

Education

Opportunities

Community Support

A guide for donors and sponsors of
The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation



www.nolavoicetalent.org

The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation – Donors and Sponsors Guide 2017

Introduction

This document is intended as a guide to donors, sponsors, and other interested parties to outline the mission of The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation and its importance to the performing community and the community-at-large. It also provides outline plans for the development of the Foundation as a jewel in the crown of the Arts community in Louisiana, Mississippi, and further afield.

We hope you will enjoy the history, development, and our plans for the future of The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation and that you will give generously to enable the Foundation to thrive in providing education, opportunities, and community support.

Stephen James Smith

Founder and Chief Executive Officer

The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation, Inc.

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PLEASE NOTE: The latest version of this document can also be downloaded as a PDF file at www.nolavoicetalent.org under the “Donate” button.

Mission Statement

“The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation provides donors, volunteers, and advocates the organization they require to provide education and opportunities to performers and to use those talents to support the community at large.”



History and Development

The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation emerged out of a need for voice-over performers in New Orleans to have a regular workshop facility where they could practice and improve their craft.

It is believed that such workshops existed prior to hurricane Katrina, which devastated the city and left it bereft of many of the organizations which were part of its cultural infrastructure. So, Stephen James – an established voice-over talent – decided with the encouragement of fellow performers, to launch a bi-weekly voice-over workshop initially in the private room of a restaurant (Shoney’s on Veteran’s Blvd) in early September 2009.

Within weeks, participants of the workshops had also banded together to produce their first radio-play production (“It’s a Wonderful Life”) to use their talents to help raise funds in the local community; this first production took place in the December of 2009 and has been held annually ever since. The 2017 production of “It’s a Wonderful Life” will be the Foundation’s NINTH.

Such was the success of the workshops that they were extended to **Baton Rouge** (at Tipitinas Music Co-op on Government Street), again in a bi-weekly basis, hosted by Stephen James, and a children’s workshop added to the program there. An ongoing bi-weekly workshop series is being launched in **Laffayette, LA** in April 2017.

The New Orleans workshops moved to the **University of New Orleans**, where the Foundation also held two annual weekend seminars on voice-over, and featuring established voice-over experts from around the region and attended by participants from across the country. Subsequently, the bi-weekly workshops are being held at **The New Orleans Center for the Creative arts (NOCCA)**.

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In 2011 the Foundation launched a series of workshops for inner city youth, which were moderately well-attended and which have been re-launched for the summer of 2017 in conjunction with Boys & Girls Clubs of America at locations along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The Foundation's first "NVT Awards" were held in 2014 to recognize individual talent and commitment to the movie, theater, broadcasting, and voice-over industries in Louisiana. Such has been the success of the event that, in 2016, the Background Actors Guild merged their annual awards with the NVT gala and the ballroom was donated by Harrah's Hotel New Orleans. This year, 2017, marks the FIFTH annual awards ceremony, changing its name to "The Hollywood South Awards".

As a result of the successful development of The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation, a team of enthusiastic volunteers has been assembled to make a concerted fund-raising effort throughout 2017 and beyond, and to assist in the day-to-day running of the Foundation.



Programs

Existing programs:

- “It’s a Wonderful Life” annual benefit production (since 2009)
- The Annual NVT Awards (2012-)
- Regular Bi-weekly workshops in New Orleans (2009 -), Baton Rouge (20010-2014), and Lafayette, LA. (2017-)
- Reading for the Blind Program – Lafayette, LA. (2016 -)
- Boys and Girls Clubs voice-over workshops (2017-)
- Voice-over opportunities for non-profits (2009-)

Previous programs:

- Annual Weekend Seminar (2012, 2013)
- Voice-over workshops for inner city youth (2012)
- Regular Bi-weekly workshops in Baton Rouge (2010-2014)
- Workshops for Juniors in New Orleans and Baton Rouge



The future

This year, 2017, is considered to be a watershed year for The NOLA Voice Talent Foundation. Following the support provided through 2017 by Freedom Movement (a non-profit organization based in Kenner, LA providing Arts opportunities) in becoming our *fiscal partner*, the Foundation is currently working to achieve independent status as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and to secure grants and donations to take the Foundation to the next step.

Immediate main goals:

- To achieve IRS status as 501(c)3.
- To secure maximum possible funds to push the Foundation forward into 2018 and the next 10 years and beyond.
- To establish and develop the ongoing programs and to introduce new programs where viable.

Given we achieve the required ongoing funding, the Foundation plans to acquire a premises as **The NOLA Voice Talent Resource Center**. This could be either on a lease basis or, to take up the opportunity to develop a parcel of land which has been offered to us at a favorable rate in the Garden District of New Orleans. We would then build the center on this location, to the benefit of the local community and for use not only for the Foundation's programs but also for other Arts programs (in conjunction with Freedom Movement and other organizations).

