

DOWNTOWNLAFAYETTE.ORG
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# DOWNTOWN

PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HINDSLEY

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### On Stage with the Aca

The highly anticipated, Acadiana Center for the Arts (ACA) Theater is near completion and gearing up for the November grand opening with a series of "tune up" performances in October.

The Billy Jonas Band will be among the first performers with their percussion-based music on October 6th. Also in October, Southern Circuit, a tour of highly talented independent filmmakers, will be showing, and Louisiana Crossroads kicks off their 11th season in the new theater.

These events will offer a glimpse of the versatility of the space, growing into the

Grand Opening events taking place the beginning of November. After a grand Gala opening night, the innovative percussion-dance phenomenon, Rhythmic Circus presents their production of Feet Don't Fall Me Now! Education shows, a Louisiana Crossroads performance, a classical recital and another film screening lead into ArtWalk, highlighting the ACA's ability to integrate visual and performing arts.

The 300 seat theater has multiple staging options and adaptive acoustics, which allow for anything from dance to theater, as well as any type of music to be presented in an intimate setting. The space is available for daytime activities, special events, film production and as a large recording space. The theater includes a high-definition projection system, high-end sound system and microphone collection.

Completion of the

theatre and its many attributes affords the opportunity for the ACA to further serve the community. "The Acadiana Center for the Arts has always been an organization with a clear focus on service to our artists, our children and to the community. Upon completion, ACA will serve as a cultural hub, an arts-based community center to the entire region, filled with classes, performances, workshops, exhibitions - filled with creative people of all ages," said Gerd Wuestemann, Executive Director of ACA.

The ACA was planned and developed as a major cultural destination and anchor to the Downtown Arts District, bringing visual and performing arts and education together in a dynamic, integrated center. It was made possible through significant partnerships with the State of

Louisiana, Downtown Lafayette (DDA/DDL), Lafayette Consolidated Government, and the Lafayette Public Trust Finance Authority with contributors LEDA and LDCVC. www.acadianacenterforthearts.org

Photo by Phillip Goff

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### SECOND SATURDAY ARTWALK FALL FEST

In memory of artist, teacher and long-time arts advocate, Elemore Morgan, Jr. the Lafayette art community and Downtown Lafayette will host 2nd Saturday ArtWalk Fall Fest on September 11, with a pedestrian-friendly art festival, gallery exhibitions, al fresco dining and street animation in the Downtown Lafayette Cultural District from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. with Children's activities taking place from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. This celebration of Morgan's life, his art and influence on

Louisiana artists will herald the State's proclaimed "Elemore Morgan Day" slated for September 18.

Many partners have come together to create this festival of art including the family of Elemore Morgan, Jr. "My family and I are extremely proud that the state of Louisiana and the City of Lafayette are honoring Elemore's legacy. We want this day to become a celebration of all of Louisiana's artists. Our visual artists make Louisiana's history come alive and carry its impact to the rest of the world," said Mary Morgan.

**See the Art. Buy the Art.**

Every 2nd Saturday ArtWalk, more than a dozen galleries and museums feature the best in local & regional artwork and fine crafts. This ArtWalk is no exception with artists like Debbie Demison, David Alpha, Kelly Guidry, Melissa Sotom, Pegi

Derby, Dutch Keppler, Colleen McDaniel, Jane Noble, Steve Schneider and Dennis Spignorski displaying works for purchase in the Downtown galleries.

In addition to art exhibitors on the street for Fall Fest and gallery art shows and receptions, the Acadiana Center for the Arts will feature an exhibit of works by original Artists Alliance members, including former students of Elemore Morgan, Jr. The Artists Alliance members' show will run through Sept. 27th.

**Create Art**

Children of all ages can try their hand at chalk art during this celebration. Children's activities will take place from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. near Home Bank on Jefferson St. with art, music, refreshments and fun.

Artists and novices alike can participate in the Elemore Morgan, Jr. Draw-in at the Vermilion Street Firehouse, just across the street from the Sans Souci Fine Crafts

Gallery on Vermilion St. The Performing Arts Society of Acadiana (PASA) commemorates Elemore's devotion to drawing. Artists Camille Banucci, Janet Hanchey, Steve Breaux and Kathy Reed will be on hand to mentor even the most novice. Materials provided or bring your own.

2nd Saturday ArtWalk Fall Fest is sponsored by Downtown Lafayette, the Elemore Morgan, Jr. Visual Arts Endowment, the Louisiana Craft Guild, the Lafayette Art Association and Gallery, The Independent, Home Bank, Event Rental and the Acadiana Center for the Arts.

Works sold in the Downtown Lafayette Cultural District are free from state sales tax. Be sure to take advantage of this discount, while shopping Downtown. To view more information on each gallery and their featured artists, visit DowntownLafayette.org.

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## Taco Sisters Expands

This past spring Taco Sisters Molly and Katy Richard were so busy that they were having trouble keeping up with demand with the limited storage capacity in their 12' x 20' kitchen. To prepare for a busy fall season, they had to find a solution.

With the help of Nathan Thornton from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Small Business Development Center and the "taco husbands" (both professional carpenters), they were able to add on a screened-in porch.

"The addition will contain a large walk-in cooler, add more dry storage and general prep/sink area, plus give us room for a bigger smoker should we be lucky enough to need one in the future," said Richard.

They will also build customer restrooms and install picnic tables with umbrellas for shaded dining.

Scheduled for completion this month, the addition will also allow Taco Sisters to add more menu items. Be on the lookout for more tortilla choices, entrees and side dishes, and fresh pico de gallo, all made from scratch.

For a menu and more information, visit [www.tacosisters.com](http://www.tacosisters.com).

