



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

PREPARED BY

KARLA EWING - EVENTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

PRESENTED BY:

ALAN NOBILI - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SOPHIE CAPMARTIN - PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



AFNO began glass recycling with Glassroots and Glass Half Full.

6 pickups beginning in September
33 bins of glass at 5,775 lbs. That's almost 3 tons!



AFNO welcomed French Ambassador Laurent Bili and explored ideas to enhance our shared mission promoting French language and culture in Louisiana



Festinema Junior 2024, an annual nationwide French film festival and educational program designed for children and adolescents, created by the Alliance Française network in the U.S



The Mois de la Francophonie events brought together local and international partners to celebrate the rich diversity of the French speaking world throughout the month of March.



For Pride month, AFNO presented the photo exhibit "*Sports friendly: le terrain de la diversité*" that shows photos of 22 sports teams LGBTQI+ from 16 different countries.



AFNO celebrated Acadian National Day in Nova Scotia, a day that shines a light on culture and heritage of Acadians around the world. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of preserving and sharing local and global Francophone cultures.



AFNO made this Bastille Day 2024 a celebration of not only French culture but also our commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

CONTENTS



**LETTER
FROM THE
DIRECTOR**

PAGE 2



SCHOOL

PAGE 3



**CULTURE &
EVENTS**

PAGE 5

**COMMUNITY
&
MEMBERSHIP**

PAGE 6



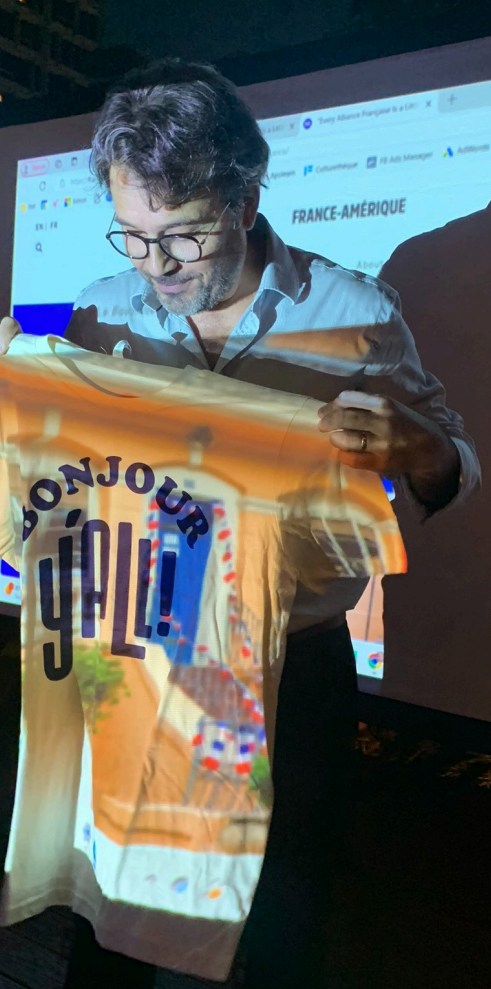
FINANCE

PAGE 7



**STAFF &
BOARD**

PAGE 8



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I arrived in New Orleans this past September to take on the role of Executive Director at the Alliance Française de La Nouvelle-Orléans, I stepped into an organization in the midst of an incredible milestone—its 40th anniversary. It was an exciting moment to join a community with such a rich history, and I have been deeply grateful for the warm welcome and the opportunity to become part of this vibrant network of French speakers, learners, and culture enthusiasts.

This anniversary has not only been a celebration of AFNO's longevity but also a chance to reconnect with the organization's founders—those who, 40 years ago, laid the groundwork for what has become a cornerstone of Francophone culture in Louisiana. Their vision, dedication, and passion for the French language continue to shape the work we do today.

Walking into AFNO each day, I am struck by the energy of this yellow house on Jackson Avenue—a place where people of all backgrounds come together to learn, engage, and share in the beauty of French and Creole cultures. Whether in classrooms, at film screenings, or during lively cultural events, the sense of connection and community is undeniable.

This year has been a time to honor the past while also looking ahead. AFNO remains committed to fostering language learning, expanding cultural programming, and strengthening partnerships that will ensure the next 40 years are just as dynamic and impactful.

I am thrilled to be part of this journey and look forward to growing alongside this incredible community. Merci to everyone who has contributed to AFNO's story—we couldn't do it without you!

ALAN NOBILI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

40TH ANNIVERSARY



In 2024, we proudly celebrated our 40th anniversary, marking four decades of dedication to fostering French language, culture, and community in New Orleans. The highlight of this milestone year was our elegant gala held at the historic Cabildo Museum, where we honored the visionaries and founders who laid the foundation for our success. Surrounded by the grandeur of this iconic venue, this elegant evening brought together longtime supporters, community partners, and new friends to celebrate our rich history and bright future. Guests enjoyed live music, exquisite French cuisine, and inspiring speeches, as well as a captivating exhibit timeline showcasing AFNO's four-decade journey. A charming recap video, featuring interviews and reflections,

brought our story to life, honoring the people and moments that shaped our organization. The gala served as a testament to our continued growth and a launchpad for even greater ambitions.

2024 was also a year of renewal and growth, as we officially opened our newly renovated ground floor, adding a modern classroom and event space to better serve our community. From hosting special guest speakers and immersive cultural workshops to unforgettable soirées, 2024 was a year of reconnection and celebration. This anniversary reaffirmed our commitment to preserving and sharing the rich Francophone heritage of New Orleans while continuing to serve as a cultural bridge for generations to come.



EDUCATION

 **573**
students

 **31**
teachers

 **8**
locations

 **6**
workshops

 **51**
DELF/DALF
candidates

 **7**
TEF
candidates



This year, our Education Department continued to make a lasting impact, fostering a love for the French language and culture among students of all ages. From immersive French courses to innovative educational programs, we expanded our reach in schools, libraries, and community spaces. Our signature initiatives, including Festinema and My French Book Fest, provided thousands of young learners with engaging opportunities to experience Francophone literature and cinema. Our curriculum continues to balance standardized courses aligned with international proficiency levels with specialized offerings in areas such as cinema, pronunciation, and philosophy, allowing students to deepen their learning in unique and meaningful ways.

Through dynamic partnerships with educators and institutions, we reinforced our commitment to accessible, high-quality language education. In 2024, we strengthened our commitment to accessibility by expanding off-site partnerships to Baton Rouge and Mandeville, all while maintaining valuable collaborations with St. Tammany Parish Library (Northshore), the Historic New Orleans Collection (French Quarter), Ecole Bilingue De La Nouvelle-Orléans and Audubon Charter School (French for Parents).

Through these growing programs and partnerships, we remain dedicated to making French language education accessible, dynamic, and globally relevant.

CULTURE & EVENTS

11

Club Lecture
book club



10

Ciné-Club
film screenings



10

Rendez-Vous
meet & greets



4

Open House
meet & greets

In 2024, AFNO hosted an exciting array of cultural events that brought together artists and communities from around the world. Mois de la Francophonie featured celebrated international authors such as Alan Mabankou (Congo), Thomas Sandoz (Switzerland), and Nicolas Fargues (France), as well as local talents like Cajun musician Bruce Daigrepoint and African and Creole artists from Benin and Réunion Island. Bastille Day was a blast with live French music, a silent disco, new merchandise, crepes, and a costume contest, creating an unforgettable celebration of French culture in the heart of New Orleans.

One of the standout events of the year was My French Book Fest, which brought together a vibrant community of young readers, authors, and educators to celebrate the world of French-language literature. With over 2,400 students participating, the festival showcased engaging storytelling, creative workshops, and live discussions, sparking a love for reading and French culture among the next

generation. The festival also highlighted bilingual and multicultural stories, reinforcing our commitment to making literature accessible to diverse audiences.

Throughout the year, AFNO's cultural programming continued to thrive with monthly offerings like the Book Club, Running Club, Ciné-Club, and the Rendez-Vous Lecture Series. Special events such as wine and champagne tastings, movie screenings, and online collaborations with the Federation of Alliances brought people together, while partnerships with local libraries and communities in Baton Rouge and Lafayette expanded our reach.

AFNO remained dedicated to Louisiana's heritage languages with the free, biweekly Louisiana Creole Table, supporting the preservation of our local culture. AFNO also embraced sustainability through our Alliance Verte initiative, promoting eco-conscious practices at events and in-house, as well as partnering with organizations like Glass Half Full to reduce waste and support local communities.

COMMUNITY

In 2024, AFNO significantly expanded its library collection, adding a wider selection of children's books, newly published novels, and accessible French resources for language learners. Additionally, the Louisiana section was enriched with more titles, offering diverse materials on Louisiana Creole, Louisiana French, Indigenous communities, and the history of Free People of Color.

+312 new documents in 2024
+5% increase of borrowings



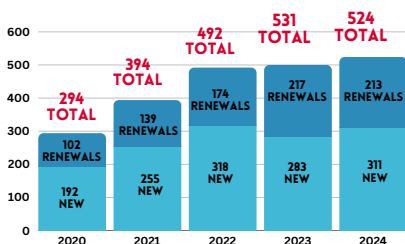
CULTURETHÈQUE

+ 87 new users + 27.5% from 2023

Revamped in 2024 by the Institut Français and the Fondation Alliance Française aux États-Unis, this digital library now features a modern, user-friendly platform. AFNO members can access a vast selection of French-language content, including online magazines, eBooks, newspapers, films, comics, podcasts, music, children's materials, and language-learning resources for all levels and ages.



MEMBERSHIPS



ALLIANCE VERTE



In 2024, the AFNO continued its sustainability efforts with new initiatives including glass recycling, bike safety, hosting sustainability events and workshops, and utilizing recyclable cups at all events.

VOLUNTEERS



62 active volunteers



311.5 volunteers hours

MARCHÉ FRANÇAIS



With local community partners and French businesses, the AFNO offers a marché offering fresh produce, coffee, crêpes, and more! The AFNO looks forward to developing the monthly Saturday morning event!

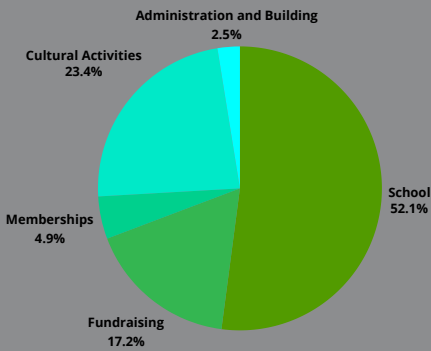
FINANCE

The net incomes from previous years have been invested in 2023 projects of renovations of the building, to open a new classroom and create a new kitchen dedicated to the events held in the backyard. In the chart below, staff's payroll is distributed regarding the time worked on projects and activities. The Alliance's revenues are increasing year to year, showing a general good financial health of the organization.

2023 REVENUE

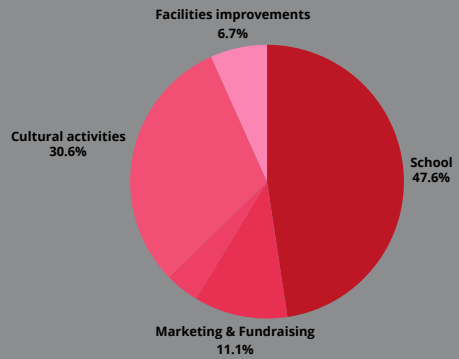
\$426,545

Merci to our donors, members, and students!



2023 EXPENSES

\$406,396



FUNDRAISING

Main donors recognized on pg. 8

\$ 8,131 raised during GiveNOLA Day

\$ 23,025 raised during La Soirée

\$ 7,082 raised from Bastille Day

\$30,000 raised from Yellow House campaign

\$20,500 raised from memberships

\$72,534 total raised in 2024





STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of 12/31/2024

President Sophie Capmartin	Jessie Aris Jennifer Bigelow
Vice President Suzanne Wiltz	Amy Kirk-Duvoisin Don Schwarzenbach
Treasurer Laura Rachal	Will McGrew Ryan Reeves
Secretary Don Schwarzenbach	Christine Verdin Romain Beauxis
Presidents Emeritus Cecile Andry*	Dianna Honoré Suzy Raga
Norma Grace*	Rocky Mollere
Christine R. LeBlanc*	Michael Wilson
Claude Schlesinger*	Katherine Zell
E. Alexandra Stafford*	
Alexandre Vialou*	
Julia Ingraham Walker*	
Joseph Dunn*	
Marina Schoen*	

STAFF as of 12/31/2024

Executive Director Alan Nobili
Administrative Coordinator Sarah Mahoney
Communications and Events Coordinator Karla Ewing
Pedagogy Reference Laurence Lechat
Bookkeeper Sandrine Vigouroux-Crouch

MAIN DONORS OVER \$500

Cecile Andry
George Bernstein
Perry Cockerel
Thierry Deupin
James Hislop Douglas
Louis R Koerner
Christine LeBlanc
Ryan Reeves

Patrick F. Taylor Foundation

PARTNERS



Gouvernement
du Canada
Consulat
du Canada

Gouvernement
of Canada
Consulate
of Canada



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Drawing in an impressive 3,500 attendees, *My French Book Fest* 2024 expanded to Lafayette and Baton Rouge. It marked a significant milestone as the largest French-language children's literature festival in the United States. For this year's edition of the festival, 13 authors from diverse French-speaking regions, including Quebec, Acadia, France, Louisiana, and Guadeloupe, participated in workshops, field trips, school visits, shows, and more!



AFNO continued creating unique learning opportunities with Louisiana Creole courses and with off-site partners such as the Historic New Orleans Collection, New Orleans Museum of Art, the New Orleans Jazz Museum, the New Orleans Public Libraries, FLAİM in Baton Rouge, & Mandeville

AFNO celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special Ciné-Club event featuring the screening of the documentary *Les Alliance(s) Française(s)*. The film explored the global impact of French Alliances, followed by a meet-and-greet with AFNO's new director, Alan Nobili.



We offered a training session for Louisiana teachers on to prepare students for the DELF and get certified as exam proctors and continued the monthly *Café Pédagogique* inter-school teacher exchange!



With *Heure du Conte*, Jimmy Maillard told a variety of French tales, from classic fairy tales to contemporary stories, all told in French. This was a wonderful opportunity to experience the richness of the French language in a fun and interactive setting.





af Alliance Française *de La Nouvelle-Orléans*

OUR MISSION

Teaching French, celebrating French-speaking cultures and nourishing our Louisiana heritage and future.

MORE INFORMATION

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OUR VISION

To be the premier educational and cultural resource center in the Gulf South for the French language and a hub for our unique ecosystem of Francophone cultures by building mutually beneficial partnerships with like-minded organizations, by reaching out to and creating visibility in our community in New Orleans and beyond, by modernizing the Alliance, by providing the highest-quality French-language education in and to the region and by providing a unique program of cultural events for our audience.

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KEY FIGURES

