The Black Heritage Community Band walks down Johnston Street in Lafayette during the recent Lafayette Mardi Gras Association parade.

By RUTH FOOTE

Schools' marching bands watched from the sidewalk as the first rolled down Jefferson Street.

Disappointment to the students leader. The decision was a great accomplishment for the students and their parents.

"They (the high school bands) were all busy," recalled Je Nelle Chargois, who heads the Black Heritage Association in Lafayette. "A lot of the (black) parents said that a lot of their kids in those bands would have wanted to perform!"

Chargois, who heads the Black Heritage Community Band, then to form the Black Heritage Community Band. It has performed at several events from the Martin Luther band. It has performed at several events from the Martin Luther band.

"It started with nothing but hope and desire, and it is moving into a real marching band," she said.

ARC Hammel's golden version of "Going Up Yonder," James Brown's "Say It Loud,'" and 1980's and 1990's R&B and Black Hits are some of the selections they perform. Some members have gone on to join the ranks of marching bands at Southern University, Grambling State University, and Jackson State University, according to Chargois.

Not only do Faulk and Maze in-terest in the youth. But they also teach them about musical talents such as Wynton Marsalis.

"There's no better form of discipline than music," Chargois said. "It's an opportunity for kids to have another extracurricular activity to become involved with.

"We had to raise money for those particular instruments," Faulk said.

"I want to see young kids, especially black kids, excel in playing the instruments. Most of them don't get a feel for different regular bands. I want to get rid of the stereotype that black bands are wild, out-of-control and overblowing-making noise instead of making music," said James Wright, 15, of Northside High School.

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The band offers students the chance to perform what Chargois describes as music that is culturally and expressively ours. "Since the beginning of color-coded marching bands," she said. "None of the music is culturally ours. But the Heritage band gives the kids the opportunity to learn more, to express themselves culturally and mentally.

Chargois, whose organization sponsors the ring parade, decided to form the Black Heritage Community Band.

The band has since grown to a proud, Full-Held 75-member band. It has performed at several events from the Martin Luther band.

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