

# Newsletter of the LCHR and BRCHR

Louisiana Council on Human Relations and the  
Baton Rouge Council on Human Relations

Volume 2016\_1  
January, February and March 2016

## I. Notices:

### A. Next LCHR Board Meeting

The LCHR will hold its next board meeting on April 9, 2016 at the home of James Cross in Baker. Coffee at 10:00AM with the meeting starting a 10:30AM.

### B. Concerning Dues

Although annual dues become due on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, contributions are welcome anytime. Several members of the LCHR and the BRCHR have given financial support beyond the \$15.00 single membership or \$20.00 family membership fee. We are very grateful for that support. Your dues are used mainly for the cost of Newsletter mailings and for the purchase of plaques for persons being honored at the Annual Humanitarian Award Programs (awards given by both the LCHR and the BRCH).

## THE DEBOSE FOUNDATION, INC.: Advancing Human Relations Through Music

### A. An Overview of the Organization

The Debose Foundation will host its 2016 Cabaret Jazz & Blues program on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Debose Foundation, Inc. has much in common with the Baton Rouge and Louisiana Council on Human Relations. The goal of the Councils is improving human relations in the Baton Rouge community and in the State of Louisiana. Likewise, the activities of the Debose Foundation over the years has fostered human relations not only in Baton Rouge and in the State of Louisiana but indeed, nationally, and has made a major contribution in this respect. The director of the organization is a retired faculty member from the Southern University Department of Humanities. A number of programs in the area of visual and performing arts involving all races and creeds have been conducted since 1974. The following statement was made in its program announced during 2012: "Embracing the Arts", through outreach and discovery, has been designed to rekindle and create new bonds of learning, sharing and friendship for young and old - as Arts enthusiasts come together. It is the Arts that make us Human; it is the Arts that make us Whole." The organization is named to honor

Mr. Tourgee Albion DeBose, a noted music teacher who taught at Southern University from 1944 to 1969. His influence on the Division of Music at Southern University was considerable as he not only taught piano, served as Chairman of the Piano Department, but also served as Head of the Music Division.



Mr. Tourgee Albion DeBose

### B. The History and Past Programs

*The Debose Foundation was established in 1974 and incorporated in 1986. The organization's history reflects growth from its initial single arts focus (Piano Performance) to include the following sampling of past thematic programs: Louisiana Bi-Centennial Observance: DeBose National Piano Competition & Music Festival~"DeBose Louisiane-L'Esprit de Culture et de Communaute" (1999); Silver Anniversary Celebration: "Spirit of Reunion" (2000);*

“Artistry & Symposia” (2001); “The Ties That Bind”-Saluting University Faculty (2002); “Giving the Gift of Music-A Union of Voice & Piano-The Arts Song” (2003); “Tonal Artistry-Sketches in Blue” (2004); “Tribute to the Arts” (2005); “Embracing the Arts and Community” (2006); Embracing the Arts (2007); DeBose Fine Arts Festival & National Piano Competition (2008); “DeBose Fine Arts: School and Community” (2009). Outreach and Discovery, as a signature theme, of the program encompasses components which provide qualitative enrichment to multiple Fine Arts Education areas. As an ancillary resource, the DeBose Fine Arts Series is characterized by partnerships and multidiscipline collaboration, designed to salute and showcase teacher and student achievement based on curriculum and studio criterion in Literary, Visual and Performing Arts. This annual program is motivated by advocacy, supporting existing Louisiana Education standards and National Education initiatives.

#### FOUNDATION CREDENTIALS: SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

“Supported by a Grant from the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge through the National Endowment for the Arts and The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.”

Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Louisiana State Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts.

Community Fund for the Arts Recipient Organizations Allocation, Project Assistance Fund and Multicultural Organization Assistance Fund as administered by the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge.

In-kind support from the Southern University-Baton Rouge Campus, East Baton Rouge Parish Library System, East Baton Rouge School System, and Baton Rouge Community College. IRS Non-profit Organization Designation, 501 (c)(3).

*Mission: The goal is to annually present a Fine Arts Series-Competition which recognizes student achievement. Outreach, a critical component, comprises multilevel school and community participation, benefiting “high-standard-low”-performing educational programs. Opportunities are created to motivate “open” artistic sharing and aesthetic understanding. Cultural heritage is recognized and celebrated depicting unique qualities to highlight student development and teaching excellence in literary, visual and performing arts.*

*Mission purposes are: (a) talent discovery, (b) under-served enrichment, (c) self image improvement, (d) new possibilities, and (e) role models. Additionally, outcomes include: (a) provision of support and ancillary resources for creative excellence; (b) motivation for awareness and respect for diversity; and (c) improve the quality of through cultural understanding within the community.*

*Curriculum Support Through Arts Integration is implemented through administrative endorsements and collaboration with schools, studios, libraries, arts centers and universities. The DeBose Fine Arts Festival Series-National Piano Competition is a multidisciplinary arts program, providing success opportunities through Literary, Visual and Performing Arts. Major components feature: student showcases, exhibitions, recitals and concerts (elementary, secondary and university), and artists-in-residence. Each event highlights teaching excellence characterized by multilevel talent (beginners, intermediate, advanced and accelerated); presenting students in adjudicated and non-competing events. On stage productions feature: choral and instrumental music, music theater, drama/spoken word and dance. Mounted exhibitions feature two-three dimension art and poster art (elementary, middle and high schools). Specific events are planned to increase insight and perception through experiences that nurture inspired discovery. Mutual efforts focus on increased awareness to stimulate cognitive skills, opportunities for success and elevate instructive standards. Creative discovery, interactive outreach projects and culminating events benefit local schools and studios. Exhibition and performance opportunities (curriculum standards based) are multidisciplinary and intergenerational “. Approved sites for presentations include: schools, libraries, arts centers and universities.*

#### C. The Debose 2016 Cabaret Jazz & Blues Program

This year’s Annual Cabaret Jazz & Blues Program, featuring the famous Phat Hat Band, will be held on April 2016 starting at 2 PM at Boudreaux’s restaurant. Tickets are \$50/person which is used to support the Debose Foundation programs, to include scholarships. For tickets, email [debosefestival@aol.com](mailto:debosefestival@aol.com) or log on to <http://debosefineartsseries-competition.com/>

or <http://www.thedebosfoundationinc.com/>. The goal of Phat Hat is simple: Deep rhythm, and soulful goodness with a mixture of Jazz, Blues, and Rhythm Mood stylings. The band started in 2003 and has performed all over the Southeast US and has several original songs on the Apple iTunes Store. Three years ago, Phat Hat was selected by Mayor Kip Holden to headline the city's first annual New Year's Eve celebration in Downtown Baton Rouge. In addition to headlining this event for the third year in a row, Phat Hat has also headlined many other local festivals including 'Live After Five' and New Orleans' 'Zoo-To-Do'.

#### D. The Director

**Myrtle E. David, Executive Director**, is Retired Professor of Music in Piano (Retired), Former Director of the DeBose Musical Arts Preparatory Music Program-Continuing Education, and Executive Director of the Tourgee DeBose National Foundation, Incorporated. Early academic credentials include Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, Cum Laude, Dillard University of New Orleans, Louisiana and Master of Music degree from Boston University School of Fine and Applied Arts, Massachusetts in Music Education/Musicology and Piano Performance. Additional study was pursued in the doctoral program at Boston University with special studies at Boston Conservatorof Music. Graduate study in piano at Boston University included professors: Leon Tumarkin and Bela Boszormenyi-Nagy. The private piano, master class and coaching experiences, specifically with Dr. Nagy, extensively influenced her musical perspective and concepts of performance and, later, teaching. The Masters Thesis: Piano Pedagogy: A Comparative Study of Selected Methods includes a History of Piano Pedagogy from the Renaissance to the Twentieth Century with a comparative analysis of Tobias Matthay, Theodore Leschetizsky, Alfred Cortot and Isidor Philipp. This comprehensive document has been consistently used as a resource for Boston University piano performance and pedagogy students. Additional documents of research and authorship include: History of Microtone Music which includes the theses of Jullian Carrillio, An Analysis of Study and Performance Problems of the Piano Major with special emphasis on style and interpretation, and a Principles and Procedures Manual for Piano

Departments. Non-piano performance documents include: The Black Woman and the Folk Music Tradition\_ in collaboration with Alvin Batiste, Director of the Louisiana Music Program at Southern University. [debosefestival@aol.com](mailto:debosefestival@aol.com)



**Myrtle E. David**

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**Membership Information**

(For fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013)

**Single Membership ..... \$15.00**

**Family Membership ..... \$20.00**

**Student / Low Income Membership ..... \$1.00**

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**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

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**(Baton Rouge area residents make checks payable to BRCHR.  
Other residents make checks payable to LCHR.)**

**Send all payment to:  
James E. Cross  
Membership Secretary  
13608 Alba Drive  
Baker, LA 70714-4610**