



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KENNER AWARDED STATE GRANT FOR *SOUND PLACES* PROGRAM

Kenner, LA. – Kenner has been awarded a grant from the state and will be one of just two cultural districts in the state to be part of the pilot year of the *Sound Places* program, Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn announced.

The program has been developed by Chamber Music America (CMA), the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Project for Public Spaces (PPS), with help from the National Endowment for the Arts. It deals with the concept of creative placemaking – finding a way to create a stronger identification and greater interest in a community by incorporating music-infused events.

The values of placemaking match the goals of Kenner officials and the business community within Rivertown – attracting community involvement and improving livability within a specific area.

"We know that Rivertown – despite real gains in the past few years – remains a gem that would benefit from a greater identification throughout the metropolitan area," said Mike Ince, Special Projects Administrator/Main Street Manager for the city.

As part of the *Sound Places* program, a 3-day workshop beginning Feb. 2 that feature representatives from CMA, the state and PPS. The program is open to members of the local community, as well as civic and government officials and will offer instruction on how to combine music, placemaking and civic engagement to benefit the Rivertown area.

The program also includes appearances by the *Westerlies*, a brass quartet based in Brooklyn, during the three days, Ince said.

"We are excited to get some ideas on how to use musical events to heighten activities that take place in Rivertown," Ince said. "This can greatly benefit the business in Rivertown, and of course, the city as well. I encourage business owners and anyone interest in the future and vibrancy of Rivertown to attend this workshop."

For more information on the workshop, including locations and sessions and to sign up, contact Mike Ince at (504) 468-7280 or email him at mince@kenner.la.us.

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