

CONTACT: Louisiana Landmarks Society's Pitot House

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## **ENJOY HISTORY THROUGH THE ART OF MUSIC AND DANCE AT THE PITOT HOUSE**

***Attend An Arts Performance Event, Presented and Commissioned by the Louisiana Landmarks Society.***

**New Orleans, LA (October 27, 2011)** - The Louisiana Landmarks Society has commissioned a site-specific collaborative arts performance at the historic c. 1799 Creole, colonial style Pitot House titled, ***Looking Through New Orleans History: A Performance Event at the Pitot House.*** The performance will focus on movement and dance as a medium to convey the multifaceted stories connected to the history of the Pitot House. Audience members will experience the cultural, geographical, and architectural themes shared by the Pitot House with New Orleans' history by moving through the house and grounds to view various "scenes" of dance and movement accompanied by live musicians.



Site-specific choreography is emerging as a preservationist and historian's tool - a new form of living history - to highlight spaces lost, forgotten or in need of stewardship. The goal of this performance is to enhance the visibility of the Pitot House within the community through an alternative method of interpretation and to promote examination of the diminishing traditional Creole craftsmanship of our material culture in New Orleans.

This performance is choreographed and directed by Susan Bensinger of Lusher Charter School, Barbara Hayley of Tulane University Department of Theatre and Dance, and Monique Moss of Third Eye Theatre. The core group of performers are fourth and fifth grade students from Lusher Charter School; the Newcomb Dance Ensemble; and professional performers from ArtSpot Production's *Rumours of War* (Kathy Randels and Monique Moss). The Lusher students will perform a choreographed piece called "Air" by



David Garrett. The images in the dance are nature based, using images taken from the swamps and bayous. Another dance, "Symphony" (also by David Garrett) is about how people both simultaneously work together and, at times, disrupt each other. The Newcomb Dance Ensemble will perform various pieces of choreography adapted from their end-of-year performance at Newcomb, entitled *Above the Oaks*. Sections of choreography adapted to the Pitot House site include "Bayou Gardens," "Silent Columns," "Slaves for Sale" and more, to present images of the place and time of the people who lived and worked at the Pitot House in the early 1800s.

After touring through the site of the historic home, the performance will culminate on the banks of Bayou St. John. At this time, volunteers from Re-Bridge, the nonprofit group working to restore and rehabilitate the historic bridges on Bayou St. John, will be in floating vessels as a celebration of the bayou's presence and importance to the history of the city.

This program is supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. The grant is administered through the Arts Council of New Orleans.

**Sunday, November 13th**

**Performance begins at 4 PM, Gates open at 3:30 PM**

**1440 Moss Street, New Orleans, LA 70119**

Tickets on sale now by calling 504-482-0312 or visiting [www.louisianalandmarks.org](http://www.louisianalandmarks.org)

\$10 for Landmarks Members; \$15 for Non-Members; Student Admission is Free with ID (**Reservations Required**)

*The Louisiana Landmarks Society is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote historic preservation through education, advocacy and operation of the Pitot House.*