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Louisiana Music Commission Report

June 2001

Introduction

In the six months since the [last](#) Louisiana Music Commission (LMC) report, many significant developments have taken place. Prominent amongst these is the [Department of Economic Development](#) (DED) reorganization plan that was recently approved by the Louisiana Legislature. We're happy to report that the Legislature felt strongly that the LMC was doing its job and amended the reorganization bill to maintain the status quo of the Music Commission offices and functions. Therefore, LA R.S. 25:315 remains in effect. A copy of the revised statute is contained within the Attachments.

Legislatively, the LMC was successful on every front. [HB 1811](#), drafted by Commissioner Credo and introduced by [Rep. Scalise](#), which clarified the Workers Compensation laws, passed. Additionally, the LMC, with the assistance of [Rep. Karen Carter](#), passed [House Concurrent Resolution 154](#) in which the Legislature pledges to support the LMC's work and the Louisiana music industry. See copies of both in the Attachments.

All legislative efforts by the LMC pale in comparison to our biggest accomplishment, capital outlay funding for the Grammy Exposition in New Orleans. An outlay totaling \$9.9 million (\$3.3 million a year for 3 years) was part of HB 2 this session. This is the first Capital Outlay ever requested by the LMC. If all goes as planned, it triggers a private investment of \$70 million to build the Grammy Exposition, a 100,000+ square foot facility.

There is no more respected brand in the music industry than the [Grammy](#), and the LMC worked for many years to secure this significant facility. We anticipate that Grammy Expo will have spinoff benefits that will profoundly impact Louisiana's music resources. For example, because the facility will include a 15,000 square foot Louisiana Pavilion, it will help spur the state to better document our music legacy so it can be presented in this high tech, multimedia environment. Grammy

Expo is the biggest music project in Louisiana history.

Industry Overview

In North America, the recording industry is a \$14 billion industry. Worldwide sales are in the range of \$40 billion. The LMC has calculated that, over the past few years, Louisiana artists accounted for 4% of all North American record sales and 1% of worldwide sales. This is an amazing fact. For a state with 4.3 million citizens to have produced artists whose talent and sales appeal accounts for a measurable percentage of sales is extraordinary. Our goal is to double these numbers over the next ten years. With the added asset of the Grammy Exposition, a complete revision of DED's mission to develop the entertainment industry is needed. An updated Strategic Plan will be drafted as part of the new Entertainment Cluster initiative of the reorganized DED. The future of Louisiana's entertainment industry appears bright.

However, the music business is still struggling to adapt to the rapidly evolving (and troubled) digital economy. Exactly what format and payment systems will be in place in 5 years is still a subject for speculation. These changes present both threat and opportunity for Louisiana companies. The LMC is working closely with new business ventures to ensure that potential investors are identified and that new models are analyzed. Traditional businesses, particularly independent record companies and distributors, are being hard hit by a new payment plan instituted by Tower Records which delays payments for up to one year. This situation will result in diminished financial viability for Louisiana's record labels and is a dangerous development with implications that cannot be calculated at this time.

Another troubling aspect of the music industry is the pervasiveness of [Pay for Play](#). Record companies are getting around the more than 40 year old laws against payola by hiring independent record promoters ("indies") to provide methods of payment to radio stations for the placement of songs on station playlists. The LMC has done extensive research on this subject and determined that nothing short of a Congressional Investigation is needed. Pay for Play is estimated to be a \$200-300 million business nationally. It is an obstacle to all independent labels that don't have the money to hire indies. Additionally, with the rise of Clear Channel into a 1200 station conglomerate, Pay for Play has become an even more difficult hurdle for Louisiana music. We are actively seeking partners in the call for a Congressional Investigation and continue to work on this issue. Pay for Play is a Big Picture problem that represents one of the most difficult barriers to the success of Louisiana music. See the Attachments for copies of LMC memos and a series of articles dealing with this subject

On a more positive note, the LMC has been contacted by a representative of Warners seeking to review urban, hip hop and rock acts. It is encouraging that a major label is seeking to stay on top of music developments regionally. In the past, staff have sought to identify and interact with major label representatives to assist Louisiana acts in reaching the labels. However, because of the explosion of independent labels and new marketing opportunities presented by the Internet, the LMC has focused on new business models that have great potential in bringing more money not only into Louisiana, but into the pockets of our artists. We are

assisting and monitoring several innovative companies in the state that have survived the dotcom bust. The mechanism of digital delivery of music over the Internet is uncertain as of today; but, the inevitability of this means of delivery is indisputable. Steps taken by the 5 major media giants have slowed but not stopped the development of companies seeking to deliver music in new ways and with new royalty structures that remunerate artists in a fair manner.

More good news is that the success of live music festivals in Louisiana in 2001 will be seen as a high water mark for years to come. Great weather and huge crowds attended both the [New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival](#) and [Festival International](#) in Lafayette. The economic impact of this year's N.O. Jazz Fest was estimated to be \$300 million, an amount that exceeds the estimated impact of professional sports in Louisiana. And that's just one music event. Overall, the annual economic impact of music state wide is approaching \$3 billion. A continued growth of tourism combined with a steady flow of artists and recordings are keeping Louisiana's music industry thriving.

A New Fiscal Year and a New DED

The reorganization of the Department of Economic Development (DED), the LMC's parent agency, will profoundly impact the operations of the office in the new fiscal year beginning on July 1. The [Office of Film & Video](#) is now a part of DED and will be part of the new Entertainment Cluster. How the restructuring will be implemented and how the cluster will be managed is not clear as of the writing of this report.

During the Legislative Session, the LMC's future within the reorganization plan was not well defined. Consequently, the House amended the reorg bill to clarify the operation, structure and location of the LMC. Thus the bill was amended to maintain LA R.S. 25-315 with minor changes, including specifying that the LMC be domiciled in New Orleans and adding the consent of the Secretary of DED to hiring and management of staff. Additionally, the LMC was allowed to upgrade office equipment for the first time in more than two years. The new equipment will add to the LMC's ability to design and maintain the website and included digital audio and video capabilities. The LMC will be able to create presentations, radio shows and other multimedia promotional items to increase the LMC's ability to promote artists, new releases, historical vignettes and more.

Major Accomplishments

Legislative Agenda 2001

The LMC had a significant legislative agenda for the 2001 Session. Grammy Exposition funding, Workers' Compensation clarification, a House Concurrent Resolution and support for historic preservation were amongst the issues the Chairman and staff handled. Also, at the start of the session the very existence of the LMC offices was at stake. Suffice to say that the Legislature recognized and rewarded the LMC in many ways.

Grammy Expo Capital Outlay - With the assistance of the [Foster Administration](#),

key legislators and DED, the LMC secured a \$9.9 million Capital Outlay for the construction of the Grammy Exposition. \$3.3 million will be disbursed each year for 3 years for construction costs. This represents the most significant music project in Louisiana history. Grammy Expo will be a major international attraction. The project will greatly impact Louisiana's music industry and will create a presence for the major music industry in New Orleans. Additionally, because of plans for a significant Louisiana Pavilion, the history of music in Louisiana will be a major component of the facility. This will be an engine that drives us to better document and present our unique music legacy in a multimedia environment. The promotional power of the Grammy Foundation will ensure that this project will be a high profile entertainment resource. The educational outreach and other social spinoffs will strengthen Louisiana's music legacy. The positive potential of this project cannot be overestimated. If all goes as anticipated, a major press conference will be staged in a few months to announce the project with construction to begin shortly thereafter. Without a doubt, this is a Grand Slam accomplishment if it continues to progress as planned.

Workers Compensation - Over the past several years (since 1994), the LMC has been contacted by music clubs seeking to understand why they should be paying premiums for having live music. Since many of these clubs did not have music on a weekly basis, the LMC staff felt that the insurance companies (primarily LWCC) were not treating these clubs fairly. In New Orleans, where the Amusement Tax already extracts a portion of business for no other reason than the presence of live music, this situation with workers compensation was seen as yet another deterrent to clubs seeking to present music. Commissioner Credo drafted legislation that was introduced by [Rep. Steve Scalise. HB 1811](#), declares that musicians working under a contract are not eligible for workers compensation coverage. This puts Louisiana in line with Texas, Tennessee and Georgia (and most states) by declaring that contract workers are not full time employees for which premiums must be paid.

House Concurrent Resolution 154 - [Rep. Karen Carter](#) asked the LMC to compose a broad resolution declaring support for music. HCR 154 (see Attachments), which passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate, declares that the Legislature strongly supports music and the work of the Louisiana Music Commission. It also says that every school should have a qualified music teacher and declares that New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz, New Orleans rhythm & blues, and rock and roll. Additionally, it pledges the Legislature to support efforts to revitalize Rampart Street, which John Hasse of the Smithsonian Institution has said is "the most historic music avenue in the United States." Components of Rampart Street include Congo Square, the original J&M Studios where Cosimo Matassa recorded Fats Domino and many others, and several extremely important buildings, such as the Eagle Saloon, Iroquois Theater, where the earliest jazz was performed by such luminaries as Buddy Bolden, Joe Oliver, Kid Ory and Louis Armstrong.

Infrastructure Initiatives

Grammy Exposition Feasibility Study

To determine if the Grammy Exposition could support the investment of \$70 million

in private and \$10 million in public funds, a feasibility study was needed. The company recommended by the private investors, [Economics Research Associates](#) (ERA), is one of the world's leading firms utilized for planning major public facilities. The LMC raised nearly \$43,000 from a several institutions to fund the study. Partners included the [Downtown Development District](#) (\$14,000), DED (\$12,000), the LMC (\$8,000) and the N.O. City Council Economic Development Fund (\$3,000). An additional \$5,000 must be raised to make final payment. The study validated that Grammy Expo is feasible and anticipates first year attendance of one million visitors. The study triggered the subsequent actions by the state to fund the Capital Outlay and ongoing financial negotiations with the private investment companies. The LMC has agreed to a general news blackout on this subject until all the financial pieces come together. No press releases or promotion of this project will be undertaken by the LMC without the consent of the Grammy Foundation and the other partners. When a press conference is held, the Grammy Foundation will assume a lead role in staging and promoting the event. As noted previously, we do not anticipate any major news regarding this project to develop for several months.

[Jazz Walk of Fame](#)

Additional funds for the project have been raised. A private citizen is considering underwriting the completion of the entire Jazz Walk. If this happens, the walk will be named in honor of the family contributing the funds. This is a major development that could put completion of the walk on a fast track. The LMC produced 15 vignettes for the walk and is negotiating with potential media partners to utilize these brief audio history components in additional ways, such as for television and radio.

Historical Preservation

Chairman Marsalis actively supported [SB 887](#) by [Sen. Paulette Irons](#), a bill that seeks to add to the appeals process when seeking to preserve historic properties in the Vieux Carre. In the Attachments is a copy of the memo Chairman Marsalis submitted in support of the bill, which passed overwhelmingly. As noted previously, staff authored a House Concurrent Resolution (HCR 154) by Rep. Karen Carter that passed unanimously in both houses. HCR 154 represents a pledge by the State of Louisiana to better support education, preservation, economic development of the music industry, and the work of the LMC. It is a document that will be referred to in future work to secure support for efforts to initiate the long overdue plan to celebrate the history of Rampart Street, to secure qualified music teachers for every school, and to better develop the music industry.

Anti-Music Noise Ordinances

A rash of ill-written anti-music ordinances are threatening a growing live music scene on the Northshore. The LMC, with the assistance of volunteer legal advisors, conducted research and worked to bring common sense to the formulation of these laws. The LMC actively seeks to play a role in helping Louisiana's parishes and municipalities use science and reason when developing noise ordinances.

Radio and Television

The LMC is assisting in producing and scheduling a 2 hour talk radio show on WTIK. This show is helping promote new CD releases, special events and important issues affecting Louisiana's music industry. On television, a nationally syndicated public television show, [Jazz Brunch TV](#), has added Louisiana music to their format. The LMC is assisting in formatting the show to accommodate the live music segment.

International Initiatives

The Bahamas

In a joint effort with Memphis and [Secretary of State Fox McKeithen](#), Bernie Cyrus traveled in May to meet with the [Bahamian Director of Tourism](#) and several Bahamian business leaders. The Louisiana/Memphis delegation were hosted to an official ceremony and in depth meetings to discuss bringing southern music to the Bahamas. A Bahamian Blues Festival and the extensive needs for Louisiana music at Bahamian entertainment venues were discussed. Already, one Bahamian business has requested artist information and contacts for a month-long booking. Additionally, the development of a program to certify authentic Louisiana artists is being developed as a result of this trip. Bahamian authorities agreed to develop a direct flight to New Orleans in the very near future.

New Orleans-South Africa Connection ([NOSACONN](#))

The LMC continues to work with founders of this business development effort. VIPs from South Africa attended this year's N.O. Jazz & Heritage Festival and networked with local business and political leaders. Several Louisiana acts performed at a major South African music festival as part of NOSACONN's work.

Educational Initiatives

Louisiana Music History CD ROM

The script for "An Introduction to the Popular Music History of Louisiana" has been completed by historian Tad Jones and delivered to the designers, Firefly Digital in Lafayette. The LMC is working with Steve Teeter, Curator of the Jazz Club Collection of the Louisiana State Museum, to identify photos and music within the state's archives that can be used for the CD.

Jazz Walk Vignettes

Fifteen of the more than 60 planned Jazz Walk vignettes have been produced. These audio histories each focus on a jazz legend. The LMC plans to partner with other organizations to utilize these vignettes as part of the Louisiana Music History CD ROM, for historical music minutes on radio and television, for a full length television show and more. Stored in MP3 format, they are available on demand via email to any interested parties including school teachers, journalists and others.

[Jazz Informances](#)

Jason Patterson, project director of the Jazz Informances for New Orleans Jazz Centennial Celebration (NOJCC), just completed another school year in which the program was brought to schools throughout Louisiana. Since its beginnings at NOJCC (assisted by the LMC) these informances have reached more than 150,000 elementary school students. More than three-fourths of the money raised to stage Jazz Informances goes to the specially trained performing artists. Via the NOJCC website, which is designed and administered by the LMC, teachers are able to access learning materials, programs and more. To date, this is the most successful music legacy education program in Louisiana history.

[Music Business Educators Annual Conference, Loyola University](#)

The LMC was a sponsor of the annual conference of the Music & Entertainment Industry Educators Association (MEIEA) which was held for the first time in New Orleans. [The Loyola Music Business Program](#) now houses the MEIEA organization on campus. The conference attracted music business educators, music business leaders, students and others seeking to interact with this special group and take part in substantive discussions of issues affecting the industry.

[Cutting Edge Music Conference](#)

The 9th Annual Cutting Edge Music Business Conference & Roots Music Seminar will take place between August 22 and 26 at the [W Hotel](#) in New Orleans. The LMC continues to be a major sponsor of the longest running music conference in the state. Included in the list of activities are continuing legal education seminars, grants workshops, panels covering important issues in the music industry and evening showcases where talent and industry professionals can network. The theme this year is "From Traditional to Digital."

[Louisiana Folkroots](#)

The first Louisiana Folkroots Dewey Balfa Cajun Creole Heritage Week program took place at Lake Fausse Point state campground in April. Christine Balfa, an accomplished Cajun musician, decided to do in Louisiana what she has been invited to do around the country, stage a week long series of intimate classes in a casual, vacation-like setting. Teachers included Steve Riley, Sonny Landreth, Bois Sec Ardoin, Geno Delafosse, Michael Doucet, Lil Buck Sinegal, D.L. Menard and many others. Famous facilities such as Wolf Trap, a national arts park near Vienna, Virginia, have staged such programs for years. Louisiana Folkroots is a recently formed nonprofit corporation that seeks to not only stage intimate master class workshops, but other educational programs. The LMC is actively advising Louisiana Folkroots and is providing infrastructural and contact information to help grow the program. Boozoo Chavis made his last Louisiana performance (he died in Austin two days later) at this very special and enormously successful event.

Regional Initiatives

Promotional Activities

Press

The LMC received national press in [Salon.com](#) on the [Pay for Play](#) issue. Other press included [New Orleans CityBusiness](#), the [Baton Rouge Business Report](#), [The Advocate](#), The [Times-Picayune](#), [Gambit](#), The [Times of Acadiana](#), [Where Y'at](#) and more. The LMC maintains a database of press coverage.

Lafayette Economic Development Authority/Louisiana Crossroads

The LMC played an active role in two public events in Lafayette staged by the [Lafayette Economic Development Authority's](#) (LEDA) Louisiana Crossroads initiative. The first, a forum sponsored by [CA Guitars](#) of Lafayette, was a panel of guitar products manufacturers moderated by the LMC. The group focused on issues involving incentives, and the needs of these types of businesses. The goal was to determine what resources need to be developed to make Louisiana more attractive to these types of manufacturing businesses. At the second forum, a town hall meeting of musicians and music professionals from the region discussed needs and issues to help determine what steps could be taken by the Louisiana Crossroads initiative and the LMC to better assist the general music business. Both forums were well attended and LEDA will be staging more in the future.

Major Issues

[Pay for Play](#)

As noted in the Industry Overview, the LMC has taken strong steps to launch a Congressional Investigation into the current industry practice of Pay for Play. As the memos and stories in the Attachments attest, the LMC firmly believes that this widespread practice of major labels paying independent record promoters to circumvent payola laws and remunerate radio stations for placing records onto their active playlists, is a threat to the long term viability of Louisiana's music industry. The LMC originally sent memos to Rep. Billy Tauzin, whose committee has oversight of this matter, and Sen. John McCain, a staunch supporter of Low Power Radio. With the shift of power in the Senate, Louisiana's John Breaux is in a better position to help with this issue. Senator Breaux's staff has been working with the LMC on this issue, Grammy Expo, and other music projects.

Higher Education

The LMC participated in developmental meetings at [Delgado Community College](#) to help formulate music business educational components. [Scott Frederickson](#) of the [Loyola Music Business Program](#) pledged to provide whatever assistance and information he can to help grow the music business programs around the state, including at Delgado. Peter Cho, who initiated the meeting, sought to determine exactly what components could best be served by a community college. The LMC suggested audio engineering, staging and events management as primary programs with high demand.

Primary and Secondary Education

HCR 154 will help the LMC hold the Legislature to its word in bringing qualified music teachers to every school. Continued progress by the [Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education](#) to get state schools to adhere to the [National Standards for Arts Education](#) will be critical to the music teacher effort. Because of the lengthy process involved in making major curricula changes in schools, the LMC cannot predict when it will accomplish this goal. However, each year the LMC steps up its advocacy and gains ground. Identifying supportive legislators and then formulating a specific piece of legislation are the next major steps in this process. Board members will be notified when this happens and are encouraged to assist with this important effort.

Other Issues

The LMC continues to address many of the issues raised in the December 2000 report including:

- Technology issues and the changing digital music business environment
- Expanding relationships with other state agencies to better promote and develop music
- Historical documentation via film, video and audio documentaries
- Monitoring the progress of Low Power Radio

Contacts

A chronological, **partial listing** of people, meetings, discussions, projects and plans that were part of the schedule of the staff since December 13, 2000.

- Met with Jay Albarado, a marketing specialist working with [KJL Amplifiers](#), and founder Kenny Lannes to discuss their business plan
- Attended Merv Trail's wake
- Met with writer Sunshine Morgan to discuss writing opportunities and to give career advice
- Attended the [OffBeat Magazine](#) Music Business Awards held at Loyola where Bernie Cyrus was a guest speaker
- Met with Eric Cager to discuss plans for the upcoming [Cutting Edge Conference](#)
- Attended the OffBeat Magazine Music Awards held at the [House of Blues](#)
- Attended [Blaine Kern's](#) Twelfth Night Mardi Gras fundraiser
- Met with TV producer Paul Angrisano to discuss adding live music to [Jazz Brunch TV](#)
- Attended a DED Managers' Retreat in Baton Rouge
- Bernie Cyrus initiated a discussion with [Lt. Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco](#) and her assistant, Commissioner Roxy Wright, to discuss how her offices could help the LMC promote Louisiana music
- Attended an [Orleans Parish Levee Board](#) meeting on behalf of the Jazz Walk
- Met with Damon Batiste of NOSACONN
- Introduced Phil Faulkenberry of ElectroFaulken Engineering, developer of the world's first MIDI diatonic accordion, to Kenny Lannes of Acoustic Analysis. As a result, KJL Amplifiers will make a custom amp for ElectroFaulken

- Met with DED Secretary Don Hutchinson in New Orleans
- Attended a board meeting of the LAAE
- Met with documentary film maker Stevenson Palfi to discuss how the LMC could assist him in securing a Wisner grant for his "Songwriter Unknown" documentary on Allen Toussaint
- Facilitated a meeting with author/producer Sybil Keim at [NOCCA](#) to determine if the school could stage her play on the life of young Louis Armstrong in New Orleans
- Attended a Film Commission task force meeting in Baton Rouge
- Met with Sandy Shilstone, the new director of the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation to discuss how the agency could improve and expand its music promotions
- Attended an [Armstrong Centennial](#) meeting at the UNO Alumni Center
- Met with Grammy Developer Troy Von Otnott to discuss strategies and plans for the upcoming legislative session
- Met with a writer from Gambit Weekly
- Met with Marilyn Cruz to discuss a planned musical event
- Attended a CD release party for Something Like That at Piffany Oaks
- Facilitated a meeting between Kenny Lannes of Acoustic Analysis and JEDCO
- Continued efforts to encourage Shreveport to develop its Municipal Auditorium to meet [National Park Service](#) criteria
- Participated in videotaping a public service announcement with Timothea to promote testing for Hepatitis C
- Met with [Senator Hainkel](#) and Rep. Karen Carter to discuss legislative strategies for the Grammy Expo capital outlay
- Attended a N.O. City Council Economic Development Committee meeting to secure partial funding of the Grammy Expo feasibility study
- Met with video producer Griffin Mehaffey to discuss his work and plans to produce music videos
- Introduced CA Guitars to Acoustic Analysis to create a music manufacturing cluster. CA intends to make speaker cabinets from advanced composite materials. Acoustic Analysis uses speaker cabinets for its KJL Amplifiers. Talks are ongoing
- Met with Steve Teeter at the Louisiana State Museum at the [Old US Mint](#) to discuss plans for the Louisiana History museum in Baton Rouge and music components
- Attended the [Ladies in Red](#) fundraiser to preserve significant music history sites such as the homes of jazz legends like Kid Ory, Buddy Bolden and others
- Attended the Armstrong Centennial performance of Nicholas Payton at the Mahalia Jackson Theater
- Met with BBC producer Sarah Halfpenny at the Jazz Museum at the Old US Mint to discuss her upcoming story on the [Amusement Tax](#) in New Orleans
- Attended the grand opening of the new Mardi Gras club
- Met with the owners of C&M Music, a growing Louisiana musical instrument store
- Attended a CD release party at the Dixie Tavern
- Connected Tim Wells, whose children's CD teaches values, how to count and other important educational steps for young children, to the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators. As a result, Tim will be hosting summer workshops to teach teachers how to use the CD in the classroom
- Assisted Judge Charles Porter of New Iberia, a producer of their annual Bunk Fest, in making contacts with jazz resources in New Orleans. Bethany Bultman, a promoter of the LSU [New Orleans Musicians Clinic](#) is working to set up an

endowed chair honoring Bunk Johnson at LSU Dental School to add dental care to the Musicians Clinic mission. The LMC facilitated a connection between Judge Porter and Ms. Bultman

- Participated in a seminar at [Tulane University](#)
- Met with Jim Dotson of WLAE TV to discuss music programs
- Met with Jason Hewitt and Carol Bloodworth of [Vedalabs/Swahili Records](#) to discuss plans for a music event
- Attended the Mayor of New Orleans' Mardi Gras ball
- Met with [UNO](#) Chancellor Greg O'Brien to discuss music and media initiatives
- Attended a Louisiana Tech Day planning day in Baton Rouge
- Attended the St. Tammany Arts Association presentations
- Guest lectured at the Loyola University
- Attended a special meeting of DED in Baton Rouge
- Attended a House Appropriations Committee meeting
- Met with [Senator Ken Hollis](#) to discuss the Grammy Expo project
- Met with Rep. Steve Scalise to discuss the Workers Comp bill and Grammy Expo
- Participated in a UNO Liberal Arts Mentor program
- Participated in the Loyola Music Business Educators Conference
- Attended Frankie Ford's Legends for Charity event
- Attended the opening of the Legislative Session
- Bernie Cyrus served as a guest speaker for the Sunrise Rotary Club
- Met with Peter Cho of Delgado Community College to discuss his music business efforts
- Met with Philip Carter to discuss [ReelAmerica.com](#)
- Attended Tech Day at the Legislature
- Attended a House Commerce Committee hearing
- Attended the NARAS [Premier Player Awards](#) in Memphis with [Sen. Diana Bajoie](#) and met with NARAS leaders to discuss the Grammy Expo
- Attended a House Appropriations Committee hearing
- Brought a potential investor to visit Acoustic Analysis/KJL Amplifiers shop
- Participated in a conference call with a Warner's A&R representative
- Participated in the Big Easy Awards
- Attended a Senate Commerce Committee hearing
- Participated in a conference call with the [Recording Industry Association of America](#) (RIAA) to discuss a planned visit by a Congressional delegation to be sponsored by the RIAA
- Attended a CD Release party for T'Jean Reyes
- Attended a battle of the bands on the Northshore
- Attended the French Quarter Festival
- Bernie Cyrus addressed the annual US Post Office Jazz Fest envelope ceremonies honoring Dr. John
- Attended the Dewey Balfa Cajun Creole Heritage Week at Lake Fausse Point state campground
- Steve Picou moderated a forum of guitar equipment manufacturers produced by CA Guitars and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority
- Advised the [Montreal Jazz Festival](#) on contacts for music from North Louisiana
- Attended Festival International in Lafayette
- Attended the Louisiana Hall of Fame ceremonies
- Attended the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival
- Attended the N.O. Blues Project press conference
- Attended Arts Day at the Capitol reception at the Governor's Mansion

- Promoted and attended the [N.O. Jazz Club](#)'s 53rd annual anniversary celebration
- Attended the [Experience Music Project](#)'s Electric Bus display in New Orleans
- Facilitated a Tech Talk meeting between DED Secretary Don Hutchinson and CA Guitar proprietor Barry Sallinger
- Attended an Armstrong Centennial meeting
- Attended various in store performances in New Orleans during Jazz Fest
- Attended the first committee meeting of the Delgado Community College music business program
- Met with television producer Danny Allen to discuss his plans for a music show
- Met with N.O. City Council member Oliver Thomas to discuss the Grammy Expo
- Met with Jim Ryan of the [Louisiana Community Development Authority](#) and participated in a conference call with representatives of Newman/GMAC to discuss Grammy Expo
- Met with television producer Paul Angrisano and Adrienne Thomas, manager of the riverboat Natchez, to discuss using the boat for an upcoming episode of Jazz Brunch TV
- Attended [New Orleans Magazine](#)'s Jazz Allstars presentation at the Palm Court Jazz Cafe
- Met with Bahamian tourism and entertainment business leaders to discuss bringing Louisiana music to their events and businesses
- Met with radio personality Ben Stigler to discuss his support of Louisiana music
- Met with film maker Francis James and his co-producers and Film Commission director Mark Smith to discuss marketing and music needs for his recently completed film Tony Bravo
- Participated in a round table discussion in Lafayette at LEDA for the Louisiana Crossroads initiative
- Met with music activists on the Northshore to discuss strategies to stop restrictive noise ordinances that threaten a growing live music scene
- Attended a parish council meeting on the Northshore to help work out a compromise for the planned noise ordinance
- Attended the Bluesberry Festival
- Met with multimedia producer Dale Smith to discuss needs for the new state history museum
- Attended an Arts Council of New Orleans Grants Review committee meeting
- Attended a House Labor & Industrial Relations Committee hearing for HB 1811, the workers comp bill
- Met with Christine Balfa and Jodi Hebert of Louisiana Folkroots to discuss how to grow their programs
- Met with Offbeat publisher Jan Ramsey to discuss music issues and plans
- Met with Andrea Duplesis and Wade Barnes of the Brooklyn Four Plus One project that seeks to teach children how to maintain, repair and care for musical instruments at their schools

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