

Louisiana Voices

Request for Proposals

Offered by the
Louisiana Voices Folklife in Education Project

The Hunt is On

In the last six years, Louisiana Voices team members have heard of teachers throughout the state doing folklife-in-education projects – some inspired by Louisiana Voices and others not. We hear about educators leading their students in community documentation projects, students painting murals on cafeteria walls, mapping out cultural routes like the "Boudin Trail," and even creating interactive websites – all drawing on traditional, local culture.

The direct experiences of those educators who have tried their hand at folklife-in-education are invaluable – not just to us at Louisiana Voices but to the hundreds of teachers out there who need models, mentors, experiential feedback, or just the knowledge that, yes, someone out there has tried it and it worked (or didn't work for that matter).

We have been sharing success stories in our "Teacher Spotlights" featured in our *Giving Voice* newsletter. However, we are interested in expanding our role as a clearinghouse for instructional materials, project or lesson ideas, and resources that have been "tested" in the classroom.

That's why, this month, we are launching a statewide hunt for five exemplary, reproducible folklife-in-education projects which we can report on and publish on the Louisiana Voices website.

Step 1: Submitting Your Proposal

Eligibility

You are eligible if you meet all of these requirements:

1 Have completed a folklife-in-education project.

In general, we would like to know what educators out in the field are doing in the classroom with respect to incorporating local culture. Whether you

have used Louisiana Voices resources or whether you have come to folklife-in-education on your own steam; whether your activity is five minutes long or five weeks long, we encourage you to submit. All that matters is that, sometime in the past, you have produced a folklife unit, lesson, activity, or project and that you are willing and report on the project and its results such that other teachers can learn from your experiences.

2 Produce a folklife-in-education project in the 2004-2005 academic year.

In addition to past efforts, we'd like to know what your future plans are with respect to folklife-in-education in academic year 2004-2005. Have you found a fool-proof strategy that you will stick with? Did you run into challenges that will inform how you plan your next folklife project? In other words, what are your next steps, and why are they your next steps? Applicants will be asked to address this point in various ways in the proposal.

3 Currently teach in a Louisiana school or will be in the 2004-2005 academic year.

4 Willing and able to fulfill the contracted duties as described in "Step 3: Your Contract with Louisiana Voices" below.

Payment

If you submit a proposal that meets all the criteria, you will receive \$50. We understand that writing proposals is time consuming. That is why we will pay you to write your proposal and submit it! In other words, you don't have to be selected to be paid, you just need to submit a full proposal.

HOWEVER, your proposal must be complete and follow all guidelines presented below. Louisiana Voices staff will use the [Submission Rubric](#) to evaluate your proposal. LV reserves the right to decline payment if these guidelines are not completely followed.

Preparing and Submitting a Proposal

DEADLINE: All proposals must be submitted by August 2, 2004 at 5:00 p.m
We will notify you by September 1, 2004.

Mail completed proposals to:

Louisiana Voices RFP
Louisiana Folklife Program
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Questions?

If you would like a hard copy of the proposal, email Nalini Raghavan at nalini.r@att.net.

If you have questions about your project, contact Jane Vidrine, Louisiana Voices' Education Coordinator, at jvidrine@cox-internet.net.

Preparing the Proposal Essay

- 1) Review this entire document as well as the [Proposal Rubric](#) and [Submission Rubric](#).
- 2) Fill out the [Proposal Form](#) completely and be sure to mail it with your Essay.
- 3) Write an essay of at least 1000 words using the "Essay Outline" section below and addressing all of the questions. Remember we are also evaluating your writing. You may submit more words and address more than the outlined topics. You may choose to elaborate more fully where you see necessary.
- 4) The essay must be typed on 8.5 x 11 paper with one inch margins. Font size should be no larger than 12 pt. and no smaller than 10 pt.

Essay Outline

Introduction (at least 250 words)

- Tell us who you are, giving us a brief background of your areas of specialty or special interest in education.
- Tell us what motivated you to incorporate folklife into your teaching.

Past Folklife Project/s (at least 350 words)

Describe one or more folklife-in-education projects that you have produced.

- What is the title of the project?
- What is the grade level and subject area focus of the project?
- What is the content or skill being covered through the project?
- Was this part of a larger unit or collaborative project?
- What were the overall academic goals, student activities, and products?
- Did you involve the community, parents, or administration in this project? If yes, how?
- How did you incorporate folklife?

- Where did you receive funding, if any?
- What were the outcomes of the project with respect to student performance, content knowledge, and/or motivation?
- How did you publicize the project or promote it in any other way?

Explain the outcomes of the project.

- Did your students reach the academic goal of the project?
- What response did the students have to the project? Did they enjoy it? Were they frustrated? Were they engaged or motivated?
- What were some of the challenges you or your students faced and what were your solutions?
- How has using folklife changed or enriched your teaching?

Proposed Project (at least 400 words)

Describe your folklife-in-education project or plan for incorporating folklife in the classroom for next year.

- What are the folklife traditions or teaching strategies around which you plan to center the project?
- What are the outcomes of the project with respect to student performance, content knowledge, and/or motivation?
- What preparations have you already made or need to make in order to produce this project?
- Are there any potential pitfalls of the project and how do you plan to troubleshoot potential problems?
- What resources will you need/use to make the project successful?
- What materials or supplies are required to complete this project – traditional artist/s, books, videos, etc.? Please describe.
- Does the project require funding? If yes, briefly describe the costs.

Step 2: Selection Process

Louisiana Voices will select five proposals using the [Proposal Rubric](#). The five proposals with the highest scores will be selected.

The selection panel will be composed of Louisiana Voices staff, master teachers, and a staff member of the Department of Education.

The five successful applicants will be notified by September 1, 2004. We will then send a contract for your signature.

Step 3: If You are Selected

You will:

1. Complete your proposed 2004-2005 academic year folklife-in-education project.
2. Agree to have your 2004-2005 academic year folklife-in-education project documented by Louisiana Voices staff and provide Louisiana Voices with additional details, portfolio materials, photographs, etc. as requested.
3. Write a 1000 -1300 word, illustrated (photos, pics, charts) article on one of your folklife-in-education projects to be included in an issue of *Giving Voice*.

Optional

Present your project at Louisiana Voices professional development workshops.

And we will pay you:

- \$300 to complete your proposed 2004-2005 academic year folklife-in-education project
- \$500 in reimbursable funds to pay for supplies, postage, and/or tradition bearers that are necessary to complete your folklife-in-education project
- 15 cents per word for your illustrated article (maximum \$195.00)

This comes to a potential contract with Louisiana Voices of \$1495.00.