

ACADIANA MUSICIAN OUTREACH

Keeping our cultural workers healthy and creating is the mission of ACHA.

With that in mind and especially with the ongoing risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on our beloved cultural community, NOMAF want to remind our friends in Acadiana that the Acadiana Cultural Health Access (ACHC) is there to help you navigate the medical system to get tested, treated and answer your questions. We are also here to take care of you beyond your medical needs.

For the past 21 years, Our Volunteer Co-Founding Director, Kathy Richard has facilitated local, state and national resources to help our patients receive medical, dental as well as financial assistance.

NOMAF has been on the ground helping musicians in Acadiana since 1998 when they co-founded the Healthcare for Musician (H4M) program in partnership with the South West Area Health Education Center (SWLAHEC).

More than 3000 musicians and cultural workers have been served by Richard; first as H4M Director, next as LA Cultural Economy Foundation Healthcare Director and now as the Volunteer Co-Founder of the ACHA. Many of those served was in the wake of the floods in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina when the NOMC staff was welcomed by Richard and the SWLAHEC organization. Richard was instrumental in hundreds of needy musicians receiving financial support, instrument replacement, clothing, food and so many other basic items.

As our staff re-established our clinic in New Orleans, Lt. Gov. Landrieu led the establishment of the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation as the home for cultural worker resources with Richard at the helm as Healthcare Initiative Director.

As we face the short and long implications of this pandemic on Louisiana's cultural workers, NOMC & NOMAF is proud to announce that Kathy Richard will continue to be your trusted health navigator in Acadiana to help you gain access to community clinics, especially medical care, ACA marketplace and Medicaid insurance, social services, dental care, financial assistance and serve as a liaison with our NOMC & NOMAF team.

We know your body is an instrument and strive to help keep it healthy and creative.

TESTIMONIALS



HENRY TURNER

musician, songwriter and producer

"Kathy Richard is a vital cultural community resource for all creatives in Louisiana. She has a vast amount of knowledge on what talents are here in the cultural economy and a god gifted talent for making us all feel comfortable, while finding and supporting our needs as individuals and as a whole."



SAM BROUSSARD

musician and songwriter

"Kathy Richard's balance of efficiency and heart has shaped her into a unique, broadband resource in my life that I wouldn't want to live without."



COREY LEDET

Grammy nominated musician & songwriter

"Kathy was instrumental in helping me to deal with my long-time, career affecting sinus and allergy issues. As soon as I asked for her help, she researched and found the best physician in my area to treat me and help to find the money needed to pay for it. I had also had my main instrument stolen and was not able to get another because of finances. This directly affected my business as a cultural musician. She helped me get a grant so that I can get a replacement. She can find a way to help you if you ask. She is one of the best advocates for musicians that I've known."



HERMAN FUSELIER

Radio Personality/Zydeco Stomp/KRVS

"When musicians facing emergencies have nowhere else to turn, I connect them to Kathy Richard. She is an angel of mercy for so many. In times of trouble, we all need a Kathy Richard in our corner."

KATHY RICHARD

CO-FOUNDER AND VOLUNTEER | ACADIANA CULTURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS



Kathy Richard was been on the front lines and has helped over 3000 musicians and cultural workers during her 20 years of service.

Her journey began with her assistance in the forming of both the New Orleans Musicians Clinic (NOMC) in 1998 and the Healthcare for Musicians (H4M) program in 2002.

Kathy served as the Program Coordinator of H4M and was there to welcome and coordinate the relocation of the entire NOMC staff immediately following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Her coordination of a multi levels resources program worked to serve the total needs of hundreds of displaced musicians including medical issues, funding of gig fees, instrument replacement, housing and even food and gas during those challenging times.

From 2007 to 2019, Richard served as Healthcare Initiative Director at the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation (LCEF) and channeled that experience and knowledge into the creation of a statewide healthcare resource referral network with a partnership base of over 40 medical, cultural and media organizations.

She created and implemented a program which combined more than 50 health screenings with existing statewide festivals and other cultural occasions. This innovative program brought the “Mountain to Mohammad” and served to provide thousands of state and national musicians and artists with preventative health information. In addition, Kathy marshaled national funder’s resources, such as MusiCares, into over twelve (12) successful free dental service days for more than 400 music professionals.

In 2011, she created and coordinated the first musicians smoke free movement in Louisiana. This musician’s movement, with over 400 supporters, was extremely influential in the successful passage of 100% comprehensive smoke free ordinances in New Orleans, Lafayette, Hammond, Ponchatoula, Bogalusa, and her own hometown of Abbeville. These passages finally gave all musicians, bar workers, and all music professionals in those cities totally smoke free workplaces.

Kathy is a visual artist herself, and attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for three years majoring in Applied Art and Journalism. She is the first Acadiana resident to be licensed by the LA. State Board of Medical Examiners as an Acupuncture Detox Specialist.

She is well connected to her community and is the current Vice President, and past Secretary, of the Acadiana Open Channel/Community Media Board of Directors. Her resume also includes serving as past Vice President and Secretary of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission, and a member of both SWLAHEC Board of Directors and Abbeville’s Confrerie d’Omelette Board of Directors.

Kathy is excited about continuing to take on the challenges of meeting the needs of all musicians, entertainers, music professionals and cultural workers in Acadiana.