

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Folklife Culture Center Celebrates Culture and Heritage with Youth Woodcarving Class**

The Folklife Culture Center, located in downtown Houma, has been open since 2003. The mission of the culture center is to offer folk art classes to all. Parish President Gordon Dove, along with the Houma Downtown Development Corporation, work closely to continue to offer cultural classes to our citizens so that our heritage and the long-lasting influences of our French ancestry stay alive in Terrebonne Parish.

The Folklife Culture Center offers woodcarving classes from 5 - 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from our dedicated instructor, Mr. Gene Hebert. These classes sustain themselves with public and private funding.

The Culture Center received a grant from the Houma Elks Lodge in the amount of \$2,500.00 to offer a class to the youth focusing on beginners' woodcarving. This class introduced cultural art and heritage to a younger generation.

Thirteen students participated in the class at no charge; all supplies were paid for by the grant. Students learned many important lessons, including respect, and left with newfound pride and knowledge from finishing their wooden duck decoy. The Folklife Culture Center is thankful for the Houma Elks lodge for offering this partnership. Both organizations share a mission to focus on youth by providing them with the tools to make them successful in life.

Our goal is to offer this class each year. If any passionate citizens wish to keep our culture alive and sponsor a class, please reach out to Anne Picou, Culture Resource Director at (985) 873-6408.

Houma Main Street Program and Parish President Gordon Dove strive to keep our culture alive by encouraging the partnership of youth with adults who have mastered the art of woodcarving. Working together and sharing stories and cultural trades such as woodcarving will strengthen community bonds and preserve our culture and heritage for years to come.