



City of Slidell

Department of Cultural & Public Affairs • For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

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City of Slidell's Outdoor Mural Gallery Adds "Geraldine the Egret" to its Collection



Artist Carol Hallock recently presented her newly-completed mural, a swamp scene with "Geraldine the egret" perched upon a stump in the swamp, to City of Slidell Mayor Ben Morris. The artwork, which is located at Fremaux and Front Street, can be enjoyed by people traveling along Front Street, and can also be viewed by passengers traveling on the Amtrak passenger train, which passes through Slidell twice daily.

"I encourage both our citizens and people from out of town to drop by this location and admire this beautiful mural," said Morris. "It truly adds to the beauty of our city and Olde Towne Slidell."

Hallock began painting the mural in October and completed the project December 3. The project will be sealed with a protective coat to help preserve its integrity for years to come.

The mural marks the third in the series, creating a Slidell Outdoor Mural Gallery. The first was completed by internationally-renowned artist Phil Galatas, at the building located on the corner of Cousin and First Streets. Second in the series is the Mardi Gras parade mural at the intersection of Front and Cousin Streets completed by artist Lori Gomez.

A fourth mural still in progress is a mosaic sign on "the point" leading into Olde Towne, bordered by Fremaux Avenue and First and Front Streets. This project, being created by Barbara Shaw, is anticipated to be completed by the end of December.

“All were funded through grants and private fundraising efforts,” said Kim Bergeron, Director of Cultural & Public Affairs.

The Galatas mural was supplemented through private fundraising efforts, as well as funded in part by the City of Slidell’s Cultural Season sponsors. The Hallock and Shaw murals were also funded by the City of Slidell’s Cultural Season sponsors and by money raised at the Cultural Extravaganza auction held by the city in August. All three of these projects were supported by and administered in part by funds from the St. Tammany Commission on Cultural Affairs/Department of Cultural and Governmental Affairs, St. Tammany Parish. The Gomez mural was funded by private donors, each of whom contributed \$250 to have their portraits included among the riders on the Mardi Gras float, as well as through funds raised at the Cultural Extravaganza auction.

The city plans to continue to expand the outdoor gallery of murals as additional grant funding and donations become available. “It is our goal to do three a year, funding permitted,” added Bergeron. “The murals add to our city’s charm.”

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Cutline: Used to scale the mural to size, artist Carol Hallock shows Slidell Mayor Ben Morris the grid system she used with her preliminary sketches.