



**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Festivals Acadiens et Créoles Aims to be Greenest Festival in the State**

*Recycling programs, a bike corral and renewable energy help keep festival's footprint low.*

**Lafayette, LA, Oct. 5, 2017** – With a goal of getting greener and greener each year, Festivals Acadiens et Créoles is striving to become the “greenest” festival in the state of Louisiana by 2018. Starting with a recycling program implemented by the UL Biology Society, the festival is taking its green initiative to the next level this year by doubling its recycling capacity and planning for the future.

As they have for many years, recycling bins will be located throughout the festival grounds at Girard Park, but this year—as the result of a partnership with Lafayette Consolidated Government and Project Front Yard—glass will be recycled as well. All of the glass used for wine, cocktails and beer behind the scenes during festival weekend will be collected for The GlassLand Project, a New Orleans-based recycling initiative to divert glass from landfills and process it into GlasSand (TM) for use in restoring our coastal wetlands.

In terms of renewable resources, 14 percent of Lafayette Utilities System’s electricity is generated by renewables, including wind, solar and hydro. “Lafayette Utilities System is proud to sponsor Festivals Acadiens et Créoles again this year,” says LUS Director Terry Huval. “One of our goals as a public owned utility company is to make Lafayette a better place to work and live. We believe Festivals Acadiens et Créoles is a major element in making that goal a reality.”

The festival also encourages attendees to “save the planet ... ride your bike” when possible and park in the on-site Bike Corral. Sponsored by Bike Lafayette and Hub City Cycles, the Bike Corral is located near Scène Ma Louisiane and keeps bikes safe while their owners enjoy the event.

“Our goal is to be the greenest festival in the state,” says Mould. “We will be continuing efforts to green up the festival and have always offered recycling. We are also using a recyclable cup for all of our cocktails and looking at other areas where we can make an impact.”

Composting opportunities are being explored through a partnership with Bayou Vermilion District for 2018, as the festival phases out use of non-recyclable items at food stations. Bayou Food Festival vendors are strongly encouraged to purchase either recyclable or compostable/biodegradable, single-use materials this year, but will be required to replace Styrofoam containers and plastic straws with “greener” materials next year.

Part of Festivals Acadiens et Créoles five-pronged philanthropic mission is the beautification of Girard Park. The festival has literally helped the park stay green over the years through the planting of fruit trees with the Boy Scouts Evangeline Area Council and is also working on a seeding project in cooperation with the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

Festivals Acadiens et Créoles' 2017 dates are Oct. 13-15. As always, our festival takes place in Girard Park and is FREE and open to the public. More information can be found at [www.festivalsacadiens.com](http://www.festivalsacadiens.com), where those who want to show their support can sign up to become a Festival Friend through Oct. 6.

### **Important Dates For 2017**

**Wednesday, Oct. 11:** “Crafting the South Louisiana Sound” curator tour from 6-8 p.m.; Anya Burgess and Chris Segura will lead a special tour of the exhibit and share live demonstrations; Bourre Championship at Warehouse 535 at 5 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 12:** Crafting the South Louisiana Sound Symposium at Vermilionville; book launch at A. Hays Town Building for *Anthologie de la littérature louisianaise d'expression française de 1682 à nos jours* at 6 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 13:** Festivals Acadiens et Créoles opening with cutting of the boudin at 5 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 14:** Tour Des Atakapas at 8:30 a.m. and Festivals Acadiens et Créoles all day

**Sunday, Oct. 15:** French Mass at 9 a.m. and final day of Festivals Acadiens et Créoles

*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.*

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