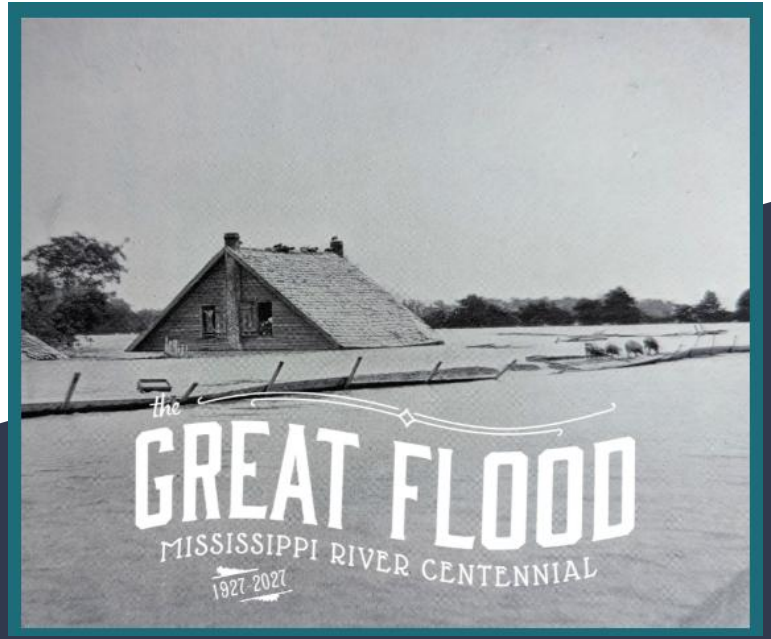
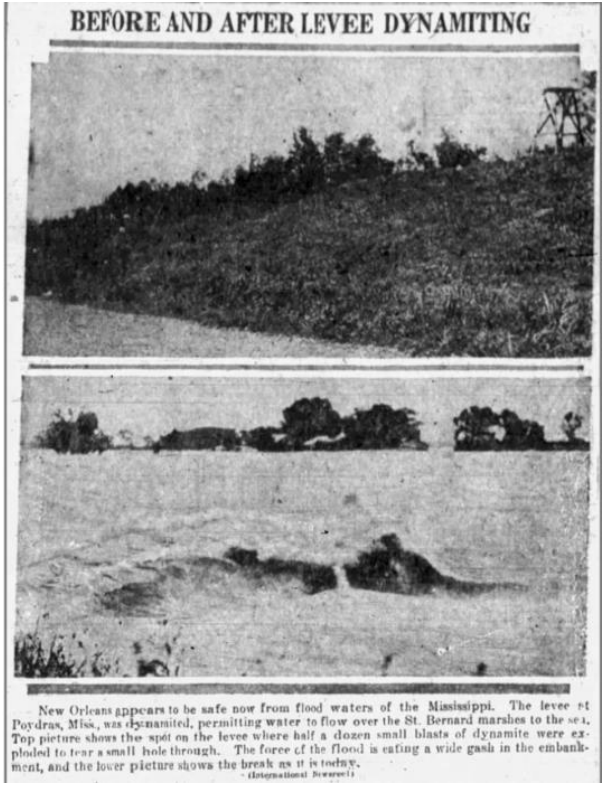
Participating in the The Great Flood Centennial through Arts Projects (Louisiana): Informational Session on Louisiana Project Grants (LPG) with Louisiana Division of the Arts

LOUISIANA TRUST for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

LOUISIANA DIVISION of THE ARTS



The 1927 Flood: Brief Historical Context


BEFORE AND AFTER LEVEE DYNAMITING

New Orleans appears to be safe now from flood waters of the Mississippi. The levee at Poydras, Miss., was dynamited, permitting water to flow over the St. Bernard marshes to the sea. Top picture shows the spot on the levee where half a dozen small blasts of dynamite were exploded to tear a small hole through. The force of the flood is eating a wide gash in the embankment, and the lower picture shows the break as it is today.

- Result of heavy and consistent rainfall throughout the United States from summer 1926 through spring 1927
- "By late spring, flood waters had crushed more than 120 levees and created 42 major crevasses on the Mississippi River and tributaries, flooding land from Cairo, Illinois, to the Gulf of Mexico..." - Richard M. Mizelle, *Backwater Blues: The Mississippi Flood of 1927 in the African American Imagination* (p. 8)
- Impacted several states throughout the Mississippi Valley, inundating more than twenty thousand miles
- Largest flood and one of the worst disasters in American history

Left: *The Daily Sentinel* (Grand Junction, Colorado), May 4, 1927, p. 1. (Newspapers.com)

The Great Flood Centennial

What it is:

Over a two-year period (Fall 2025 through 2027), The Great Flood Project will:

1.) interpret, document, and preserve stories related to the 1927 flood

2.) educate and share the history of the disaster's impact through historical markers and community events/programming.

The Great Flood Project will work with individuals and organizations across the region to identify, promote, and share stories from these communities.

How to Participate:

1. Invest in a historical marker (or help sponsor/donate to one!)
2. Host/plan/create an event, program, exhibit, project, etc.
3. Contribute stories and primary sources (photos, news clippings, etc.)

All Commemoration Efforts will be Mapped on the Great Flood Website

https://1927flood.lthp.org

Artistic Themes to Consider for the Great Flood Centennial

Feel free to get creative and think broadly when it comes to planning an arts project for the Great Flood Centennial. Consider the following themes around history and memory:

- the history of 1927 flood in your community/region
- the legacy and aftermath of the 1927 flood in your community/region (how did it impact infrastructure, the landscape, policy, population, etc.?)
- Interpreting the perspective of someone impacted by the flood
- the Mississippi River (and its tributaries, streams, etc.) & water more broadly

Utilizing the LPG program

LPG funds arts projects in every region of the state with a focus on local priorities.

These grants can help organizations address topics that are relevant to their communities by utilizing the arts.

The arts engage emotion, identity, and shared experience—things that strongly influence how communities respond to challenges, making this opportunity a great tie in to The Great Flood Centennial themes.

LPG Eligibility

Eligible Applicants:

- Louisiana nonprofit organizations registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State
- Nonprofit arts organization domiciled in Louisiana with IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter dated at least one year prior to the application deadline
- Local, parish, or state governmental agencies
- Public or private school or school board (each school is considered a separate entity)
- College or university proposing a project intended for public participation rather than academic credit or curriculum

Ineligible Applicants:

- Organizations receiving line-item support from the Louisiana Legislature for the same arts programming
- Regional Arts Councils
- Individual Artists
- Current grant recipients not in compliance with grant requirements
- Non-profit organizations not in good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State or Legislative Auditor
- Applicants without a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

Things to Consider

- Showcase regional artistry, creativity, and identities
- Address a community need or issue utilizing the arts
- Increase public access to the arts
- Well thought-out planning and design
- Appropriate budget
- Min. awards of $2,500, max awards of $7,500

Grant Period: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

Application Deadline: Friday, June 12, 2026, at 4:00pm, CT

Ideas/Examples
Related to LA Division of Arts Recognized Artistic Disciplines (FY27 Grant Guidelines) and Great Flood Centennial Artistic Themes (Slide 5)

- **Dance:** Projects involving the creation, presentation, or teaching of dance forms such as ballet, modern, jazz, or traditional dance.
  - **Choreograph a routine/organize a program/event related to the themes**
- **Literature:** Projects involving poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, or literary criticism. This category also supports nonprofit literary presses and magazines engaged in publishing and distribution.
  - **Create a special issue related to the themes**
- **Media:** Projects involving film, video, radio, or related media that emphasize artistic experimentation, technique, and creative processes.
  - **Film a documentary or host a podcast focusing on the themes**
- **Music:** Projects supporting the creation, performance, or presentation of music in any genre, including work by musicians, composers, ensembles, and orchestras.
  - **Compose an original piece or host a concert/event related to the themes**
- **Theater:** Projects involving dramatic or musical theater, including professional or community theater, puppetry, mime, and storytelling.
  - **Write and perform a play related to the themes**
- **Visual Arts and Crafts:** Projects involving drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, ceramics, fiber arts, glass, wood, metal, mixed media, and public art.
  - **Create a piece of public art (installation, exhibit, etc.) that reflects the themes**

Q&A and Discussion

Contact

- Questions about the Great Flood Centennial:
  - Kristan McCullum, *Project Manager, Great Flood Project*: kmccullum@lthp.org
  - Great Flood Project Website: https://1927flood.lthp.org
- Questions about the LPG:
  - Erica Bergeron, *Grants Director, Louisiana Division of the Arts:* EBergeron@crt.la.gov
  - LPG Grant Guidelines: FY27-LPG-Guidelines-.pdf
  - LPG Grant Application: Louisiana Office of Cultural Development Applications Manager - LDOA FY27 Louisiana Project Grant