

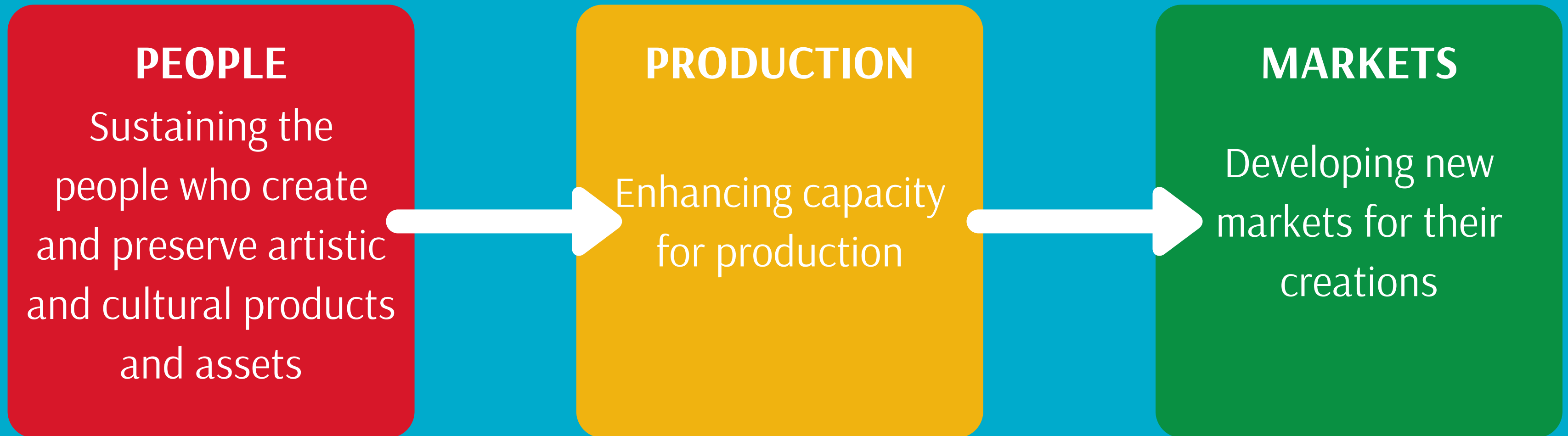


# Louisiana Cultural Districts

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

*The Cultural District Program was created as a part of the Cultural Economy Initiative. It is managed by the Office of Cultural Development in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism under the Office of the Lt. Governor of Louisiana.*

# Cultural Economy Initiative



*The Cultural Economy Initiative and Cultural District program sustain the people who create and preserve the artistic and cultural assets of Louisiana . The Office of Cultural Development works to accomplish this by inviting communities to develop Cultural Districts to improve the capacity for creative production and provide new markets for cultural products.*



# Cultural Districts Program Purpose:

To revitalize communities by creating locally driven hubs of cultural activity.

Criteria:

- Geographically Contiguous
- Distinguished by cultural resources that play a vital role in the life and cultural development of the community
- Focus on a cultural anchor
- Engage in the promotion, preservation, and educational aspects of the arts and culture of the locale
- Contribute to the public through interpretive and educational uses





# Program Incentives



## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Expands eligibility of state historic tax credits for rehabilitation of commercial structures to cultural districts



## **VISUAL ARTS**

Local sales tax does not apply to original, one-of-a-kind works of art

*Two tax incentives come with cultural district certification. One is the state historic tax credit, which extends eligibility to property owners of commercial buildings. The other is a local tax exemption, which permits original, one-of-a-kind works of visual art sold within the boundaries of a Cultural District to be exempt from local tax. These incentives encourage preservation and reuse of buildings as well as use of artistic and cultural resources that create a sense of community, revitalization and economic development.*





## WHERE TO START

Certain factors can contribute to the launch of a cultural district and its ongoing success:

- Strategic partnership building
- Vision for the district & broader community
- Clear signage, distinctive logos, maps, etc.
- User-friendly website
- Marketing and promotion to attract visitors, potential residents, and new businesses
- Accessible events and venues





# WHAT DOES PLANNING LOOK LIKE?

The following are examples of activities that successful cultural districts do before applying to the program.

- Engage the community & start conversations
- Record & document achievements
- Identify anchor institutions, special events as well as unique places, people, & stories
- Have a seat at the government table
- Evaluate the long term sustainability and support of the program in the local community
- Connect with the Cultural Districts Program Director



NEW ARTIST DRIVEN  
SPACES

COMMUNITY WIDE  
APPRECIATION OF ARTISTS

INCREASED GROWTH OF  
OCCUPANCY/BUSINESSES/  
AMENITIES

EVENTS/FESTIVALS

UNIQUE, AUTHENTIC  
COMMUNITY IDENTITY

**What does  
success look  
like?**



**What does  
success look  
like?**

PUBLIC ART

INCREASED NUMBER OF  
ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

NEW OPPORTUNITIES,  
JOBS, & PARTNERSHIPS

USE OF HP TAX CREDITS  
FOR REDEVELOPMENT





# Louisiana's Cultural Districts Program is a valuable tool for Economic Growth, Community Vitality, and Creative Placemaking.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES AVAILABLE AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.CRT.STATE.LA.US/CULTURAL-DEVELOPMENT/ARTS/CULTURAL-DISTRICTS/](https://www.crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/arts/cultural-districts/)

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