



MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF STATE MUSEUM

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**LT. GOVERNOR LANDRIEU ANNOUNCES HURRICANE EXHIBITION AT  
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM**

*Planned Artifacts include rescue boat, musical instruments, emergency supplies and signs of renewal*

Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu has announced the Louisiana State Museum will create a hurricane exhibition featuring objects that document the worst natural disasters in American history. Although the record-breaking hurricane season of 2005 is still fresh in the minds of the people affected by it, the Louisiana State Museum is already taking steps to make sure no one will ever forget the devastation suffered by the state from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Museum has been collecting artifacts related to the storms since they made landfall in August and September 2005 and is currently planning an exhibition that will travel throughout the country, followed by a permanent exhibition in New Orleans.

“It is important that we preserve the artifacts needed to tell this story to future generations, but it is even more important right now to make people understand outside of the areas hit what is at stake. The history and unique culture of Louisiana are in peril. Everyone needs to know what is still here and what is at risk of being lost,” said Landrieu, who oversees the State Museum’s parent agency, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

So far the Museum has collected a long list of items associated with the storm, including: a 24-foot Yamaha fishing boat used to rescue over 400 people, pamphlets on mold remediation and other aspects of rebuilding, handmade signs, emergency survival and cleaning supplies, advertising signs for open businesses, neighborhood checkpoint passes, recovery paraphernalia (bumperstickers, signs, t-shirts), a banner and tattered flags from Charity Hospital, photographs, musical instruments that were damaged by the storm (or in the case of one piece, barely escaped being damaged), videos and even music inspired by Katrina. Museum curators are discussing the loan or donation of numerous other artifacts, and new contacts are being made every day.

The project will be one of the first undertaken by new Museum Director David Kahn when he officially takes office on May 15.

The Museum is still in the earliest preliminary stages of planning the exhibition, including collecting artifacts and identifying potential funding sources for the project. For more information on the types of objects the Museum has acquired or is looking for, please call 800-568-6968 or visit <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us>.

The Louisiana State Museum is part of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, which is overseen by Lieutenant Governor Mitchell J. Landrieu. The State Museum network includes six museums in New Orleans and sites in Baton Rouge, Natchitoches, Patterson and Thibodaux. For details on sites, exhibitions and programs, visit <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us>.