CCGG takes up cause

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LAFAYETTE — The local civic organization Concerned Citizens for Good Government has gone on record in support of the preservation of the USL Art Center.

The panel took the action Monday during a meeting at Don's Seafood and Steakhouse.

"The Art Center is owned by the USL Foundation for the benefit of the university and the general public. It was built in 1967-68 with public donations at the corner of Girard park Drive and St. Mary Boulevard on 3 acres donated by Maurice Heymann," said CCGG Program Chairman Carroll Baudoin. "Today, the building is being utilized as USL Foundation offices and the valuable collection of fine art is stored away. Our area is deprived of this fine art center, built to benefit people of all ages. Contributors wonder why."

Civic leaders Jean Hurley and Horace B. Rickey Jr. were guest speakers at the Monday meeting. Hurley has been active in civic organizations for many years and is a member of the Louisiana State Arts Council. Rickey is a retired civil engineer, who built the art museum. A local organization, dubbed "Friends of the USL Art Center," has been established to lobby on behalf of reinvigorating the facility. That group will meet with the USL Foundation board of directors at 10:15 a.m. Friday to discuss the situation.

"I think this (meeting) is a very positive step — because Lafayette doesn't have its art center anymore," Hurley said.

Rickey characterized the USL Foundation board as being good people who are convinced they are doing right.

"And they're the most dangerous kind," Rickey said. "You can battle evil people who are out to do evil, but you can't fight good people who are doing evil because they think it's right."

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