



# A New “Culture” In Highland!

By Liz Swaine

**H**ave you noticed a change in your neighborhood lately? You may not see it, feel it or taste it, but something is different...and that something is a pretty big deal. In July, Highland became only the second state-certified Cultural District in the city of Shreveport. The process was fairly lengthy and labor intensive and involved developing an inventory of all that the Highland Historic District has to offer.

**T**he upshot of all the hard work is some definite benefits to those who own property, are interested in historic preservation, and/or create, sell or show art in Highland. Artists who create one-of-a-kind pieces can be exempt from certain taxes as can galleries, museums and other places that show work. Artists are eligible for certain property tax abatements and tax exemptions if they live in and restore historic (50 years old or older) buildings. In addition to artists, those of us who have chosen Highland for its unique inventory of historic homes may also see a very real benefit.

**I**f you are thinking of restoring a historic place in Highland, you could be eligible for the State of Louisiana’s State Residential Tax Credit, which is available to homes considered ‘contributing elements in a Cultural District.’ The tax credits allow a homeowner to recoup 25-50% of all qualified costs of rehabilitation (not remodel) of certain residences. A Historic (Commercial) Tax Credit allows up to 25% of the same for commercial buildings. As with everything administered by the government, there are a lot of rules and regulations, but the money saved can definitely be worth your time and effort.

**T**o see more about how to qualify, go to the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development/Historic Preservation website at [www.crt.state.la.us](http://www.crt.state.la.us) Click on the “Cultural Development” box and on “Cultural Districts” for additional details on those; or on “Historic Preservation” and then “Tax Incentives” for more on the residential and commercial tax credits. And check out the first Highland Cultural Event:

**Highland Cultural District Holiday Artists Show & Sale**

**Tuesday, November 29, 1 pm- 7 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church, 900 Jordan Street**

