Archives to mark Black History Month

Advocate news services

The State Archives will mark Black History Month with a touring exhibit called "The Black Heritage in Louisiana."

The seven-city tour will begin next week with a showing at the Xavier University library.

Secretary of State James H. Brown said the exhibit features "the most extensive collection of works of Louisiana artists, writers, historians, poets and public figures ever assembled."

"Little attention has been paid to the contributions of the black community to Louisiana's history," Brown said, "but this exhibit should impress upon everyone the importance of those contributions and their impact upon society."

After the New Orleans showing, which starts Monday, the exhibit will be displayed at Southern University.

The display also will be shown at the Bentley Hotel in Alexandria, the Civic Center in Monroe, the Civic Theater in Shreveport, the Lake Charles Civic Center and at Grambling State University.

Southern also has planned a series of activities for Black History Month, including a Salute to Langston Hughes on March 1.

According to the Office of Public Contacts, several events are scheduled for each day. A complete list of activities, seminars, speakers and programs can be obtained from the Office of Public Contacts.

The touring exhibit will feature paintings, sculptures, books, manuscripts, letters, photographs and memorabilia of leading black Louisiana residents of the past and present, Brown said.

Included will be works from Ernest Gaines, author of "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman;" artists Clementine Hunter, Malaika Favorite, Milton Fletcher, Van Chambers and Don Cincone; sculptors Frank Hayden, John Scott and Al Lavergne; and writers Pinkie Lane and Althenia Millican.