

# FORUM 35 HISTORY & CORE PILLARS

Forum 35 began back to 1993 when the Baton Rouge Area Foundation allocated seed money to form a non-profit organization for young men and women of our community. This organization would provide its members personal growth opportunities and professional leadership training through volunteers service that would ultimately improve the city of Baton Rouge.

This past year, Forum 35 members contributed over 4,000 volunteer hours through serving on committees, hands on service projects and advocate for a better community. As with any organization, "you get out what you put in". So find a project get involved and make a difference today!

## Arts & Culture

**Art Melt** Art Melt is the largest multi-media, juried art exhibit in the state of Louisiana. Now in its 12th year, Art Melt strives to promote professional artists throughout the state of Louisiana while providing an opportunity for the public to experience the best of local fine art, music, and performing arts.  
**Chair:** Ellen Mathis, artmelt@forum35.org

## Cultural Diversity

**Diversity** The cultural diversity initiative strives to help build a Forum 35 that represents the community we live in. This is done by promoting dialogue, discussion, and activities that expose our current membership to Baton Rouge's rich and diverse culture. This year we tackled timely topics including education reform, sex trafficking, and safety and policing, while also showcasing Baton Rouge's cultural history through the Blues Fest Lagniappe.  
**Chairs:** Katie Barlow & Ashley Cash diversity@forum35.org

## Leadership

**Forum Friday** Forum Friday is our monthly membership luncheon featuring a local speaker addressing issues specifically targeted to the needs and concerns of Baton Rouge-area young professionals and leaders.  
**Chairs:** Jason Hijuelos & Dixon McMakin, friday@forum35.org

## John W. Barton, Sr. Community Leadership Development Program

This program enables members to develop their leadership skills while promoting community involvement and volunteerism in Baton Rouge.  
**Chairs:** Daniel Richard & Latoria Thomas, barton@forum35.org

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Reindeer Run** Serious runners and casual joggers head downtown for this fantastic 5k fun run and 1 mile jog. Reindeer Run coincides with the Downtown Festival of lights in December.

**Chairs:** Jessica Keasler & Cathy Juarez, reindeer@forum35.org

**Uncorked** Eat. Drink. Be Charitable. Uncorked combines young professionals' love for food, wine and passion for a good cause. Participants enjoy an evening of fundraising and wine tasting in the Capital City at this unique wine competition. **Chairs:** Christy Chachere & Courtney Hunt, uncorked@forum35.org

**Viva il Vino** On September 24th, guests will be treated to a wine dinner, live/silent auction and awards given to BR Original, Louisiana Art Legend Award and Corporate Member of the Year.  
**Chairs:** Bryan Fontenot & Bobby Varnau, viva@forum35.org

**One Book One Community** With partners/sponsors Forum 35 and Up Alliance, East Baton Rouge Parish Library presents a series of events relating to a chosen novel throughout the spring in order to give participants as many opportunities to engage with the book. **Chair:** Courtney Debetaz,, OBOC@forum35.org

**Public Education Project** PEP works within the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to support the students, teachers, and schools through various programs. PEP awarded 3 field trip grants in 2014 to over 100 kids. **Co-Chair:** Sheri Gibson & Erika Green, pep@forum35.org

**Service Committee** The committee decides what projects and volunteer opportunities to offer the membership and then coordinates our involvement in the service activity.  
**Chair:** Leland Moss, service@forum35.org

**Socials** Monthly socials celebrate members and the accomplishments of the organization as well as to foster networking among our membership. **Chairs:** Lea Ciskowski & Paige Johannessen, socials@forum35.org

Connect:



[www.Forum35.org](http://www.Forum35.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$60

Couples \$100

Student \$25

### Develop Socially, Professionally, & Civically

- ◆ Affiliation with other leaders in Baton Rouge
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities through monthly projects and committees
- ◆ Personal & professional networking opportunities
- ◆ Reduced or complimentary entry to membership socials and events
- ◆ Nonprofit / community leadership development
- ◆ Connection with current issues and leaders
- ◆ Weekly Forum Flash e-mails with news from within the organization and our partners in the community

#### Matt Adams

VP of Corporate  
matt@forum35.org

#### Melissa Parmelee

VP of Individual  
melissa@forum35.org

Corporate  
Benefactors:



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# FORUM35

MISSION:  
Forum 35 is a community of young men  
and women improving Baton Rouge.

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