Or by contacting Gaye Hamilton at the Office of Cultural Development at 225-342-8161, gghamilton@crt.state.la.us.