



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Festivals Acadiens et Créoles Gets a Distinctive Look with New Stage “Crowns”**  
*Oak trees, accordions, dancers and fiddles will decorate stages at 2016 festival.*

**Lafayette, LA, Oct. 7, 2016** – Each year, Festivals Acadiens et Créoles presented by Capital One grows a bit more and continues to position itself as the premier Cajun and Creole music festival in the world. This year, Festivals' look gets an upgrade with new stage “crowns” to show visitors what the festival is all about.

For example, an oak tree distinguishes Scène Ma Louisiane, the festival's oldest stage; Scène Mon Heritage gets an accordion due to its reputation for experimental Cajun and Zydeco programming; a dancing couple at Salle de Danse represents this stage's dance hall style of music; and Scène D'Anniversaire—the newest addition to Festivals' open-air platforms—sports a fiddle.

“I have been thinking about stage aesthetics for at least three years,” says Organizer Pat Mould. “If it weren't for the music coming off our stages, they could be located anywhere U.S.A., so I wanted to give each stage a distinctive look and also do something special for our sponsors.”

Seven crowns are currently designed to include other areas of the festival, such as the jam tent and Culture Sur la Table, but due to cost, four will be installed for 2016. Mould's innovative idea for displaying sponsors is still in the final stages, but will incorporate a prayer flag concept to replace the traditional “logo quilt.” Flags printed with sponsor logos would fly on either side of the stage for a festive look.

And Mould isn't stopping there. “We are also talking about pathways for attendees that will make it easier for those who come the festival to navigate the grounds, since we have grown so much in the past five years,” he says.

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Mould recruited community members Jim Phillips, Christy Leichty and Joel Breaux for their individual expertise to form a special committee on stage aesthetics last year. Stage crowns were designed by Megan Barra and are being created by Pixus Digital Printing, which worked with Festivals to choose materials that would be easy to hang and cost-effective.

*Festivals Acadiens et Créoles presented by Capital One can trace its roots back to the first Tribute to Cajun Music Festival organized by CODOFIL in 1974. Festivals was officially established in 1977 with components of music, food and crafts. Since then, it has grown into a multi-day event taking place during the second full weekend of October each year in Lafayette, La. Festivals operates as a nonprofit corporation and is run by a community board and volunteers.*