



City of Slidell

Dept. of Cultural & Public Affairs • Press Release for Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

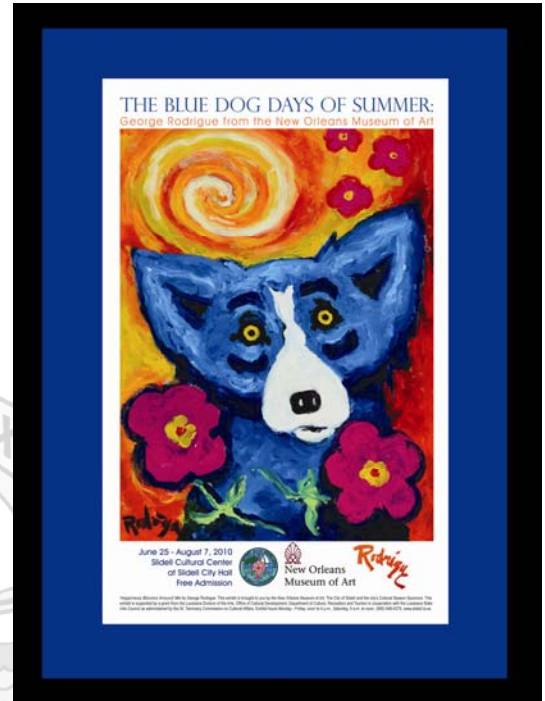
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Blue Dog Mania takes over the city

It's official. Blue Dog Mania has taken over Slidell.

It started when the Slidell Cultural Center was selected to host *The Blue Dog Days of Summer: George Rodrigue from the New Orleans Museum of Art*.

While local citizens were already buzzing with excitement over the upcoming exhibit and all of the "Paint the Towne Blue" events that galleries and businesses are hosting, the wave of interest took on a national level when Rodrigue posted information about the upcoming exhibit on his Facebook page.



"All of a sudden, we started getting inquiries from people around the United States, wanting to buy the exhibit poster, and any other printed materials we created to promote the event," said Kim Bergeron, Director of Cultural & Public Affairs. "I know Mr. Rodrigue and his Blue Dog are extremely popular, but this has exceeded all of our expectations...it's unbelievable!"

Bergeron stated that due to licensing rights, the poster is not available for purchase. However, the city has received approval to give away a framed version of the poster in a free drawing to be held immediately following the exhibit. Visitors to the exhibit will be given a Passport to Painting the Towne Blue, a card that they can bring to participating art galleries who are hosting Paint the Towne Blue exhibits. By having their cards validated at each of the locations, they can then enter their passports into the free drawing. The drawing will be held Monday, August 9, at 11 a.m. at City Hall. The winner need not be present for the drawing.

The Blue Dog Days of Summer: George Rodrigue from the New Orleans Museum of Art will be on display at the Slidell Cultural Center, which is located on the first floor of City Hall, June 25 through August 7. An opening reception will be held Friday, June 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Admission is free.

A progressive opening night event is also being planned to coincide with the city's exhibit opening. Participating galleries include DuBuisson Gallery, gallery 2100, Gallery DeBautte, and Slidell Art League, each of which will alternate its opening night reception times to ensure that art lovers have enough time to visit all of the exhibits. Additionally, Passionate Platter will host an art exhibit featuring the work of Adam Sambola and

PRESS RELEASE – ADD ONE

STARC artists in conjunction with the opening night. A complete listing of all Paint the Towne Blue events is available on the city's website at www.slidell.la.us.

The Blue Dog Days of Summer: George Rodrigue from the New Orleans Museum of Art is a Louisiana Cultural District and Main Street event, brought to you by the New Orleans Museum of Art, the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, its Commission on the Arts and the city's 2009 - 2010 cultural season sponsors, including *Living Magazine*; *Louisiana Life Magazine*; Northshore Broadcasting Lake 94.7; Ochsner Medical Center – North Shore; Slidell Memorial Hospital; Whitney National Bank; AT&T; CLECO; *Northshore Conifer*; Ronnie Kole Foundation; Comfort Inn & Suites; Creative Picture Framing Inc. & Art Gallery; East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce; Hampton Inn; *Inside Northside Magazine*; Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien; Northshore Harbor Center; The Purple Armadillo; Silver Slipper Casino; *The Slidell Independent*; Bargains Plus!/Postal Plus; Baskin Robbins; Councilman Bill & Laura Borchert; David Carollo, Attorney at Law; DuBuisson Gallery; HMS Architects, APC; Kathryn & Company's A Touch of Italy Café; Krewe of Bilge; Ed & Chris Massett; Paint Your Own Studio; Textron Marine and Land Systems; Slidell Symphony Society; Times Grill; Travel Leaders of Slidell; Dr. Russell & Nancy Westfall; and WGSO 990 AM.

For more information, visit the city's website at www.slidell.la.us or contact the City of Slidell Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, (985) 646-4375.

