The Opelousas Museum of Art features fine art exhibitions focusing on the culture and regional artists that make Louisiana a truly unique state. Exhibitions are selected according to how well-known the artist is by the general public, relevance of the artwork to the Louisiana culture and the impact an exhibition will have on local tourism.

It is the goal of the museum to feature the fine artwork of Louisiana artists, along with quality art exhibitions from major museums, private collections and traveling art services that would not otherwise be made available to this central Louisiana region. This goal is made possible by the support of the Opelousas Museum of Art members, local businesses and grant support by the Acadiana Arts Council.

The AAC has updated their Web site within the last year, highlighting the value of this arts organization in South Louisiana. Here is a bit of history about the Acadiana Arts Council from their Web site:

The Acadiana Arts Council is a "cultural environmentalist" charged with cultivating the region's art resources. We were incorporated in 1975 as the result of a far-reaching, two-year feasibility and cultural needs study. Creating new opportunities for artists, nurturing new organizations, developing and promoting the activities of existing arts and cultural organizations and filling community programming needs are still the goals of the AAC.

We create, facilitate, nurture and fund arts and cultural activities to enrich quality of life and place. The area's unique cultural mix—translated through its vibrant music, distinctive cuisine, burgeoning folk and contemporary art and varied cultural attractions—makes Acadiana the second most-visited tourist-destination spot in Louisiana.

Our home is the eight-parish region of south Louisiana known to many as Cajun and Creole Country, or more commonly, Acadiana. This part of the bayou state is home to people of French Acadian, Creole, African, Anglo, German, Caribbean and Native American ancestry, and is known worldwide as one of the most unique culture pockets in North America.

Artists working in a wide range of disciplines, including dance, design arts, folklife, literature, media, music, theatre and visual arts are now being recruited for programs designed in partnership with local arts organizations, festivals, music venues as well as nontraditional performing spaces such as shelters, schools, libraries, museums and galleries. Since early September 2005, Project HEAL has hired musicians and other displaced artists to perform at festivals and multiple music venues as well as nontraditional performing spaces such as shelters, schools, libraries, museums and galleries.

You can support the Acadiana Arts Council by becoming a member of their community. For more information, visit www.acadianarts council.org.