



Music, Food, Folklife, Film, Art, Crafts, Culture!

January 15, 2019

The Experience Louisiana Festival would like to sincerely thank the hundreds of you who made the 2018 festival possible...and so incredible! Despite damp and drippy conditions, it was obvious that festival guests as well as vendors, staff and volunteers had a wonderful time dancing, laughing, eating and, well: *Experiencing!*

The list is far too long to name each person, organization and participant, so please accept our heartfelt expression of gratitude if you were part of the 2018 festival. We were blessed with support – whether in-kind, monetary or feet-on-the-ground – enabling us to stage what we believe was an enjoyable, family-friendly event.

With that said, a decision has been made by festival organizers to discontinue the project. After careful consideration, a determination has been made that it would not be prudent to go forward, even in the abbreviated, one-day format.

We believe that some things are meant for a reason, some for a season and some for a lifetime. In our summation, the Experience Louisiana Festival was meant for a season, and we are thrilled to have had the opportunity to produce a grand, family-oriented showcase for all that makes Louisiana such a wonderful place to live and visit. Though we are sad to see the close of this event, our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy for the countless memories we have collected since the initial planning phase in 2014.

For four years we welcomed guests from many US states (coast to coast) as well as international visitors from France, Great Britain, Belgium, Germany and Canada...just to name a few. We were also able to dedicate proceeds each year to fund a scholarship for LSU Eunice STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) students as an ongoing, living benefit of the festival. That scholarship has been endowed and will have a lasting impact on students of the university as well as the life of graduates as they pursue careers.

On behalf of the Experience Louisiana team, we wish to thank everyone who played a role in the production of the festival for four years. We are extremely proud of the attention drawn to Louisiana culture, music, folklife, food, crafts, film, art, sport, auto enthusiasts, literature and so much more. Thousands of memories – large and small – have been gathered and will be cherished for decades to come. Friendships have been formed that will last a lifetime. We are all richer for the *experience*.

May you cherish the time we have spent together, as we certainly will. And, by all means, keep the torch burning for all things that make the State of Louisiana unique and special! May our heritage thrive and our culture live forever!

Vive le Louisiana,
THE EXPERIENCE LOUISIANA FAMILY



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