

**BAYOU VERMILION DISTRICT
2023 BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

President
Karen Hail Appointment:
Lafayette Mayor-President

Vice-President
Samuel M. Oliver Appointment:
Lafayette City Council

Secretary **Glynn Shelly
Maturin, III**
Appointment: Lafayette Parish
Council

Roxanne M. Bourque, Ph.D.
Appointment: Lafayette City Council

Dr. Barry Ancelet
Appointment: Area Mayors

Ruth Foote
Appointment: Lafayette City Council

Dave Dixon
Appointment: Lafayette Parish
Council

David Eaton
Appointment: Lafayette Mayor-
President

**THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS &
SUPPORTERS**

Lafayette Consolidated Government

Disc Golf Foundation

Lafayette Convention & Visitors
Commission

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage
Festival and Foundation

Jefferson National Parks Association

The Franco-American Benevolent
Society

Pétanque Lafayette



ENVIRONMENTAL

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 water quality and water depth of the Vermilion. The **Bayou Vermilion District** was instrumental in forming the Water Quality Task Force, bringing together governmental and other agencies concerned with the overall health of the river. We also work with the school board to educate Lafayette Parish students about our watershed and their role in helping maintain water quality in the Vermilion.

CULTURAL

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 peoples 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 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**

Managing Director of Vermilionville
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Managing Director of River & Environment
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Foreman of Bayou Operations
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Administrator
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Director of Marketing & Communications
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Director of Hospitality
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Director of Guest Engagement
Melissa Bastien
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Director of Environmental Impact
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Curator
Marinda Belk
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Gift Shop Manager
Jeremy Dotson
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Events Coordinator
Johni John
events@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I've served as Executive Director of the Bayou Vermilion District since July 2023, and I've been pleased to watch the renewed growth of the Bayou Vermilion District. As the specter of the COVID pandemic fades into the past, our facilities continue to see increased interest from the community, marked by larger numbers of visitors from all over the world as well as more numerous local tours, field trips and restaurant patrons.

Environmentally, Bayou Vermilion District has been instrumental in forming the Water Quality Task Force, consisting of various governmental and private agencies with concern for the health of the Vermilion. The Task Force is the first time many of these agencies have coordinated, delineating responsibilities, and coordinating projects among themselves. We look for exciting things to happen with this collaboration. There are other exciting developments emerging within the environmental department, with a refreshed Watershed Exhibit and a Water Research Park planned to enhance educational opportunities and facilitate more comprehensive experiences for tours and field trips.

Attendance at Vermilionville Living History Museum & Folklife Park continues to scale upward, with over 40,000 visitors in 2023. Some highlights: Vermilionville was named one of the top three museums in Acadiana. Our first Native American Culture Day since the pandemic brought opportunities to share the stories and culture of indigenous peoples, as many Louisiana tribal groups participated. The Hospitality Department continues to show both growth and excellence; Jerkerry "Momma" Leopaul was named Best Chef in Acadiana, with Event Coordinator Johni John recognized as a Top Three Wedding Planner. We've hosted dozens of successful events, including the Blackpot Festival, which brought in over 15% more revenue than previous years. We've also reintroduced other Vermilionville events, such as the Murder on the Bayou Dinner, which sold out in less than two days.

We pledge to continue to provide quality cultural experiences for local and international visitors as well as environmental excellence for the Lafayette Parish community.

Stephen Broussard
Executive Director
Bayou Vermilion District/
Vermilionville
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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



Where conservation is current.



Where history is hands-on.

Annual Report 2023



210
CUBIC YARDS
of trash removed out of the
Band-a-Long trash trap in
Coulee Mine in 2022.



130 TREES
REMOVED

83 TIRES
REMOVED

1623

BARRELS OF DEBRIS REMOVED



Bayou Operations

WHERE CONSERVATION IS CURRENT.

Bayou Vermillion District's mission is to improve the water quality in the Bayou Vermillion, 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

Water Quality Task Force



EDUCATION

Year-round Watershed Exhibit

Environmental Science Field Trips

Community Presentations

Water Quality Demonstration Projects



RECREATION

Public Parks

Boat Launches

Canoe/Kayak Launches



WHERE TASTE MEETS TRADITION

HOURS:
Tuesday – Sunday
11AM - 2PM

49 Events Hosted –
5 Fundraisers

17 Weddings/Rehearsals/
Showers/Anniversary Parties

3 Crawfish Boils

Blackpot Festival

7351 Alcoholic Beverages served

7674 Soft Drinks/Bottled Water

6480 Meals (Plate Lunches plus Menu Items)

4923 Buffets

Chef Jerkerry
"Momma" Leopaul was named Best of Acadiana

Top 3 Wedding Venue & Wedding Planner, Johni John



The Vermilionville Brewhouse became fully licensed in 2023.

Brews from historic recipes were available at Brew HaHa and Gulf Brew 2023. Watch for more!

Vermilionville 2023 Programs and Attendance

Courir de Mardi Gras	775
Earth Day	308
Creole Culture Day	750
BrewHaha	275
Acadian Culture Day	885
Boat Parade	165
Boo Bayou	1036
Murder on the Bayou	244
Native American Day	675



VERMILIONVILLE VISITORS (in 2023)

TOTAL # GUESTS: 40,000+

ADULT TOURS
119 (2771 guests)
STUDENT TOURS

81 (3960 students)

Walk-in Visitors:

21% from Louisiana
60% from other states
21% are international visitors:

52% from France
21% from Canada
17% from the UK

16 SPECIAL EVENTS HELD IN 2023



LA BOUTIQUE AT VERMILIONVILLE

HOURS:
Tuesday – Sunday
10AM - 4PM

Features 89 local artists, musicians & makers

18,846 units sold in 2023

148% increase in sales over 2022



Vermilionville

WHERE HISTORY IS HANDS-ON.

Bayou Vermillion District opened the 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 Vermillion, 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.



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