ACADIAN VILLAGE
AROUND-THE-WORLD TROPICAL GARDENS
THE ALLEMAN CENTER STORY

In 1972 Mr. and Mrs. Elias J. Alleman donated their 32-acre farm for the purpose of training and employing the handicapped citizens of Louisiana. The Lafayette Association for Retarded Citizens, with the assistance of many individuals and organizations, has developed a model program designed to help hundreds of handicapped persons to become partially or entirely self-supporting among the beautiful and inspiring surroundings of a public garden.

The key to the success of the Alleman Center Plan is the Around-The-World Tropical Gardens and Acadian Village. Here a visitor takes a horticultural walking tour of the warm-weather regions of the world. Collections of plants native to the Gulf Coast, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Islands are displayed, some in greenhouses, others outdoors. Many of these have been cultivated in South Louisiana for so many years that residents are unaware that they originated in Mexico, China, South Africa, or Australia. Shaded brick walkways and rustic bridges are stands of live oaks, magnolias, and cypress, while groves of palms and flowering trees from tropical and sub-tropical lands cluster in lush profusion around a maze of bayous and lagoons. An Indian theme runs through the American area of the Gardens with mounds, pyramids, and habitations illustrating the civilizations of this hemisphere’s inhabitants.

The focal point of the Gardens is the world’s only remaining authentic Acadian Village. Illustrating the distinctive architectural style of the early Acadians are homes constructed almost two centuries ago that
THE ATTRACTION WITH THE GREATEST HEART IN ALL THE WORLD