

**LAFAYETTE PARISH BAYOU**  
**VERMILION DISTRICT**

*applicants must be black citizens of the Parish of Lafayette*

**RESUME LIST:**

Foote, Ruth

*no incumbent submission(s)*

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July 21, 2023

Please accept my attached résumé for appointment consideration to the Bayou Vermilion District Board of Commissioners. I welcome the opportunity to serve on behalf of the Lafayette City Council. I am an African American resident of Lafayette Parish. Except for a brief journalism stint in Sarasota, Fla., I have lived in the City of Lafayette most of my life — ever since my father moved the family to his hometown as his military career winded down.

I am also a registered voter, and often work as an elections commissioner for Precinct 40, located at the LITE Center.

I look forward to working with fellow Bayou Vermilion commissioners to fulfill the district's purpose in Lafayette Parish: not only to improve the bayou's *water quality and aesthetics* in order to enhance its role as *a recreational and cultural asset*, but in all aspects so that we increase our economic base and growth.

My experience and background in history, culture and journalism will assist in these endeavors.

I remember decades ago, my older brothers teased us about moving to Louisiana. They told my younger sister and I that snow did not exist here, but people with webbed toes did. That was difficult, and somewhat terrifying, for young children to comprehend. I can laugh now because they were simply brothers being brothers, and having fun teasing their younger siblings. But I have always been grateful for my father's decision even though we had never experienced segregation before coming here.

Growing up as an army brat in Seattle, Tacoma, Frankfurt and Munich, I briefly lived in that idyllic world that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., dreamed about. As children living on the military base, we played with one another without regard to anyone's skin color. I consider that foundation a blessing.

A love for the arts and history, which my mother instilled in us as children, also will aid in my services as a member of the Bayou Vermilion District Board.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ruth Foote

Eraste Landry Rd.  
Lafayette, LA 70506

## RUTH FOOTE

Eraste Landry Road, Lafayette, LA 70506

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### EDUCATION

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

M.A., History, August 2018

Public History

Thesis: *"Just as Brutal...but without All the Fanfare': African-American Students, Racism, and Defiance during the Desegregation of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, 1954-1964"*

University of Southwestern Louisiana (University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

B.A., English-Journalism, May 1982

### AWARDS/HONORS

*"A Moment in Black History,"* Recognition as Award-Winning Journalist and Historian, African American Heritage Foundation's Awards Gala, February 2023

Jamie Guilbeau Award for Public History, Outstanding Student, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2015

Certificate of Academic Excellence, Black Faculty & Staff Association, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2013

Published in *The Advocate*:

1st Place, Individual Feature Writing, Individual Competition, La. Press Association, 2015

1st Place, Individual Photo Color, Individual Competition, La. Press Association, 2015

2nd Place, Individual Feature Writing, Individual Competition, La. Press Association, 2015, 2013

*Through the years, received awards for La. Press Association, La. Press Women, National Federation of Press Women, Associated Press for stories, photos and column in Opelousas Daily World, Creole Magazine, as well as other stories in The Advocate. Served as The Times of Acadiana's first intern.*

### WORK

Public Historian

2019 to Present: Work on cultural/historical projects and programs.

Freelance Writer/Guest Editor

*The Current*

2020 to Present: Write features for Lafayette online newspaper.

Director of Grants/Communications

SMILE Community Action Agency

2009 to Present: Coordinate/write grants for tri-parish non-profit organization fighting poverty, and oversee communications, including marketing, graphics design and social media.

Freelance Writer

*The Advocate*

1990 to 2017: Write features for newspaper's Acadiana Bureau.



## PAPERS

*"Louisiana's Twilight Zone,"* 14th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference, Natchitoches, LA, September 2022.

*"Echoes of Insanity? What the Black Man Wants,"* Louisiana Historical Association's 61st Annual Meeting, Lafayette, LA, March 2019.

*"'Just as Brutal...but without All the Fanfare': African-American Students, Racism, and Defiance during the Desegregation of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, 1954-1964,"* 8th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference, Natchitoches, LA, September 2016.

*"The Desegregation of Southwestern Louisiana Institute (SLI),"* South Regional Library, Lafayette, LA, February 2016.

*"'Just as Brutal...but without All the Fanfare': African-American Students, Racism, and Defiance during the Desegregation of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, 1954-1964,"* Louisiana Historical Association's 57th Annual Meeting, Lafayette, LA, March 2015.

*"Greenville—A Chapter,"* Personal Creative Fiction, 6th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference, Natchitoches, LA, September 2014.

## PANEL

*"The Public History of Lynching: The Equal Justice Initiative in Lafayette Parish,"* Louisiana Historical Association's Annual Meeting, Panelist, Alexandria, LA, April 2023.

## READING

*"Tell MaryBeth,"* Beausoleil Books, Personal Short Fiction Excerpt, Autumn Lee Productions' Creative Writing Class, May 2023.

## PAST COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Editor/Copublisher, *Creole Magazine*
- Board of Directors, CASA of SOLA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate of South Louisiana)
- Board of Directors, Louisiana Workforce Investment Board
- Moderator, "Females in Folklore: Yesterday & Today," Creole Culture Day, Vermilionville
- Arts & Culture Grants Panelist, Acadiana Center for the Arts, Decentralized Funding
- Storm Drain Art Panelist, Lafayette Consolidated Government/Acadiana Center for the Art

## MEMBERSHIP

- Louisiana Historical Association
- Move the Mindset's Board of Directors/Equal Justice Initiative Committee
- WOW (Women of Wisdom)
- Iberia African American Historical Society
- Louisiana Press Association
- A Common Thread