

GEORGE RODRIGUE MEMORIAL PARK
211 EAST MAIN STREET
NEW IBERIA, LA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 2015

The George Rodrigue Memorial Park committee is pleased to release the plans for a new park that will be located at 211 East Main Street in the historic district. This pocket park will celebrate George's long career as a gifted artist, community leader, arts advocate and philanthropist.

George set out to paint Louisiana as he knew it by visually interpreting the landscape and the rich history of the Cajun people. Later in his career his Blue Dog paintings captured hearts and minds around the world. George remained an advocate of the arts and arts-education throughout his life and dedicated himself to inspiring the next generation of artists and educators through his foundation, the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts.

"Dad was not only a painter, but also a true community leader in his native Louisiana," says Jacques Rodrigue, son of the artist. "He always said that if he wasn't from New Iberia that he probably would not have ever painted in the first place. My family and I are grateful to everyone involved in this memorial park project."

Dan Spiller of Viator & Associates designed the park which will feature an original 8 foot three-sided blue dog sculpture made by Rodrigue as well as a mural of his iconic Live Oak tree. Also a timeline of Rodrigue's life and art career will also be featured along with landscaping, signage, benches and additional parking for downtown attractions and events.

The site of the park is between the Bayou Teche Museum and the Shadows on the Teche plantation where the Masonic Lodge was located. The Lodge burned in 2011 and Landry, Watkins, Repaske & Breaux law firm (current owners of the property) graciously donated the use of the land for the park.

“We have tremendous support, partnerships and excitement from many entities: **The George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts in New Orleans, Viator & Associates, Inc. Landscape Architects, the City of New Iberia, Landry, Watkins, Repaske & Breaux, Iberia Parish Visitor & Convention Bureau and ON TAP and the ON TAP Foundation.** In fact On-Tap will be donating some of the proceeds from their annual Dragon Boat Race on April 16, 2016 to the park fund,” says Paul Schexnayder, park creator.

The committee is currently working on different levels of giving for all to contribute to making the park a reality.

For more information contact:

GEORGE RODRIGUE MEMORIAL PARK COMMITTEE

Paul Schexnayder, Chairman, 337-321-1956

Dan Spiller, Landscape Designer, committee member

Karen Alvarez, committee member

Patrick Theriot, committee member

Randy Haynie, committee member

Wayne Fernandez, Director of Development, GR Foundation of the Arts 504-324-9614

Wess Robison, President, On-Tap Foundation 337-207-2806

Kreig Breaux, Partner, Landry, Watkins, Repaske & Breaux, 337-364-7626

Jane Braud, Main Street Manager, City of New Iberia 337-369-2330

Fran Thibodeaux, Iberia Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau Director, 337-365-1540

*Images courtesy of Viator and Associates, INC. Landscape Architects