La. artists briefed on Quebec events

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To assist Louisiana artists interested in participating in cultural events in Quebec, the Quebec Government Office in Louisiana has made public a selection of international cultural events held in Quebec that offer "significant opportunities" for Louisiana artists.

A press conference was held Wednesday at the Quebec Government Office to release a list of 30 Quebec international festivals and major cultural events. On hand for the announcement were Louisiana Lt. Gov. Paul Hardy and Claude Girard, senior representative for the Quebec Government Office in Louisiana.

"We have pinpointed a selection of international events in cooperation with the Office of Cultural Development," said Girard. "There are, in Quebec, many events which have gained international recognition and what we wanted to do was pinpoint those that offer opportunity for Louisiana artists."

Girard says his office regularly fields requests for information about Quebec events from Louisiana artists interested in participating in those events.

"What we're doing is giving them the information we think would help them participate in those events," Girard added.

"We appreciate your efforts, we appreciate your cooperation," Hardy told Girard. "The Government of Quebec has been very cooperative with the state of Louisiana in our efforts to make available to our artists information as to where they may display their talents."

Hardy noted that the events chosen cover all fields of artistic expression. Both Hardy and Girard hope the directory of events will foster participation of Louisiana artists and increase their visibility internationally.

"We have four major objectives," said Hardy. "First, we want to further international recognition for Louisiana's cultural heritage. Second, we want to provide Louisiana artists with international platforms for access to new markets. Third, we want to increase Louisiana's involvement in major French-speaking and international events.

"And most important, fourth, we want to continue to realize that, in Louisiana, our tourism business is a repeat business at the rate of 80 percent," explained Hardy. "That means 80 percent of our tourists come back to Louisiana."

The importance of that fact, Hardy explained, is that, after Louisiana cuisine, Cajun art and music are Louisiana's main draws for tourists.

Girard stressed that artists interested in participating in any 1989 events should contact them as soon as possible to meet event deadlines.

The list of Quebec cultural events in which Louisiana artists may participate is available from the Quebec Government Office at 301-B W. University. The phone number is 232-8080.