



desoto arts council

artbeat →

Feb 2016

ART MATTERS

By: Edith Herring, DAC President

MORE ABOUT "THE BUSINESS OF CULTURE AND ART..."

Liz Swaine, Executive Director of Shreveport's Downtown Development Authority, recently posted an op-ed in the Times concerning the huge economic impact of combing historic preservation, culture and art for downtown Shreveport. After reading her comments, it is apparent that the Historic Village of Grand Cane has all of the necessary pieces in place: an Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a Louisiana Cultural District designation and "ART" and ownership of several of the old buildings. While our rural setting does not allow us the traffic flow of downtown Shreveport, we are still poised to attract more and more individuals to seek us out and enjoy what we have to offer.

The DeSoto Arts Council, as a non-profit, is committed to offering our visitors the enjoyment and appreciation of fine art, which can lift us up and challenge us to see the world in different, more exciting ways.

Our volunteer staff continually engages all visitors from near and far as they freely promote the Village of Grand Cane and all it has to offer. With the acquisition of three more of the historic old buildings, the future economic development of this small block is bright, indeed. We look forward to more businesses, more visitors and more economic success for the Village of Grand Cane Historic District.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW: **'CHALK IT UP!' – ART ROCKS 2016!**

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 10 am – 2 pm. The event will feature popular local and area art vendors, "Artists of Tomorrow" youth & children's art show, entertainment by **Blake Brothers Bluegrass Band** and sidewalk chalk mural artist **Rachel Addy**. Visitors will explore the creative world of "chalk art" with free, hands on activities. We are seeking local artists and artisans to set up their booths in the downtown area. Interested individuals should contact **Lynn Hoell** at 318-347-0366 for details. We are offering our **POSTER CONTEST** again this year, open to everyone. No age limit, just must be a resident of DeSoto Parish. The Theme is "Chalk it up!", there is a \$50 prize for the winner and the deadline is: Saturday, March 26. Poster size is 12' x 18". For more information and to request an entry form call 318-663-3080 or pick one up at the DAC Gallery during regular business hours.

The children's and youth art contest will have a different format this year. The title "Artists of Tomorrow" indicates that we are targeting the young people in our parish that show an interest in art and with the help of their parents/guardians will submit their entries by the deadline of: Saturday, April 23. We are offering more cash awards in each age group, as well as a Best of Show and Artis Wells Creativity Awards. Entry forms are available from schools, parish libraries, DAC Board Members and by calling 318-660-3080. We are anticipating an exciting art event, showcasing our young "Artists of Tomorrow!"



WHAT'S NEW AT THE DAC GALLERY?

DAC Gallery Artists have completed their quarterly "art change out" and the exhibits are brand new. Art subjects range from wildlife, historic buildings, religious themes, western, folk art and more! Visitors can still enjoy the "Churches of DeSoto" photograph exhibit through the month of February. Please plan to stop by the DAC Gallery in Grand Cane, LA to check out the beautiful world of art.

DAC OFFERS BILL HART'S GEMSTONE JEWELRY



The DeSoto Arts Council Gallery is privileged to offer a collection of original gemstone jewelry created by the late DAC Gallery Artist, **Bill Hart**. **Hart's family** donated his inventory to the DAC in his memory and DAC receives all of the proceeds from the sale of his unique, original jewelry art.

Lapidary Art is defined as creating art from stone, minerals or gemstones and **Bill Hart** was a master Lapidary Artist! He learned his art of cutting, grinding and polishing his pieces to showcase their natural beauty, while stationed in Japan while serving in the U. S. Air Force some 40 years ago. His pieces include necklaces, pendants, belt buckles and bolos. Many of his pieces are offered at reduced or half price and include an assortment of necklace chains. Visitors are encouraged to stop by and see first-hand this collection of one-of-a-kind jewelry art, offered at sale prices. Each heirloom quality piece will make a treasured personal piece or a special gift. DAC Gallery hours: Thurs – Sat, 10 am – 1:30 pm. Our DAC Gallery Volunteers are always happy to welcome visitors and share the beautiful art on display.

'Art is the Answer....What was the Question'

Exploring the positive influence of art on child development.

Sarah Glenn Duncan, B.A. M.S. LPC

Earlier this winter I had the opportunity to serve on a DeSoto Parish jury. Grumbling a little, I was among 400 dutifully queued outside the southern entrance of the courthouse in Mansfield. While the 1911-built courthouse is a familiar sight, a little time in line provided time to really look at the building. It is, according to Mason Architectural (the firm who oversaw the 2004 restoration) a mix of English and Mediterranean styles..h'mmm. If you've ever been, you know you walk up the stairs to enter on the ground floor, but if you walk in at ground level you are in the basement; a little research revealed this to be Piano Nobile, the noble floor. Interesting, if for no other reason than this indicated a building with character and panache, about which a lot of people in the last 105 years have cared.

Once inside the main courtroom, the art of the architecture was again evident in soaring arched windows and crown molding with meticulous dentition and some quite lovely stained glass skylights. According to Michael Mason, in the 1960s the decision was made to install air conditioning and the ceiling was dropped to allow ductwork, but it covered up so much beauty! Mercifully, advances in HVAC technology meant that the crown molding and stained glass could be again revealed.

The jury was seated without me, but I came away from a workday as a citizen of a country with a beautiful judicial system a bit prouder of this piece of ground that is DeSoto. Walking to the parking lot, I passed the "coupled ionic columns set between the massive arched openings" the original architects Favrot and Livaudais of New Orleans designed and could not help but smile. Sometimes you just have to be a bit flamboyant, be it a snazzy scarf, a brighter color on the palette, a boundary pushed, a crazy idea that just might work...and there is an art to that!

Black History Month Celebration



DAC Gallery Volunteer, Linda Brown assists Wilma Drain in locating art for a Black History Month Celebration at Union Springs Church, 228 Kyle Porter Rd., Mansfield, LA on Sunday, February 28 at 4 pm. Pastor Joseph Hall, Jr states that the public is invited. Drain was interested in the unique art of DAC Artists, Azzie Mitchell and Barry Wiley to be possibly included in their celebration display.

NOTICE: "A History of Grand Cane, Vol. 3" is available in the DAC Gallery. The price is \$50 and this edition focuses on the historic homes found in Grand Cane, LA and the people of the Village.

Red Envelope Annual Fundraiser



DeSoto Arts Council Board members prepare Red Envelopes for their annual mail out fund raiser. Board Members(l-r) Rowena Anderson, Jerline Jackson, Bobbie Cunningham, Margaret Dickerson and Carol Paga (not pictured Becky Lawson & Edith Herring) are shown working in the DAC Gallery Green Room, where the artists have completed a recent "art change out" and visitors will find all new art.

Local and area art patrons will soon be receiving the distinctive "red envelopes" in the mail with information about the work of DAC and the opportunity to give the organization financial support. Anyone not receiving a mail out, but interested in donating, may call [318-663-3080](tel:318-663-3080) for information.

Business hours: Thurs-Sat, 10 am – 1:30 pm



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