

Testimony of Mayor Scott Fontenot

The Liberty Theater is the crown jewel to our small community here in Eunice. Our history and heritage have attracted thousands of visitors from all over the world and adds to the charm that entices people to make Eunice their home. Eunice has an established and widely recognized cultural character. The Liberty Theater is a deeply rooted component of Eunice's cajun culture and a key player in the continued tourism appeal of the city and south Louisiana. The closing of the theater leaves a significant gap in the cultural fabric of the community.

One of Eunice's primary goals is revitalizing and enlivening downtown by celebrating and showcasing the city's unique arts and culture. We are thankful for The National Park Service and the many years they have been able to maintain the annex.

The Liberty Theater is located in the heart of our community on our main street. In the last year we have hired a main street coordinator to help recover from tourism loss due to Covid-19. We were one of three communities in the US to receive the EPA Technical Assistance Grant-Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities, Leveraging Cultural Anchor Institutions. Many investments have been made into the EPA grant and the community support has been tremendous. We have many great things to look forward to.

As a lifelong resident of Eunice, Louisiana, I know the importance and value of the Liberty Theater. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of a revitalization process that is happening now.