



FORUM35

www.Forum35.org | info@Forum35.org

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



Forum 35 is a community of young men and women improving Baton Rouge. The organization's initiatives are focused around three core pillars including Arts & Culture, Leadership and Diversity.

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Letter from the President

Years that force you to reflect on who you truly are, as a person and as a community, don't come along very often. Between officer-involved tragedies and the great flood, Baton Rouge experienced a year of raw emotion, confusion and frustration. It also experienced a year of fierce loyalty, dialogue and compassion. While challenging on many levels, it is my hope and belief that 2016 will be remembered as a rallying point; a year during which Baton Rouge took a hard look at itself, acknowledged its flaws, celebrated its strengths, and vowed to do the work to move forward.



The 2016-2017 administrative year for Forum 35 was one of remarkable challenge, inspiring compassion and focused progress. With the recognition that its mission of improving Baton Rouge relied on improving Forum 35 itself, the board developed a bold strategy to overhaul the organization's funding model. This new structure brings the focus of fundraising to the organization level, rather than the committee level, and aims to engage corporate allies in a more impactful way. The board also voted to restructure Forum 35's executive leadership to better reflect its core pillars, a move that will be reflected in the 2017-2018 administrative year.

Amid these fundamental transitions, Forum 35's committees and members continued to impact Baton Rouge through their events, projects and programming. I am consistently amazed by the impact of this organization and the enthusiasm and dedication of its all-volunteer base.

On a personal note, I want to recognize and thank Forum 35's officers and board for the countless hours spent in service to this organization. As one of the oldest young professional organizations in the country, Forum 35's success and legacy depends on the leadership of each administration, and I could not be more proud to have served with you.

Kelly Bienn, 2016-2017 President

Our Leadership



2015 - 2016

Eric Dexter, President
Kelly Bienn, President Elect
Matt Adams, VP: Corporate Membership
Heather Otten, VP: Communications
Candace Parker, VP: Projects
Mathew Laborde, VP: Development
Melissa Parmelee, VP: Individual Membership
Joshua Melder, Treasurer

Directors

Branden Barker • Jennifer Dyer • Blake Fowler • Jason Hijuelos • Megan Johnson • Cathy Juarez • Sarah Moran • Monica Valencio Rogers • LaToria Thomas



2016 - 2017

Kelly Bienn, President
Mathew Laborde, President Elect
Blake Fowler, VP: Corporate Membership
Erinn Sala, VP: Communications
Jessica Keasler, VP: Projects
Branden Barker, VP: Development
Jeffrey Wale, VP: Individual Membership
Matt Zagotti, Treasurer
Megan Johnson, Secretary

Directors

Matt Adams • Courtney Debetaz • Eric Dexter • Ericka Garcia • Courtney Hart • Paige Johannessen • Leland Moss • Heather Otten • Candace Parker • Melissa Parmelee • Daniel Richard • Monica Valencio Rogers

Making a Difference

Forum 35 hosts monthly and annual events centered around Arts & Culture, Leadership, Diversity and Service. All events are aimed at improving the Greater Baton Rouge community.

In 2016 alone, the organization furthered its professional development with +25 hours of leadership workshops, which are free for all members. Additionally, +1190 volunteer hours were spent giving back to the local community via projects such as our Public Education Project initiative as well as St. Vincent de Paul lunch service.

Internally, the organization enhanced its financial structure to focus more on organizational fundraising efforts, rather than committee-specific fundraising. This will allow the organization to engage with corporate partners in a more impactful way.



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

This initiative strives to build a Forum 35 that represents the community we live in. This is done by promoting dialogue, discussion, and activities to expose our membership to Baton Rouge's rich culture.



SERVICE COMMITTEE

The committee decides what projects and opportunities to offer members and coordinates our involvement in the service activity. The committee also oversees the Public Education Project, working to support local schools.



UNCORKED

Uncorked combines young professionals' love for food, wine and passion for a good cause. Participants enjoy an evening of fundraising and wine tasting at this unique wine competition.



ART MELT

Art Melt is the largest multi-media, juried art exhibit in the state of Louisiana. The event promotes professional artists throughout the state while providing an opportunity for the public to experience local art.



ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY

With 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.



REINDEER RUN

Participants head downtown for a merry 5k run and 1 mile jog. Reindeer Run coincides with the Downtown Festival of lights in December.



JOHN W. BARTON, SR. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

This program enables members to develop their leadership skills while promoting community involvement and volunteerism in Baton Rouge through training sessions.



FORUM FRIDAY

Forum Friday is our monthly membership luncheon featuring a local speaker addressing issues targeted to the needs and concerns of Baton Rouge-area young professionals.



LEADERSHIP HOUR

Leadership Hour comprises quarterly, hour-long sessions designed to teach skills and offer discussion around issues to strengthen leadership qualities.



2016 Year in Review

Forum 35 positively impacted the Baton Rouge community in 2016 via its cultural diversity panels, flood relief volunteer efforts, public education school renovation project and more.

Additionally, the organization honored recipients for the 2016 Baton Rouge Original Award, Art Melt Art Legend of Louisiana Award, and both the Individual and Corporate Member of the Year Award.



BATON ROUGE ORIGINAL

Donna Saurage was chosen as the 2016 Baton Rouge Original Award winner. The award is given annually to an individual dedicated to improving Baton Rouge through exemplary leadership, visionary thinking and extraordinary volunteerism.



ART MELT ART LEGEND

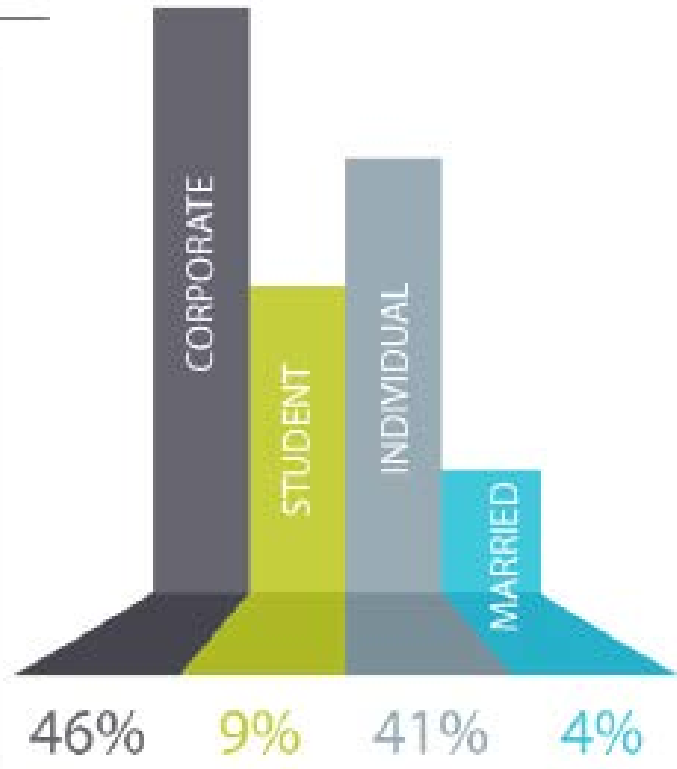
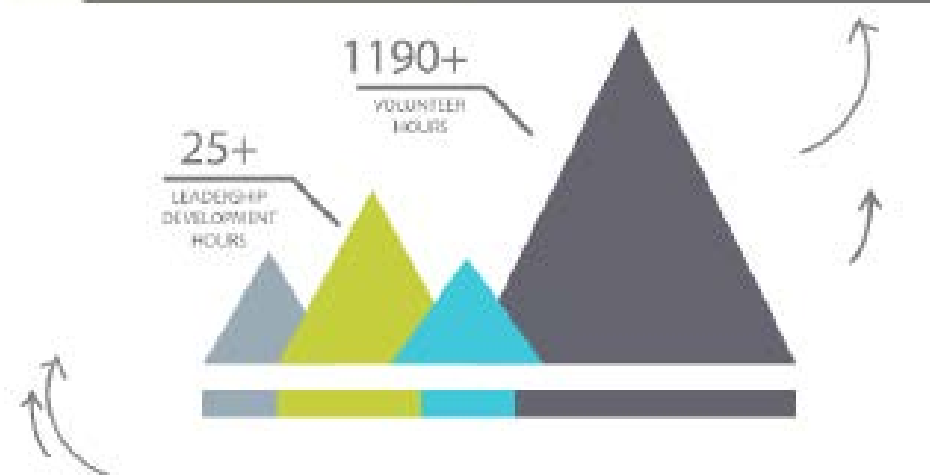
As one of the nation's longest-standing artist cooperative galleries, Baton Rouge Gallery will receive the Art Melt Louisiana Art Legend Award in recognition and appreciation for the impact it has made for artists within the state.



MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Each year, Forum 35 presents an individual and corporate member of the year award. In 2016, the board of directors selected Quinton Renfo and Whitney Bank as the individual and corporate member recipients respectively.

Our Membership



Our Corporate Partners

Supporting Corporate Partner - \$2,500

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
L'Auberge Casino & Hotel
Iberville Bank
LSU Flores MBA Program
Enterprise

Sustaining Corporate Partner - \$1,000

Baton Rouge Area Foundation
Tipton Associates
DIG Baton Rouge
Mark Legendre

Friend of Forum 35 - \$500

Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Upper Iowa University
The Shobe Financial Group
Performance Contractors Inc.
James Bayard
Nick Miller
Jamie Seal
Gregory Akers

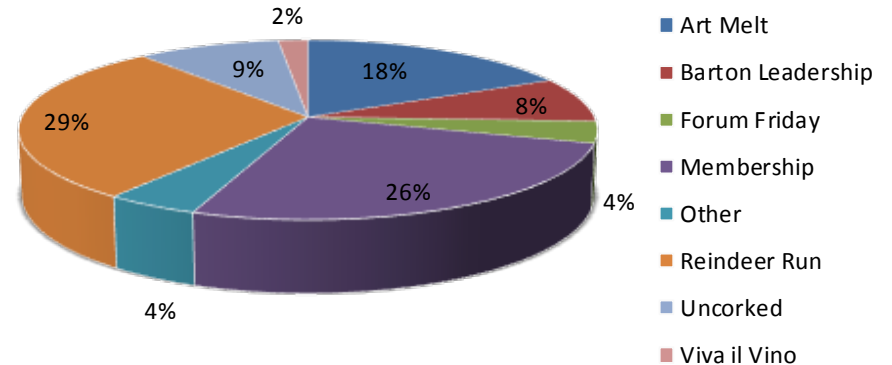
2016 Financials

Income

Art Melt	25,609.60
Barton Leadership	11,600.00
Forum Friday	5,635.00
Membership	37,625.00
Other	6,646.84
Reindeer Run	41,461.96
Uncorked	13,273.50
Viva il Vino	2,740.52

Total **144,592.42**

Income

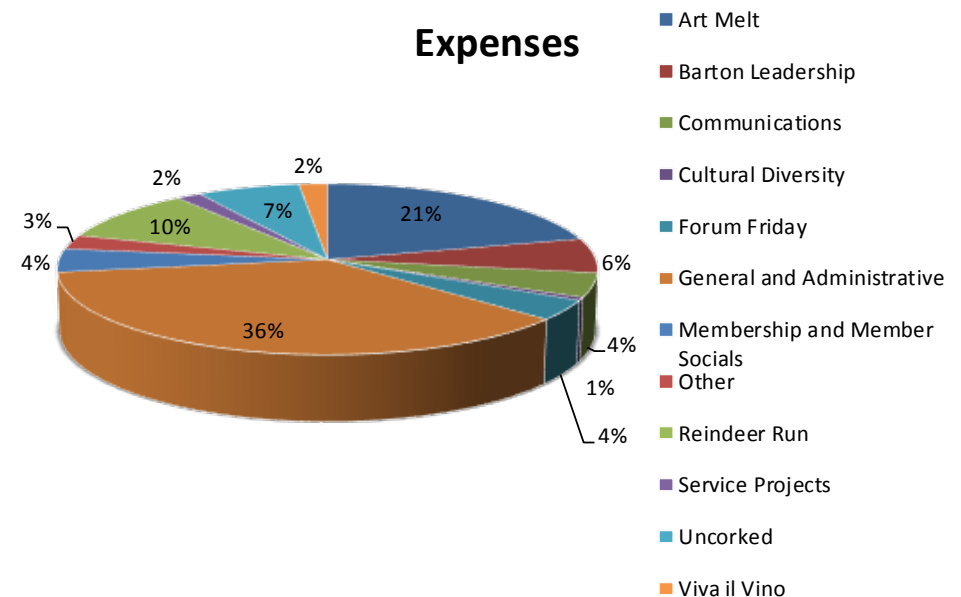


Expenses

Art Melt	30,540.71
Barton Leadership	9,484.20
Communications	6,608.70
Cultural Diversity	820.93
Forum Friday	5,556.32
General Administrative	52,739.06
Membership and Socials	6,457.09
Other	3,901.56
Reindeer Run	14,353.87
Service Projects	2,416.66
Uncorked	9,985.54
Viva il Vino	2,757.91

Total **145,622.55**

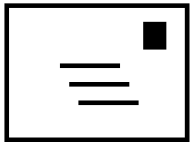
Expenses



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