

**BAYOU VERMILION DISTRICT
2019 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

President
Robert Minyard
Appointments: City-Parish Council

Vice-President
Thomas Michot
Appointments: City-Parish President

Secretary
Catherine S. Comeaux
Appointments: City-Parish Council

Jennifer Farr
Appointments: City-Parish Council

Calvin Leger
Appointments: Area Mayors

Kristie Cornell
Appointments: City-Parish Council

Benjamin Richard
Appointments: City-Parish President

Ray Landry
Appointments: City-Parish Council

Hiram "Don" McConnell, Jr.
Appointments: Area Mayors

**2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VERMILIONVILLE LIVING HISTORY
MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC.**

President
Michael S. Martin, PhD

Vice President
Philip Frey

Secretary/Treasurer
Deborah Dennis Simeral

Advisory Board BVD
Robert Minyard

General Members
Ian Beamish

C. Ray Brassieur, PhD

John Broussard

Phebe Hayes

Randy K. Haynie

Karen McKinney

Marissa Petrou, Ph.D.

Liz Skilton, PhD

Brian D. Tarrant



ENVIRONMENTAL

On the environmental side of our mission, the **Bayou Vermilion District** manages boat, canoe and kayak launches in addition to public parks along the river in an effort to promote recreation along the Vermilion. The **Bayou Vermilion District** also removes trash and large debris from the Vermilion River in addition to working with local government to monitor the water quality and water height of the Vermilion. We also work with the school board to educate students in Lafayette Parish about our Watershed and their role in helping to maintain water quality in the Vermilion.

CULTURAL

On the cultural side of our mission, the Bayou Vermilion District opened the **Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folklife Park** as a way to preserve and represent the Acadian, Creole, Native American cultures and people of African descent in the Attakapas region. Since its opening in 1990, the historic village has become one of Lafayette's premiere tourist attractions welcoming more than 50,000 visitors each year from around the world. **Vermilionville** sits on a beautiful tree-covered 23-acre site on the banks of the Bayou Vermilion in the heart of Lafayette, providing a place for history, music, food, cultural exchange, dance, historic architecture and much more.

BAYOU VERMILION DISTRICT & VERMILIONVILLE LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM & FOLKLIFE PARK ADMINISTRATION

Office Manager & Board Secretary
Kim Fournet
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Foreman of Bayou Operations
Tom Melancon
foreman@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Director of Facilities Maintenance & Security
Curtis Willingham
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Director of Education and Recreation
Wesley Davis
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Director of Water Quality
Emile Ancelet
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Director of Museum Operations
Brady McKellar
vville@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Curator
Anne Mahoney
curator@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Director of Communication
Jamie Dupuis
communications@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Director of Outreach
Charissa Helluin
outreach@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Director of Hospitality
Millicent Norbert
hospitality@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Gift Shop Manager
Chris Benoit
giftshop@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Collections Manager
Maegan A. Smith
artifacts@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Education Coordinator
Melanie Harrington
education@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Restaurant Manager
Marcus Bergeron
restaurant@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Tour Coordinator
Melissa Bastien
tours@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Thirty years ago, on April 1, 1990, Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folklife Park, as an integral part of the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District's masterplan and mission, opened its doors to the public for the first time. Since then, over a million visitors from all fifty states and dozens of countries have come through our doors. Vermilionville has been lauded by many as the centerpiece of our region's cultural tourism industry that has flourished into a vital part of the overall economy.

The last thirty years have not been without their challenges. Vermilionville is making great strides to include the many voices who came together to tell the story of the region in a multi-faceted approach. Much of this past year has been dedicated to the creation of a new strategic plan both for our benefit, but also for accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums.

As part of this process, we interviewed numerous stakeholders, either in person or through written questions. These stakeholders ranged from elected officials and business leaders, to members of local cultures we are tasked with representing, to arts and culture professionals. We sought out and received their input as well our members' and regular visitors' ideas on how to improve representing the history and culture of the area.

As we work to make Vermilionville as inclusive as possible, we have run into a formidable obstacle: the COVID-19 pandemic. Museums, restaurants, and large public gatherings have been shut down. Under these unprecedented circumstances, there is much uncertainty as to what the future holds. However, our strategic planning process has put us in a good position moving forward.

Our strategic plan for Vermilionville includes three main goals and how we plan to achieve them. They are 1) Museum Excellence, 2) Broadening Community Support, and 3) Organizational Effectiveness. On the Bayou Operations side, we continue to collect the equivalent of over a thousand 55-gallon drums' worth of trash each year, in addition to numerous trees, livestock and pets, hundreds of tires, and various and sundry appliances, furniture and sporting equipment.

Our plan takes into account several outside factors that either will directly or indirectly affect Vermilionville. The biggest long-term project is by far the planned Interstate-49 (I-49) Connector, which will most likely have an on/off ramp near Vermilionville. Bringing the thruway up to interstate standards has long been in the planning stages. The proposed interstate has catalyzed improvement projects along the corridor to mitigate any detrimental effects that may be incurred through the passage of a major highway through the heart of the city. Our proximity to the airport assures that access to Vermilionville will not be interrupted once the work begins. However, the continued delays and the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 crisis may delay the improvements planned. In the shorter term, in 2019 we began the process to construct a new Water Quality Lab and Watershed Exhibit on our campus. It will house a water-testing lab that will work hand-in-hand with our septic tank inspection program to reassure the public that the Vermilion is a healthy, vibrant waterway that all citizens and visitors in the parish can enjoy. The exhibit will educate the public about what part it can play in making sure we achieve that goal.

Dr. David Cheramie
CEO, Bayou Vermilion District/Vermilionville
ceo@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

BAYOU VERMILION DISTRICT

300 Fisher Road Lafayette, LA 70508

(337) 769-7283



VERMILIONVILLE LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM & FOLKLIFE PARK

300 Fisher Road Lafayette, LA 70508

(337) 233-4077

bayouvermiliondistrict.org





142
CUBIC YARDS
of trash removed out of the
Band-a-Long trash trap in
Coulee Mine in 2019.

231 TREES
REMOVED

1836
BARRELS OF DEBRIS REMOVED

13,060
VISITORS
explored BVD's
Watershed
Exhibit

8TH ANNUAL

**BAYOU VERMILION
FESTIVAL &
BOAT
PARADE**

included over 224 boats, canoes, kayaks,
paddleboards, watercraft enjoying
the day on Bayou Vermilion



BVD provided
recycle bins for

25
COMMUNITY
EVENTS



Bayou Operations

WHERE CONSERVATION IS CURRENT.

Bayou Vermilion District's mission is to improve the water quality in the Bayou Vermilion, to maintain its riparian facilities and installations, to empower its recreational users, and to engage the public in a greater awareness of our cultural and natural resources.



BAYOU OPERATIONS

Trash and Debris
Management

Water Quality Testing
and Reporting



EDUCATION

Year-round Watershed
Exhibit

Environmental Science
Field Trips

Community Presentations

Water Quality
Demonstration Projects



RECREATION

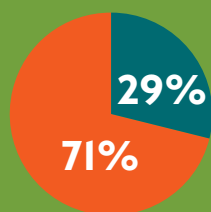
Public Parks

Boat Launches

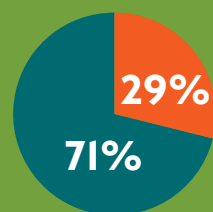
Canoe/Kayak Launches

ON-SITE SEWER SYSTEM INSPECTIONS
PERFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER QUALITY IN 2019

INITIAL
INSPECTION



FINAL
INSPECTION



PASS

FAIL

VERMILIONVILLE 2019 PROGRAMS AND ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

Courir de Mardi Gras	853
Créole Culture Day	850
Acadian Culture Day	888
Boo Bayou	1170
Native American Culture Day	771
Old Time Winter Family Day	365
Acadiana BrewHaha	172
3 Sensory Friendly Visits	167
Earth Day	750
First Friday French Tables	232
Smithsonian Museum Day	94
Les Vues Film Series	196

LAFAYETTE PUBLIC LIBRARY MUSEUM PASSES PROGRAM

provided free
admission to
Vermilionville

FOR OVER
350
PEOPLE

during the
first full
year (2019).



VERMILIONVILLE VISITORS (in 2019)

TOTAL # GUESTS: 55,628

POINTS OF ORIGIN



DOMESTIC 7196



INTERNATIONAL 5862



FRANCOPHONE 4541



LOUISIANA 2702



The Folklife Teen
Advisory Council
has taken part in a
wide range of arts
activities in the
community.



6156.5
VOLUNTEER
HOURS 2019

3
FREE
Culture Days
held annually



Vermilionville

WHERE HISTORY IS HANDS-ON.

Bayou Vermilion District opened Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folklife Park in 1990. Our mission is to increase appreciation for the history, culture, and natural resources of the Native Americans, Acadians, Creoles, and peoples of African descent in the Attakapas region through the end of the 1800s. Through historic interpretation and conservation along the Bayou Vermilion, we strive to educate guests on the interactions of these groups and the connections between past and contemporary folklife, thus empowering guests to apply these lessons from our shared histories.



FEATURES

LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM • HISTORICAL STRUCTURES
ARTIFACTS • COSTUMED ARTISANS • HISTORIC GARDENS
BOAT TOURS • RESTAURANT • GIFT SHOP

WHERE TASTE MEETS TRADITION



HOURS:
Tuesday - Friday
11AM - 2PM

Saturday & Sunday
11AM - 3PM

THE GIFT SHOP AT VERMILIONVILLE



HOURS:
Tuesday - Sunday
10AM - 4PM